

# The City Standard

PRAYAGRAJ

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Wishing You All A Very  
Happy & Blessed

Merry  
Christmas



**The Rt. Revd. Morris Edgar Dan**  
Bishop, Diocese Of Lucknow  
Church Of North India



## President to confer Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 children on Dec 26

New Delhi, 24 Dec. (HS): President Droupadi Murmu will on Thursday confer the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar to 17 children from 14 states and Union territories.

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development said in a statement that it would celebrate Veer Bal Diwas and the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar with nationwide activities, highlighting the achievements and potential of India's youngsters.

This year, 17 children from 14 states and Union territories will be conferred with the prestigious Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar by President Droupadi Murmu, it added.

The award recognises exceptional achievements in seven categories -- art and culture; bravery; innovation; science and technology; social service; sports;

and environment.

The honourees -- seven boys and 10 girls -- will receive a medal, certificate and a citation booklet as part of the recognition.

The centerpiece of the celebration, the national programme for Veer Bal

The event will also feature a march-past led by children, representing diverse cultures.

Union Minister of Women and Child Development Annapurna Devi will deliver the opening address, setting the tone for a

showcasing India's rich heritage.

Educational and creative activities will engage children around the country. Schools, childcare institutions and Anganwadi centres will host storytelling sessions, creative writing competitions, poster-making events, essay writing, poetry recitals and quizzes. Online platforms such as MyGov and MYBharat will also facilitate participation.

Veer Bal Diwas is dedicated to inspiring young Indians to contribute to the nation's progress by upholding the values of courage, innovation and service.

Through programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar and Suposhit Panchayat, the government reaffirms its commitment to empowering the next generation and fostering a culture of excellence, the ministry said.



Diwas, will take place at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present on the occasion, inaugurating the Suposhit Panchayat scheme that aims to bolster nutritional security at the grassroots.

day dedicated to nurturing young minds and fostering creativity, the ministry said in its statement.

Approximately 3,500 children, including the awardees, will participate in the event, which will feature cultural performances

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- आपातकालीन चिकित्सा
- जनरल मेडिसिन
- जनरल एवं एडवॉरड लैप्रोस्कोपिक सर्जरी
- स्त्री एवं प्रसूति रोग
- नेत्र रोग मोल्टिविजिन्ड का उपचार फेको इलाज
- ऑर्थोपेडिक सर्जरी
- ई.एन.टी. (नाक, कान एवं गला)
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### विशेष सेवाएं

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- रेस्पिरेटरी मेडिसिन (स्वस्थान) विभाग
- गुदा रोग विभाग एवं हेमोडायलिसिस
- यूरोलॉजी (मूत्र रोग) विभाग : पी.सी.एन.एल., टी.यू.आर.पी., यू.आर.एस.एल., लैप., नेफ्रेक्टमी, रेडिकल प्रोस्टेटोमी की सुविधा
- कैथ लैब : एंजियोग्राफी एवं एंजियोप्लास्टी की सुविधा (बाहरी स्रोत)

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- Laser-based surgery for Haemorrhoid and Fistula
- Physiotherapy
- Diet Consultancy with facility of Canteen
- PFT Tests

### अन्य सेवाएं

- एम्बुलेंस (बाहरी स्रोत)
- सी.टी. स्कैन (बाहरी स्रोत)
- 24 घंटे फार्मसी एवं पैथोलॉजी लैब
- ईको कार्डियोग्राफी, ट्रांस-इसोफेजियल इको, हॉल्टर मॉनिटरिंग की सुविधा
- डिजिटल एक्स-रे एवं अल्ट्रासाउंड
- मॉलिक्यूलर बायोलॉजी : टू नेट/आर.टी.पी.सी.आर. जॉब
- ब्रोंकोस्कोपी
- लेजर-पद्धति से अर्थात् सर्जरी
- फिजियोथेरेपी
- आईट काउन्सिलिंग और कैंटीन की सुविधा
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2025



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सेवा का मन्दिर

"Not to be Served but to Serve"

# "The Christmas brings Love and Hope to mankind".

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. It's a time to remember the greatest gift ever given - the gift of love. In 1 John 4:8, we read, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." God's love is not just a feeling, but an action. And Christmas is the celebration of God's love in action. The birth of Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love for humanity. In John 3:16, we read, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection demonstrate God's love in action. He came to serve, to give, and to sacrifice for our sake.

With the birth of Jesus Christ a new era has dawned. A new outlook has been established. Christmas is not just an event that happened 2024 years ago in Palestine or it's celebrated in the month of December every year. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, and you did for me." Therefore, it's Christmas every time we love our brothers and sisters. It's Christmas every time we wipe the tears from the eyes of the poor, needy and lonely. It's Christmas every time we heal the broken hearted. It's Christmas every time we feed the hungry, cloth the naked, take care of the sick. It's Christmas every time we smile at a Stanger. It's Christmas every time the countries stop



Most Rev. Louis Mascarenhas  
Bishop of Allahabad

waging a war against one another. It's Christmas every time we forgive our enemies. It's Christmas every time we respect and obey our parents and elders. It's Christmas every time we use mobile phones and social media wisely. So as we celebrate Christmas, let us look for opportunities to show love in action to those around us and bring hope in the lives of the people.

As the light of Christmas shines brightly, illuminating the path to the New Year 2025, we embark on a sacred pilgrimage in to the Jubilee year - a year of divine mercy, spiritual renewal, and profound joy. It's a great opportunity for us to celebrate The Ordinary Jubilee A.D. 2025, which will fill our hearts with unwavering hope, unconditional love, and unshakable faith. May the Holy Spirit guide and empower us to embrace this Jubilee Year with open hearts and minds. Hope never fails, for God's love has been poured into our hearts.

As we journey through this Jubilee Year, may our souls be nourished, our spirit be lifted, and our commitment to serving God's people be deepened. May we walk in the footsteps of our Lord, radiating forgiveness, compassion and mercy.

I wish you a blessed Christmas, a peaceful New Year 2025 and a spiritually transformative Jubilee Year, filled with divine blessings and grace.  
+ Louis Mascarenhas  
Bishop of Allahabad

## Result of high speed, friend's birthday became the death day of two youths

### Unknown vehicle hit the youths returning home on a high speed motorcycle after the birthday party

SUNIL BAJPAI

Kanpur. High speed vehicles are continuously succeeding in taking people's lives. In one such incident, youths going on a high speed motorcycle died after being hit by an unknown vehicle. Both were returning home after attending their friend's birthday party.

According to the information received, Saurabh Nishad (20), a resident of Khannapurva village of Aachalganj Unnao, had come to Kanpur on a bike with his friend Ankit Gautam (19), a resident of the village.

Police said that at around quarter to two in the night, both were returning to Unnao by bike. During this time, the motorcycle of both of them collided with an unknown vehicle on the Ganga bridge. In which both died on the spot.

The family members told the police who reached the spot that both the youths had come to attend a birthday party in Kanpur on the R One 5 bike of the deceased Ankit.

According to the information, Ankit was the youngest in his family. Apart from father Shyamu, there is mother Siya Devi,

elder brother Ashish and sister Mamta.

According to the father, both of them left at 8 pm on Monday night saying that they will return in a little while. Ankit used to



help his father in farming. After the incident, there is chaos in the families of both the youths. The police have registered a report and are searching for the absconding driver.

## Mehbooba asks NC Govt to resolve reservation issue in J&K

Jammu, 24 Dec. (HS): Slamming the National Conference (NC) government for not slashing the high level of job reservation quota in J&K, PDP President and former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on Tuesday said that merit has become the biggest casualty, as students are left

Mehbooba said the people of J&K, especially the youth, voted for the NC in large numbers in the Assembly polls so that there would be rationalisation in the reservation and nobody's rights would be snatched. Referring to Omar Abdullah having sought six months time to

cally weaker sections who have their own reservation are not affected but the open merit category students should get their share according to the population proportion and they should not wait for the court's decision," she said.

"We do not want any politics in it but we are pushing open merit students to the wall. The Chief Minister has sought six months' time. NC has three MPs, including the Ladakh MP and 50 MLAs, why do they need six months? They think a court decision will come by and they will not have to do anything," Mehbooba said.

She criticized the lack of action on key issues affecting the youth, particularly the neglect of merit in recruitment processes. She asked CM Abdullah to help the students like the PDP did in 2018 by bringing an order that put 75% seats for open merit. She called for immediate intervention of CM to ensure fair representation for open merit candidates and urged political leaders to act rather than wait for court decisions.



questioning why they should work hard or strive to be deserving when their efforts don't lead to opportunities.

Mehbooba, who was talking to media-persons in Srinagar, asked Chief Minister Abdullah to find a way to resolve the issue of reservation saying leaving the matter for the courts was "very unfortunate."

resolve the issue, Mehbooba asked what will the open merit category students get if there is recruitment of lecturers, police, etc., in these six months?

"So, I appeal Abdullah, not to leave this issue to the courts, you have powers, you have the government, you have 50 MLAs, to find a way so that the economi-

## Giving awards to notable people is the identity of the city: Tigmanshu

### Special people from all over the country were honored in 'Guftagu Sahitya Samaroh-2024' On this occasion, six books of different genres were released

MANISH KAPOOR.

Prayagraj. The culture of Prayagraj has its own identity in the whole country. Great scholars of literature were born here, who will be evaluated for centuries. Honoring writers, journalists, sportspersons and advocates from all over the country under 'Guftagu Sahitya Samaroh-2024' has special significance. This work of Team Guftagu under the leadership of Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ghazi is very remarkable. This work will always be highlighted. This was said by film producer-director and actor Tigmanshu Dhulia during an event organized by the literary organization 'Guftagu' at Civil Lines Bal Bharti School on Tuesday evening. Mr. Dhulia presented the award to the people present in the program with his own hands.

Former Inspector General of Police Kavindra Pratap Singh said that organising a Guftagu Award programme once a year is a very important and special event. Prayagraj has a special identity that it selects people and gives them awards. The Guftagu team is doing a very good job together.

Guftagu's President Dr. Imtiaz Ahmed Ghazi said that applications are sought from people to select them for the award, and the entire Guftagu team selects people from them. Our effort is to honour those who have done remarkable work in



their field. Dr. Virendra Kumar Tiwari said that today's event is historic. Calling people from different states and honouring them has special significance.

Famous lyricist Yash Malviya, who was presiding over the programme, said that being honoured with the award has special significance for the creators. This is the city of Niral, Mahadevi, Firaq, Akbar, Kailash Gautam etc. Today the programme has been recorded in the history of this place. Such events become the identity of the city and later get recorded in history. The program was conducted by Manmohan Singh Tanhan. Hakeem Reshadul Islam's book Markaze-Noor, Santosh Kumar Srivastava's book Samvedna, Neena Mohan Srivastava's book Main

Kavita Hoon, Manju Lata Nagesh's book Astitva Ki Pehchaan, Masoom Raza Rashdi's 100 couplets and Anil Manav's selected couplets were released.

