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RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN **SLAMS THE CONGRESS**



President Droupadi Murmu addresses the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on the first day of the Budget Session in

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

n an unprecedented move, the Rashtrapati Bhawan on Friday reacted strongly over the Congress leaders' comments on President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint session of the Parliament terming the remarks are "in poor taste, unfortunate and entirely avoidable".

The Rashtrapati Bhavan which has never responded to such political remarks, in a said statement such comments hurt the dignity of the high office and therefore statement said. are "unacceptable".

joint sitting of both the Houses, Congress leaders

were seen discussing the speech. "The poor lady, the President, was getting very tired by the end...She could hardly speak poor thing," Sonia was heard saying in a video doing the rounds on social media.

The President's office said it believes that "it might be the case that these leaders were not acquainted with the idiom and discourse in Indian languages such as Hindi, and thus formed a wrong impression". In any case, such comments are in poor taste, unfortunate and entirely avoidable, the

These leaders have said that Soon after the President the President was getting concluded her address to the very tired by the end and she hardly could Rashtrapati Bhavan would Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi like to clarify that nothing and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra could be farther from the

truth. The President was not tired at any point. Indeed, she has believed that speaking up for the marginalised communities, for women and farmers, as she was doing during the course of her address, can never be tiring,"

Modi

the statement said.

scathing attack on the Congress, accusing its "shahi insulting President Droupadi Murmu who hails from a tribal background. In a direct response to Congress leaders' purported remarks on Murmu, Modi, at a public meeting in the national Capital said, "These Capital Congress people think they are the masters of the country. The arrogance of the Congress royal family has

Prime Minister Narendra

too launched a

Indian economy defies global slowdown

PROF. GAURAV VALLABH

With Sanskriti (culture) and Pragati (progress) moving in tandem, India stands on the brink of an economic transformationone that is propelling the nation towards becoming the third-largest world's economy. Driven by the guiding principles of Reform, Perform, and Transform, the government has laid a robust foundation for economic expansion through bold policy measures, strategic interventions, and commitment to inclusive growth.

At the heart of this transformative journey is the Economic Survey 2024-25, which, despite global turbulence, economic presents a confident yet pragmatic assessment of India's economic trajectory. While economies worldwide grapple with geopolitical uncertainties, supply chain disruptions, and inflationary pressures, India continues to defy global headwinds, reaffirming its status as one of the fastest-growing major economies.

The data speaks volumes. India's GDP expanded by an impressive 6.4 per cent in FY25, driven by a resurgence in rural demand, a boom in infrastructure investment, and a stellar performance by the services sector. Key economic contributors such

as agriculture (3.8 per cent) and industry (6.2 per cent) outperformed their historical (FY15-FY24), indicating broad-based growth momentum. The Indian economy is projected to expand at a rate of 6.3 per cent to 6.8 per cent in the financial year 2025-26 (FY26) Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE)-a cornerstone of aggregate demand-is projected to grow at 7.3 per cent, underscoring robust household spending, particularly in rural areas. A rebound been consumption has evident in rising sales of twowheelers, three-wheelers, and tractors, signalling increased purchasing power and consumer confidence. A manufacturing resurgent sector is a cornerstone of India's economic revival, as reflected in its Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which has consistently remained the expansionary zone. December 2024, the PMI surpassed long-term

BHOPAL, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹2

and resilient domestic demand. Business sentiment remains overwhelmingly positive, with firms anticipating higher production, improved order inflows, and greater capacity utilisation in the coming quarters. Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has played a pivotal role in attracting private investments, reinforcing India's position as global manufacturing powerhouse. Investment remains the backbone of

India's economic expansion.

According to the RBI's latest

averages, fueled by strong

order books, rising exports,

report, private investment commitments surged from ₹1.6 Lakh Crore in FY24 to ₹2.45 Lakh Crore in FY25. The public particularly in infrastructure development, has been a critical catalyst, with General Government Capital Formation (GFCF) growing at 13.1 per cent, outpacing overall investment growth between 2019 and 2023.

government's commitment to high-quality capital expenditure evident, with capital spending now constituting 21.4 per cent of total expenditure, up from 13 per cent in FY21. Additionally, the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) has unlocked ₹3.86 Lakh Crore worth of private capital across key infrastructure sectors, enhancing long-term growth potential. Infrastructure development remains a cornerstone of India's growth strategy, with a paradigm shift from a project-based approach to a corridor-based one. The National Highway Network has expanded from 91,287 km in 2014 to 1.46 lakh km in 2024. Airport infrastructure investments exceeded ₹91,000 Crore (FY20-FY25) to modernise

capacity.

the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has transformed rural water accessibility, with tap water connections rising from 17 per cent in 2019 to 79.1 per cent in 2024. Despite external headwinds, India's services exports continue to offset a widening merchandise trade deficit. In response to shifting global policies, India is expanding key hubs and expand air its trade footprint into highvalue sectors such as

efficiency has surged, wit

operational capacity growing from 3 MTPA in FY24 to 21

MTPA in FY25. Renewable

energy has seen remarkable

progress, with installed capacity reaching 456.7 GW

as of November 2024, of

which 47 per cent comes

from renewables. Meanwhile,

 $b\ i\ o\ t\ e\ c\ h\ n\ o\ l\ o\ g\ y$ semiconductors, quantum computing. Strategic partnerships in space, telecommunications further bolster India's positioning as a leader in advanced technology industries. India has made remarkable strides in research and development (R and D), with patent filings more than doubling since 2014-15 and patent grants increasing seventeenfold. However, Gross Expenditure on R and D (GERD) remains at 0.64 per cent of GDP, significantly lower than global counterparts like China,

Japan, and the US, where

business-funded R and D

exceeds 70 per cent.

academia collaboration and

fostering innovation-led

key imperatives for the next

industry

remain

economic

Strengthening

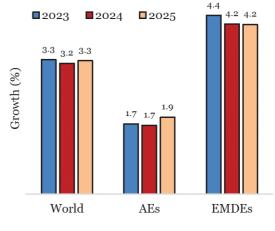
transformation.

entrepreneurship

across country groups 4.2 4.2 **■**2023 **■**2024 **■**2025

traffic

Chart I.2: Steady growth outlook



Source: IMF WEO (January 2025)

Note: AEs- Advanced Economies, EMDEs- Emerging market and developing economies

Modi takes a pot shot at the Opposition

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

In a jibe at the Congress and other Opposition parties, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday came out with a tongue-in-cheek comment by mentioning that it could be perhaps the first time ever since he took over as PM in 2014 that there has been no attempt from abroad to destabilise our legislative functions before the start of a Parliament session.

"This is the first session I am seeing in the last 10 years in which there has to stoke a fire from any foreign corner," the prime minister said briefing the media before the start of the Budget session.

The PM also took a swipe at Opposition parties, saying that there were people abroad ready to do mischief before every session since 2014 and there was also no dearth of those here who would fuel such attempts.

Modi was referring to the protests by Opposition parties, including the Congress in previous Parliament sessions over revelations made by now-disbanded US-based short seller Hindenburg Research on alleged stock manipulation and tax evasion by the Gautam

Adani group.
With Modi-led NDA's third term to bring in its first full-fledged budget on Saturday, the PM said he prayed that Goddess Lakshmi, who is associated with wealth, will bless the poor and middle class. He expressed confidence that this Budget session will infuse new confidence and energy in attaining the goal of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. The prime minister also hinted new initiatives for the poor and middle class as well as women, he also said a mechanism has been designed for the participation of younger Parliamentarians in further nurturing the 'Viksit Bharat'. "Especially for young MPs, it is a golden opportunity, because the more awareness and participation... In the House today, the more fruits of a developed India they will see before their eyes. And therefore, this is a priceless



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Budget Session of Parliament

opportunity for the young MPs," Modi said. Ahead of the tabling of the Economic Survey, the PM said his government has been working in mission mode in its third term for an all-round development and asserted that innovation, inclusion and investment have shaped its economic agenda. Modi also shared that several historic bills will be taken up during the Session and will become laws after comprehensive debate to strengthen the

"Particularly, important decisions will be taken during the Session to empower women to ensure they get equal rights and any sectarian or faith-based discrimination is removed," he said. Modi also expressed confidence that every MP, especially the young ones, will contribute to the agenda of Viksit Bharat' during the session.

Stressing on the mantra of 'Reform, Perform and Transform, Modi said fast-paced development has to be achieved and the maximum emphasis is on reform. He said the state and Central governments have to perform together and one can see public transformation through participation.

Kejriwal accuses CM Saini of conspiracy to poison Yamuna

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

▲Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accused Harvana Chief Minister Navab Singh Saini of hatching a and force half of Dennis population to thirst due to the "poisonous" Yamuna to defame his party ahead of the Assembly polls on February 5 by sending highly-polluted waters to the national Capital. In his six-page written reply addressed to the chief election commissioner (CEC), AAP chief raised serious allegations against Saini and said the Haryana Chief Minister orchestrated a 'conspiracy' to influence the Delhi

assembly election. He demanded

that a criminal case should be filed

against Saini regarding the poisonous' Yamuna issue. In the response to the Commission's second notice, Kejriwal clarified that his earlier statements, which referenced the Yamuna being "poisoned," were made in the context of the rising ammonia levels in the water and were not intended to suggest any malicious intent outside of this environmental crisis. Warning that water could be used as a weapon to win elections if the EC fails to act, he said he was shocked that the poll body did not pass any order for the Haryana Chief Minister but chose to



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and AAP MP Sanjay Singh before leaving to meet Election Commissioners, in New Delhi

Eight AAP MLAs resign before polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

n a major setback to the Aam **L**Aadmi Party (AAP), eight MLAs have resigned, ahead of the coming Delhi Assembly polls on February 5. The MLAs who resigned are Naresh Yadav (Mehrauli), Rohit Kumar (Trilokpuri), Rajesh Rishi (Trilokpuri), Rajesh Rishi (Janakpuri), Madan Lal (Kasturba Nagar), Girish Soni (Madipur), Pawan Sharma (Adarsh Nagar), and Bhawna Goud (Palam). Sources said these MLAs were disgruntled after

being denied tickets for the February 5 polls and were touch with other parties. BS Joon (Bijwasan) was the first AAP MLA who gave his papers. Most of the MLAs shared their resignation letters on social media and slammed AAP over corruption and other issues.

Reacting to the development, South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said the ship of Aam Aadmi Party is sinking, that is why seven MLAs have resigned from



phase

Poonch encounter: two terrorist killed

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

lert troops of the Indian army neutralised Altwo heavily armed Pakistani terrorists in the fierce gunfight along the line of control in the Khari Karmara area of Poonch early Friday morning. This is the first major incident of terrorist-related violence in the last two years in the Khari Karmara area of Poonch.

According to local reports, the movement of a group of heavily armed Pakistani infiltrators was detected by the troops late Thursday evening while they (Pakistani infiltrators) were attempting to sneak inside the Indian territory taking advantage of the raging forest fires in the forward area.

