

Vajpayee architect of India's transition into 21st century : PM Modi

► PM pays tribute to former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on his 100th birth anniversary at Sadaiv Atal, in New Delhi...(PIB)

New Delhi, Dec 25 (GNS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Atal Bihari Vajpayee as the architect of India's transition into the 21st century and said the BJP stalwart ushered in reforms that set the stage for India's economic surge, abandoning an economic philosophy which encouraged cronyism and stagnation.

In an article which appeared in several newspapers on the 100th birth anniversary of Vajpayee, Modi said he spent his long parliamentary tenure largely in the opposition benches but never carried any trace of bitterness even though the Congress stooped to new lows by going to the extent of calling him a "traitor". Modi said,

"He stands tall as a statesman who continues to inspire countless people." The prime minister said Vajpayee provided stable and effective governance at a time when people were getting impatient and sceptical about the government's ability to deliver due to the political instability of the '90s when four Lok Sabha polls were

held in about nine years. Coming from humble roots, Vajpayee realised the struggles of the common citizen and the transformative power of effective governance, Modi said, adding that the long-term impact of his leadership is visible in several sectors. His era marked a gigantic leap in the world of information technology, tele-

com and communications, he said. "The NDA government under Atal ji made the first serious attempt to make technology accessible to citizens. At the same time, there was foresight in connecting India. Even today, most people recall the Golden Quadrilateral Project which connected the length and breadth of India," he said.



Trees Don't Eat Their Own Fruits: A Solo Exhibition by Ashish Kumar Maurya

Delhi: Trees Don't Eat Their Own Fruits is a solo exhibition by artist and research scholar Ashish Kumar Maurya, co-rated by If-iktar Ahmad. Running from 23 to 29, Dec. 2024, at Jehangir art gallery mumbai the exhibition explores themes of labor, survival, and humanity's connection to nature. Featuring mixed media, photography, etchings, and paintings, Maurya reflects on cycles of growth, decay, and renewal. Rooted in his PhD research, The New Perception of Reality in Contemporary Indian Art, the works blend rural and urban narratives, drawing from personal memories. Highlights include a poignant painting of a laborer nurturing plants in a cityscape, symbolizing resilience and survival. The exhibition honors Maurya's late mentors, Prof. Jai Zharotiya and S. C. Ahuja, whose guidance shaped his artistic vision. Maurya received support from esteemed figures like Prof. Uttama Dixit, Dean of Visual Arts at BHU, Dr. Suresh Chandra Jangid Maurya's PhD supervisor and professor in BHU, Suresh k. Nair and Prof. Chawky Frenn, Ful-bright Visiting Fellow and other mentors. Maurya is a PhD scholar at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), with an MFA from the College of Art, University of Delhi, and a BFA from



BHU. His multidisciplinary practice spans painting, printmaking, photography, and mixed media, focusing on rural-urban dynamics and survival. His accolades include the Junior Research Fellowship (UGC), the Art for Hope grant by Hyundai Motor India Foundation, and the Emerging

Artist prize at MOJARTO's ORA-2020. "My work embodies the intricate connection between my village roots and urban experiences, weaving together the stories, struggles, and beauty of these two contrasting worlds. It captures the resilience of rural life, with its deep ties to nature

and tradition, while reflecting the dynamic transformations of urban landscapes, marked by rapid growth and adaptation. Through my art, I explore how these dual realities shape identity, offering a narrative that resonates with the ever-evolving relationship between tradition and modernity."

Ola Electric Accelerates EV Revolution with Record Expansion to 4,000 Stores Nationwide

► Opens 3,200+ new stores co-located with service centres, making it India's largest EV expansion at one go

► Announces offers worth up to 25,000 on S1 portfolio

New Delhi, Dec 25 : Ola Electric, India's largest pure-play EV company, today expanded its network to 4,000 stores nationwide, registering a four-fold increase from the existing network. One of the world's most significant expansions of the EV footprint, bolstering access, growth, and adoption in the country, Ola Electric cements its leadership in the space.

With the launch of 3,200+ new stores co-located with service facilities, the company is committed to driving large-scale EV adoption enabling deeper penetration beyond tier-1 and tier-2 cities to almost every town and tehsil across India. With this expansion, Ola Electric has fulfilled its promise under its #SavingsWalaScooter campaign.

Bhavish Aggarwal, Chairman & Managing Director, Ola Electric, said, "We promised, and now we have delivered! Today marks a significant milestone in India's EV journey as we expand our network to every city, town, and taluk. With our newly opened stores co-located with service centres, we have completely re-

defined EV purchase & ownership experience, setting new benchmarks with our #SavingsWalaScooter campaign. As we continue to scale, we are committed to pushing the boundaries of innovation and accelerating the country's journey towards #EndICEAge."

Offers worth up to 25,000 on S1 portfolio

Marking the massive expansion of the network, Ola Electric has rolled out attractive offers with benefits ranging up to 25,000 on the S1 portfolio, exclusively available on December 25, 2024. Customers can visit their nearest newly launched Ola Store and get a flat discount of up to 7,000 on S1 X portfolio. Besides, customers can avail additional benefits up to 18,000, including 5,000 on select credit card EMIs and MoveOS benefits worth 6,000.