**Inset-**  
Akbar Allahabadi Award - Munawwar Rana posthumously

**Subhadra Kumari Chauhan Award-**  
Dr. Pramila Verma (Solapur, Maharashtra), Renu Agarwal (Orissa), Venu Agrahari Dhingra (Dehradun), Manju Sharma Zandig 'Manu' (Jodhpur) and Dr. Annapurna Vajpayee 'Arya' (Kanpur)

**Kailash Gautam Award**  
Akhilesh Nigam 'Akhil' (Lucknow), Subhash Pathak 'Zia' (Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh), Dr. Pradeep Kumar Sharma (Raipur), Ganesh Shankar Srivastava (New Delhi) and Abhinav

Arun (Varanasi)

**Kuldeep Nayyar Award**

Dev Prakash Chaudhary (Amar Ujala-Noida), Farhat Khan (Dainik Bhaskar), Amrish Kumar Shukla (senior journalist), Dr. Mohammad Zafarullah (Department of Journalism-Jamia Millia, New Delhi) and Gaurav Awasthi (senior Journalist-Raebareli)

**Seema Aparajita Award-**

Ritika Rashmi (Mehsana, Gujarat), Meena Singh 'Meen' (New Delhi), Priyanka Gehlot (Amroha), Sunita Srivastava (Sultanpur) and Mahima Tripathi (Prayagraj)

**Sudhakar Pandey Award-**

Mohan Rathore (famous Bhojpuri singer, Mumbai), Bansh Narayan Singh Banaj (Dildarnagar),

Sanand Singh (Ghazipur), Suraj Diwakar (New Delhi) and Kamlesh Pandey 'Pushp' (New Delhi)

**Umesh Narayan Sharma Award -**

Advocate Nitin Sharma, Advocate Devishankar Shukla, Advocate Ravishankar Prasad, Advocate Mohammad Ahmed Ansari and Advocate Shivaji Yadav

**Milkha Singh Award -**

Somnath Chanda (Football), Vimala Singh (Athletics), Shashi Prakash Yadav (Athletics), Narendra Singh Bisht (Boxing) and Mayank Srivastava (Gymnastics)

**'Guftagu Award'**

Award Nihal Chandra Shivhare (Jhansi), Shivnandan Singh Sahayogi (Varanasi), Dr. Imtiaz Samar (Kushinagar), Madhukar Vannali (Muzaffarpur) and Sampada Mishra (Prayagraj).

## Ex- Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi arriving on Dec 26

Prayagraj: On 26th December, former Union Cabinet Minister Honorable Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will stay in Prayagraj for three days. District Rajesh Kesarwani told that on 26th December at 2:40 pm, Naqvi ji will reach Prayagraj Bamrauli Airport from Delhi. Will come and rest at Circuit House on 27th December Will inspect the Kumbh Mela at 10:00 am and Kumar will participate in the National Ramayani Fair organized in the premises of Shri Katra Ramlila Committee at 1:00 pm, then at 3:00 pm will go to the residence of former District President Ram Raksha Dwivedi and at 4:00 pm Will participate in other local programs and will meet the workers at Circuit House on 28th December at 10:00 am and depart for Bamrauli Airport at 3:10 pm. and fly to Delhi.

## Delhi police unearths illegal Bangladeshi immigration nexus

New Delhi, 24 Dec. (HS): The Delhi Police have unearthed a nexus involved in the illegal immigration of Bangladeshi immigrants and have arrested eleven people in this regard. The breakthrough came after the cops were probing a murder in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar. Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Ankit Chauhan said, "On October 21, at midnight a woman approached Sangam Vihar Police Station reporting that her husband Sentu Sheikh was lying unconscious, who later died. While probing this murder, four Bangladeshi nationals Midul Miyan alias Akash Ahmed, Fardeen Ahmed alias Abhi Ahmed, and two women were arrested." Chauhan added that during

Interrogation, it was revealed that they had entered India illegally and had been residing in the Sangam Vihar area of Delhi for the

the cops. Moreover, from Sentu Sheikh's residence, 21 Aadhaar cards, four Voter ID cards, and eight PAN



past years procuring fake Indian identities and they produced their Bangladeshi ID cards (chip-based NID cards) or birth certificates to

cards suspected to belong to Bangladeshi nationals were recovered and the investigation moved towards the gang indulging in cre-

ating fake Indian documents, routes and mechanisms facilitating illegal immigration, the official said.

Additionally, several other people who facilitated the preparation of these fake identities were also apprehended, who confessed to creating them in lieu of money. The DCP elaborated that the route for illegal immigration from Bangladesh was also traced.

The individuals crossed into India through forest paths and were transported via bikes to the nearest town from where they took express trains to Delhi after arranging fake Aadhaar cards, temporary SIM

cards, and cash for travel expenses from their country.

Moreover, Four Voter ID cards belonging to Bangladeshi nationals were recovered from Sentu Sheikh's residence and efforts were made to trace all of them, and one such lady was traced from Bareilly.

A further investigation revealed that her Voter ID was issued using Aadhaar at Sentu Sheikh's address and confessed that Sentu facilitated the creation of her Aadhaar and Voter cards using fake documents. Upon interrogation, she was asked to present her Bangladeshi identity and her birth certificate issued by the Dhaka City Corporation was retrieved from her phone.

## New range of note book creating ripples in market

Prayagraj: Sahitya Bhawan Publication Agra has taken an excellent initiative in the field of education and has launched a new range of premium notebooks called NRI in the market. The NRI range is better in quality than the notebooks available in the market and is priced much lower. Sahitya Bhawan Publication organised a retailers meet in Naini in collaboration with Kumar Pen Company, distributor of premium notebooks. Company representative Alok Dwivedi said in the retailers meet that Femind's NRI range is a new revolution in the field of education. It is a herculean effort to make education accessible to all

in the society. The aim of the company is to provide quality notebooks at very low prices. Satish Kumar Shukla,

Premind has increased from all retailers. All Premind products are being made available with full quality at a



proprietor of distributor Kumar Pen Company, said that a new revolution has started in the field of education with the products of Premind. The demand for

price 20 to 25 percent less than the products available in the market and Premind promises to provide the same high quality at even lower prices.

# Christmas: Living the Spirit of the Manger

Sr Dona CSN  
Christ Jyoti School, Mandermod.

Christmas is more than a celebration; it is an invitation to embody the profound message of the manger—a symbol of humility, compassion and selflessness. The birth of Jesus Christ in a humble stable challenges us to reflect on what it means to truly live the spirit of Christmas in our daily lives.

The manger, a simple trough meant for feeding animals, became the cradle of the Savior of the world. It stands as a testament to God's decision to dwell among the poorest and the lowliest. By choosing such a setting, Jesus highlighted the values of simplicity and solidarity with those on the margins of society. This profound act urges us to embrace the same spirit in our interactions with others, particularly those who are less fortunate.

Living the spirit of the manger begins with humility—acknowledging that greatness lies not in material wealth or status but in service and love for others. It challenges the consumerism often associated with modern Christmas celebrations, calling us instead to focus on sharing our re-

sources and time with those in need.

True greatness lies in embodying the spirit of the manger—serving others with humility and open hearts. Bill Gates is admired not just for his wealth but for using it to care for AIDS patients



and address social injustices. Similarly, those who carry the spirit of the manger—those who go out of their way to help others—earn respect and love.

In India, this spirit can be seen in numerous ways. Providing shelter and education for street children, supporting farmers and daily-wage workers and advocating for marginalized communities reflect the values the manger represents. During natural disasters, when families lose every-

thing, relief efforts become acts of living the manger's message.

Offering healthcare to the underserved, creating opportunities for education and fostering interfaith harmony are ways we can transform society with the spirit of Christmas.

The manger also invites us to look within. Do we open our hearts to the struggles of others, or do we turn them away, like the innkeeper who had no room for Mary and Joseph? True celebration lies in carrying the manger in our hearts—a space filled with humility, compassion and openness to the needs of others.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us move beyond decorations and festivities to embody the values of the manger. Whether it is sharing with the less fortunate, standing in solidarity with the oppressed, or simply spreading kindness, living the spirit of the manger transforms Christmas into a celebration of love, humility and renewal. This season, let the light of the manger guide us to make a difference in the lives of others and in our own hearts.

## Christmas Cheers and NY Joy at Maharshi Patanjali Vidya Mandir

Prayagraj: The spirit of Christmas came alive at MPVM on 24th December, 2024 as students and staff celebrated the festive occasion with enthusiasm and joy. The day began with a special assembly, setting the tone for the celebrations.

The assembly was filled with energy as students of class 5 showcased their talent through vibrant dance performances and melodious Christmas carols. The audience was also treated to energetic performances by Class 1 and 2 students, who danced to the tune of "Jingle Bells." Adding to the festive spirit, Santa Claus made a special appearance, distributing sweets among the students. Following the assembly, the excitement continued with a series of fun

games organized for the students. Activities such as Toss the Ring, Bowling, Hit and Kick created an atmosphere of cheer and friendly competition. The school grounds were filled with



laughter as students participated enthusiastically in the games, vying for prizes and enjoying the festive day.

The event concluded with words of appreciation from the Principal Mrs

Alpona Dey, who highlighted the importance of spreading joy, kindness, and togetherness, which are the true essence of Christmas. The celebration not only brought smiles to

everyone's faces but also strengthened the bond among the school community. It was truly a memorable day, leaving everyone with cherished memories and the festive spirit of Christmas.

## Winter Internship District Court



Prayagraj: As per the orders of District Judge/Secretary District Legal Services Authority Santosh Rai, an awareness program on road safety was organized today by various students in the District Court under the Winter Internship Program on Friday, Secretary Dinesh Kumar Gautam District Legal It was organized under the direction of Service Authority in which stu-

dents of Institute of Law and Social Science Chhatnag Jhusi of Prayagraj district participated as well as Regarding awareness about traffic rules, traffic inspector Pawan Kumar Pandey made children aware about traffic rules, road signs, golden hour, MV Act, Nitish Shukla from Child Line informed the students about free helpline number 1098. Gave information about. Ronit Chaurasia

and teacher Pragya were present on behalf of the school management. This information was provided by Dinesh Kumar Gautam, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority. And the questions raised by the students were also answered. At the end of the program, Inspector Pawan Pandey was honored by Ronit Chaurasia by presenting him a memento.

## BJP to celebrate b'anniv of Vajpayeeji as Good Governance Day

Prayagraj: Hundredth Birth Anniversary of Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji Ji} The birth anniversary will be celebrated as Good Governance Day. District spokesperson Rajesh Kesarwani said that the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be celebrated in booth 1216 of Prayagraj metropolis. On this occasion, a seminar will

be organized and Sunderkand recitation will be organized in Prayagraj metropolis, Sunderkand recitation and Bhandara will be organized in Kalindipuram, apart from this, seminar will be organized and Prasad distribution will be organized in the camp office of Mayor Ganesh Kesarwani and blanket distribution and fruit distribution will be organized by Muthiganj Mandal.

## Amit Shah should be dismissed: Cong

Prayagraj: Former UP Congress Committee spokesperson Kishore Varshney, State Committee members Fuzail Hashmi and Harikesh Tripathi demanded the dismissal of Home Minister Amit Shah for making derogatory remarks about Constitution maker Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar in the winter session of Parliament. During the march taken out by the Congress Committee against Shah here today, he said that the top leaders of RSS and BJP have always insulted the Dalits. Modi and Shah insulted former President Covid and current President Draupadi Murmu by not inviting them to the temple entry, inauguration etc. Whereas Pandit Nehru made Dr. Ambedkar the Law Minister despite the government having full majority, he got the resignation of a Congress MP and made him MP. Declared a national holiday on his birth anniversary. Despite being a member of the Constituent Assembly, he was called the creator of the Constitution.

## Indian Bank organized "Business Loan Distribution Camp"

THE CITY STANDARD

Prayagraj: Keeping in mind the business opportunities arising during Maha Kumbh 2025, Indian Bank organized "Business Loan Distribution Camp" in various branches of Prayagraj district. On this occasion, Area General Manager Mr. Naveen Kumar Srivastava, Zonal Manager Mr. P.N. Upadhyay, Village Head Mr. Ajay Kumar Yadav and officials of the zonal office registered their presence.



In the camp, the first phase loan was provided under PM Swanidhi Yojana by Indian Bank for financial assistance to the women engaged in making earthen stoves and cow dung cakes. Apart from

encouraged them to improve the economic condition of their family by using the loan and successfully discharge their important role in the family and society.

this, in the camps organized in various branches, a total of 133 beneficiaries were given Rs. Loan of Rs 3.10 crore was distributed Went.