The security forces in the region were already conducting massive combing and search operations based on local intelligence inputs about the suspected movement of terrorists in the upper reaches of Rajouri and Poonch. In a post on X, the Nagrota-based White

Knight Corps also confirmed the terrorist movement was detected last night at the Line of Control in the Poonch Sector.

The terrorist movement was detected last night at the Line of Control in the Poonch sector. Alert troops swiftly engaged the infiltrating terrorists, triggering an intense and heavy firefight. The anti-terrorist operation continued through the night, leading to the neutralisation of two terrorists. The search of the area thus far has resulted in the recovery of several weapons and war-like stores", White Knight Corps

Ahead of polls and lucrative offers, Delhi students split on AAP and BJP

SANYA PANDEY NEW DELHI

With Assembly polls inching closer, several students of Delhi University and other higher educational institutions, residing in North Campus, have opined that the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has failed on various fronts in the last 10 years and there should BJP's "double-engine" government for better development and welfare of the people of national capital.

Though these students' are hoping for change in power in Delhi, some still have reposed their faith on AAP asserting that in the run-up to the Assembly elections, the BJP and Congress announced galore of "freebies", while the ruling dispensation has already delivered what it had be given a chance this election.

promised in last polls. They were also of the opinion that Delhi would witness a fierce contest between the AAP and BJP. The Congress, which has announced "five guarantees" including Rs 2,500 per month to every woman under the 'Pyari Didi Yojana', and eyeing to

return to power highlighting the works done by the previous Sheila Dikshit-led government in Capital, did not find a mention.

Navya Malhotra, a firsthighlighted time voter, various issues including pollution and sanitation, which she has claimed the AAP government has totally failed to address in the last 10 years. She said the BJP should

Talking to the Pioneer, the 18-year-old said, "I feel this time BJP should come to power in Delhi. The AAP has been saying that they were not able to do the work for the people because Arvind Kejriwal and his team members were put behind bars and Delhi

doesn't have statehood. But, 10 years is a very long period. They didn't do much. "Kejriwal had talked about the slum areas, especially JJ colony, that

he will take care of such places. But, he failed to take any appropriate steps for waste management. It has become such a big problem. He hasn't taken care of this," she said.



completely failed. Because of definitely important to give a pollution, students' we were not chance to the BJP. Some people Referring to pollution, Navya said," The AAP government has Our time was wasted. So it is because he is saving Hindutva,

while some people are following him, because genuinely they cannot see any better party than

posted on X.

Referring to BJP's manifesto, she said, "In the BJP's manifesto, they are giving those things that Kejriwal has offered to people. But there are also different things like giving Rs 2,1000 to pregnant women, so the rural/lower sections will get monetary help. Kejriwal had also talked about monetary help, but overall development didn't work out quite well."

Mentioning the law and order situation, Navya said, "As a first time female voter, I feel safety in Delhi is a prominent issue, because I still can't freely roam out of my house at night. Even if I go downstairs I have to be

quite vigilant. The AAP has installed cameras. Are they functional? Women safety is very prime. Delhi which has been given the title of 'rape capital, if that can be changed by a 'double-engine' government BJP, then why not 'Har Har Modi'. Notably, the law and order of

Delhi comes under the Union Home Ministry.

She also accused the incumbent AAP MLA from Timarpur Dilip Pandey for not doing enough to mitigate the issues concerning the people of the constituency and said the BJP should be given a chance.

The AAP this time has fielded turncoat Surinder Pal Singh (Bitto), BJP Surya Prakash and Congress Lokendra Chaudhary.

Major Japanese companies set to invest in MP: CM

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed his hap-✓ piness that major Japanese companies are ready to expand their business and trade in Madhya Pradesh. He highlighted the state's strategic geographical position, which allows easy access to both domestic and international markets. This advantage will benefit Japanese companies and accelerate industrial growth in the state. Companies like Panasonic and Bridgestone, along with other Japanese investors, have shown interest in investing in Madhya

During his four-day visit to Japan, CM Dr. Yadav held several high-level meetings to enhance trade and cultural ties. He emphasized that this visit provided an important opportunity to understand Japan's industry,

culture, and technology. He also stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's business environment is transforming positively. Yadav visited several Buddhist religious sites in Japan and remarked, "In India, we have a tradition of visiting sacred places. Japan's Buddhist culture is closely linked to Lord Surya and Gautam Buddha, which helped us appreciate our shared her-

Yadav noted that Japanese companies are highly cautious and research-oriented before making investment decisions. However, the business leaders he met showed a positive outlook toward investing in Madhya Pradesh. He also held discussions with readymade garment entrepreneurs, who expressed interest in exploring investment opportunities in

During his visit, Dr. Yadav trav-

eled on Japan's Bullet Train and praised its advanced technology. He said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has initiated the Bullet Train project between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. With Japan's assistance, India can develop similar futuristic railway projects in the future."

Dr. Yadav appreciated the warm hospitality of the Japanese people, stating, "It was heartening to see that the people of Japan not only love their country but also hold deep respect and affection for India.

CM Dr. Yadav thanked the Indian Embassy in Japan and Japanese officials for their support. He affirmed that this visit would take business, cultural, and technological cooperation between Madhya Pradesh and Japan to new heights.

Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, on the fourth day of his visit to Japan, visited the world-famous Kinkaku-ji Zen Buddhist temple (Golden Þavilion) in Kyoto. This temple, a symbol of traditional Japanese architecture and Buddhist culture, is renowned for its gold-leaf-covered majestic structure and serene surroundings. The Chief Minister observed the temple complex

and closely understood its his-

torical significance in Japanese

culture. Yadav spent some time by the Kyokochi Pond in front of the temple, where the reflection of the temple in the water created a mesmerizing view. He remarked, "Such historical heritage sites are not just examples of architectural excellence but also represent the soul of a civilization. Japan's efforts in preserving its culture are truly commendable."

The Chief Minister's visit to Japan was not limited to cultural exchange; he also discussed heritage conservation, tourism development, and architectural innovations in Japan. He emphasized that Madhya Pradesh is continuously striving to gain global recognition for its historical heritage and that there is much to learn from Japan in this

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav visited historical sites in Kyoto on the fourth day of his Japan visit. He explored the renowned Nijojo Castle, Sanjusangendo and Toji Temple to gain insights into Japan's rich cultural heritage and discuss potential avenues for cultural and tourism cooperation between Madhya Pradesh and Japan. Yadav visited Nijo-jo Castle in Kyoto, symbolizing Japan's rich historical heritage and architecture. During this visit, he also learned about various aspects related to the preservation and management of Japan's cultural heritage.



Pithampur substation upgraded with 200 MVA transformer

PNS JABALPUR

Pradesh.

Pradyuman Singh Tomar has congratulated the Madhya Pradesh Transmission Power Company (MP Transco) for successfully installing and energising a 200 MVA power transformer at the 220 KV Substation in Pithampur Sector-III, Dhar district.

The new installation significantly enhances the power transmission capacity in the region, addressing the growing needs of industrial consumers.

Tomar said that this transformer is the first of its kind in Dhar district, marking a major milestone for the area's energy infrastructure. The new transformer, with an estimated cost of Rs.

20.5 crore, increases the substation's total capacity to 819 MVA, ensuring a more reliable and higherquality power supply for industrial consumers in the Pithampur Industrial Area. The energy minister told that the installation of this transformer would bolster the transmission infrastructure, providing uninter-rupted power supply to numerous industries in the region. This upgrade forms part of MP Transco's ongoing efforts to strengthen the state's energy infrastructure and meet the increasing demand from the industri-

With the addition of this new transformer, the transformation capacity of Dhar district has now risen to 5414 MVA. MP Transco currently operates two 400

substations in Pithampur and Badnawar, six 220 KV substations, including those in Dhar, Kukshi, Rajgarh Dhar, and Kanwan, and eleven 132 KV substations across the

The project also contributes to the overall growth of Madhya Pradesh's power transmission capacity. MP Transco's total transformation capacity across the state has now reached an impressive 80,914 MVA, with 416 substations and 1022 active power transformers in operation.

Minister Tomar congratulated the MP Transco team for their efforts, saying that this upgrade would not only improve transmission reliability but also support industrial growth and development throughout the state.

MP police launches 'Safe Click' campaign to combat cyber crimes STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

afe Click, a state-wide cyber security public awareness campaign was launched by Madhya Pradesh police; Director General of Police Kailash Makwana started the campaign named to prevent cyber crimes and promote a safe environment. On Friday, 31st January, DGP Makwana unveiled posters and promotional material at the Police Headquarters in Bhopal. The campaign will be supervised by ADG Cyber Cell Yogesh Deshmukh and

his team, with Superintendents of Police directed to ensure its successful execution. Community policing participation is also encouraged.

The campaign, running from February 1 to 11, focuses on the theme "Safe Click-Safe

Life," aiming to raise awareness about cyber security, especially among students. Activities like street plays, public rallies, short films, questionnaires, and posters will be organized across the

Local influencers, voluntary organizations, and the district police staff will collaborate for effective outreach. With the rise in cyber crimes and social media misuse, this initiative is designed to promote the safe and responsible use of the

The key objective is to educate the public about cyber security and encourage safe internet practices. Public Dialogue sessions will be held in schools and colleges to discuss topics such as internet safety, cyber security, and responsible online behavior. Experts will share insights on preventing

cyber crimes and enhancing online safety. This campaign seeks to foster broader awareness about internet security among all community sectors. Over 11 days, rallies, workshops, and informational sessions will be conducted across schools, colleges, and local campuses to highlight cyber

fraud prevention. Informational materials will be distributed, and participants will be encouraged to adopt a "Cyber Resolution" for secure internet use. Social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and

Twitter will be used to share infographics, videos, and tips on cyber safety. These efforts will be complemented by local-level programs such as Hackathons, Cyber Sankalp, Podcasts, street plays, and writing competitions. These activities aim to effectively

communicate the significance of cyber security to the pub-During the campaign, ban-

ners and posters with safety tips will be displayed at police stations, public spaces, and other prominent locations. Interactive quiz competitions will engage the public and raise awareness about cyber security through videos and safety tips. These quizzes will be held in schools, colleges, community centers, government offices, malls, and cyber fairs, involving students, youth, housewives, seniors, and government employees. Street plays will be organized in public areas to educate people about safe internet practices and cyber crimes. Workshops on digital security and cyber safety will also be conducted, providing handson learning opportunities.

Legal literacy camp held at Mhow

Mhow: Under the guidance of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Indore, as per the instructions of In-charge Chairman, Tehsil Legal Services Committee Ambedkar Nagar Somprabha Chauhan, in coordination with Police Station

Mhow, legal awareness camp was organized on Friday In the organized camp, Judicial Magistrate Shraddha Singh gave information about the law and new sections to the employees of Police Station Mahu and the people present there. The common citizens were also informed about their rights that they can report to any police station. Judicial Magistrate Ms. Sonali Bansal gave detailed information about cyber crime to the common people and made the common citizens aware by giving information about their legal rights.