Limited-Edition Ola S1 Pro Sona

Ola S1 Pro Sona, launched to mark the massive network expansion with real 24-karat gold plated elements, has attracted a large number of footfalls across Ola Stores, with customers actively participating in.

Chennai's Anna University student 'sexually assaulted', biryani seller arrested

Chennai, Dec 25 (GNS) An Anna University girl student was allegedly sexually assaulted and a 37-year old man, who sells biryani on the pavement, has been arrested for the crime, police said on Wednesday.

The victim, a student of the varsity's College of Engineering, Guindy in her complaint said that while she was speaking to her male friend on December 23, around 8 pm, behind a building on the college campus, they were intimidated by an unknown person, who sexually assaulted her. She lodged the complaint with the Kotturpuram All Women police station and a case was duly registered and a probe was on, a Greater Chennai city police statement said.

"During investigation, based on scientific evidence, Gnanasekaran of Kottur (a neighbourhood near the college) has been arrested for this crime. The suspect has given a confessional statement. He is doing business by running a biryani shop on the pavement." Further, the police said they were probing whether he had been involved in other crimes. "On the university campus, CCTV cameras have been installed and security officials have been appointed."

Police said appropriate action will be taken to enhance security for the students following consultations with university officials and that a 'joint security review', will be undertaken. Anna University Registrar, J Prakash,



said the varsity was extending full cooperation to the police in its investigation. The internal complaints committee of the varsity has also commenced an inquiry.

"The university administration is extending full cooperation for the police investigation," he said. Meanwhile, SFI and AIDWA staged a protest in front of the state-run varsity campus seeking action. According to one of the protesters, the student was allegedly sexually assaulted "inside the campus by two outsiders".

The incident has also triggered strong political reactions. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami expressed shock and said it was "shameful". He strongly condemned the DMK government. DMK spokesperson A Saravanan said the incident was very unfortunate and it should not have happened. The police have swiftly acted, an FIR has been registered and the culprit will be brought to justice, he expressed confidence.

The Legal Provisions Need To Be Made For The Safety Of Journalists : Pavitar Mohan Rai

► Virendra Saini became Delhi State President of Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangh



New Delhi, 25th December : (KUSH ARORA) Under the aegis of Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangh, a seminar was organized today in the auditorium of Indian Newspaper Committee on the issue of increasing attacks on journalists being a matter of great concern, in which the National President of the Mahasangh, Pavitra Mohan Rai, termed the attacks on journalists as worrisome and said that journalism is a risky job. Journalists who expose the truth are facing difficult circumstances today. Attacks on journalists doing unbiased journalism are increasing continuously, in many cases journalists have even lost their lives, in such a situation, the security of journalists is becoming a serious challenge. In many cases, journalists are also bearing the brunt of the indifference of the governments. National President of the Mahasangh, Pavitra Mohan Rai said that we are called the

fourth pillar of democracy but the absence of any legal provision to protect it is a matter of concern. He said that today there are legal provisions for the safety of leaders, lawyers, doctors but no law has been made in the interest of journalists. Present-day journalists are victims of neglect. No provision has been made for the safety of journalists. Shri Pavitra Rai said that on the lines of the safety of doctors, legal provisions should be made for the safety of journalists. Delhi State and National Capital Region President of the Federation Virendra Saini said that journalists in and around Delhi are harassed every day. But no arrangements are being made for their safety by the government sector. There is apprehension about the future of journalists. Shri Saini said that legal provisions need to be made for the safety of journalists. Addressing the seminar, Arun Goyal, Surendra

Verma, Jawahar Jairath, journalists Vivek Shukla, Ajesh Kumar, Sanjay Rai, Advocate Malika Gautam and many others associated with journalist organizations also shared their views. On this occasion, National President of Rashtriya Patrakar Mahasangh Pavitra Mohan established Delhi NCR Unit and expanded the organization by appointing senior journalist and editor of Janbhavna magazine Virendra Saini as the President of Delhi NCR and Mrs. KD Mishra as the General Secretary. Shri Pavitra Rai said that his organization is protecting the interests of journalists in other states of the country. The organization will also work in the interest of journalists in Delhi NCR. Many famous journalists including journalists Kush Arora, Virendra Goyal, Rakesh Kumar, Deepak Anand, Suresh Kumar, Tirth Raj, Hari Singh Rawat, SK Dixit were present in the seminar.

Fears of a Hamas takeover of the West Bank are exaggerated

Over the past few months, there has been an escalation of violence in the occupied West Bank. Armed clashes between Palestinians and the Israeli army in Jenin and Jerusalem and elsewhere have resulted in the deaths of several Palestinian fighters and civilians and the injuries of several soldiers from the Israeli occupation forces. There have been also stabbings, car-ramming attacks, and shootings at different locations targeting Israeli soldiers and settlers.