Addressing the beneficiaries in the camp, General Manager Mr. Naveen Kumar Srivastava said that the beneficiaries should make good use of the loan received from the bank and improve their financial life. In this sequence, Zonal Manager Mr. PN Upadhyay, while addressing the women beneficiaries,

## Mayor visits house of senior litterateur Hari Mohan Malviya, expressed condolences

Prayagraj: Mayor of Prayagraj Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani visited the house of former President of Hindustani Academy and President Awarded senior litterateur Shri Hari Mohan Malviya and met his son. Met Gaurav Malviya and expressed his condolences and listened carefully to Malviya ji's memoirs and appreciated his contribution to literature, art and culture. The Mayor expressed his condolences to the bereaved fam-



ily, calling Malviya ji's demise an irreparable loss for Prayagraj. One place became vacant among the litterateurs in Prayagraj. Along with the Mayor, former councilor Giri Shankar Prabhakar (Giri Baba), Gopal Ji Malviya, Manoj Mishra, Ashok Malviya, Councilor Sunita Chopra, former councilor OP Dwivedi and other regional people and BJP workers also participated. Paid tribute to Shri Hari Mohan Malviya.

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# God so loved world that his one returned son: Bishop Morris Dan

## THERE WAS MASSIVE BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS IN ST. PETER'S CHURCH

Prayagraj: On Tuesday, great enthusiasm was seen among the people regarding the Christmas festival in the entire city. And people of every religious sect celebrated this festival with joy and gave the message of mutual brotherhood. The whole city was drenched in the lights of the festoons and the hustle and bustle of the people. All the churches of the city were decorated with colorful lights and flowers. The tableaux of Jesus' birth decorated inside the churches were attracting everyone and hence everyone wanted to take selfies. Lord Jesus was born in the midst of a decorated cowshed in St. Joseph's Cathedral Church, bathed in colorful lights. At 11:30 pm, Bishop Luis Mascarenas gave the message of love, mercy, humanity and light of life on the birth anniversary of Lord Jesus. After this everyone was blessed with the blessings of the child Jesus. After this, he along with all the parish priests offered Mass. At St. Patrick's Church near the water tank, prayers began at 10 pm and at 12 midnight the lights inside the

churches were switched off and everyone started singing songs of Jesus' arrival with candles in their hands. Father George Rodrigues, the parish priest of the church, said that Jesus came to this world and preached peace and showed a way for human life. Sandra Regina George, who participated in the church service, said that on this special festival, happiness is shared with traditional cake and coffee, in such a situation we are with our family and friends, she said that after the Mass, people of Ranchi community perform traditional folk dance. They put on a display that makes everyone dance.

Pastor Praveen Massey, Presbyterian of St. Peter's Church, Mayurabad, said that a bonfire and fireworks were organized from 8 pm in the night, in which all the church members unitedly sang many songs and prayed. Bishop of Diocese of Lucknow blessed everyone. With the arrival of Lord Jesus on earth for the welfare of mankind, people flocked to All Saints Cathedral Church at midnight. During this, Bishop Morris

Edgar Dan of Diocese of Lucknow blessed all the devotees and congratulated them on Christmas. On this occasion he quoted from Bible chapter John 3:16 where it is written that "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." He told that God loves humans very much but we are moving away from His love due to mutual discord and sin. He said that Christmas is the right time when we can start our spiritual life afresh and lay the foundation of love and brotherhood in the society.

Diocese of Lucknow, Media Incharge Sunil Kumar said that Christmas is not only the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ, this festival also spreads his message that along with kindness, compassion and forgiveness, every human being should also have selfless love for everyone. Jesus also considered service towards the needy as an essential human quality. In today's time, the message of Jesus can create a happy society by connecting man with man. The message of

Jesus is the spirit of service, compassion and forgiveness, the capital of life, the festival of Christmas gives the message of happiness, peace and joy. Of course, it is the main festival of Christians, but currently it has become a symbol of a holistic culture beyond all religious boundaries. People of all sects have started celebrating this festival. Just



as Jesus Christ, who is considered to be the source of God, always gave the message of non-violence, service to the needy, forgiveness, kindness and love to mankind, in today's environment all these teachings of his are very important. Love everyone selflessly. Today, as if a person is blind. Has become part of the race.

There was no limit to

desires and aspirations. The level of expectation of everyone from each other has increased so much that it does not take long for people's hearts to get hurt if a small thing is not accepted or heard. Now no work is accomplished without selfishness. Nor does anyone love selflessly anymore. This is a major cause of tension and disintegration in relationships, but when we look at Jesus Christ, He promoted the feeling of lifelong love. It was said that every human being should love each other in the same way as God loves humans. That is, even the most selfless love of a person should live his life with a lot of love and compassion towards his friends and relatives. Without love, no relationship can be successful. God is pleased with the service of parents. In modern society, it is being seen how their own children have started considering elderly parents as a burden. They send them to old age homes. The young generation especially does not tolerate interference from parents in their lives. This generation, addicted to social media and

mobile phones, has become so emotionally weak, their tolerance has become so weak that they do not like their parents' scolding or lessons at all, but Jesus has taught us all to respect our parents. Needed Serving them not only brings blessings but also pleases God. Jesus taught to give up the feeling of selfishness and greed from the mind.

Praise everyone: Jesus believed that we should always praise everyone's work, no matter how small or easy. Similarly, the person should also be praised and encouraged. Jesus said that the one who praises others is praised by God himself. Now if we look within ourselves, how many characteristics do we see in the people we meet throughout the day? Because it is not possible to praise someone without seeing his qualities. The truth is that today people have become habituated to negativity. They keep finding faults in every person and thing. This kind of negative thinking takes them away from happiness. They are always sad and troubled. Jesus understood the problems of the poor

very well. He could feel it. He was happy not with the big donations of the rich but with the small donations of the poor. Because they used to give these donations from their savings, whereas the rich were proud of donating. Jesus not only felt compassion for the poor but also left no stone unturned in meeting their needs. He used to say that there is no greater virtue than helping the poor. He has spent his entire life in the welfare of people. Gave up the sacrifice. It is written in the Bible, the holy book of Christianity, that how Jesus taught everyone to follow the true path. God is attained only through the path of truth and goodness. On this occasion, Dr. Vineeta Iusebius Lalit, Iusebius Pastor Kamla Singh, Dr. Vishal Noble Singh Priyadarshini Singh, Smriti Singh Allen Daan, Preksha Daan, Shashi Prakash, Vandana Francis Mudit Mohan Srivastava Sunil Verma, Anukriti Singh Sushant Mal etc. were present.

Decorated tableau of the birth of Jesus in Lal Girja and Katra Church. On Tuesday night, special worship

was done in Katra Church along with the birth of Jesus. Along with the midnight service at 12 o'clock in the night, Pastor Ajit Oliver Francis prayed to Lord Jesus who had incarnated as the light of life to liberate mankind from suffering. During this, children and women lit the flame of new life in the form of candles in the church premises. Songs of worship accompanied Jesus' arrival songs. Similarly, in Red Church, Pastor Amitabh Roy gave the message of the birth of Lord Jesus. A grand tableau of the birth of Jesus was also decorated in Jamuna Church, Naini Community Church, St. Paul's Church and St. John's Church and the birth anniversary was celebrated by burning a bonfire. During this time, the youth congratulated each other on Christmas by feeding cake. Pastor Mridalini DeCosta told that the Christmas church service in Jamuna Church will start from 10 am on Wednesday. Holy communion will be held at 8 am and church service from 9:30 am at St. Peter's Church, Mayurabad.

# Atal Ratna Samman and Kavi Sammelan organized

THE CITY STANDARD

Prayagraj: Under the auspices of the Bharatiya Janata Party Cultural Cell, Kashi region, on the eve of the 100th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Shradha Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Atal Ratna Samman and Kavi Sammelan was organized at the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mahanagar, Office Civil Line. The said occasion Poet Mukesh Manak ji, who came from Kanpur, was honored with Atal Ratna Samman on the powerful signature of famous writer Oz. Program in-charge Kush Srivastava and Bharatiya Janata Party District President Rajendra Mishra and program coordinator Cultural Cell co-convenor Dr. Abha Madhur Srivastava honored him by presenting him a shawl memento. Former minister Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur was present as the chief

guest in the program. Program in-charge and senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Kush Srivastava while welcoming and congratulating the guests said that Atal ji is a skilled politician as well as a great creator. Today there is a need that all of us should make our invaluable contribution in making India a world leader by following the path shown by Shradha Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. While presiding, District President Bharatiya Janata Party Rajendra Mishra ji said that Atal ji was an embodiment of sacrifice and penance, all of us Bharatiya Janata Party workers continued to receive his blessings, we all should take inspiration from his lifestyle and working style.

Prayagraj Mayor Umesh Chandra Ganesh Kesarwani expressed his views on the said occasion

and said that Atal ji was a person of saintly nature, today there is a need for all of us to follow the paths shown by him, so that India can be made a world leader. Programme coordinator Dr. Abha Madhur Srivastava said that Shradha Atal Bihari



Vajpayee ji was an enemy, there is a lot to be learned from his life, especially for today's generation to make themselves capable through the literature written by him and his creativity. The work should be done. He was a pioneer in taking India to a leading role

by becoming a symbol of Indian philosophy. After that, the Kavi Sammelan started with Vani Vandana, Vani Vandana was done by Dr. Abha Madhuri ji, along with her poems, she also paid tribute to revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji. Atal ji, I salute you a hundred times,

only you were found in this country, people. Love of the people, Atal ji, I bow to you a hundred times. Mukesh Manak ji, awarded with senior creator Atal Run, who came from Kanpur and had the strong signature of Oz, enthused the audience with his national lines. He read,

The second coin was never tossed in the sky, the vote was one, but the fear was never raised. Humourist poet Nazam Allahabadi tickled the audience with his creations. He read, 'We also went to take a bath, Sangam, what should I tell you, my wife insisted, we went on our own. Santosh Shukla Samarth filled the audience with enthusiasm with his writings. Atal ji, the wishes of the people, Atal ji. Is it Delhi, Gujarat, Maratha, whole of India, Atal ji? Young poet Jitendra Mishra Jalaj enthralled the audience with his poems. Why did Rana fight war? They fought and ate grass bread. Why did Mother Padmini decorate her funeral pyre while she was alive? Comedian Yogesh Jhamajham made the audience laugh a lot with his poems. There should be common sense between male and

female, there should be lenses in the glasses of love. When lyricist Shailendra Madhur, who was conducting the ceremony, read out his poem dedicated to Atal ji, the audience danced. The language was very simple, which was swallowed many times, the resolution was very strong, never get distracted, the truth is Atal, Atal is living, Atal. The vote of thanks was given by program in-charge Kush Srivastava. In the program, officials of the Metropolitan Bharatiya Janata Party, Gan Mandal President, Front and Cell officials including Ravi Keshwani, Ramesh Pasi, Raju Pathak, Girijesh Mishra, Rajan Shukla, Rakesh Shukla, Anamika Choudhary, Anuj Koushwa, Kunj Bihari Mishra, Satya Sheel Sinha, Rajesh Keshwani, Kuldeep Mishra, Deep Dwivedi, Saroj Gupta were present.