Madhya Pradesh Election Commissioner Manoj Shrivastava, Director Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology (MANIT) KK Shukla and other guests release a brochure during the inauguration of two new centres. Natural History Education Circle (NHEC) and Centre for Human Value Enhancement and Work-Life Balance (CHVEWLB) at MANIT in Bhopal on Friday.

yet to be done. All the district

collectors have been instruct-

ed to conduct a campaign to

do eKYC of the remaining

eligible beneficiaries within

the stipulated time limit. Arrangement for doing

eKYCAadhaar number has

been entered in the database

of all the eligible beneficiaries

included under the National

Facility is available for free

eKYC of eligible beneficiaries

through POS machine

installed at fair price shops.

eKYC of eligible beneficiaries

is being done at fair price

shop level by the vendor of

the fair price shop. In case of

number/Aadhaar number of

other person being entered in

the database of eligible ben-

eficiary, the facility of enter-

ing the Aadhaar number of

the correct person is available

Also, the facility of entering

the correct Aadhaar number

in place of the wrong

Aadhaar number has been

given for one time. In the spe-

cial campaign, the vendor of

the fair price shop has been

instructed to get eKYC done

by visiting the beneficiary's

in the POS machine.

wrong

Aadhaar

Food Security Act, 2013.

Jayshree Foods Director attempts suicide over alleged harassment by ED in our company, for which

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

erious allegations were raised in suicide note of Director of Jayshree foods against Union Minister Chirag Paswan and five others for raids misusing his power; she consumed poison to commit suicide and is undergoing treatment at Bansal hospital in Bhopal.

Paval is Kishan Modi, owner of Jayshree Gayatri Foods Private Limited, has tried to commit suicide by consuming poison. On Thursday evening around 7:30, Payal Modi (age 31) consumed rat associates have been men-After which she was admitted to Bansal Hospital.

On Friday morning, Kishan Modi said that Payal's health remains stable but serious. According to the police, the reason why Payal consumed poison is not yet known. Police said that the matter is under investigation. An

alleged suicide note of Payal has also been found. In which allegations have been made against Union Minister Chirag Paswan and 5 others.

Payal Modi is the director of Jayshree Gayatri Food Products Private Limited. Payal is the wife of Kishan Modi. Kishan Modi is the owner and MD of Jayshree Gayatri Food Products Private Limited.

Payal Modi's alleged suicide note has also surfaced. In which the names of Union Minister Chirag Paswan and his five other names of Chandra Prakash Pandey, Ved Prakash Pandey, Sunil Tripathi, Bhagwan Singh Mewada

and Hitesh Punjabi. According to the note, Chandra Prakash Pandey and Chirag Paswan are brother-in-law. Ved Prakash Pandey and Chandra

Prakash are real brothers. It has been alleged in the note that all the above people are using Chirag Paswan's political power to get CGST, FFSI, EOW, ED raids conducted on Modi's compa-

TI Bhupendra Kol Sandhu said that the family members have talked about leaving a suicide note. At present, the suicide note has not been confiscated. It will be confiscated and included in the investigation. Kishan Modi, owner of Jayshree Gayatri Food Products Pvt Ltd, has confirmed that the suicide note was written by

The suicide note she claimed that the Chandra Prakash Pandey, Ved Prakash Pandey, Sunil Tripathi, Bhagwan Singh Mewada, Hitesh Punjabi, Union Minister Chirag Paswan and others are responsible for raids in their company. Despite the thefts committed

we have filed an FIR, these individuals used their influence to have raids carried out on us by CGST, FFSI, EOW, and ED. My family and I have been relentlessly harassed as a result. Ved Prakash Pandey also

told us that ED will raid your place in 15 days and we were raided. Due to which my husband Kishan Modi, who is admitted in the hospital, his health deteriorated. I am afraid that something might happen to him.

We also appealed for justice in all these matters to our honorable Chief Minister and Commissioner Bhopal, DGP Madhya Pradesh. There was no place left where we did not appeal for justice. We were disappointed everywhere. In the end, doing this, how harsh this decision is for a mother, but I feel that after doing this, my family will get justice.

eKYC process begins in PMGK Anna Yojana from February 1 to 28

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Pood, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Minister Govind Singh Rajput has informed that free food grains are being distributed to eligible families under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. eKYC is necessary to ensure the identification of eligible beneficiaries and to distribute free food grains only to the real beneficiaries and to remove duplicate/ineligible/silent beneficiaries from the portal. He has informed that as per the order passed by the Supreme Court of New Delhi in petition number MA No. 94/2022 in SMW (C) No. 6/2020, it is mandatory to do eKYC of all the beneficiaries. eKYC will be done by conducting a campaign from 1st to February 28. eKYC of more than 3 crore 77 lakh beneficiaries has been done so farAt present, out of 5 crore 53 lakh 08 thousand eligible beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, eKYC of 3 crore 77 lakh 32 thousand beneficiaries has

been done. Thus, eKYC of 1 crore 75 lakh 76 thousand beneficiaries is 65-year-old woman mowed down by speeding bus

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

65-year-old woman was A mowed down by a speeding bus near Prabhat petrol pump late in the night on Thursday; Aishbagh police have started an investigation.

A bus of Paigwar Travels crushed the woman on a turn. The injured woman kept writhing in pain, but despite calling several times, the ambulance did not

Finally, with the help of a policeman and an auto driver, the woman was taken to the hospital, where doctors declared her

The deceased was identified as Somvati Mishra on the basis of the PAN card found in her bag. When the police contacted the family, it was found that they had gone to Kumbh. The police are now waiting for them to arrive. The accident took place near Prabhat Petrol Pump in Aishbagh at around 8 pm. According to eyewitnesses, the bus was moving at a high speed and the driver took a turn carelessly, due to which the elderly woman came under its grip.
After the accident, people rushed

for help, but the ambulance did

not arrive on time. The injured

woman was forced to be taken to

the hospital by auto rickshaw.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

DCP Sanjay Singh inaugurates eye

and dental disease Check-up camp

CP Sanjay Singh inaugurated a free refraction, eye and dental diseases examination camp for public transport drivers in collaboration with Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital, Traffic Police and State Bank of India. In the Road Safety Month, under the theme 'Parwah' for traffic awareness, 270 drivers suffering from refraction error, eye diseases got their eyes and 210 people got their teeth checked up in a camp organized at Nadra Bus Stand.

cataract. Sewa Sadan provided spectacles to 123 drivers with weak eyesight and free drops to 172 suffering from eye diseases. Apart from these, 28 drivers were advised to get their eyes checked by consulting the ophthalmologist at Sewa

Out of these, 200 drivers were

found to have refraction error

and 24 had symptoms of

Sadan Eye Hospital. The hospital checked the blood pressure of 220 people, out of which 9 were found to have high blood pressure. Diabetes was also found in 17 people. Total 35 patients were found to have RCT for dental

problems, 50 had to undergo extraction and the rest had complaints of other dental diseases. All these people were advised to get dental treat-

ment as per the need.
On the occasion DCP Traffic
Sanjay Singh told that drivers
engaged in public transport service should get their eyes checked from time to time. If the eyesight of the drivers is weak, they will not be able to

State Bank of India's DGM Lokesh Chandra said that State Bank of India, along with banking business, also fulfills its social responsibilities very well. Along with Sewa Sadan and traffic police, they will also cooperate in such public utility services by standing shoulder to shoulder.

Apart from SBI's regional manager Rajvaidya, Assistant Police Commissioner Vijay Kumar Dubey, social worker Dr. M.D. Bhagtani, Sewa Sadan Eye Hospital trustee Rajkumar Moolchandani, dentist Dr. Komal Daswani Dr. and Roshni Gyanchandani, optometrist D.P. Mishra and Saurabh Gupta, assistant Nilesh Waghmare were also present



Anoop Kumar Singh assumed the office of Cheif Managing Director of MPPKVVC in Indore on Friday

Unseasonal heat grips MP, temperatures cross 30 degrees

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

adhya Pradesh is currently experiencing Lunseasonably warm temperatures for late January. In cities like Mandla, the maximum temperature has reached 31°C, while other areas such as Narmadapuram, Khargone, Betul, and Seoni have recorded temperatures exceeding 30°C. Major cities including

Bhopal, Indore, and Gwalior have also reported higher-thanaverage temperatures, with maximums around 28°C.

The India Meteorological Department has forecasted that these elevated temperatures are likely to persist into February, with expectations of aboveaverage maximum temperatures and below-normal rainfall. This combination poses a significant risk to winter-sown crops such as wheat, rapeseed,

and chickpeas, which depend on cooler climates for optimal growth. Key agricultural regions in Madhya Pradesh are particularly vulnerable, as the warmer conditions may lead to early crop maturation and reduced yields.

In Bhopal, the day was very warm with abundant sunshine. The maximum temperature reached 30°C (87°F), while the minimum dropped to 13°C

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Important decisions taken in SSA & PM Shri Yojana

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

mportant decisions were taken in a meeting of the State Executive Committee Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States (STARS) and PM Shri Yojana under the Madhya Pradesh Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. The meeting, held today at the Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Anurag Jain was attended by Officers from the School Education Department, Women and Child Development Department, and Finance Department.

Chief Secretary Anurag Jain directed departmental officers to ensure that decisions taken under government schemes are implemented within the stipulated time-

frame. He emphasized the need for 100 percent utilization of materials purchased for government schools in the best interest of children. Jain instructed that unused buildings should be prioritized for use in the implementation of the scheme.

The Chief Secretary also stressed the importance of coordination between the Education School Department and the Women and Child Development Department to optimize the use of available human resources. Additionally, he reviewed the operational system of Anganwadi centers and preprimary schools. During the meeting of the Executive Committee, the annual action plan of approximately Rs 5,624 crore for the

Madhya Pradesh Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan for the rear 2025-26 was approved. Under the STARS project, an action plan of about Rs 269 crore was also sanctioned. The Executive Committee also approved a work plan of Rs 274 crore under the PM scheme of the School

Education Department. Additionally, post-facto approval was granted for the computer system of the ITC lab at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, amounting to Rs 8 crore 68 lakh. Currently, 201 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Residential Schools are operating in the state. During the meeting, the necessary funds were sanctioned for upgrading resources in 240 PM Shri schools under the third and fourth phases of the PM Shri

These upgrades will include the installation of smart classrooms, sports equipment, and furniture.

Furthermore, an amount exceeding Rs 8 crore was approved for the procurement of music equipment in 370 PM Shri schools. The proposals approved in the meeting will now be submitted to the Central Government for further consideration. Additional Chief Secretary

Other Backward Classes Welfare Department Ajit Kesari, Principal Secretary Finance Manish Rastogi, Principal Secretary Women and Child Development Rashmi Arun Shami, Commissioner of Public Education Shilpa Gupta, Director State Education Center Harjinder Singh were present at the meeting.