These incidents coincided with the escape of six Palestinian political prisoners from the Israeli Gilboa prison. In view of these developments, Israel's security services have expressed increasing concern about the growing resistance in the West Bank. More specifically, Israeli officials have raised the spectre of a Hamas takeover of the occupied Palestinian territories currently under the nominal control of the Palestinian Authority (PA). But how realistic is this prospect?

Since Hamas's victory in the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections, Israel has perceived the movement as a grave threat. Then Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert made it clear that his government was not going to cooperate with a Hamas-led cabinet, the way it had with the Fatah-led PA.

The subsequent tensions between Fatah and Hamas, fuelled by external forces, escalated into armed clashes, in which Hamas fighters were able to take control of the Gaza Strip. Israel imposed a debilitating siege on the strip and in the following years launched repeated deadly wars on its people, killing thousands and destroying civilian homes and infrastructure.

Meanwhile, the PA, now under Fatah's control again, launched a massive security operation to uproot Hamas from the West Bank. Working with Israel, it arrested hundreds of Hamas members, closed its offices and associations and clamped down on its supporters. The same happened with Islamic Jihad, an ally of Hamas. Since then, the movement has been able to set up small cells to carry out limited operations against Israeli forces. But the violence of the past few months raised concerns within the Is-

raeli security community about the extent of Hamas's penetration of the West Bank and its ability to rally other groups to carry out resistance activities. Some have perceived the new "security infrastructure" Hamas has built as different from the limited cells it had in the past and more difficult to trace. Such a development can be considered a major failure of the Israeli occupation forces and intelligence, which over the past few years have tightened their grip on the West Bank. Hamas also appears to be increasingly coordinating on-the-ground activities with other Palestinian factions.

In mid-September, as the violence escalated and fears emerged of an Israeli assault on Jenin, Hamas, along with the armed wing of Fatah and Islamic Jihad, announced a joint "operations room" to fight off any Israeli attack. One major consequence of these developments is the increasing feeling of insecurity in Israel and among Israeli settlers in the West Bank. There are fears that the West Bank and Jerusalem might plunge into violence, as they did during the so-called Knife Intifada of 2015-16, when hundreds of Palestinians and dozens of Israelis were killed, or during the series of bombings in the 1990s and the second Intifada in the 2000s.

These attacks have taken place despite the Israeli army's regular arrest campaigns, security summons, and repeated round-the-clock incursions into cities, villages and refugee camps across the West Bank, as well as the continuous Israeli security coordination with the PA. It is important to note that the recent armed attacks took place in the context of growing anger at the PA.

In April, President Mahmoud Abbas cancelled the Palestinian legislative elections for fear of Fatah, which dominates the PA, losing to Hamas. This drew sharp condemnations from various Palestinian political factions and the Palestinian people. Palestinians were also angered by the feeble response of the PA to Israeli aggression against worshippers at Al-Aqsa Mosque and forced evictions of Palestinian residents of Jerusalem. Likewise, the Palestinian government did little to counteract the deadly



Israeli assault of Gaza in May. The death of Nizar Banat at the hands of the PA's security forces in late June was another event that fuelled Palestinian rejection of Abbas. The assassination drew large crowds of Palestinians to the streets, where they faced a brutal crackdown by Palestinian security forces. This only caused further outrage and amplified calls for Abbas's resignation.

A poll conducted by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research and published in September revealed that 80 percent of the respondents want the president to resign. At the same time, 45 percent believe that Hamas should lead the Palestinians, while only 19 percent said Fatah deserves this role.

The popular opposition to Abbas and the armed military struggle against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank have ignited fears in some circles that Hamas might benefit from these events and mobilise other factions for its own ends. Some Israeli and foreign analysts have been vocal about the possibility of such mobilisation leading to Hamas taking control of the West Bank as it did in Gaza. It is true that Hamas would like to be the dominant force in Palestinian politics and end Abbas's dictatorial rule, but statements about the possibility of a Hamas

takeover of the West Bank seem greatly exaggerated for several reasons. First, Hamas still does not have an integrated, durable infrastructure in the West Bank and therefore, does not have the necessary strength to extend its influence over it. Its popularity may have increased, but the PA and the Israeli occupation forces continue to put serious efforts into dismantling cells and networks loyal to the group. This is preventing it from establishing a deeper footprint.

Second, the PA may be rejected by many Palestinians, but it still commands full military power over the West Bank. It may suffer from internal tensions, but it is still able to mobilise all its loyalists, who are united in their fear of losing their privileges if their patrons fall from power. PA officials are ready to do everything and anything to stay in power and would not hesitate to seek Israeli military help. Third, Israel constantly seeks to dislodge Hamas from the West Bank at any cost, given the grave threat that any increased Hamas capabilities there would pose to the more than 400,000 Israeli settlers illegally residing on occupied Palestinian land. It is highly unlikely they would allow Hamas to grow its power in the West Bank to the point where it can stage a takeover.

Change and continuity

Lord Moran, who wrote the highly acclaimed book *The Anatomy of Courage: The Classic WWI Study of the Psychological Effects of War*, describes the art of command as "the art of dealing with human nature. The soldier is governed through his heart and not through his head". For this reason, military leadership is characterised by simple virtues like courage, leading from the front, concern for soldiers, and in the words of Lord Moran, phlegm — a supreme imperturbability in the face of death.