# Birth anniversaries of great men celebrated with much fanfare

Prayagraj: On 24th December, on the eve of the birth anniversary of great men, the birth anniversary celebrations of Bharat Ratna former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya were concluded with pomp in the courtyard of Pajava Ramlila Committee. Chief Guest: Dnyaneshwar Shukla Senior BJP leader Special guest: Pramod Jaiswal



(Modi)Speaker: Giri Shankar Prabhakar (Giri Baba) The chief guest threw light on the lives of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. Later, the program concluded at the residence of former MLA Udaybhan Karwariya by visiting Atarsuayia Kalyani Devi in the form of a padayatra. Media in-charge Gopal Ji Malviya, Achal Malviya, Manoj Mishra, Istekhar Ahmed Munna, Ajay Srivastava, Bharat Kesari, Rajendra participated in the program. Singh, Aniket Jaiswal, Amit Gupta, Deepak Kesarwani, Ajay Verma, Amit Sharma, Rajkumar Soni, Bipasha Singh Rakesh Chadha, Virendra Kesarwani, Rudra were included.

# 5th day of book fair: Rotary Prayagraj Platinum's theater competition and human compassion of 'Banku' became attractions

Prayagraj: The ten day Prayagraj Book Fair going on at Anglo Bengali Inter College (ABIC), Civil Lines is becoming extremely popular among readers and literature lovers. While the fair based on Mahakumbh 2025 theme is full of reading material, unique products and special events for children also attracted people's attention. Indigo frames with various slogans at the stall of Being Books have be-



come a special attraction. Newly designed diaries along with frames with slogans like "Mujhe Mat Roko", "Chill Out", "Teri Yaari Sabse Pyaari" are becoming the choice of readers. Stall representative Vikas Mishra said that author Amit Tiwari's book 'Banku' There is a lot of discussion among the readers. This is a story of a puppy which presents human emotions and conflicts very effectively. After reading this story, the readers' perspective towards dogs changes. Books are being sold by the kilo at the Novel Sale stall, which are especially useful for children. Meanwhile, at

the stalls of Student Book Centre, New Delhi, fancy stationery like razors, sharpeners, glow sticks, activity books and coloring books are becoming popular among children and parents.

Successful organization of Theater 2.0 competition: Co-coordinator of the book fair, Manish Garg said that "Theater 2.0" competition was organized for children with the help of Rotary Prayagraj Platinum. Hundreds of participants aged between 7 to 18 years enthusiastically participated in face painting, drawing and painting, and essay writing in Hindi-English. President of Rotary Prayagraj Platinum, Rotarian Shashank Jain said that the objective of this competition is to develop creativity and expression among children. Skills have to be promoted. The second phase of the

competition will be organized at the cultural pandal on Wednesday. Book fair coordinator Manoj Singh Chandel said that the continuously increasing number of readers shows the success of the event. He told that the book fair is being jointly organized by Forson Books and Bookwala. Book lover Gargi said that like every year, his favorite books were easily available in this fair this time too. She eagerly waits for this fair every year. All readers and literature lovers are cordially invited to participate in the book fair and benefit from literary experiences.

# Shah made objectionable and derogatory remarks on Baba Saheb

Prayagraj: 17 December 2024 has been recorded as a black day in the history of the Parliament when the country's Home Minister Shri Amit Shah in the Rajya Sabha, not only India but the leaders of the entire world, scholars, constitutional architects, Bharat Ratna, Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji Made objectionable and derogatory comments about -, that today it has become a new fashion that some people are saying Ambedkar Ambedkar Ambedkar Ambedkar Ambedkar, if so much name is used for God. Had it been there, I would have got heaven for seven births. On the call of All India National Congress and on the instructions of State President Shri Ajay Rai, this insulting statement of Amit Shah was protested under the leadership of Pradeep Mishra Anshuman, President of Metropolitan Congress Committee Prayagraj and Honorable MP of Allahabad.

In the presence of Ujjwal Raman Singh ji, a march was taken out from the Ambedkar statue near the Honorable High Court Allahabad to Subhash

Square Civil Line. Speaking at Subhash Square Honorable MP Ujjwal Raman Singh Ji said that Bharatiya Janata Party not only today



but already does not believe in the Constitution and the architect of the Constitution Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji, it still

wants to run the country on the basis of Manu Smriti, it has to do with social concerns and unity of the country and Integrity has nothing to do with it, she is running the country with the help of some capitalists and has given the country into the hands of the same capitalists when on the issue of Adani, the Leader of Opposition in the Parliament, Jannayak Respected Rahul When Gandhiji raised the issue, in order to divert the matter, the country's Home Minister Shri Amit Shah made objectionable and derogatory remarks on Baba Saheb Dr. B h i m r a o Ambedkar Ji. This is their desperation and a malicious attempt to save Adani, which will not succeed. Congress Under the leadership of its leader respected Rahul

Gandhi, it will always fight for the honor of the great men of the country and will bring the dark deeds of RSS and BJP to the public.

Metropolitan President Pradeep Mishra Anshuman ji said that the insult to Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji is an insult to crores of Indians. Even today, Dalits in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country consider Baba Saheb as God and invite him on their auspicious occasions. In place of God, pictures of Baba Saheb and Gautam Buddha are placed on the cards. India's culture is diverse, it has many religions and this beauty gives it a different importance from other countries. The country's independence. Even during the time of BJP and RSS, people of BJP and RSS used to live by taking the pension of the British and supported the British. Even today, the same people want to run the country on the basis of Manusmriti, but the country will run on the basis of Baba Saheb's Constitution and we, the people of Congress de-

mand from Madam President that the insult to the Dalits, the exploited and the deprived, the great man of the country, the architect of the Constitution, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, should not be stopped. Amit Shah has said in the Parliament to immediately resign and apologize to the country, otherwise Congress will move towards a big movement. In this padyatra, mainly MPs Ujjwal Raman Singh, Pradeep Kumar Mishra Anshuman, Arun Tiwari, Manish Mishra, Sanjay Tiwari, Fuzail, Hashmi, Harikesh Tripathi, Rajesh Rakesh, Munna Upadhyay, Diwakar Bhartiya, Vinay Pandey, Ashfaq Ahmed, Mahesh Tripathi, Ashish Pandey, Mohammad Irfan, Saurabh Chaudhary, Jitendra Nayak, Nafees Qureshi, Shadab Ahmed, Lallan Patel, Rachna Pandey, Nishant Rastogi, Manas Shukla, Anil Pandey, Dilip Patel, Aftab Ahmed, Ram Manorath Saroj, Farhan, Abdul Kalam Azad, Abhay Saroj, Vivek Pandey, Irshad Ullah, Shakeel Ahmed, Vishnu Kant Pandey, Sachin were present.

## EDITORIAL

## French Horror

The conviction in France of Dominique Pelicot and his co-defendants in one of the most disturbing rape trials in recent history has sparked both widespread outrage and urgent conversations about the gaps in legal and societal frameworks regarding sexual violence. For nearly a decade, Pelicot drugged and sexually assaulted his ex-wife, Gisèle Pelicot, while coercing others into participating in the abuse. What makes this case particularly alarming is not just the horror of the crimes, but the larger question of how such atrocities could go unnoticed for so long ~ and how the law continues to fail in adequately addressing the nuanced issue of consent. At the heart of this case is Ms Gisèle Pelicot who, in a brave yet tragic decision, chose to make her ordeal public. Her willingness to face her abuser in the courtroom and waive her right to anonymity was unprecedented in such trials. Ms Pelicot's actions have sparked a larger societal dialogue, challenging the way rape is legally defined and understood. Currently, France, like many countries, defines rape as an act of sexual penetration committed through violence, coercion, threat, or surprise. However, this narrow definition of rape, which does not explicitly include the absence of consent, has proven to be a significant flaw in prosecuting sexual violence cases. This case sheds light on how societal perceptions of rape often disregard the crucial issue of consent.

Many of the defendants in the trial argued that they were unaware their victim had not consented, asserting that they were tricked into believing the sexual acts were consensual. This argument highlights a fundamental flaw in the legal system ~ one that treats consent as a peripheral issue rather than as the bedrock of any sexual encounter. It also underlines the inadequacy of a system that allows perpetrators to escape full accountability by using manipulation and deception to justify their actions. Moreover, the trial has raised uncomfortable questions about the prevalence of chemical submission or drug-induced sexual assault, a form of abuse that often goes undetected and unpunished. The perpetrators in this case were not shadowy figures but ordinary men ~ firefighters, truck drivers, and even a journalist ~ demonstrating that sexual violence transcends class and profession. The normalisation of such crimes, enabled by widespread societal indifference and a lack of robust legal recourse, is deeply unsettling. In light of this case, it is clear that the conversation around rape needs to evolve. Legal definitions must expand to ensure that consent is always at the forefront of any sexual interaction. Society, too, must confront its complicity in allowing such abuse to persist, whether through ignorance, indifference, or victim-blaming. Ultimately, the bravery of Ms Pelicot in coming forward ~ despite the personal toll it has taken on her ~ must be recognised not just as an act of personal courage but as a call to action for all to demand justice and redefine consent.

## 85 breached

The Indian rupee has breached the significant psychological barrier of 85 against the US dollar, marking an all-time low amid a confluence of domestic and global pressures. This dubious milestone underscores deeper concerns about the resilience of emerging market currencies, particularly in an era of strong dollar dominance fueled by robust US economic data and a persistently hawkish Federal Reserve. At home, India's economic landscape has faced notable headwinds. Growth has slowed to its lowest in seven quarters, while a widened merchandise trade deficit has added to the strain. These factors, coupled with outflows from domestic equity markets, paint a challenging picture for policymakers. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has stepped in with interventions to curb volatility, but such measures are largely short-term fixes for structural challenges. Globally, the dollar's ascent has been unrelenting. Backed by better-than-expected economic growth in the US and falling jobless claims, the greenback has drawn investors seeking safe-haven assets. This dynamic has placed additional pressure on the rupee, as emerging markets face capital outflows and higher borrowing costs. Investors are also eyeing upcoming US inflation data, which could influence the Federal Reserve's next moves. Any further strengthening of the dollar may keep the rupee under sustained pressure. Yet, this juncture also presents an opportunity to reimagine India's economic strategy. The weakening rupee makes Indian exports more competitive, offering a chance to boost trade and reduce the trade deficit over time. Policymakers could seize this moment to offer incentives to export-oriented industries and streamline processes for global trade, leveraging the depreciating currency to India's advantage. Moreover, the slide of the rupee could spark a renewed focus on structural reforms. Addressing the trade imbalance requires strengthening domestic manufacturing, improving productivity, and reducing reliance on imports in key sectors.

Simultaneously, enhancing the ease of doing business and attracting sustainable foreign direct investment would be pivotal in building long-term resilience. For ordinary Indians, a weaker rupee inevitably raises concerns about inflation, particularly for imported goods and services. However, the central bank's interventions have managed to contain excessive volatility, ensuring some stability amid turbulent times. The challenge for the RBI lies in balancing these interventions with preserving foreign exchange reserves and maintaining its inflation targets. The breach of the 85 mark should also serve as a wake-up call for corporate India. Companies reliant on foreign loans or imports may need to reassess their hedging strategies to shield themselves from further currency fluctuations. Simultaneously, businesses with export-driven models could benefit from the competitive edge offered by the weaker rupee. In this volatile economic environment, a proactive and comprehensive approach is essential. While immediate measures like RBI interventions provide temporary relief, the long-term focus must shift toward bolstering economic fundamentals. By turning challenges into opportunities, India can chart a more resilient path forward, ensuring that currency fluctuations become a stepping stone rather than a stumbling block.

# The Art of Relationships: Weaving Purpose and Joy into the Fabric of Life

DR. TANU JAIN.

In the tapestry of human existence, relationships form the intricate threads that bind us together, creating patterns of meaning, purpose, and profound joy. While the act of forming connections may seem effortless, the true artistry lies in nurturing and sustaining these bonds through life's myriad challenges. This delicate craft, often learned through trials and tribulations, transforms mere survival into a rich, fulfilling journey of shared experiences and mutual growth.