CM visits Kinkakuji Golden Temple

Bhopal: Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, on the fourth day of his visit to Japan, visited the worldfamous Kinkaku-ji Zen Buddhist temple (Golden Pavilion) in Kyoto. This temple, a symbol of traditional Japanese architecture and Buddhist culture, is renowned for its gold-leaf-covered majestic structure and serene surroundings. The Chief Minister observed the temple complex and closely understood its historical significance in Japanese culture.

Yadav spent some time by the Kyokochi Pond in front of the temple, where the reflection of the temple in the water created a mesmerizing view. He remarked, "Such historical heritage sites are not just examples of architectural excellence but also represent the soul of a civilization.



National Cadet Corps (NCC) contingents being welcomed by the directorate of NCC Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on their return from Republic Day Camp in New Delhi, at Rani Kamlapati Railway Station in Bhopal on Friday.

Kashyap reviews GIS preparations

Bhopal: Amid intense preparations for the Global Investor Summit, scheduled to take place in the state capital on February 24-25, Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and Minister In-Charge of Bhopal, Chitanya Kumar Kashyap convened officials to take stock of readiness.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi set to inaugurate the event, Minister Kashyap described it as a unique opportunity for the city. He instructed authorities to ensure all preparations are completed on time and stressed the importance of making Bhopal clean and welcoming for the summit.

The review meeting was attended by key officials, including the Collector, Police Commissioner, and Municipal Commissioner. The discussions focused on traffic management, parking, and

beautifying the city to ensure a smooth experience for visitors. Kashyap directed that all necessary arrangements at the Indira Gandhi National Museum of Man, the venue for the summit, be finalised.

He also underlined the need to promote Bhopal during the summit, encouraging officials to organise tours of the city's key landmarks for attending dignitaries, including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sanchi, the Bhimbetka Caves, and the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary.The Minister called on all officials to work with dedication to make the summit a success, noting that it is a matter of pride not only for Bhopal but for the entire state. The Global Investor Summit is expected to attract industry leaders, investors, and policymakers, providing a platform to promote investment and economic growth in the region.

between literature, history,

With over 160 speakers,

this year's festival provides

a platform for engaging

discussions on diverse lit-

erary and cultural topics.

The first day featured a sto-

and culture.

one-year-old daughter from the marriage. The deceased's husband said that he works at a utensils shop. On Thursday, he had gone to work during the day and only Varsha and her sister-in-law were at home. Then Varsha went into the room and committed suicide.

Married woman commits suicide

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

24-year-old married

woman committed

suicide by hanging

with the ceiling at Bairagarh Kalan; family member of woman raised allegations

that she was harassed for

Police said that on receiving

information from Chirayu

Hospital, a case was registered and started the inves-

According to the information, the deceased identified

as Varsha Rajak was a resi-

She was married to Gabbar Rajak, a resident of Bairagarh Kalan in

December 2022 and had a

dent of Karondia village.

dowry.

tigation.

Father of the deceased alleged that daughter was facing harassment for dowry.

The family of the deceased alleges that Varsha was being harassed for dowry since marriage. Husband Gabbar Rajak used to demand a car and money.

Dismal student-computer ratio at govt schools

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ BHOPAL

f statistics can be believed, the education system in Bhopal Ldistrict has only 770 computers to cater to nearly 10,000 students between classes 9-12 enrolled at 135 higher secondary schools run by the state government. According to District Education

Officer (DEO) Narendra Kumar Ahirwar, out of the 135 higher secondary schools in the district, only 69 have ICT labs with 10 computers each, while 40 schools have only one or two computers. Meanwhile, 26 schools have no computers at all. Overall, the student-to-computer ratio in the district stands at a dismal 1:13, considering breakdowns and other technical glitches.

Even more concerning is the statewide data. According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2024, 91.5 percent of school students in Madhya Pradesh do not have access to computers. Additionally, 5.5 percent of students have access to computers but do not use them. Only three percent of students in the state have access to computers and actively use them.

These figures have remained almost unchanged over the past 14 years. In 2010, 92.6 percent of students did not have access to computers, which increased to 96.2 percent in 2018 and slightly improved to 95.2 percent in

The availability and usage of

computers have also shown a downward trend. In 2010, 5.7 percent of students had access to computers, which dropped to 3.1 percent in 2018 and improved marginally to 3.9 percent in

When it comes to students who not only had access to computers but also actively used them, the number was 1.7 percent in 2010, which sank to 0.7 percent in 2018 before registering a marginal increase to 0.8 percent in 2022.

The state government has repeatedly claimed to have established computer labs in schools. The education department claims that 3,390 ICT labs have been set up across the state. Currently, Madhya Pradesh has a total of 94,039 schools, with 1,39,84,457 enrolments in 2025, including 7,27,777 boys and

6,706,680 girls. The state has 80 Schools of Excellence, known for their better results, along with 400 CM Rise Schools and 130 Semi-Rise Schools. On the other hand, more than

half of the private schools in the state introduce computer textbooks as part of the syllabus from classes two and three. The disorganised state of government schools reflects the government's negligence, while in private schools, parents invest a significant portion of their hardearned money in their children's education.

Most children aged 14 to 16 in the state own smartphones, and even six to seven-year-olds are learning to use mobile phones.

PICICI Home Finance | ICICI Home Finance Company Limited ICICI HFC Tower, Andheri- Kurla Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400059, India Branch Office: 1st Floor, The Empire, Office No.-F-05, 33-City Centre, Ward No. 30, Near Income Tax Building, Opposite Madhav Rao Scindia Park, Gwalior (MP)- 474011 [See proviso to rule 8(6)]
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Decimal Provisor Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the

below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Possessionof which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd., will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Co Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Legal Heirs.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumerances,	Amount Outsta- nding	Price Earnest	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction	One Day Before Auction Date	SARFAESI Stage
(A)	Loan Account No. (B)	if any (D)	(C)	(E)	(E)	(G)	(H)	///
1/~/	(0)	(0)			- (1)			\''
1.	Nandkishor Chhari (Borrower)	Flat No. 404/A,	Rs.	Rs.	February			
	Saroj Chharee, (Co-	Fourth Floor,	29,88,	17,86,	11, 2025	18, 2025	17, 2025	Possession
	Borrowers) Anurag Chhari	Sai Amrit Apart	198/-	050/-	11:00AM	02:00 PM	before	
	(Co Borrowers) Loan Account		January		03:00 PM	03:00 PM	05:00 PM	
	No. LHGWA00001295904	Tehsil And District	21, 2025	1,78,				
	& NHGWA00001295401	Gwalior (MP)		605/-				

The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-https://assets.matexauctions.com) of our auction The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link-https://dssets.matexauctions.com) of our auction agency Matex Net Pvt Ltd. The Mortgagors/ notice are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till February 17, 2025 before 05:00 PM else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule. The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) RTGS/ Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 17, 2025 before 04:00 PM. The Prospective Bidder(s) must also submit signed copy of Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Registration Form & Bid Terms and Conditions form at ICICI Home Finance Company Limited Branch Office Address mentioned on top of the article on or before February 17, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit Demand Draft (DD) should be from a Nationalized/Scheduled Bank in favor of "ICICI Home Finance Company Ltd. – Auction" payable at the branch office address mentioned on top of the article. For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact ICICI Home Finance Company Limited on 9920807300.

tenders, kindly conduct incit Home Findine Company Limited 01392007300.

The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit https://www.iciclihfc.com/

Date: February 01, 2025

Authorized Officer, "ICICI Home Finance Company Limited",

Place: Gwalior

CIN Number:- U65922MH1999PLC120106

// कार्यालय पुलिस उपायुक्त, नगरीय पुलिस जिला भोपाल //

क्रमांक/पु.उपा./न.पु./भो/रनि/निविदा/79/25 ई-निविदा सूचना दिनांक :- 28.01.2025

मध्यप्रदेश भण्डार क्रय नियम तथा सेवा उपार्जन नियम 2015 यथा संशोधित 2022 के नियमानुसार इस कार्यालय द्वारा पुलिस लाईन भोपाल स्थित पार्क के रैनोवेशन का कार्य के लिए ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

7.	कार्य का विवरण	निविदा शुल्क	अनुमानित व्यय राशि (जीएसटी सहित)	ईएमडी
	पुलिस लाईन नेहरू नगर भोपाल परिसर के मुख्य द्वार से प्रशासनिक भवन की ओर आने वाले मार्ग पर निमार्णाधीन पार्क का सौंदर्यीकरण कार्य जैसे प्रकाश व्यवस्था (विद्युतीकरण), नल फिटिंगपाईन, कारपेट ग्रास, पेड-पौधे, फाण्टेन्ट, झुला, सीमेन्ट चेयर एवं गेट निर्माण का कार्य	2,000/-	10,00,000/-	30,000/-

- निविदा पुलिस उपायुक्त, (मुख्यालय) नगरीय पुलिस भोपाल म.प्र. के नाम से वेबसाईट www.mptenders.gov.in पर
- 2. निविदा शुल्क ऑनलाईन जमा करना अनिवार्य है। ईएमडी में पात्रतानुसार छूट प्राप्त की जा सकेगी।
- म.प्र. पुलिस की वेबसाईट www.mppolice.gov.in एवं www.mptenders.gov.in से निविदा प्रपत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है। साथ ही निविदा के संबंध में रक्षित निरीक्षक कार्यालय, पुराना कंट्रोल रूम से विस्तृत जानकारी प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

शेड्यूल :-

G-22422/24

निविदा पब्लिकेशन दिनांक	दिनांक 29.01.2025 के 12.00 बजे		
निविदा डाउनलोड करने की दिनांक	दिनांक 29.01.2025 के 12.00 बजे से		
प्रिबिड मीटिंग का दिनांक	दिनांक 01.02.2025 के 12.00 बजे		
निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम दिनांक	दिनांक 12.02.2025 के 17.00 बजे तक		
निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	दिनांक 13.02.2025 के 17.00 बजे		
प्रिबिड मीटिंग एवं निविदा खोले जाने का स्थान	पुराना पुलिस कंट्रोल रूम भोपाल		

पुलिस उपायुक्त, (मुख्यालय) नगरीय पुलिस, भोपाल

Bhopal Literature Fest opens at Bharat Bhawan Chhindwara initiative for 'Waste to Wealth' finds special mention in Economic Survey **STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

> comprehensive Swachhata Drive. This initiative focused on enhancing awareness and promoting sustainable practices Festival began at the multi among rural communities. art Bharat Bhavan comex in the state capital on Friday. The three day event featuring over 160 speakers and 60 sessions is being organised by the Society for

cated community members about the benefits of compost-

tive's success.

dustbins, the district initiated a compost.

ing, while targeted training programmmes equipped farmers and stakeholders with the knowledge to manage organic waste effectively. These efforts ensured the appropriate utilisation of cow dung and organic waste in NADEP its, facilitating

position in Kavya Shalaka

Moreover, Navneet Sharma, representing the Department of

Education, finished first in

Harsh Sharma, an Acharya class

student from the Vyakarana

Department, placed second in Grammar Speech and the cor-

Shivam Upadhyay, a Shastri student, also earned the second

position in the question stage. Additionally, Bhaskar Kumar

attained second place in Indian

Science Speech, and Lokesh Sharma, from the Grammar Department in the Shastri Class,

achieved third position in

Dhaturup Kanthapath.

responding questionnaire.