Even as these core qualities remain indispensable while directly commanding men in battle, when the military leader climbs the hierarchical ladder, he becomes more concerned with leading the institution rather than leading the people. In this role, he must be aware of the country's strategic culture, adapt to the character of warfare he is engaged in, and be conscious of the political environment in which the military operates to achieve the political objectives of war. In the words of Charles De Gaulle, "The true school of command is, therefore, the general culture... Behind the victories of Alexander, one always finds Aristotle." With increasing responsibilities towards shaping the institution, senior military leaders must drive both change and continuity. The change is based on the character of future wars and the nature of civil-military interaction. The continuity is in the principles, values and ethos of the institution. Today, technological change is transforming the world in ways that had not been witnessed before. Klaus Schwab, founder of the World Economic Forum, in his book *The Fourth Industrial Revolution*, writes, "The fourth industrial revolution will change the character of security threats while also influencing shifts of power, which are occurring both geographically, and from state to non-state actors."

The impact of new technologies is strongly felt on the character of warfare. There is a blurring of lines between peace and war as 'Grey Zone Warfare' and hybrid conflicts take centre stage. As destructiveness increases, the aim will be to win at the least cost by achieving moral rather than physical domination. An effective way of doing this is by sowing internal discord and exacerbating the existing fault lines in society. Traditional notions of deterrence are no longer applicable. Weaker nations can now confront their stronger foes with greater impunity through the medium of information warfare, cyber-attacks, and other instruments of proxy war. Moreover, the distinction between civil and military technologies is disappearing with the plethora of dual-use applications, resulting in non-state actors increasingly getting access to lethal weapon systems.

Military leaders must also look beyond the traditional domains of security. India is one of the few countries that face serious conventional threats on its northern and western borders. While keeping these in focus, the military should not isolate itself from national security challenges posed by climate change, demographic pressures, pandemics, technology disruption, and ethnic cleavages. These challenges would become more critical as we peer into the future internal security landscape of India.

In India, the nature of the political-military interface is changing. Traditionally, the military had always kept its distance from politics. This had the downside of poor civil-military relations and the military leadership being kept away from the national security planning structures. However, it did make for a force that could focus on its professional responsibility of the state's security without being distracted or influenced by the country's political landscape. Today, the military is increasingly being dragged into political debates. While these declarations do not automatically translate into the politicisation of the military, some of the enthusiasm displayed by serving officers in defending the government's political decisions or in praise of political leaders is a worrisome trend.

How to fight COVID vaccine misinformation?

Opposition to vaccination is as old as vaccination itself. Although vaccines save five lives every minute, and even though 85 percent of children worldwide are vaccinated against diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough, some people are resisting the life-saving shots. A range of factors contribute to vaccine opposition — from fear of needles or side effects to conspiracy theories involving governments or the pharmaceutical industry. Although anti-vaccination activists ultimately have never prevailed, when they find a temporary foothold in a society, vaccination rates can decline, and preventable illnesses increase.

The COVID-19 pandemic illustrates everything we know about vaccines and opposition to vaccines. The development of safe COVID-19 vaccines has provided us with the tools to combat the pandemic, and with 6.5 billion doses already administered, and more being administered at the rate of 22 million per day, there is light at the end of a dark tunnel.

On the other side of the ledger, the pandemic not only caused the death of millions, but it also created a toxic legacy of misinformation and conspiracy theories that has mobilised opposition to vaccinations. This is unsurprising based on what we know about human behaviour. When people suffer a loss of control over their lives or feel threatened, they invariably become more vulnerable to believing conspiracies. And if there is one thing a pandemic is good at, it is to create fear and loss of control.

Although this opposition has not prevented many countries from reaching very high vaccine uptake — for example in Spain, nearly 80 percent of the population has been fully vaccinated, with Italy and France not far behind — it cannot be ignored because anti-vaccination activists are increasingly resorting to intimidation and threats of violence against healthcare personnel. In the United Kingdom, police are now protecting some mobile vaccination stations, and in Germany, a man attacked healthcare workers because they refused to issue him a vaccination certificate without giving him the shot.

In the United States, attitudes towards vaccinations have become so politicised, with several Republican leaders voicing opposition to vaccines, that there is now a striking gap in uptake between states depending on which way they vote. States that lean towards the Democrats have high uptake, with Massachusetts and Vermont topping at 78 per-



cent, whereas those that lean Republican lag behind, with West Virginia bringing up the rear at 48 percent. Perhaps most concerning, there are growing signs that American anti-vaccination campaigners have joined forces with the extreme right and other conspiracy theorists. Given the obvious risk to public health posed by anti-vaccination movements, what can communicators and politicians do to respond? First, leadership matters. When deciding about a complex issue like vaccination, laypeople generally rely on advice from trusted opinion leaders, which may be experts, media personalities or politicians.