The Evolution of Connections As we navigate the winding path from childhood to adulthood, our understanding of relationships undergoes a metamorphosis. In our early years, friendships blossom easily, nurtured by the innocence of shared playtime and simple joys. These connections, while pure, often lack the depth that comes with maturity and self-awareness.

The transition to adolescence brings a shift in perspective. We begin to seek out those who stand by us in times of need, embodying the adage "a friend in need is a friend indeed." However, this phase carries with it a potential pitfall - the misconception that relationships are primarily transactional, existing to fulfil our immediate needs. It is only as we step into adulthood that we begin to grasp the profound truth: relationships are not merely a means to an end, but an essential part of our human experience. They are not about what we can gain, but about what we can share, learn, and become together.

The Paradox of Vulnerability One of life's great ironies is that true strength often emerges from moments of vulnerability. In the realm of relationships, this paradox takes center stage. Many of us grow up believing that to be loved and accepted, we must present only our best selves, hiding away the shadows that dwell within us all.

Yet, it is precisely in sharing our darker moments, our fears, and our struggles that we forge the strongest bonds. When we dare to remove our masks and reveal our authentic selves - flaws, doubts, and all - we create space for genuine connection. This act of trust, of laying bare our souls, transforms shallow acquaintances into deep, abiding relationships.

In this vulnerability lies the seed of true intimacy. Far from pushing others away, it draws them closer, fostering a sense of shared humanity. It is in these moments of raw honesty that we find not judgment or abandonment, but understanding, compassion, and a Deepening of Trust.

The Art of Sustaining Relationships While forming connections may come naturally to many, sustaining them is an art form that requires dedication, patience, and continuous learning. Like any masterpiece, a lasting relationship is created through countless small strokes - daily acts of kindness, moments of forgiveness, and the willingness to Grow Together.

This art is not innate; it is not bestowed upon us by virtue of our existence. Instead, it is a skill honed through

experience, often learned the hard way through misunderstandings, conflicts, and reconciliations. Each challenge overcome, each hurdle surmounted together, adds another layer of depth and resilience to the relationship.

The true Artistry lies in balancing individual Growth with shared experiences. It is about creating a space where both of us can evolve, supporting each other's dreams while nurturing the bond between one another. This delicate equilibrium requires Open Communication, Empathy, and the Courage to be Vulnerable.

Relationships as a Mirror to the Self Perhaps one of the most profound aspects of relationships is their ability to reflect our Inner selves back to us. In the eyes of those



we Love, we often see versions of ourselves we never knew existed - both the luminous and the shadowed parts.

This reflection serves as a powerful tool for self-discovery and personal growth. Our Relationships challenge us to Confront our shortcomings, celebrate our strengths, and continuously evolve. They push us beyond our comfort zones, encouraging us to become the best versions of ourselves.

In this way, relationships become not just a source of comfort and joy, but a catalyst for personal transformation. They provide us with a supportive environment to explore our potential, face our fears, and pursue our Deepest aspirations. The Purpose Beyond Survival While rela-

tionships undoubtedly play a crucial role in our survival as social beings, their purpose extends far beyond mere existence. They infuse our lives with meaning, offering a sense of belonging and connection in an often-chaotic world.

Through relationships, we find purpose in the act of Loving and being Loved. We discover the joy of shared laughter, the comfort of a supportive embrace, and the Thrill of conquering challenges together. These experiences add Colour and Depth to the canvas of our lives, transforming survival into a vibrant, purposeful existence.

Moreover, relationships provide us with a unique opportunity to leave a lasting impact on the world. Through our connections with others, we can Inspire, support, and uplift, creating ripples of positive change that extend far beyond our immediate circle.

The Subconscious Imprint of Authentic Connections The power of genuine relationships extends beyond our conscious awareness, leaving an indelible mark on our Subconscious minds. When we engage in authentic, vulnerable connections, we create a reservoir of Emotional security that sustains us through life's ups and downs. These deep bonds become anchors, grounding us in times of uncertainty and propelling us forward in moments of triumph. They shape our worldview, influencing how we perceive ourselves and others, and colouring our interactions with the world at large.

The emotional resonance of true relationships seeps into our Subconscious, fostering a sense of Belonging and Worthiness that permeates all aspects of our lives. This subtle yet Profound Impact enhances our resilience, boosts our Confidence, and enriches our overall life Experience.

The Ongoing Journey

As we navigate the intricate dance of human connections, we come to realize that relationships are not a destination but an ongoing journey. They are a lifelong process of learning, Growing, and Deepening our understanding of ourselves and others. In this journey, we discover that the Art of Relationships is not about perfection, but about Progress. It is about embracing the messiness of human Emotions, celebrating the Joys, and working through the challenges together. It is about creating a safe haven where we can be our True selves, free from judgment and full of Acceptance. Ultimately, relationships offer us a Unique opportunity to Experience the Full spectrum of human Emotions, to find purpose beyond mere survival, and to create a life Rich in meaning and Joy. As we master this Delicate art, we not only enrich our own lives but contribute to a more connected, compassionate world - one relationship at a time.

**Dr. Tanu Jain is a civil servant and spiritual speaker (Ministry of defence). The author's views are personal.**

## A compelling case for pragmatism

SANTHOSH MATHEW

When Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Macau, the world's gambling capital, the air was thick with anticipation. Macau, often dubbed the "Las Vegas of the East," is much more than a beacon of wealth and opulence. For Xi and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), it is a sparkling gem in the palm of China's vast and complex economic system - a model of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework that allows capitalist practices to thrive under the watchful eye of a socialist regime.

Xi's visit underscored the stark contrasts between theory and practice in the CCP's governance and the lessons it offers not only for China's neighbours but for the world at large. Macau's significance lies in its unique identity. A former Portuguese colony, it returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1999 under the promise of autonomy. Today, its glitzy casinos, luxury hotels, and sprawling Special Economic Zone (SEZ) generate billions annually, contributing substantially to China's GDP. But while the dice roll and fortunes are made on Macau's gaming tables, the CCP's control remains unyielding, reminding the world that even in spaces of free enterprise, the iron curtain of Beijing's authority looms large. The irony is palpable.

The CCP, a party built on anti-capitalist ideology, oversees the largest SEZ in the world in Shanghai, nurtures capitalism in Hong Kong, and allows gambling once condemned as a moral vice to flourish in Macau. This duality reflects the pragmatic philosophy first espoused by Deng Xiaoping: "It doesn't matter if a cat is black or white, as long as it catches mice." This approach has been pivotal in transforming China into the world's second-largest economy. Yet it also lays bare the contradictions at the heart of CCP rule. Xi Jinping's Macau visit was not merely ceremonial. It was a reaffirmation of the CCP's ability to adapt and wield capitalist tools while maintaining a tight grip on power.

In Macau, Xi emphasized stability and loyalty to the central government. This aligns with his broader strategy of tightening control over regions that might veer toward autonomy or dissent, as evidenced in Hong Kong. The "One Country, Two Systems" model - once lauded as a masterstroke of governance - has increasingly become a tool for consolidating Beijing's authority. Hong Kong's

story is a cautionary tale. A vibrant hub of multinational corporations (MNCs) and transnational corporations (TNCs), it has been at the forefront of economic globalization. However, its recent struggles with political dissent and Beijing's heavy-handed responses reveal the limits of the "Two Systems" promise. The CCP's crackdown on pro-democracy movements in Hong Kong has sent a clear message: economic freedom does not translate to political autonomy.

Macau, in contrast, has largely avoided such conflicts, partly due to its economic dependence on Beijing and the absence of a robust prodemocracy movement. Yet, this does not make Macau immune to the inherent tensions of

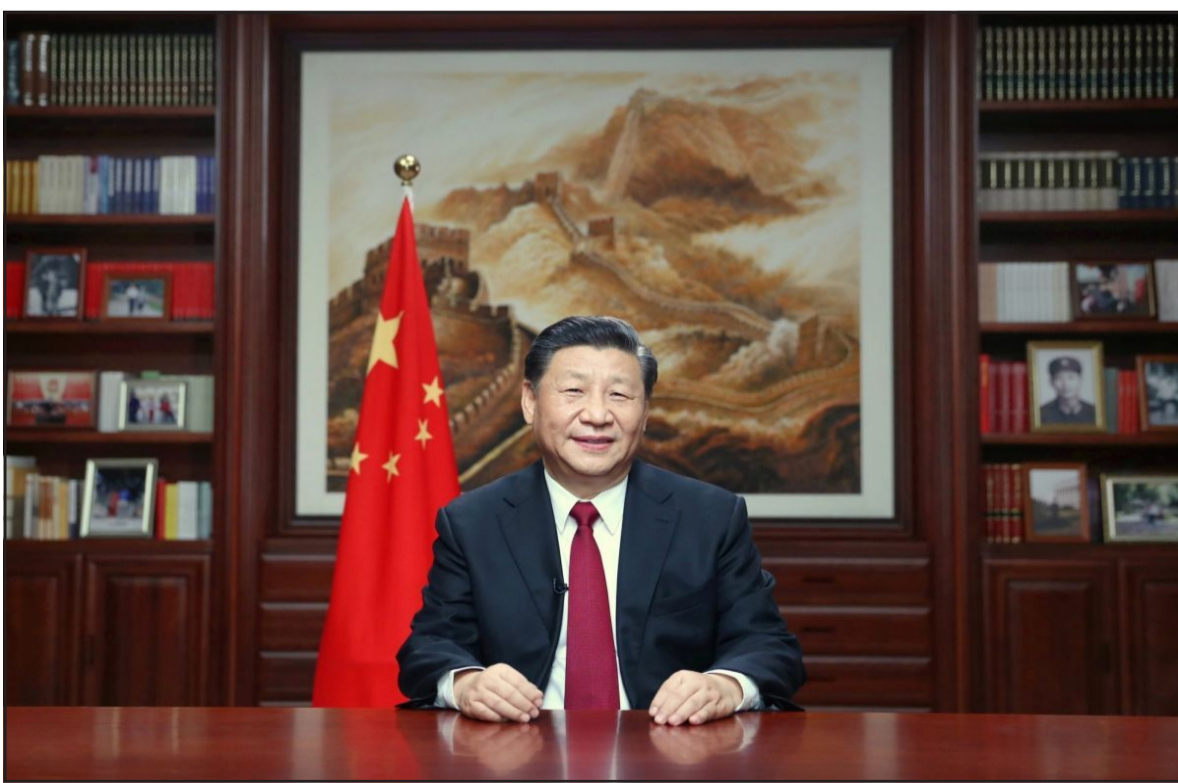
sons of Macau extend far beyond China's borders. For Maoists, Naxalites, and urban naxals in India, as well as other ideologues clinging to rigid dogmas, Macau stands as a testament to the power of adaptation. The CCP's ability to evolve, to reconcile its Marxist-Leninist roots with the demands of a modern, globalized economy, has been the cornerstone of China's rise. This is a far cry from the ideological purism that often paralyzes leftist movements elsewhere. India, too, can draw inspiration from Macau.

As the world's largest democracy grapples with its development challenges, it must consider the role of SEZs, MNC headquarters, and even industries like gambling in driving economic growth.

While gambling remains a taboo in much of India, the success of Macau shows how regulated gaming can become a major revenue source. Similarly, expanding SEZs and creating hubs for MNCs can transform India into a global economic powerhouse. At the heart of this debate is the question of whether ideology should dictate policy. The CCP's approach - that opinion is not an iron rod offers a compelling case for pragmatism. Yet, the party's intolerance for dissent, as seen in its suppression of Mao's "Let a Hundred Flowers Bloom" campaign, highlights the dangers of unchecked authority.

The CCP's success in economic management is undeniable, but its human rights record and stifling of democratic aspirations serve as stark reminders of the cost of its iron-fisted rule. As Xi Jinping departed Macau, the world was left pondering the paradoxes of modern China. Under his leadership, the CCP has doubled down on centralization, curbing dissent while championing economic liberalization. Macau's glittering casinos and towering skyscrapers are symbols of this duality, where capitalism thrives under the shadow of socialism.