Samkhya Speech.

Community engagement and capacity-building programmes were instrumental in the initia-Extensive outreach efforts edu-

Commuters travel amid construction of roads as a part of the preparations ahead of the Global Investors Summit in Bhopal on

Friday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the GIS on Feb 24.

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh has

earned national fame as its

novel initiative for Transforming

Waste into Wealth in

Chhindwara district has found

special mention in the

Economic Survey 2024-25

The Chhindwara district has

prioritised biodegradable waste

management as part of Swachha

Bharat Mission - Gramin Phase

2, establishing waste manage-

ment infrastructure in 784 Gram Panchayats and 1,898 vil-

lages, including 8,507 NADEP (a

method of organic composting

that produces fertiliser from

organic materials) compost pits.

However, due to improper usage

Ujjain: Students from Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Evam

Vedic Vishwavidyalaya, Ujjain, demonstrated exceptional skill

and talent during the State

Classical Competitions held at

the Bhopal campus of Central

Sanskrit University, New Delhi.

Adarsh Kumar, a student in the

Shastri Class of the Veda

Department, achieved the first position in Veda Bhashya

Speech and Jitesh Sharma achieved the first position in

Similarly, Abhishek Tiwari, from the Vyakarana

Department, attained first place

in Ayurveda Speech, while

Nilesh Tiwari secured the top

Mimamsa Shalaka.

Excellent performance by Sanskrit varsity students

released at New Delhi today.

The festival opened with a

NP Namdev.

⊣he seventh edition

of the annual Bhopal

Literature and Art

Culture and Environment,

the event was inaugurated

by senior litterateur Prof

Radhavallabh Tripathi,

with notable figures includ-

ing Raghav Chandra,

Abhilash Khandekar, and

starting with a Saraswati Vandana in Raag Hamsadhvani. This was followed by Haveli Sangeet in Raag Asht Chhap and concluded with a piece in Raag Bahar. Students from the National Institute of Design also presented a musical dance performance.

led by Neena Srivastava,

A highlight of the opening was the recognition of Bhopal artist Harchandan Singh Bhatti, nominated for the Padma Shri, and the inauguration of an exhibition of Padma Shri Bhuri Bai's Pithora paintings.

Speaking on the occasion festival director, Raghav

rytelling competition, drawing a large number of young participants, and a poetry session with poets Jhanyi Sharma, MM Upadhyay, and Meera Das. who shared their insights on the relevance of poetry in today's world. As the festival continues,

attendees can look forward to more literary discussions, art exhibitions, and musical performances,



during the three-day Bhopal Literature and Art Festival (BLF) at Bharat Bhawan in Bhopal on Friday.

and bungalows surrounding

Ahmedabad: The distant palace decays as the sun descends on Bhopal's Royal past

AKBAR KHAN BHOPAL nce known as Ziauddin Sahab ki Tekri, after a Sufi saint who counted the then ruler, Nawab Sultan Jahan Begum, among his disciples, this small hill became the centre of power when the Nawab moved her capital here. Nawab Sultan Jahan's shift to the Tekri, which she renamed Ahmedabad after her husband Ahmed Ali Khan, was part of an elaborate manoeuvre to divide her estate between her three sons.

The three jagirs, on three hills overlooking the Upper Lake which emanated from her estate, came to be known as Idgah Deodhi, Shamla Deodhi, and Deodhi Khaas, or Ahmedabad.

While her two older sons-Crown Prince Nasrullah Khan and Nawabzada Obaidullah Khan—shifted to their households where they settled down to start their own coteries and clans, Nawab Sultan Jahan ruled Bhopal from a modestly built Ahmedabad Palace

where she lived with her youngest son, Nawabzada Hamidullah Khan.

Way ahead of Muslim women of her time, Sultan Jahan Begum ensured that the young Hamidullah received a college education by despatching him to Aligarh Muslim University (AMŬ), which she served as a benefactor and chancellor.

It was at AMU that Hamidullah blossomed into a statesman while interacting with people subscribing to contrasting political beliefs and views. At least on one occasion, his companionships had been brought to the notice of Nawab Sultan Jahan by the British officialdom.

On his return to Bhopal, Hamidullah brought back several of his companions. He believed that these educated young men would help build a Bhopal of the future.

Following his controversial accession to the throne of Bhopal on 29 April 1926, Hamidullah also used these companions, often referred to as the Aligarh Cronies, to insulate himself from his sub-

Though astute, Hamidullah's political manoeuvres didn't go down well with the native Bhopali clans, who blamed the new ruler for attempting to shunt out deserving Bhopalis from the administrative main-

The native clans responded by establishing the Anjuman Khuddam-e-Watan (Brotherhood of Servants of the Fatherland) movement to curtail the Nawab's uninhibited power by pushing for the formation of a constituent assembly.

As the influence of the Anjuman grew among his subjects, the Nawab grew increasingly culturally distant from his people and continued to keep to his coterie drawn from his Aligarh mates, an amalgam of Shiddis (people of African descent known for their undying loyalty to the ruler), and handpicked members from Bhopal's own noble clans. The following years saw the

Nawab bestow huge estates

Ahmedabad Palace to his companions, who consolidated their position in the city through the trust and responsibilities vested in them by the ruler and Begum Sultan Jahan, whose role as the queen mother had earned her the sobriquet of Sarkar Amma from the Ahmedabad clan and the title of Sarkar Aaliya from those who questioned the controversial installation of Hamidullah on the Bhopal masnad (throne). Even though the popularity of

Anjuman leaders grew in leaps and bounds, Hamidullah remained unperturbed as he interacted with British agents and officials with the same ease with which he befriended and socialised with the leaders of the Congress Party and rulers from erstwhile princely states. Like all rulers, the Nawab believed that economic development would help consolidate his hold over the hearts of his subjects. To give him his due, Hamidullah coaxed and cajoled personal friends to invest in Bhopal by offering them virtually free-of-cost land for their enterprises. The Narmada Valley Ice Cream Factory, built by the family of Sir Sobha Singh, adjacent to the railway station, is one such example. With independence and

democracy knocking on the doors of Bhopal, Hamidullah faltered in reading the mood among his subjects. The first general elections saw Anjuman leader Saeedullah Khan Razmi and Pandit Chatur Narain Malviya wrest Sehore and Raisen parliamentary constituencies, respectively.

The Nawab had had his day, and so had his coterie of clansmen and loyalists, many of whom now face the prospect of losing their estates because of Hamidullah's daughter, Abida Sultan's migration to Pakistan in 1950.

With its controversial past casting sinfully long shadows on the dusty and decrepit old Ahmedabad Palace, it seems that the sun is about to set on

President highlights government's success in social and economical reforms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

President Droupadi Murmu on Friday here said the pace of work has tripled in the third term of her government which has worked with strong determination to lift the economy out of the state of "policy paralysis".

Addressing both the Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Lok Sabha chamber. she said the nation was witnessing major decisions and policies being implemented at an extraordinary speed, with the highest priority given to the poor, the middle class, the youth, women, and farmers.

"My government is infusing new energy through unprecedented achievements in this Amrit Kaal of India's development journey. The pace of work has tripled in this third term," President Murmu said in her 60-minute speech, peppered with occasional protests from the opposition benches. In an address to the two Houses at the beginning of the first session of Parliament every year, the president outlines the vision of the government and this is considered a policy statement. The address also outlines the

views of the government on key issues and also gives out a broad roadmap for the future. At the outset, President Murmu condoled the deaths of pilgrims at the Kumbh congregation at Prayagraj on Mauni Amavasya on Wednesday when millions of faithful had gathered from all over the country to bathe at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. She also paid tributes to former prime minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away recently.

President Murmu listed out the achievements of the government including building houses for three crore additional families, welfare of tribals, issuing property cards for the rural folks, building rural roads and extending the health insurance scheme to six crore citizens above the age of 70 years. "The government has also made swift progress on critical issues like 'One Nation-One Election' and the 'Waqf Act

Amendment'," she said. The President said India was setting an example for the world by emerging as a pillar of economic, social, and political stability in an environment of global instability. She said the world has placed its "trust" in India's borders and internal



India's "strength, policy, and intent". In this context, President Murmu especially mentioned key groupings such as Quad, BRICS, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and

The President said the government has taken "historic" ini-

security and "highly encouraging results" were seen in achieving self-reliance, especially in the defence sector. She lauded the Indian Space Research Organisation for launching 100 missions from the spaceport at Sriharikota and asserted that

the day was not far when an

Indian citizen will travel to

space aboard the indigenously

developed Gaganyaan space-

"My government has worked with strong determination to lift the economy out of a state of policy paralysis. Despite global concerns such as the COVID-19 pandemic, its aftermath, and war-related uncertainties, the Indian economy has demonstrated remarkable

stability and resilience, proving its strength," she said. The President said the government has also implemented several significant measures to promote Ease of Doing Business and introduced the GST system with the spirit of 'One Nation, One Tax' which has been benefiting all states across the country.

Noting that development is truly meaningful when its benefits reach the person standing at the last rung of society, the President said initiatives like the construction of 12 crore toilets under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, 10 crore free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, ration for 80 crore needy citizens, the Saubhagya Yojana, and the Jal Jeevan Mission have given poor the confidence that they can live with dignity.

When poor people are provided with a dignified life, it instills a sense of empowerment that helps them fight poverty. Due to such efforts, 25 crore people have overcome poverty and are moving forward in life. They have formed a Neo Middle Class, a group that is infusing new energy into India's growth journey," she said. President Murmu said digital fraud, cybercrime and emerging technologies such as deep fakes pose challenges to India's social, economic, and national security.

She asserted that the government has consistently worked on policies of multi-dimensional and inclusive develop-

Therefore, while emphasising on physical infrastructure, equal efforts have also been made by my government for a social infrastructure revolution," she said. Noting that the government in the past ten years has written new chapters of progress, one of which is the golden milestone of India's digital revolution, the President said today, India has emerged as a major global player in the field of digital technology.

"The launch of 5G services in India, alongside other leading nations, stands as a significant milestone in this journey. India's UPI technology has also impressed many developed countries. More than 50 per cent of the world's real-time digital transactions now take place in India. "My government has utilised digital technology as a tool for social justice and equality. Digital payments are no longer confined to select individuals or classes. Today, even the smallest shopkeeper in India benefits from this facility," the President said. She said there is conducive

environment for development in Jammu and Kashmir after the abrogation of Article 370. The President noted that the Lok Sabha and assembly elections were conducted in a peaceful manner in Jammu and Kashmir and the people deserve commendation for this achievement. The President said the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link project has been completed, connecting the nation from Kashmir to Kanyakumari through railway

"Under this ambitious project, the Chenab Bridge has been constructed, which is the highest railway bridge in the world," she said.