However, when issues become politically polarised, the question of whom to trust may become a matter of partisanship rather than expertise. In fact, evidence shows that the willingness to get vaccinated against COVID-19 among Republicans varies as a function of who recommends getting vaccinated — Donald Trump or Joe Biden. Thus, it is crucial that opinion leaders understand their effect on individuals' health decision-making and put public health before partisan divide. It is therefore important that some Republicans speak out in favour of vaccination. Nonetheless, even when leaders issue clear messages, some individuals will carry on with publicly questioning

the effectiveness and safety of vaccinations, almost inevitably by spreading information that is outright false or highly misleading. The messages of these science deniers do the most damage when left uncorrected.

Fortunately, research shows that the effect of messages of science deniers can be mitigated by providing fact-based corrections or by unmasking logical flaws. The recent *Debunking Handbook* provides hands-on advice for practitioners on how to structure debunkings and write promising corrections. The importance of debunking has been recognised by various health authorities around the globe. For example, the World Health Organization debunks emerging myths surrounding COVID-19 on its website and through its social media channels as part of its Myth Busters initiative.

Reactive approaches like debunking can only be one building block in the fight against misinformation. In analogy to fighting a virus, policymakers should not rely on treatments alone but should invest in prevention measures: psychological vaccines against misinformation exist that warn individuals about the threat of disinformation and provide people with strong counterarguments. In numerous experiments, those psychological vaccines have been shown to

build up resistance to misinformation. Psychological vaccines have been developed in the form of simple text-based warnings or short videos, as well as appealing online games. For example, the free-to-play *Go Viral!* game confronts players with myths surrounding COVID-19 in a playful manner and thus prepares players for real dangers.

Psychological vaccines are crucial as a prevention measure. Unfortunately, these approaches have not been implemented on a wide scale at the beginning of the pandemic. Therefore, to minimise damage, it is sometimes necessary to remove false information from users' information channels — that is, "deplatforming" matters. For example, YouTube is taking down conspiratorial material that targets individuals.

One conspiratorial video that gathered millions of views when first posted became irrelevant within two weeks of it being removed by YouTube. Finally, fighting misinformation is also about providing more high-quality information. It is crucial to report potential side effects of vaccinations accurately. However, communicators, including journalists should weigh evidence and focus on the bigger threat for public health, that is, the risk of the disease.

Thallapelli Durga Prasad's Doctorate in Social Work

Warangal, 25 December :In recognition of the social services done under the auspices of e69News, Iconic Peace and Archivists, New Delhi institute recognized the social service in various forms and awarded him doctorate. These awards were given to 27 people across the country. As a part of this, three doctors from Telangana got the rates. On this occasion Thallapelli Durga Prasad from Jayagiri village of Hasan Parthi mandal of Hanmakonda district was awarded an honorary doctorate by the hands of Bishnu Prasad Chair Person. Later, Durga Prasad said that in this 69 news channel, in the capacity of Vice Chairman, he has organized many programs for the poor people with a social perspective. Poor Badugu stated that he had organized the program to sensitize the people and increase their economic self-reliance for the upliftment of the weaker sections. With this honor, he expressed con-

► The award was hosted by Iconic Peace and Archives New Delhi



fidence that he will coordinate more service programs in the future with the cooperation of authorities and voluntary organizations.

Shri Ajay Kumar Ghanghas, CJM and Secretary, DLSA Panchkula inspected major institutions in Panchkula

Parvat Vatika **Mohit Saini.** Under the guidance of Shri S.P. Singh, Member Secretary, Haryana State Legal Services Authority (HALSA) and Shri V.P. Sirohi, District & Sessions Judge, Panchkula, Shri Ajay Kumar Ghanghas, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) and Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Panchkula conducted two important inspections today. The aim of these visits was to ensure effective functioning of essential institutions and to meet the needs of vulnerable persons.



Visit to the de-addiction centre at the Government Hospital in Sector 6, Panchkula As per the directions of the Hon'ble Punjab & Haryana High Court, Mr. Ghanghas visited the De-Addiction Centre at Government Hospital, Sector-6, Panchkula. During the visit, Dr. Manjot was present to give information about the functioning of the centre and patient care. Mr. Ghanghas interacted with the patients undergoing treatment and understood their experiences. He asked about their ongoing medications, availability of medical care and the overall treatment process. Patients were also asked about the challenges they might face during their stay. The CJM inspected the living arrangements at the centre, including hygiene and living conditions, to ensure a comfortable and supportive environment for recovery. He confirmed that doctors were meeting patients on time and proper treatment schedules were being maintained. Mr Ghang-