For Xi, Macau is more than a gem in China's palm; it is a symbol of the CCP's ability to adapt and endure. For the rest of the world, it is a lesson in the complexities of governance, the power of pragmatism, and the challenges of reconciling ideology with reality. Whether in the neon-lit streets of Macau or the corridors of power in Beijing, the CCP's experiment in controlled capitalism continues to shape the future of China - and the world.



"One Country, Two Systems." As Xi extolled Macau's success, he also warned against complacency and stressed the need for "long-term stability," a euphemism for unwavering allegiance to the CCP. For the CCP, Macau and Hong Kong are not just economic engines; they are experiments in controlled capitalism. The success of these regions bolsters the party's narrative that socialism with Chinese characteristics can coexist with, and even benefit from, capitalist mechanisms. The underlying contradictions are hard to ignore.

The CCP's insistence on ideological purity clashes with its pragmatic embrace of market-driven policies. This duality is reflected in Xi's leadership, which combines Maoist centralization with Dengist pragmatism. The les-

## Greaves Electric Mobility Ltd files DRHP with SEBI

Varanasi: Greaves Electric Mobility Limited, an EV manufacturer known for its Ampere, Eltra and Ele brands and offering a complete suite of two-wheeler (E-2W) and three-wheeler (3W) segments catering to both B2C and B2B customers for personal and commercial purposes, has filed the draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with capital markets regulator, SEBI to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO). According to the draft red herring prospectus, the Initial Public Offering of the company consists of a Fresh Issue of equity shares aggregating up to Rs. 1000 crores and an Offer for Sale of up to 18,93,98,200 Equity Shares (18.9 crore shares) by the Selling Shareholders. Under the offer for sale component, Greaves Cotton Limited, the Promoter Selling Shareholder will divest 5.1 crore equity shares and Abdul Latif Jameel Green Mobility Solutions DMCC, the Investor Selling Shareholder will divest 138,398,200 Equity Shares (13.8 crore shares). The company, in consultation with the BRLMs, may consider a Pre-IPO placement aggregating up to Rs. 200 crores, prior

to the filing of the Red Herring Prospectus. If the Pre-IPO placement is completed, the fresh issue will be reduced to the extent of such Pre-IPO placement. Greaves Electric Mobility Limited (GEML) which was established in 2008 proposes to utilize the Net Proceeds of the Fresh Issue towards investment for product & technology development and enhancing capabilities at its Technology Centre in Bengaluru (Rs. 375.2 crores); development of in-house battery assembly capabilities (Rs. 82.9 crores); funding expansion of the manufacturing capacity of Bestway Agencies Private Limited (wholly owned Material Subsidiary) (Rs. 19.8 crores); funding expansion of the manufacturing capacity of MLR Auto Limited (a Material Subsidiary) (Rs. 38.2 crores); increasing company's stake in MLR through acquisitions (Rs. 73.6 crores); increase digitization and deployment of information technology infrastructure (Rs. 27.8 crores); funding inorganic growth through unidentified acquisitions and general corporate purposes.

## Full marks to Gurukul Sports Academy Northern Premier Cashmoney Football Competition

Prayagraj: Today under the auspices of Northern Football Academy, Gurukul Sports Academy Phaphamau defeated Friends United Football Club 4-1 in the Under-15 category in the Northern Premier League football competition. Organizing Secretary Football Coach Indranil Ghosh According to Kritarth, Vipul, Aditya Mishra, Om Pandey



scored goals for the winning team while Devansh scored for the losing team. Player of the Match, Om Pandey was rewarded by Ramshankar Gupta. The next match of the competition will be played on 26th December.

## Maharashtra farmers will lead second green revolution by adopting renewable energy: Fadnavis

Mumbai, 24 Dec. (HS): Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Tuesday that adopting green energy will allow farmers in the state to lead the second green revolution soon. He said solar-powered villages are being developed across the state to ensure electricity is available to farmers during the daytime. "Adoption of green energy will pave the way for Maharashtra's farmers to lead the second green revolution in the near future," the chief minister said. Fadnavis inaugurated projects at Umbratha in Washim district and Narangwadi in Dharashiv district under the Chief Minister's Solar Agriculture Feeder Project 2.0 via video conferencing. He said the Solar Agriculture Feeder Scheme would provide farmers with sustainable and free electricity during the day.

# People struggling with rising prices govt sleeping like 'Kumbhakaran': RaGa

New Delhi (Agency): Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said that the people are struggling with rising prices and are forced to compromise on small things of daily needs while the government is sleeping like 'Kumbhakaran'.

Gandhi shared a video on his social media handles on his recent visit to a vegetable market in Giri Nagar here and interaction with housewives who narrated their ordeal due to rising prices of food items.

"A few days ago, I went to a local vegetable market and while shopping with customers, I talked to the vendors to know how the budget of the common people is deteriorating and how inflation has troubled everyone," Gandhi said in his post accompanying the video.

"People are struggling with rising prices and are forced to compromise on small things of daily needs," the former Con-

gress chief said in his post in Hindi.

"We discussed the prices of garlic, peas, mushrooms and other vegetables, and heard the real experiences of the people. How garlic at Rs 400 per kg



and peas at Rs 120 per kg have shaken everyone's budget," he said.

What will people eat and what will they save, he wondered.

"While talking over tea, we closely understood the problems of the lives of housewives - how the income remained stagnant,

inflation kept increasing uncontrollably. How saving has become impossible and how it has become difficult to arrange even a rickshaw fare of Rs 10 due to just meeting the food expenses," Gandhi said.

said, "Garlic was once Rs 40, today it is Rs ,400! Rising inflation has spoiled the budget of the common person's kitchen - the government is sleeping like Kumbhakaran!"

In the over five-minute video, Gandhi is seen accompanying some housewives as they buy vegetables and haggle with vendors.

The housewives tell Gandhi that they have to curtail their eating habits as they are unable to afford the vegetables they used to earlier.

They also tell him that while wages have remained stagnant, prices have risen sharply.

The Congress on Monday took a swipe at the Modi government over "rising" prices of food items, saying the bullet train announced by it has not arrived but the inflation, which is spiralling upwards

faster than the speed of a bullet train, has broken the back of the common person.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh had said the people want answers not more "jumlabaaazi (rhetoric)".

He had shared a media report on X which claimed that the rates of daily essential goods are increasing day by day and in the last one year, the prices of flour, oil, spices and dry fruits have increased by one and a half to two times.

"The bullet train announced by the Modi government has not arrived, but the inflation, which is spiralling upwards faster than the speed of a bullet train, has broken the back of the common person," Ramesh had said in his post in Hindi on X.

The Congress has been attacking the government over its handling of the economy and raising concerns over increasing unemployment and price rise.

## Shah emphasises use of biometrics technology to identify unidentified bodies

New Delhi, 24 Dec. (HS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday stressed the need for using biometrics technology to identify unidentified bodies and unidentified "found persons".

Chairing a review meeting on the implementation of the three new criminal laws with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) here, Shah also emphasised the use of technology in all criminal investigation matters.

He said alerts should be generated for all the cases at predefined stages and timelines should be fixed -- from the registration to disposal of the case -- for the benefit of victims and complainants.

Biometrics technology should be adopted to identify unidentified bodies and unidentified found persons, Shah asserted.

According to an official statement, Shah said regular dispatch of alerts to in-

vestigating officers as well as senior officers as per predefined timelines will help expedite the process of investigation.

The meeting reviewed the implementation and integration of Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) 2.0 and Inter-Operable Criminal

ICJS 2.0, the statement said. He emphasised the use of applications like eSakshya, Nyaya Shruti, eSign and eSummons in every state and Union Territory.

Shah said a team of officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs, NCRB should visit the states and Union Territories to increase the adoption of technical projects and assist them in all possible ways. He emphasised regular interaction with senior police formations of states and Union Territories to monitor the progress

of CCTNS and ICJS regularly and provide impetus to the project. The NCRB should create a data rich platform to benefit the investigation officers and other stakeholder of criminal justice system, he said. Shah appreciated the efforts of the NCRB in the technical implementation of the three new criminal laws in the

Justice System (ICJS), the New Criminal Laws and National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), prisons, courts, prosecution and forensics with ICJS 2.0 at all India level.

During the discussion, the home minister asked the NCRB to facilitate the complete implementation of the new criminal laws in the

territories to increase the adoption of technical projects and assist them in all possible ways. He emphasised regular interaction with senior police formations of states and Union Territories to monitor the progress

of CCTNS and ICJS regularly and provide impetus to the project. The NCRB should create a data rich platform to benefit the investigation officers and other stakeholder of criminal justice system, he said. Shah appreciated the efforts of the NCRB in the technical implementation of the three new criminal laws in the

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## PM Modi to lay foundation stone of Ken-Betwa river link project today

Bhopal, 24 Dec. (HS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Wednesday lay the foundation stone of the Ken-Betwa river linking project, the first such initiative under the national river interlinking policy, at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh. Nearly 44 lakh people in 10 districts of Madhya Pradesh and 21 lakh in Uttar Pradesh will get drinking water under the project, which is estimated to cost Rs 44,605 crore, MP Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Tuesday. Nearly 7.18 lakh farmer families of 2,000 villages will be benefitted from the project, which will also generate 103 MW of hydropower and 27 MW of solar energy, he said. "Prime Minister Modi is coming to Khajuraho in Chhatarpur district on December 25 to lay the foundation of this project which will change the image and destiny of Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh," Yadav said. The Ken-Betwa Link Project is a unique example of cooperation and coordination between the central government, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, he said. Prime Minister Modi

has taken the initiative to realise the dream of former PM late Atal Bihari Vajpayee of the river linking campaign, Yadav added. Through this project, farmers will get ample water for irrigation and it will also provide sufficient water for drinking and industrial uses.

Along with the economic and social development of the area, tourism will also be promoted and new employment opportunities will be created. The situation of groundwater in the drought-hit Bundelkhand region will also improve, the CM said. Yadav said Ken-Betwa is the largest irrigation project in the country, adopting an underground pressurised pipe irrigation system. Under the project, a 77-metre high and 2.13 kilometres long Daudhan dam and two tunnels (upper level 1.9 km and lower level 1.1 km) will be constructed on the Ken river in the Panna Tiger Reserve. The dam will store 2,853 million cubic metres of water, the chief minister said. The surplus Ken water will be transferred to the Betwa river through the 221-km-long link canal from

Daudhan dam, providing irrigation and drinking water facilities in both the states, he said.

With the project, 8.11 lakh hectare area can be irrigated in 2,000 villages of 10 districts - Panna, Damoh, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Niwari, Sagar, Raisen, Vidisha, Shivpuri and Datia. Nearly seven lakh farmer families will be benefitted from this, the chief minister said. The Ken-Betwa project will provide an annual irrigation facility in 59,000 hectare area in Uttar Pradesh and stabilisation of the existing irrigation in 1.92 lakh-hectare area, which will provide irrigation facilities in Mahoba, Jhansi, Lalitpur and Banda districts of UP, he said. The project also includes the work of saving the historical Chhanda era heritage ponds in Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh and Niwari districts of MP, where water can be stored during the rainy season. The Daudhan reservoir will provide drinking water to wild animals in the Panna Tiger Reserve throughout the year, improve the forest ecosystem and bring relief to UP's Banda district from the flood menace, Yadav said.