Murmu said India's first rail cable-stayed bridge, the Anji Bridge, has been completed and the work on the Shinkun La tunnel was also progressing successfully.

"Upon completion in the near future, it will be the world's highest tunnel, ensuring yearround connectivity between Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh," she said.

Economic Survey moots easing of regulations in health, education sectors



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Economic Survey 2024-▲ 25 on Friday mooted withdrawal of regulations or making compliance voluntary with disclosure where the market can do an effective job in the areas of health and education. Pitching for "trust-based regulation", the survey said that tight regulations increase compliance and supervision burden on the already

stretched state capacity. Trust-based regulation backed up by transparency and disclosure on the part of the regulated deserves a chance, said the pre-Budget document while noting that regulatory institutions need to evolve to focus on allowing outcomes to happen without being fixated on inputs.

rural infrastructure, housing, and livelihoods reflects a comprehensive 'welfare for all' approach," it noted.

By improving rural connectivity, sanitation, housing, access to drinking water, and

social inclusion, alongside chance.' supporting microfinance, Regulator SHGs (self-help groups), and localisation of SDGs (sustainable development goals), these initiatives ensure inclu-

sive development. Together, they uplift rural communities, bridging gaps in equity and quality of life, the survey said.

It pointed out that regulatory institutions in the areas of health and education must constantly balance the needs of the society and that of the ease of provision of such services by the providers.

'Where the market can do an effective job, regulations can either be withdrawn or compliance made voluntary with disclosure. Tight regulations increase the compliance and supervision burden on state capacity that is already stretched. This gives rise to unfulfilled expectations on the part of the public," the sur-

vev said. Therefore, it added, "For India to receive the demographic dividend in full in the coming years, regulatory institutions need to evolve to focus on for everyone, enabling them to pen without being fixated on

The survey further said, Trust-based regulation backed up by transparency and disclosure on the part of the regulated deserves a

Regulators must develop their assessment parameters and report on their own effectiveness transparently, it said, adding, "There is no better way to demand right behaviour than to set an example." While the education and health system has made significant progress through various initiatives aimed at achieving national goals, the survey said, "There is a critical need to enhance the delivery mechanisms".

By rethinking and improving these systems and integrating innovation and technologies, one can ensure that benefits effectively reach the last mile and are fully realised by those who need them most, it added.

The survey noted that the Indian economy's growth story emphasises a welfareenhancement approach by the government, focusing on empowering all citizens and ensuring the efficient delivery of welfare measures.

The government's initiatives aim to provide opportunities personal goals, it said, adding that "with the focus on edu cation, health, skilling, and innovation, with improved social and economic infrastructure, the aim is to achieve welfare for all".

for 2024 Lok Sabha polls



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

¬he Bharatiya Janata Party **I** spent ₹1,737.68 crore for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, according to the expenditure report submitted by the party to the Election Commission of India.

Of the total amount, ₹884.45 crore was spent on general party propaganda, while ₹853.23 crore was allocated for candidate-related expenses. Around ₹611.50 crore was spent on media advertisements that included advertisements in print and electronic media, bulk SMS campaigns, and prowebsites, and TV channels. The party also spent ₹55.75 crore on publicity materials such as posters, banners, hoardings, and flags to bolster its election outreach Additionally, the BJP's expenditure on public meetings, processions, and rallies - including arrangements for stages, audio setups, barricades, and vehicles - stood at ₹19.84 crore. Campaign-related travel

expenses formed another significant portion of the party's budget. The travel expenditure of star

campaigners authorised by the party's central headquarters amounted to ₹168.92 crore, while ₹2.53 crore was spent on the travel of other party leaders. The BJP, which secured a third consecutive term in the general elections, heavily relied on mass outreach and publicity campaigns, as evident from its Additionally, the gross receipts

from the date of announcement of state elections to the date of their completion were Arunachal Pradesh ₹5,552.57 crore, Sikkim ₹5,552.41 crore and Odisha ₹5,555.65 crore.

BJP spent ₹1,737.68 Crore | VP calls for constructive debate in Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday underscored the need for constructive debate and dialogue in Parliament, saying the era of disruption should end and make way for meaningful discussions. His remarks came ahead of the Budget session of Parliament.

While addressing the 33rd Foundation Day of the National Commission for Women (NCW), he said what the country truly needs is an opposition that is both constructive and cooperative.

There will now be more debate, dialogue, discussion, deliberation, and not disturbance or disruption in this Parliament," the Rajya Sabha chairman said, highlighting the importance of a cooperative opposition.

Reflecting on women's empowerment, he lauded the recent reservation for women in legislatures, calling it a landmark achievement. "Now we have reservation for women to the adding the country is witnessing an affirmative ecosystem that supports women's aspirations. However, he cautioned that with increased aspirations come greater challenges, requiring regulation of energy and



direction.

The vice president stressed that India's progress is incomplete without the active contribution of women. "I have no doubt that without the contribution of half of humanity, neither the planet can be happy nor the nation can progress," he asserted.

On the role of the NCW, Dhankhar urged the Commission to focus on information dissemination and constructive persuasion rather than sensationalism. "Strength is never in the exercise of power but in the realisation of limitations. Your limitations define the Commission to set a new trend where creating headlines through coercive mechanisms should be the last priority. He also called on the media to

exercise sensitivity, cautioning that it is easy for journalists to

PM Modi's US visit on

the horizon to strengthen

create sensational narratives. Dhankhar praised Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for setting a record in budget presentations and serving as a beacon for aspiring women

"From development of women, we are marching into womenled development," he said, adding this concept is not new to India but deeply embedded in its civilisation.

The vice president acknowledged that subtle discrimination against women, especially in work places and politics, remains a significant challenge. He urged the NCW to draft a national plan to address these issues, emphasising that men's inclination to dominate women must come to an end.

This dominance is psychologically depressing for women, and we must create a system where fiscal rewards compensate them adequately," he said. Stressing the need for authentic gender equality, Dhankhar remarked that policy-making requires a thought process shaped by experience.

towards becoming a developed nation will be powered by its women adding India's rapid growth has made it the most aspirational nation in the world. "When you are aspirational, 'ye dil maange' more," he said.

SC orders EC to preserve video clips of polling



NFW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the Election Commission of India to preserve video clips of the polling during the pendency of the pleas against the decision to increase the maximum number of voters per polling station from 1,200 to

A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar passed the order the counsel for the Election Commission of India (ECI) sought time to respond to the PIL filed by one Indu Prakash Singh. Singh has challenged the panel's communications in August 2024 for increasing the number of voters per polling stations in each constituency.

"The counsel appearing for respondent number 1 prays for further time to file affidavit. Let the affidavit be filed within three weeks from today. We deem it appropriate to direct respondent no 1 to maintain the CCTV recordings as they were doing

earlier," the bench said. The top court on January 15 sought responses from the Centre

and the poll panel on Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh's plea against the recent amendments, including no public access to CCTV, to the 1961 election rules. Singh said the decision to increase the number of voters per polling booth was arbitrary and not based on any data. On October 24, the top court refused to issue any notice to the poll panel but allowed the petitioner to serve the copy to the standing counsel of the ECI so that its stand on the issue is

The petitioner contended the poll panel's decision would impact the voters during the ensuing assembly elections in Maharashtra, Bihar and Delhi.

Singh said elections were normally held for 11 hours and it took about 60 to 90 seconds to cast a vote, and therefore 660 to 490 persons could cast their vote in a day at one polling station with one EVM.

Considering the average voting percentage to be 65.70 per cent, it was perceivable that a polling station prepared to accept 1,000 electors saw around 650 turn up. Singh's petition said there were booths where the elector turnout was in the range of 85-90 per

"In such a situation, about 20 per cent of voters will either end up standing in the queue beyond the voting hours or due to long waiting times, will abandon exercising their right to vote. Neither is acceptable in a progressive republic or a democracy," it

SC refuses to entertain PIL against special treatment for VIPs in temples

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Friday refused to entertain}}$ a PIL against the practice of charging an additional fee for "VIP darshan" and according of "preferential, selective and special treatment" to a certain class of people in temples. A bench comprising Chief

Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said it was for the society and temple management to decide the issue and the court cannot pass any direction.

While we may be of the opinion that no special treatment should be given but this court cannot issue directions. We do not think it is a fit case to exercise jurisdiction under Article 32 of the Constitution.



missal of the petition will not bar the appropriate authorities from taking appropriate action as required," the bench said. Advocate Akash Vashishtha, representing the petitioner, argued there is some Standard Operating Procedure required as there are 12 Jyotirlingas and this completely arbitrary practice of "VIP darshan". The top court was hearing a plea filed by Vijay Kishor Goswami, 'sevait' at Shri Radha Madan Mohan Temple in

Vrindavan, on the issue. The plea said the practice violated the principles of equality enshrined in Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, as it discriminated against devotees unable to afford the fee.

The petition also raised several concerns about the additional fee charged for an expedited access to temple deities. The plea said charging fee ranging between Rs 400 and Rs 500 for the special darshan privileges created a divide between the affluent devotees and those who were unable to afford such charges, particularly disadvantaged women, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens.

It said that despite representations made to the home ministry, only a directive was issued to Andhra Pradesh, while other states like Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh remained unaddressed.

The plea, therefore, sought a direction to declare the levying of the additional fee violative of the constitutional rights of equality and religious free-

It sought directions to ensure equal treatment for all devotees in temple premises and framing of standard operating procedures by the Centre to ensure equitable access to temples. The plea further sought setting up of a national board to oversee the management and administration of temples

strategic partnership PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

India and the US are working Lon an early visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said here on Friday. Modi and US President Donald Trump held a telephonic conversation on January 27. This was their first phone conversation since the American leader's inauguration last week.

The two sides are working on an early visit of Prime Minister Modi to the US to further deepen India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership," MEA Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "Specific dates for the visit

would be announced at the appropriate time," he said. He also said India is working with US authorities for early extradition of Mumbai terror accused Tahawwur Rana, On January 21, the US supreme court rejected Rana's review petition paving way for his extradition to India. "We are now working with the US side on procedural issues for

early extradition to India of the

accused in the Mumbai terror

attack," Jaiswal said.

He said three Indian nationals have gone missing in Iran and India has taken the issue with Tehran strongly. "The matter has been raised with the Iranian embassy in Delhi and with the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tehran," Jaiswal said.

SC rejects plea for 'Urs' at razed shrine over Gir Somnath demolitions

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Friday rejected a plea seeking to hold 'Urs" festival between February 1 and February 3 at a dargah (Muslim shrine) razed in Gujarat's Gir Somnath district during a demolition drive.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih observed the submissions of solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Gujarat authorstructions, including temples on the land belonging to the government, were demolished. Mehta said no activities, includ-

ities that unauthorised con-

ing Hindu religious rituals, were allowed on the land in question which was encroached upon earlier. The bench observed Mehta's contention that the land belonged to the government and unauthorised constructions, including the temples, were demolished. The applicant's counsel said "Urs" festival was

held at the site of the razed dargah for many years but authorities on January 30 denied per-

"If at all they (authorities) are saying they are having an apprehension that there will be some law and order problem, I will suggest one thing... 20 people will go for some time, they will perform the rituals and come out," the applicant's counsel said.