has emphasised the importance of providing compassionate care and timely medical treatment to persons battling drug addiction. He also assured the staff and patients of continued support from DLSA Panchkula to address any shortcomings in services. Visit to Child Care Institution (CCI), Shishu Grih, Sector-15, Panchkula As part of regular monthly inspection, Mr Ghanghas visited Child Care Institution (CCI), Shishu Grih, Sector-15, Panchkula. The visit began with the inspection of the attendance register to ensure accurate record keeping. Mr. Ghanghas interacted with the staff to understand their operational challenges and inquired about the case of the mentally retarded girl living in the facility. He expressed concern as to why the child was not sent to the Special Children Home for Mentally Retarded Children in Sirsa. Following his directions, a call was made to Ms. Mamta Goyal, Chairperson, Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in Panchkula to address the issue. She was directed to submit all relevant correspondence related to the girl child to the DLSA office for further action. During the visit, Mr. Ghanghas inspected the premises, focusing on cleanliness and hygiene. He also checked the kitchen facilities to verify that nutritious food was being served to the children. The health status of each child was reviewed and the staff was directed to maintain regular medical check-ups. Mr. Ghanghas followed up on his previous direction to install CCTV cameras in the facility. The superintendent told him that correspondence has been initiated with higher authorities and cameras will be installed soon. Conclusion Both visits reflect the proactive approach of HALSA and DLSA Panchkula in safeguarding the welfare of vulnerable persons. Mr Ghanghas assured continued guidance and support to all stakeholders, stressing the need for collaborative efforts to enhance the functioning of these important institutions. These inspections underline the commitment of the legal services authorities to ensure institutional accountability and promote public welfare.

SCS Charitable Trust which provided financial assistance to mentally challenged women

Hyderabad:- December 25; SCS to provide assistance to the mentally retarded. The Charitable Trust has come forward once again. Sheela, the 12-year-old daughter of Devi and Baburao of Bathukamma Kunta, Amber Peta, was mentally disabled the year she was born. Since then, Mother Devi has been waiting for Apanna's hand while taking care of her daughter. Unable to undergo expensive treatment, she waits for help from donors. Amberpet D.D. Mantu, Miriyala Ramesh and Suresh Goud on behalf of Bharti Chandrasekhar



SCS Charitable Trust from the colony gave a check of 12 thousand rupees.

CHILKAL-GUDA PS EAST ZONE HYDERABAD CITY 9 TWO WHEELER BIKES RECOVERED ALL WORTH RS 4,00,000/-



Success is possible only with continuous effort

- Amrin is selected for national boxing competitions
- Khelo India Senior Boxing Coach Devarakonda Prabhudas
- DYSO Ashok Kumar should excel at international level

Warangal, 25 December : In a remarkable achievement, Amrin, a young boxer from Etraturthi, Hanumakonda district, has been selected for the National Boxing Under-14 Competition. The announcement was made on Tuesday, following her exceptional performance in the South Zone State Level Boxing Competition held on December 20-21 in Hyderabad Shake Pate. Amrin secured the gold medal, showcasing her talent and determination. Hanumakonda DYSO Ashok Kumar congratulated Amrin on her success, encouraging her to aim for excellence on the international stage. Another budding talent, Bhargava, won the silver medal and earned a spot in the South Zone Sub-Junior Competitions scheduled for January 10, 12. Khelo India Senior Boxing Coach Devarakonda Prabhudas, who has been instrumental in training these young athletes, emphasized the importance of rigorous daily training and strength-building ex-



ercises. He expressed optimism about the future of boxing in Hanumakonda district, highlighting the potential to produce athletes who can excel at state, national, and international levels. This milestone reflects the power of dedication and continuous effort, inspiring young athletes to strive for success in the world of sports.

Christmas celebrations

Jagtial District, Korutla Division : Today Wednesday 25/12/2024 Jesus Christ Believers Church Nagulapet Road (Sangem Road) Korutla Christmas celebrations were held with great grandeur. children Entertained with game songs. Pastor Yes Surender celebrated the birth of Jesus and preached that God sent his son Jesus as the savior of the world to forgive the sins of mankind and then cut the Christmas cake.



Kondukuri Surender, Dunka Anjaiah, Konkanta Karunakar, Nerela Nischar, Tanniru Ragaraju, Bathula Johnson, Ankamma Rao, Pudami Saikumar, Sadula Satyamurthy and Sunday School Teacher Zilla Sushmita were among others. -Pastor Ys. Surender JCBC. Korutla

Leaders of Bhadradi Banjara visited Lakawat Tarya suffering from neuro (brain) problem

Bhadradi Kothagudem Bureau : Bhadradi Kothagudem district vigilance committee member Lakawat Venkateswarlu, whose father, Lakawat Tarya, who was suffering from neuro (brain) problem for the last few days, was in bed-sick in Anjanapuram village of Burgampadu mandal. Leaders of Bhadradi Banjara Seva Sangam visited today. On this occasion, they have

given their family courage and assured that they will stand by this family. Badawat Govindu TST WTU State Working President Bhanot Krishna Gurukulam was among those who visited. Cell Employees Association State General Secretary Badawat Bansilal Retired Employees Association District General Secretary Bhukya Tarachand NCC Officer and others were present.



Christmas services were held in grandeur : DRO Padmaja Rani participated in the celebrations



Sangareddy District December 25 : Christmas celebrations were held with grandeur to celebrate the birthday of Lord Jesus at Rath Church in Pothireddy Pally Square. These special festivals are attended by hundreds of devo-

tees to glorify God. People were happy to see the mandir beautifully decorated with colorful art and Christmas decorations. DRO of Sangareddy district, representatives of Padmajarani Congress, Topaji Anantha Kishan and others came as chief guests for this program and conveyed special wishes to the community which was very successful. In a statement, Pastor Esu Paul said that the community will prepare for the end of the year prayers apart from the celebration.