# Whole world will see splendor and glory of India in Mahakumbh: Nandi

Prayagraj: Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi today met Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya along with Minister of State for Industrial Development Jaswant Singh Saini at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh on the banks of the holy confluence of Mother Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati from 13 January to 26 February 2025. Respectfully invited for the divine, grand and navy Mahakumbh 2025 which is going to be organized till 2025. Prayagraj Mahakumbh To ensure public participation in 2025, a grand road show was organized in Chandigarh, the capital of Haryana. In which a large number of citizens, representatives of religious organizations and cultural groups participated. This road show became an effective medium to convey the importance of Indian culture, spiritual traditions and Maha Kumbh to the people. During the meeting with the Governor, Minister Nandi

said that under the inspiring guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, our government has adopted the mantra of development with heritage. Kumbh is an eternal symbol of India's rich heritage and tradition. The organization of Maha Kumbh 2025 is going to be unique in terms of passenger convenience, accessibility and technical excellence. Sangam city is ready to be decorated in a completely new color to host crores of devotees coming from all over the country and make their experience memorable. Mahakumbh 2025 will take India's cultural consciousness to new heights by strengthening the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. This Mahakumbh is not just a religious event, but a unique celebration of Indian culture and unity. Haryana's participation will make this event even more glorious. After meeting the Governor, Uttar Pradesh Government's Industrial

Development Minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and State Minister for Industrial Development Jaswant Singh Saini explained the importance and preparations for Maha Kumbh 2025 through a road

Mahakumbh is not just a religious event, but a unique celebration of Indian culture and unity. Haryana's participation will make this event even more glorious. Told that this event not



show and press conference. Gave detailed information about. Told that under the inspiration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Maha Kumbh is being organized in Prayagraj on the banks of the holy confluence of Mother Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati from 13 January to 26 February 2025. Minister Nandi said that this

only restores religion and culture, but also strengthens the spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'. Told that this event of Mahakumbh 2025 will be the world's largest spiritual gathering, in which about 45 crore pilgrims, saints and Kalpavasis are likely to come. To make it divine and grand, the Uttar Pradesh government has made special preparations. Told that

this time many steps have been taken to make Mahakumbh digital, such as Mahakumbh website, mobile app and AI based chatbot in 11 languages. Apart from this, state-of-the-art technologies like Digital Lost and Found Centre, ICT based monitoring and Google Map integration will also be used. Special efforts are being made to make Maha Kumbh 2025 clean, green and environment friendly. More than 1.5 lakh toilets, 5,000 urinals and 1,500 Ganga Sevaks have been deployed across the entire Mela area. Environmental awareness campaigns are being run in the fair area by banning single-use plastic. Also, more than three lakh saplings have been planted to fill the city with greenery. The government also has long term plans for plant conservation. Extensive arrangements have been made for the safety and health of the pilgrims during the Maha Kumbh. The entire fair area has been divided into seven level security circles.

For security, 2,750 CCTV cameras have been installed, which will be connected to Artificial Intelligence based surveillance system. For health facilities, a 100-bed hospital has been built at the parade ground. Apart from this, arrangements have been made for several other hospitals and ICUs of 10 beds each. Deployment of specialist doctors, nurses and medical staff has been ensured in hospitals. The cultural pride of Prayagraj is being revived through Mahakumbh 2025. The city's historical temples such as Nagavasuki Temple, Dwadash Mahava Temple and Alopshankari Temple have been renovated. Apart from this, sites like Akshayavat, Patalpuri and Bhardwaj temples have also been preserved and furnished. Under the Paint My City campaign, the city has been decorated with wall paintings in more than 35 lakh square feet area, which has further highlighted the historical and cultural importance of Prayagraj.

## Indian Army extends medical support for pilgrims at Mahakumbh-2025

Prayagraj: In a continued effort to ensure the safety and well-being of pilgrims attending the Mahakumbh-2025, the Indian Army has established a comprehensive medical support system to assist civil authorities and provide timely medical aid.

The following facilities have been set up by the Indian Army for the benefit of the pilgrims: -

50-Bed Facility at MH, Prayagraj: A dedicated 50-bed hospital is operational at Military Hospital, Prayagraj, to address the healthcare needs of pilgrims and ensure prompt medical attention.

Crisis Expansion Facility at MH Prayagraj: In case of medical emergencies, an additional 45-bed facility has been established at Old Cantonment to augment crisis response capabilities.

Specialist Medical Support: Specialist doctors from the Indian Army are assisting the civil administration in handling infectious diseases, ensuring effective management and control during the congregation.

Mobile Evacuation Team at OD Fort: A 24x7 mobile evacuation team is stationed at OD Fort, equipped with five beds, including two ventilator-equipped beds. The team is supported by a medical specialist to provide immediate assistance to pilgrims in critical need.

Medical Aid Post at Mela Ground: A fully equipped Medical Aid Post (MAP) Class 1 has been established at the Mela Ground to offer on-site medical assistance to pilgrims.

The Indian Army remains committed to serving the nation and ensuring the successful conduct of Mahakumbh-2025. The initiative underscores the Army's dedication to public welfare and its capability to support civil administration during large-scale events.



## 'Will behead Houthis, just like Haniyeh': Israel confirms Hamas leader's killing in Iran

Cairo, 24 Dec. (HS): Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz admitted on Monday for the first time publicly to Israel's killing of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iran in July, further risking tensions between Tehran and its arch-enemy Israel in a region shaken by Israel's war in Gaza and the conflict in Lebanon.

"These days, when the Houthi terrorist organization is firing missiles at Israel, I want to convey a clear message to them at the be-



ginning of my remarks: We have defeated Hamas, we have defeated Hezbollah, we have blinded Iran's defence systems and damaged the production systems, we have toppled the Assad regime in Syria, we have dealt a severe blow to the axis of evil, and we will also deal a severe blow to the Houthi terrorist organization in Yemen, which remains the last to stand," Katz said.

Israel will "damage their strategic infrastructure, and we will behead their leaders — just as we did to Haniyeh, Sinwar and Nasrallah in Tehran, Gaza and Lebanon

— we will do it in Hodeidah and Sana'a," Katz said during an evening honoring defence ministry personnel.

The Iran-backed group in Yemen has been attacking commercial shipping in the Red Sea for more than a year to try to enforce a naval blockade on Israel, saying they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Israel's year-long war in Gaza.

In late July, the political leader of the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas was killed in Tehran in an assassination blamed on Israel by Iranian authorities. There was no direct claim of responsibility by Israel for the killing of Haniyeh at the time.

Haniyeh, normally based in Qatar, had been the face of Hamas' international diplomacy as the war set off by the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7 has raged in Gaza. He had been taking part in internationally brokered indirect talks on reaching a ceasefire in the Palestinian enclave.

Months after, Israeli forces in Gaza killed Yahya Sinwar, Haniyeh's successor and the mastermind of the October 7, 2023, attack that triggered the latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israel-Palestinian conflict.

## Israeli PM signals progress in Gaza truce deal talks, timeline unclear

New Delhi, 24 Dec. (HS): Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that "there has been progress" in efforts to secure a ceasefire-for-hostages deal with Hamas, but cautioned that the timeline for reaching an agreement remains unclear.

Speaking before the Knesset on Monday, the Israeli parliament, Netanyahu said, "I do not know how long it will take," while vowing to "continue to act in every possible way until we bring everyone home."

Earlier on Monday, Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar

outlined parts of the deal during a closed meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, describing it as "a phased, gradual framework."

Israeli and Palestinian media reported that efforts led by Qatari, Egyptian, and US mediators have shown progress, though a breakthrough remains elusive.

Israel's Diaspora Minister Amichai Chikli told Kan Reshet Bet public radio that there had been "some" progress toward an agreement, adding that the sides are closer to a deal than in recent months. He said the initial phase would be "a hu-

manitarian phase," involving a 42-day ceasefire and the release of some hostages.

"This ceasefire could last six months or 10 years, depending on the dynamics that develop on the ground," Chikli said.

The length of the ceasefire has been a key sticking point in previous failed negotiation attempts. Hamas seeks to end the war entirely, while Israel insists on removing Hamas' control over Gaza before any resolution and maintaining a military presence in the Palestinian enclave even after the ceasefire.

Hamas launched an assault on southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people and kidnapping approximately 250 others. About 100 Israeli and foreign hostages are still being held by Hamas in Gaza, and dozens of them are believed to be dead, according to Israeli estimates.

Israel responded with an extensive military campaign, reducing much of the Gaza Strip to rubble. At least 45,317 people have been killed by the Israeli strikes in Gaza, according to an update released on Monday by the Gaza-based health authorities.

## Mongolia issues warning over blizzards

New Delhi: Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has issued a severe weather warning for several regions, predicting strong winds and blizzards to start on Monday night.

The blizzards are expected to impact the western, central, and southern Gobi provinces over the next two days, resulting in poor road visibility and slippery conditions, the NEMA said on Monday, urging citizens, especially nomadic herders and drivers, to ex-

ercise caution and take preventive measures against potential disasters.

In addition, more than 60 per cent of Mongolia's total territory is already covered in snow, according to the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring.

Mongolia, known for its harsh continental climate, frequently experiences extreme weather throughout the year. As one of the few remaining nomadic societies in the world, the country is particularly vulnerable to

abrupt and severe weather events. The combination of frigid temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns often leads to devastating consequences for both human and animal populations. Xinhua news agency reported. In a tragic example of such risks, over 10 people, mainly nomadic herders, lost their lives in November 2023 due to heavy snow and blizzards in the central province of Tuv and the eastern province of Sukhbaatar. Earlier this month, the overnight

temperatures had dropped to a bone-chilling minus 42 degrees Celsius in Otgon soum, an administrative subdivision of Zavkhan province in western Mongolia. This marks the coldest temperature recorded in Mongolia so far this winter, the National Agency for Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring had announced. The agency had forecasted that most parts of Mongolia will experience colder-than-average temperatures throughout the winter.

## Cong files plea in SC against amendments to election rules

New Delhi, 24 Dec. (HS): The Congress on Tuesday filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the recent amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 and expressed hope that the apex court will help restore the "fast eroding" integrity of the electoral process. The government has tweaked an election rule to prevent public inspection of certain electronic documents such as CCTV camera and webcasting footage as well as video recordings of candidates to prevent their misuse. AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who filed the petition, said, "The integrity of the electoral process is fast eroding. Hopefully the Supreme Court will help restore it." "A writ has just been filed in the Supreme Court challenging the recent amendments to the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961," he said in a post on X. Ramesh said the Election Commission, a Constitutional body charged with the conduct of free and fair elections cannot be allowed to unilaterally, and without public consultation, amend such a vital law in such a brazen manner. "This is especially true when that amendment does away with public access to essential information that makes the electoral process more transparent and accountable," he said.

### Horoscope: December 25, 2024

**Aries:** Today, love is likely to surprise you. Some feelings cannot be ignored; no matter how hard you try to dismiss them, they only become more intense. Sometimes, it may seem like you're not ready for all that comes with it, and that is the charm of it all. Do not run from these emotions; rather, sit with them for a while. If you are in a relationship, tell your partner what has been troubling you. Singles, it's better to let love happen on its own.

**Taurus:** Appreciate the blossoming romance in your life, Taurus. Whether you are happily in love with your partner or searching for new connections, try to enjoy every moment that makes it all worth it. Sometimes just a touch or a good talk can go a long way in deepening the relationship that you have. If you're with someone special, do something that would make it valuable. If you are single, remain ready for a surprising conversation which can send your heart beating faster.

**Gemini:** Today is about being truthful, Gemini. Your heart may feel full, and while it may seem easier to say nothing, it will provide comfort to say something. When people are vulnerable, it may seem like they are walking through the unknown, but love blossoms in this situation. If you are in a relationship, do not be afraid to show your partner the tender side of you — it will only benefit your relationship. Singles, tell someone how much you admire them.