1299 AD, added the counsel.

the bench. The counsel said it was demolished and argued it was a protected monument. Mehta said the demolition drive applied to all religions.

Whatever was unauthorised, is demolished. This is undisputedly a government land," he said. While the bench told the applicant's counsel that authorities had demolished temples too, it told Mehta no religious functions at It was a structure made before the site should be allowed by the authorities. While rejecting the "Is there a structure now?" asked application, the bench said the

prayer couldn't be granted without hearing the main matter. When the bench told Mehta that it had recorded his statement that

no religious rituals would be permitted there, the law officer referred to an order passed by the top court in the main matter. He said his statement was recorded that the land would remain under the control of the government. On January 27, the top court said it would hear after three weeks the pleas, including a contempt petition against the

Guiarat authorities for allegedly demolishing residential and religious structures in Gir Somnath district without its prior nod. On September 28 last year, a demolition drive was carried out to reportedly clear encroachments on public lands near Gujarat's Somnath temple. In its affidavit filed in the apex court, the Gujarat government justified its demolition action, saying it was an ongoing drive for removing encroachments on

Ganga Aarti suspended in Varanasi till February 5 amid huge devotee surge

¬he Ganga Seva Nidhi man-1 agement has announced that the daily Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat will remain closed to the general public until February 5 due to an overwhelming influx of devo-

The move comes as lakhs of pilgrims continue to pour into the holy city, causing logistical and safety concerns.

"In the past few days, the footfall has been extraordinary, making it difficult to manage the crowd at Dashashwamedh Ghat during Aarti. To ensure the safety of devotees and maintain order, we have decided to restrict public entry temporarily," said Vishwajeet Tripathi, an official of Ganga Seva Nidhi.

Similar appeals have been committees organising Ganga Aarti at Sheetla Ghat and Assi Ghat, urging people to cooperate with authorities

The massive influx of visitors has created challenges for local residents, many of whom are with traffic overcrowded



markets, and restricted movement in the ghats area. "We understand the religious sentiments, but the sheer number of people has made it difficult for us to even step out of our homes. Roads are choked, public transport is unreliable, and prices of essentials have gone up due to high demand," said Anil resident

Local shopkeepers, however, have reported a surge in sales, especially in shops selling religious items, food, and souvenirs. "This is the busiest we have seen the city in recent years. While it brings business. it also creates challenges," said Ramesh Gupta, a shop owner near Kashi Vishwanath temple. Many pilgrims, who traveled long distances to experience Ganga Aarti, have

expressed disappointment at the closure."I came all the way from Maharashtra with my family just to witness the Aarti. It's unfortunate that we won't be able to see it this time. Watching the Ganga Aarti on TV is nothing compared to being here in person," said Sunita Patil, a devotee from Mumbai.Another pilgrim, Rajesh Kumar from Bihar, who had planned his visit months aware of the closure before arriving. This is a once-in-aexperience, and missing it is heartbreaking. Authorities have assured that online streaming of the Ganga Aarti will continue, allowing

devotees worldwide to witness the spiritual spectacle.

Record-breaking footfall at

Vindhyachal and Ayodhya The impact of the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj has been felt across major religious sites in Uttar Pradesh, with pilgrim numbers surging Vindhyachal Dham Ayodhya. On the first day of Gupt Navratri, more than 10 lakh devotees thronged Maa Vindhyavasini breaking all previous records.

'We have never seen such a crowd before, and managing such a large number of devotees is a challenge," said a senior temple official. Similarly, Ayodhya, which has

been witnessing unprecedented rush devotees since the Pran Pratistha of Ram Lalla at the built Janmabhoomi temple, saw over 25 lakh visitors in a single

Kinnar Akhada row: Mamta Kulkarni, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi expelled

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

A fresh controversy has erupt-ed within the Kinnar Akhada, as its founder, Rishi Ajay Das, has expelled Bollywood actress Mamta Kulkarni and Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Laxmi Narayan Tripathi.

The decision, announced on January 30, 2025, comes in response controversial appointment as Mahamandaleshwar, a move that has sparked dissent within the religious order. Das, in an official statement, accused Tripathi of overstepping his authority by inducting Kulkarni without approval.

'As the founder of Kinnar Akhada, I am relieving Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Laxmi Narayan Tripathi from his position, effective immediately. His appointment was intended to promote religious activities and uplift the transgender community, but he has strayed from these responsibilities," the statement read. The rift appears to stem from a 2019 agreement between Tripathi and Juna Akhada, which Ajay Das claims was made without his knowledge consent, rendering it legally invalid. He further criticised Tripathi for granting Kulkarni the

prestigious Mahamandaleshwar despite her alleged criminal history, questioning the ethical implications of the decision. Amrit Snan. "This is a matter of religious

integrity. By appointing someone with a controversial past, what kind of guru are we presenting to Sanatan Dharma?" Ajay Das asked, emphasising that the move was both unethical and a violation of the Akhada's principles.

The expulsions have triggered a backlash, with Mahant with Ravindra Puri, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhada Parishad, challenging the legitimacy of Ajay Das's authority. "Who is he to expel Laxmi Narayan Tripathi?" Puri

questioned, asserting that both Tripathi and Kulkarni remain integral to the Akhada and will participate in the upcoming

controversy initially surfaced during the Maha Kumbh, when Tripathi publicly announced Kulkarni's elevation to Mahamandaleshwar.

The actress, once a prominent face in Bollywood during the 1990s, had distanced herself from the industry for years before resurfacing in a spiritual role. However, her appointment has drawn criticism from several Kathavachak Jagatguru Himangi Sakhi Maa previously raised objections, citing Kulkarni's

alleged criminal background.

Government should provide medical care to affected: Akhilesh Yadav



PTI LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh gov ernment to provide medical care, food and clothes to devotees affected at the Maha Kumbh.

The former Uttar Pradesh as at least 30 people were killed and 60 injured in a predawn stampede at the Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh early Wednesday as millions of pilgrims jostled for space to take a holy dip on the occasion of one of the most auspicious days of 'Mauni Amayasya'.

Giving suggestions to the state government regarding the arrangements at the Maha Kumbh, Yadav in a post on X said, "Appeal should be made to open dhabas at various places day and night for food

and water and organise bhandaras.

"Arrangements should be made to transport medical and paramedical staff from across the state to the people trapped in remote areas through two-wheelers of volunteers," he added in the same post.

and diesel should be ensured to the vehicles trapped for miles around the Maha Kumbh and across the state. Medicine shops should be allowed to remain open day and night." The former chief minister demanded that "people should be given clothes and blankets".

"Where thousands of crores of rupees are being spent on publicity and to suppress the news of the accident, why is the government shying away from spending a few crores for the victims?" he asked.

Two more people from West Bengal have died in the stam-pede at the Maha Kumbh in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj, their family members said, taking the toll of fatalities from the eastern state to four.

Amiya Saha (28) Baisnabnagar area of Malda district and 35-year-old Binod Ruidas from Jamuria in Paschim Bardhaman were also among the 30 pilgrims who died in the pre-dawn stampede in Sangam area of the Maha Kumbh, their family members

On Thursday, the family of two women - Basanti Poddar from the city's Golf Green area and



Two more pilgrims from Bengal died in Kumbh stampede

Urmila Bhuniya from Salboni in Paschim Medinipur district claimed that they succumbed to injuries suffered during the rush for taking a holy dip at the mega religious gathering on the occasion of

Amavasya' Wednesday.

Talking to reporters on Friday, Saha's father alleged that his son, a primary school teacher, was injured in the stampede and left untreated at a Uttar Pradesh hospital for some time. He later died, but the Uttar Pradesh administration "did not issue a death certificate" while releasing the body, which delayed the post-mortem examination, his father claimed. Ruidas' brother said he died after suffering injuries while waiting for his turn for a holy dip on Wednesday. His body was brought back on

Friday morning. Ruidas' brother also alleged that

the Uttar Pradesh government did not issue a "proper" death certificate. the family

Meanwhile. members of nine pilgrims from the state claimed that they were still missing after the stampede, which also injured 60 people.

Judicial probe panel reaches Prayagraj spot later in the day," an

 $A^{\text{three-member judicial}}_{\text{commission set up by the}}$ Uttar Pradesh government to probe the Maha Kumbh stampede reached Prayagraj on Friday, an official said.

The panel is headed by Harsh Kumar, a retired judge of the Allahabad High Court, and comprises former director general of police (DGP) V K Gupta and retired IAS officer D K Singh."The commission is holding meetings with officials concerned here. We may also visit the incident

The panel was formed in the wake of an early Wednesday stampede that killed 30 devotees at Sangam Nose where they had gone for a

dip on the occasion of

Mauni Amavasya.

official said.

The commission has month to wrap up its investigation but will try to expedite it, Kumar, the panel head, said on Thursday. According to police, the stampede broke out as the crowd jumped barricades, crushing those waiting for

Prayagraj locals provide meals, shelter for pilgrims

PTI PRAYAGRAJ

 $R^{
m esidents}$ of Prayagraj have thrown their doors open to the hundreds of stranded and hungry after a massive surge in number of pilgrims arriving city infra groaning under its

While the administration grapples with the crowd after the deadly stampede on Mauni Amavasya, the city's residents, businesses, and students have risen to the occasion, providing food, shelter, and transport help to the countless devotees arriving for a holy dip at the

Triveni Sangam.
Dr Anjali Kesari, a local, summed up the sentiment:
"In Allahabad, we don't see the Maha Kumbh pilgrims as

outsiders, we are hosts and they are our guests. shared how her

neighbourhood in Chowk, close to the railway station, banded together to serve food to weary pilgrims.

distributed tea that took 80 litres of milk into its preparation along with snacks, while others prepared meals like tehri and dalchawal for the pilgrims," she

Many locals have cleared up spaces outside their homes for visitors to rest at night. "For us, Kumbh is not just a religious fair; it is a confluence of humanity," Dr Kesari said.

City hotels are not far behind in lending a pro bono hand to the weary.

Alok Singh, who runs Hotel Vitthal in Civil Lines, has converted his 100-bed dormitory into a free rest stop for pilgrims.

"After taking a holy dip, many devotees are exhausted Lines and head towards the railway station. It is a part of Prayagraj's culture to help others, and this is our way of

contributing," he said. Singh said he otherwise charges ₹12,000 to ₹25,000 per night for a room. Dr Mrityunjay Parmar, an

english department assistant professor, said that in the aftermath of the stampede, Allahabad University opened its campus and hostels to returning pilgrims before undertook

"We have several hostels like Shatabdi Boys' Hostel, KPUC, PC Banerjee, and Sir Sundarlal Hostel, where students are actively assisting pilgrims," he said.