Jasprit Bumrah reaches career-high ICC Test bowling ranking; Travis Head climbs in batting list

► Bumrah's nine-wicket haul in Brisbane propels him to joint highest-rated Indian Test bowler

Dubai, Dec 25 (GNS) India's pace spearhead, Jasprit Bumrah, has cemented his position at the top of the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings following his outstanding performance in Brisbane.

Bumrah's nine-wicket haul for 94 runs in the rain-affected third Test against Australia earned him 14 additional rating points, bringing his total to a career-best 904.

With this rating, Bumrah has matched the record set by former spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in December 2016, making him the joint highest-rated Indian Test bowler in history. With one more Test left in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Melbourne, Bumrah could surpass Ashwin's record.

South Africa's Kagiso Rabada and Australia's Josh Hazlewood currently occupy second and third spots, but trail Bumrah by a significant margin. Meanwhile, Australia's Travis Head has been on a remarkable rise, climbing to fourth in the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings.

Head's brilliant 152 at the Gabba, following his century in Adelaide, has moved him up one place to 825 points. Steve Smith's century in the third Test also boosted his ranking, bringing him back into the top ten. On the Indian side, KL Rahul's resilient first-innings performance lifted him ten places to 40th.



KL Rahul's resilient first-innings performance lifted him ten places to 40th.

Rohit doesn't want to 'complicate too many things' for Gill and Jaiswal



Melbourne, Dec 25 (GNS) India's batting is in transition and two men who are expected to take it forward have had an up-and-down time during the 2024 Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Yashasvi Jaiswal has suffered some soft dismissals since his 161 in Perth and Shubman Gill hasn't made the most of the starts he's had.

Their captain Rohit Sharma, speaking ahead of the Boxing Day Test, backed both players to succeed using their own methods.

"When you have a guy like [Jaiswal] in your squad, in your team, you don't want to tamper too much with his mindset," Rohit said. "Let him be as free as possible and not overburdened with too many thoughts regarding his batting. He understands his batting more than any one of us, you know."

"Every venue here has different challenges. So, it's just about adapting to those challenges, playing on different pitches. The bowlers are



the same. "So, it's just about understanding what they usually do and what are their plans against certain batters when we come out to bat. And then just going out there and doing their thing."

"Talking about Gill, I mean, look, he is quality, we all know that. It's just about backing that quality and making sure, you know, we give clear messaging to him and not, again, like Jaiswal, we don't want to complicate too many things with him."

"So he knows how to score big runs. So it's just making sure that when you get those 30s, 40s, you try and get on to a big one. Because getting in here

is the toughest part. And when you get in, that is when you cannot leave that opportunity of scoring that big runs." Rohit batted for over half-an-hour in India's final training session before Boxing Day. He didn't look in any trouble after taking a blow to his knee earlier.

There were some crisp shots, including a couple that brought a crowd of about 200 or so people to raptures. They'd asked for the pull and they got one off the front foot right as his session ended. Rohit didn't engage with them while he was batting but once he'd pulled his pads off, he did go over for a playful word or two.

Man City crisis deepens after another loss and Arsenal closes gap on Liverpool Football

Manchester, Dec 25 (GNS) Manchester City's stunning slump deepened after losing to Aston Villa 2-1 in the Premier League on Saturday. Goals from Jhon Duran and Morgan Rogers at Villa Park consigned the four-time defending champion to a ninth defeat in 12 games in a season that is unravelling. Pep Guardiola's team has won just once during that run. "We don't have a defense for the results. They are not good," Guardiola said.

Third-placed Arsenal closed the gap on league leader Liverpool to three points with a 5-1 win at Crystal Palace, but has played two games more. City dropped to sixth in the standings, nine points below Liverpool, and has played two games more. "It's about what I can do with my people to get the results back and continue," Guardiola said. "If there is a moment that I cannot overthink, it is right now. Try to be simple, stick to my principles and give certainty to the team."

Top four hopes fading After winning six titles in seven years and an unprecedented four in a row, City's remarkable fall shows little sign of stopping. Guardiola admitted last week he had not been good enough to turn his team's form around. City was without a win in any of its last eight away games in all competitions. While it looks unlikely to win a fifth straight title, a place in the top

four and Champions League qualification could also be in jeopardy after fourth-placed Nottingham Forest won at Brentford 2-0 to move four points clear of City.

Only once under Guardiola has City managed to win the title when losing six times in the league. That was in 2021, when it lost two of its last three games, having already been confirmed as the champion. City lost nine times when Liverpool won the title in 2020, but its sixth defeat didn't come until February. Guardiola also lost six times in his first season in English soccer in 2016-17 and City finished third.

The latest defeat could have been even more emphatic from a dominant Villa, which moved up to fifth. Duran scored his sixth goal in as many starts in the 16th minute from Rogers' assist. Duran had a goal disallowed for offside in the second half and Rogers hit the post before doubling Villa's lead in the 65th.