**Cancer:** The stars urge you to open your heart. If you start with the act of being kind and compassionate, love will follow. Your kind heart can melt the hardest people, and the simplest and smallest thing you can do can bring a positive change to that special someone. If you are in a relationship, be a little more loving — your partner will know they are valued. For singles, don't underestimate the power of being friendly and approachable.

**Leo:** Leo, let love be natural. If you try to control everything, you will get tired — some things are supposed to happen by themselves. Concentrate on what you can contribute, and the rest will find their way on their own. If you are in a relationship, do not worry about the next step to take while enjoying the current one. Your love and kindness will do more than a thousand words. For singles, let go of any expectations of how things should unfold in any budding connection.

**Virgo:** You don't always have to seek out love. At times, it creeps up on you unexpectedly, enveloping you in comfort when you do not even realise it. It's not about feeling the same way back yet; it's about being wanted and loved. Do not analyse the affection and attention that you are getting from other people. If you are in a relationship, embrace every little sign of affection. Singles, love is a treasure and accepting it brings in something beautiful.

**Libra:** Love needs to be fed and the more genuine it is, the better it will be for you, Libra. The little acts you perform today will make waves that will help build your bond. If you're in a relationship, your partner will feel the difference between an action done out of love and one done because you were expected to do it. For singles, patience is key. You can't make a person stick around, but when love is genuine, it stays lingering.

**Scorpio:** It is time to block out the outside world and just focus on yourself. The key point is not in how you connect with your partner and support each other. They may have their own ideas about what they think is going on, but they don't witness all the moments of love and support that you share. If you are in love, then it is time to work on that relationship rather than trying to convince the world of something.

**Sagittarius:** Love is different when it is real. Today, you can observe that moment when two people meet, and no words need to be said. It's not about the big moments but the quiet confidence that the other person's heart is also with you. For single people, believe in the feeling when a person's vibes are the same as yours. Sometimes, soulmates don't make an entrance; they just walk in and turn your world upside down. Stay receptive.

**Capricorn:** It's not about being flawless but about being present when things go wrong. If there is a misunderstanding, one should not let pride hinder him/her from correcting it. An apology can melt people's anger and bring them closer to you than before. These are the small, simple things that make relationships grow and blossom. Your readiness to take responsibility will go a long way than you can imagine.

**Aquarius:** Stability is something that is easily seen when two people are on the same page. Today is a good day to think about what it means to build a future together in the literal sense. In a relationship, talking about goals can become a source of comfort. For single folks, focus on the relationships that seem to fit seamlessly into your life. The right person will not only love you but will also desire to build a space where you both will be comfortable.

**Pisces:** Love always leaves its mark that cannot be washed away by time. Though people change or break up, their experiences remain valuable and help in the process of development. Today, think about the love that has affected your life — whether in the past or the present. If you are in a relationship, respect the process that has brought you two together because each step makes you a better couple. For singles, know that love does not die; it changes and readies you for the next phase.

## Germany mourns market crash victims amid fears of deepening societal divide

Magdeburg (Agency): Mourners laid flowers near the scene of the deadly Christmas market attack on Monday as investigators puzzled over the motive of the suspect and fears swirled that the rampage could deepen divisions in German society.

The Johanniskirche, a church a short walk from the scene of the attack, has become a central place of mourning since the suspect drove a car into the busy market on Friday evening, killing five people and injuring 200. A carpet of flowers now covers the broad side-

walk in front of the church.

Authorities have identified the suspect as a Saudi doctor who arrived in Germany in 2006 and had received permanent residency. They say he does not fit the usual profile of perpetrators of extremist attacks. The man described himself as an ex-Muslim who was highly critical of Islam and in many posts on social media expressed support for the far-right. A picture has emerged of someone who had come to authorities' attention in the past for threatening behaviour and been the



subject of tipoffs, but was not known to have committed any violence.

German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser said Sunday that "the views and statements that the perpetrator expressed are being investigated, as are the tipoffs and proceedings with various authorities and the justice system." She said "the right conclusions" will then have to be drawn. The country's vice chancellor voiced fears that the attack will fuel online misinformation ahead of a national election expected in late February.

## \$5 bn nuclear graft probe launched against Hasina

Dhaka, 24 Dec. (HS): An anti-graft panel in Bangladesh has launched an investigation against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her family in connection with the allegations of embezzling

and Tulip Siddiq, her niece and the UK's Treasury minister, were also questioned, BDNews reported on Sunday.

There are accusations of embezzling USD 5 billion in the Rooppur Nuclear



Plant project, the report added. The development came two days after the High Court issued a rule asking why the Anti-Corruption Commission's (ACC) inaction over an alleged transfer of USD 5 billion from the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant project to a Malaysian bank by Hasina, Joy, and Tulip should not be declared illegal, the report added. Bangladesh-based International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) has issued arrest warrants for Hasina and several former ministers and military and civil officials for "crimes against humanity".

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## Brain map clarifies neuronal connectivity behind motor function: Study

Tennessee, 24 Dec. (HS): Muscle movement is enabled by signals conveyed from the brain to motor neurones; however, these impulses often transit through spinal interneurons before reaching their target. How the brain and this highly diverse group of "switchboard operator" cells are connected is poorly understood.

To address this, researchers at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital developed a whole-brain atlas that depicts regions of the brain that transmit direct inputs to V1 interneurons, a kind of cell required for movement.

The resulting atlas and associated three-dimensional interactive website give a foundation for learning more about the nervous system's physical landscape and how the brain communicates with the spine. The results were reported today in *Neuron*.

"We have known for decades that the motor system is a distributed network, but the ultimate output is through the spinal cord," said corresponding author Jay Bikoff, PhD, St. Jude Department of Developmental Neurobiology. "There, you have motor neurons which cause

muscle contraction, but the motor neurons don't act in isolation. Their activity is sculpted by networks of molecularly and functionally diverse interneurons."

While huge leaps have been made in understanding how different regions of the brain relate to different facets of motor control, precisely how these regions connect to specific neurons in the spinal cord has been a blind spot in the field. Interneurons are difficult to study, mainly because they come in hundreds of different, intermingled varieties.

"It's akin to untangling a ball of Christmas lights, except it's more challenging given that what we're trying to unravel is the result of over 3 billion years of evolution", said co-first author Anand Kulkarni, PhD.

Recent advances have demonstrated the existence of molecularly and developmentally distinct interneuron subclasses, but much is still unknown about their place within neural communication.

"Defining the cellular targets of descending motor systems is fundamental to understanding neural control of movement and behavior," said Bikoff. "We need to know how the brain is communicating these signals." To dissect the circuits

linking the brain to the spinal cord, the researchers used a genetically modified version of the rabies virus that is missing a key protein, the glycoprotein, from its surface. This inhibited the virus's ability to spread between neurons.

This essentially stranded the virus at its origin. By reintroducing this glycoprotein to a specific population of interneurons, the virus could make a single jump across synapses before becoming stuck again. The researchers used a fluorescent tag to track the virus. By tracking where the virus ends up, the researchers could pinpoint which regions of the brain were connected to these interneurons.

3D map allows researchers to visualize connections: The researchers applied this approach to a class of interneurons called V1 interneurons, which were previously shown to play a vital role in shaping motor output. The work allowed them to accurately trace the origins of multiple signals received by these interneurons back to the brain.

"We're only targeting the V1 interneurons, but these are actually a highly heterogeneous group of

neurons, so we thought, 'Let's target as many of the V1s as we can and see what's projecting to them,'" Bikoff said.

The researchers turned to serial two-photon tomography to visualize these neurons and generate a three-dimensional reference atlas. This technique renders the brain as it makes hundreds of micron-thick sections to reveal fluorescently labeled neurons. The atlas allowed the researchers to make accurate predictions about the network that connects different brain structures to the spinal cord and the interneurons with which they interact.

Identifying how these structures link to the spinal cord allows researchers to further investigate the neural circuits controlling movement, and the accompanying web atlas will ensure that the data is freely accessible to all. "We understand what some of the identified brain regions do from a behavioral perspective," explained Bikoff, "but we can now make hypotheses about how these effects are mediated and what the role of the V1 interneurons might be. It will be very useful for the field as a hypothesis-generating engine."



### South Korea's opposition party vows to impeach acting president

Seoul, 24 Dec. (HS): South Korea's main opposition party said on Tuesday it will seek to impeach acting leader Han Duck-soo after he missed an opposition-set deadline to approve independent investigations into impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol and his wife. If realised, Han's impeachment would further deepen South Korea's political tumult and worries by neighbouring countries caused by Yoon's stunning December 3 martial law declaration and ensuing impeachment. Han, the country's number two official, has taken over presidential powers and duties since Yoon's impeachment. If he's impeached too, the finance minister is next in line.

The main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which holds a majority in parliament, has slammed Han for vetoing several opposition-sponsored bills, including a controversial agriculture bill. It also urged Han to quickly appoint justices to vacant seats on the Constitutional Court, which is reviewing Yoon's impeachment and will determine whether to dismiss or reinstate him. Filling the court's three empty posts could make conviction more likely, as it requires the support of six of the court's nine possible members.

The Democratic Party also demanded that Han approve by Tuesday bills calling for the appointments of special prosecutors to investigate Yoon for rebellion over his marital law decree, and his wife for corruption and other allegations.

But Han didn't do so during Tuesday's Cabinet Council meeting, calling for the ruling and opposition parties to negotiate.

Democratic Party floor leader Park Chan-dae responded that there's no room for negotiations about a Yoon investigation, and that his party would begin steps toward an impeachment at once.

"We've clearly warned that it's totally up to Prime Minister Han Duck-soo whether he would go down in history as a disgraceful figure, puppet of rebellion plot leader Yoon Suk Yeol or public servant that has faithfully carried out the orders by the public," Park told a televised party meeting. Korean prosecutors and other officials are separately probing whether Yoon committed rebellion

and abuse of power, but he's ignored requests by investigative agencies to appear for questioning and allow searches of his office. Yoon's defence minister, police chief and several other senior military commanders have already been arrested over the deployment of troops and police officers to the National Assembly, which prompted a dramatic standoff that ended when lawmakers managed to enter the chamber and voted unanimously to overrule Yoon's decree. The governing People Power Party said that the opposition's impeachment threats are interfering with Han's "legitimate exercise of authority." Floor leader Kweon Seong-dong, a Yoon loyalist, said the Democratic Party's "politics of intimidation have reached their peak." An impeachment vote would face legal ambiguities. Most Korean officials can be impeached with a simple majority of parliament, but impeaching the presidents takes two-thirds.

## Boys' High School and College and its Annexe (Holy Trinity School) wish each and every one 'A Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.'

**D. A. Luke  
Principal**

Contact Us: 0532-2266424  
email: [principal@boyshighschool.com](mailto:principal@boyshighschool.com)  
Website: <http://www.boyshighschool.com>

Jude and Jane  
wish you  
a merry  
Christmas  
and a happy  
New year

May the light of God's love shine upon you.  
May your life be filled with blessings  
in this Christmas Season.

GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE FAMILY

Wishes You  
*A Merry Christmas*  
and  
**A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

## ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, PRAYAGRAJ

Wishes its Staff, Students, Families & Well-Wishers,

# A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A Prosperous New Year 2025

## "Good Governance Day"

\*Celebrating accountability, transparency and service to the nation.\*

Christmas Mela will be held on 25, 26 & 27th of December, 2024 at St. Joseph's College Ground from 1:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Prayerful wishes From: **Principal & Headmaster**

100th Birth Anniversary of Hon'ble Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee Former Prime Minister of India

The Chairman, Correspondent Secy., Principal,  
Staff & Students  
Of  
**Bishop Johnson School & College**  
(Diocese of Lucknow, C.N.I.)  
**Prayagraj**  
wish all

# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

- email : [bjscald@yahoo.com](mailto:bjscald@yahoo.com) Ph. +916387903438