Phil Foden pulled a goal back for City in stoppage time, but it wasn't enough to spark a late comeback. "We have to stay positive, even though it's difficult, and we have to keep working hard," City striker Erling Haaland said. Jesus streak It's five goals in a week for Gabriel Jesus against Crystal Palace. After scoring a hat trick in Arsenal's 3-2 comeback win against Palace in the English League Cup quarterfinals



on Wednesday, the Brazil striker hit another two goals when the teams met again on Saturday. Going into Wednesday's game, Jesus had only scored once for Arsenal since the end of January. Jesus struck twice in a frantic start at Selhurst Park. He opened the scoring in the sixth, with Ismaila Sarr leveling five minutes later. Jesus restored Arsenal's lead in the 14th and was denied back-to-back hat tricks when hitting the post and then having another close range effort saved by Palace goalkeeper Dean Henderson. Kai Havertz, Ga-

briel Martinelli and Declan Rice also scored for Arsenal.

Forest flying high If City's demise is a surprise story of the season, so is Forest's rise. After battling relegation for much of last term, Forest is in contention to qualify for the Champions League and possibly more. Facing a Brentford team that was unbeaten at home, goals from Ola Aina and Anthony Elanga secured another statement win on the road for Nuno Espirito Santo's side, having already won at Anfield and Old Trafford this year.

Badminton nationals: Raghu, Devika Sihag win singles titles



Bengaluru, Dec 25 (GNS) Karnataka's M Raghu and Haryana's Devika Sihag secured their maiden senior national badminton titles, emerging champions in the men's and women's sections, respectively, at the 86th edition of the tournament here on Tuesday.

Raghu, who won the Egypt international this year, saved three match points in the decider to beat former champion Mithun Manjunath 14-21 21-14 24-22 in the final that clocked just under an hour.

For Devika, it was a befitting end to a successful season as she ended the giant killing run of Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-15 21-16 in the women's singles summit clash. The 19-year-old from

Haryana had claimed the Swedish Open and Portugal International, besides reaching final at Estonian and Dutch International.

Junior national champions Arsh Mohammad and Sanskar Saraswat added the senior national title to their trophy cabinet as they upset top seeds Naveen P and Lokesh V 12-21 21-12 19-21 in the men's doubles final.

In doubles categories, Ayush Agarwal and Shruti Mishra defeated eighth seeds Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani G 21-17 21-18 to bag the mixed doubles crown, while second seeds Arathi Sara Sunil and Varshini VS won the women's doubles title with a 21-18 20-22 21-17 win over eighth seeds Priya Devi Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra.

Bhavtegh, Ganemat win skeet gold in shooting Nationals

► Bhavtegh Singh Gill saw off Air India's Fatehbir Singh Shergill to win his maiden national title in skeet.

New Delhi, Dec 25 (GNS) Bhavtegh Singh Gill saw off Air India's Fatehbir Singh Shergill to win his maiden national title in skeet. On a foggy morning, the Chandigarh lad shot down 54 clay birds to Fatehbir's 51 hits to win the senior gold medal of the National Shooting Competition at the Karni Singh Shooting Range on Tuesday. Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan bagged the bronze with 43 hits. Gill, a B'Tech final year student, said that the weather did not affect his shooting as they had been training in Patiala prior to the Nationals. "Fatebir, I and few others trained in Patiala and condi-

tions were pretty similar to what we saw today," the 21-year-old told. "I started by breaking the first 10 targets and then dropped a few. Others around me dropped as well but then I broke the next 19 out of the 20 targets and it became easier."

I would not say that the final score of 54 was great but it was good for me today," he added. Earlier, Punjab's Fatehbir topped the qualifications with a total of 123 over five rounds. Muneek Battula too tallied a similar score to qualify for the final. Mairaj and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa also made the cut for the final. In the women's category, Punjab's

Ganemat Sekhon showed why she is so highly rated as she won her second successive national gold medal. Ganemat broke 50 out of the 60 targets to comfortably win the gold medal. Her state-mate Asees Chhina had to settle for silver after bringing down 46 targets.

Olympian Raiza Dhillon, who topped the qualifying with a record equalling national record score of 122, won the bronze medal. In Bhopal, Karthik Sabari Raj and Narmada Nithin of Tamil Nadu dominated the 10m air rifle mixed team competition, winning it 16-6 against the Railways duo of Arjun Babuta and Sonam

Uttam Maskar. Madhya Pradesh's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar and Gautami Bhanot won bronze.

Ishan and Raiza win junior skeet titles

In the junior men's skeet final, Ishan Singh Libra of Haryana, won a thriller, edging out Bhavtegh Singh Gill 6-5 in a shoot-off after both had tied on 52-hits. The final gold of the day and Haryana's second, was won by Raiza Dhillon, after she eased to victory in the junior women's skeet final. Her tally of 53 was too good for second placed Vanshika Tiwari of Madhya Pradesh, who managed 47. Yashasvi Rathore of Rajasthan won bronze.