Women students Kalpana Chawla Hostel are also contributing, either individually or in groups, Parmar added.

Apart from accommodation, the university campus has been designated as a holding area for Kumbh, where officials and students are working together to arrange

meals for pilgrims.
Students from Allahabad
University's law faculty have also been actively assisting the pilgrims.

Abhinav Mishra, a final-year BA LLB student, said he and

his classmates have been distributing tea, biscuits, and snacks to devotees. Some have even been offering free motorbike rides to reduce the burden of long walks.

"Our faculty is near Bank pass through on their way to Prayagraj station. Seeing their struggles, we felt compelled to help," Mishra

Mishra, who is also the National Executive member of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, said that the student organisation has been running medical camps for the pilgrims free of cost. In the old city area, Yadgar-e-Husaini Inter College, a Muslim Minority Institution established in 1942 near GT

Road, opened its doors for

the pilgrims to take a rest. The college is close to the bus stand and the Civil Lines Railway Station.

"It was an emergency after the stampede. including management, Raza lecturer took immediately decision. We arranged for the stay, snacks, water for pilgrims with access to washrooms also," Hasan Naqvi, whose grandfather was among the founders of the college, said. He said the college was gearing up for a sprucing up of facilities in the coming days, particularly on special bathing days when the influx is massive, like providing 'khichdi' along with snacks.

Public outrage as cop caught mixing ash in food for feast

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
PRAYAGRAJ

 $A^{\text{video showing a police}}_{\text{officer allegedly mixing ash into food at a bhandara}}$ (community feast) during the Maha Kumbh Mela has sparked outrage, leading to The clip, which surfaced on social media, shows the officer adding ash to food authorities
Soraon being prepared over a stove. suspended Station (SHO) House Soraon Brijesh Officer

Kumar Tiwari. "This is unacceptable. We come here for faith and devotion, and such actions are a betrayal of trust," said Ramprasad Gupta, a pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh who witnessed the incident.

The video was widely shared, with one user tagging the DCP Ganga Nagar's account on social media platform X and demanding strict action.
The official handle of DCP

Ganga Nagar responded: "Taking cognizance of the Deputy matter, the Commissioner of Police (Ganga Nagar) has suspended the Soraon SHO based on a report from ACP Soraon. Departmental



proceedings are underway." Political leaders also weighed in, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav sharing the video and condemning the act.

"It is unfortunate that the good efforts of those arranging food and water for devotees at the Maha Kumbh are being sabotaged due to political animosity. The public should take notice!" he posted.

Many devotees expressed their anger, calling for stricter measures to prevent such incidents.

police should be protecting us, not disrespecting our faith," said Anita Verma, a

'We are here to seek blessings, not to be humiliated like this. The

visitor from Varanasi. With millions of pilgrims gathering in Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh, several

organisations have set up bhandaras to provide free meals to devotees. "Such incidents shake our faith, but we won't let them ruin the spirit of service," said Rahul Tiwari, a volunteer at one of the community kitchens.

The incident has ignited a debate over discipline in the police force and the need for greater vigilance during the religious congregation.

Seven Naxalites, including three women, involved in several attacks on security forces and carrying collective cash rewards of ₹32 Lakh surrendered in Kanker district of Chhattisgarh on Friday, a police official said.

Triday, a police official said.

The cadres turned themselves in before senior police and Border Security Force (BSF) officials here citing disappointment with the "hollow" and "inhuman" Maoist ideology and tribals' exploitation by senior Naxalites, Kanker Senior Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said.

Of those surrendered, Mamta alias

Of those surrendered, Mamta alias Shanta alias Vasanna Battulai (60), Dinesh Matttami (20) and Aaytu Ram Potai (27) were carrying a reward of ₹8

Potai (27) were carrying a reward of ₹8 lakh each for their capture, he said. Mamta, a resident of Karimnagar district in neighbouring Telangana, was active as a divisional committee member and headed the 'Krantikari Adivasi Mahila Sangthan' (KAMS), a frontal wing of the outlawed organisation, in the north Bastar division of Maoists, he said. Between 1996 and 2024, she was involved in 26 Naxal incidents,

involved in 26 Naxal incidents, including the 2015 IED (improvised explosive device) blast in the Koyalibeda area in Kanker district during panchayat polls wherein two jawans were killed and the 2018 Mahla ambush that killed two BSF personnel,

While Mattami was active as a member of the military company number 10 of Three others, Itwarin Padda (25), a Maoists, Potai was a member of member of Partapur LGS (local



military company number five, he said. Another surrendered cadre, Jamuna alias Neera Netam (50), was active as a member of the Partapur area

Naxalites carrying ₹32 lakh bounty surrender

committee. Jamuna was also involved in many Naxal attacks, including the ambush in Bhuski-Michgaon village in 2007 in which five policemen were killed and 18 others injured, Elesela said, adding that she carried a reward of ₹5 lakh.

guerilla squad), Sanjay Nareti (23) of the Panidobir/Rowghat LOS (local organisation squad), and Sagnu Ram Anchla (24) Panidobir LOS member, carried a reward of ₹1 Lakh each, the SSP added. All the surrendered Naxalites were provided assistance of ₹25,000 each and will be further rehabilitated as per the government's policy, he added. Last year, 792 Naxalites had surrendered in the Bastar region, comprising seven districts including Kanker.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

The Chinese challenge

China's rapid advancements—evident in breakthroughs like DeepSeek—are challenging US superiority like never before

or decades, the United States has been the undisputed global leader in cuttingedge technology, from artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computing to defence innovations and space exploration. However, China's rapid advancements in these fields, fueled by a mix of state-driven initiatives, talent acquisition, and aggressive R&D investments, are now posing a serious challenge to the US supremacy. The emergence of DeepSeek, a Chinese Al model rivaling OpenAl's GPT-4, is just one example of how Beijing is closing the technological gap. China's ambitions extend far beyond Al. It has made remarkable strides in many areas. It is a direct result of China's 'vision 2025' which is translating into reality. China has developed the Jiuzhang quantum computer, which demonstrated computational speeds exponentially faster than classical supercomputers. Meanwhile, the US remains engaged in its own quantum pursuit through companies like Google and IBM, but China's government-backed approach provides



an edge in long-term planning. From hypersonic missiles that can evade US missile defence systems to Al-driven warfare capabilities, China's military modernisation is shifting global power dynamics.

Despite US sanctions aimed at crippling China's semiconductor industry, Beijing has made breakthroughs, notably with Huawei's 7nm Kirin chip, defying expectations. The US remains dependent on Taiwan's TSMC, but China's relentless pursuit of self-reliance is narrowing this gap. Even in space tech, China is surging ahread. China's Tiangong space station, its Mars and lunar exploration programs, and its ambitions in satellite-based internet rival those of NASA

and SpaceX. This places China on an equal footing with the US in space dominance. However, Washington is not sitting idle in the face of this challenge. The US has adopted a multi-pronged strategy. It has stepped up its effort to contain China. The Biden administration had imposed restrictions on Chinese firms like Huawei and Al chip exports to limit their technological growth. The US is deepening ties with the European Union, Japan, and India to counterbalance China's rise in emerging tech. Initiatives like the CHIPS Act and QUAD alliances are designed to limit Beijing's access to critical tech. Besides, companies like OpenAI, Google, and IBM are receiving government backing to maintain an edge over Chinese Al firms. In this tech war India, though lagging, is trying to cope albeit at a slow pace. While it has growing ties with the US, it also maintains strategic independence. India too is investing heavily in Al startups and quantum computing research. With the government's Semicon India initiative, India aims to become a global semiconductor hub, attracting investments from Intel, TSMC, and others. Indeed, India is emerging as a significant player in the global tech landscape. As this race unfolds, the global order in technology will be reshaped in ways that will define the 21st century.



A folk artist at the 'Jaipur Literature Festival' (JLF), in Jaipur

India's aviation sector needs a take off



India's aviation sector is at a crossroads, grappling with an acute shortage of airports despite its vast population and growing economy

ave you ever wondered just how many airports exist in the United States? ■Take a wild guess. The number is staggering—nearly 19,000! That's right. With a population of around 330 million, America has built an extensive network of airports, ensuring seamless connectivity across the country. Now, compare this to India, a nation with three times the population, yet managing with only around 500 airports. Even more striking, out of these, just 29 are classified as international airports. This glaring dis-parity is more than just a number—it is a reflection of India's challenges in aviation infrastructure and the pressing need for expansion.

Let's take an even closer look by comparing West Bengal to the United Kingdom. Both regions have a similar population, yet their aviation networks couldn't be more different. The UK boasts around 150 airports, while West Bengal has just three passenger airports-Kolkata, Bagdogra, and Andal. This difference is not just a matter of convenience; it highlights lost economic opportunities and underscores the urgent requirement for infrastructure development. In nations like the US and the UK, air travel is an everyday convenience—affordable, efficient, and integral to daily

It allows people to skip traffic, save time, and stimulate economic growth. Meanwhile, in India, air travel is still seen as a luxury, accessible only to a privileged few.India's aviation network is wholly insufficient for its growing demand. With only 29 international airports and about 500 total airports, the infrastructure is struggling to keep pace with the needs of domestic and international travelers. Airports in major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru are perpetually overcrowded, leading to delays, congestion, and inefficiency.

In contrast, vast portions of the country, especially smaller towns and rural areas, remain disconnected, relying on outdated modes of transportation like rail-



Authority of India (AAI) currently manages around 150 airports, but when compared to the United States' 5,000 civilian airports, this number falls dramatically short. The gap becomes even more concerning when considering that India's population is three times that of the US. Clearly, India needs a massive expansion in its aviation infrastructure, and it needs it urgently. The consequences of this limited aviation network are significant-reduced regional connectivity, hindered tourism, and slower economic growth. India must take decisive steps to address this issue. A bold vision for the future should include constructing at least 1,500 new airports in the coming years.

By ensuring that an airport is within 100 kilometers of every major population center, India can unlock the economic potential of its smaller towns and rural areas. The advantages of a well-developed air travel network are crystal clear. Air travel is not just the fastest mode of transportation; it is also the safest and most efficient. In a country where roads and railways are often congested and prone to delays, a robust aviation network can alleviate pressure on existing

ways and highways. The Airports also immense. A surge in the

IN A COUNTRY AS

VAST AND POPULOUS AS INDIA, AIR TRAVEL MUST **BECOME A FUNDAMENTAL** NECESSITY, **AVAILABLE TO** PEOPLE ACROSS ALL **ECONOMIC** BACKGROUNDS. **EXPANDING THE** AVIATION NETWORK **WOULD MAKE** FLIGHTS MORE AFFORDABLE AND PRACTICAL FOR A LARGER SEGMENT

business operations, enable easier travel for tourists, and offer the general population a practical alternative to timeconsuming road and rail journeys. Of course, developing new airports requires significant investment and time, but India has the potential to explore innovative solutions. One such approach is the conversion of highways into emergency runways—a model successfully implemented in the United States. This concept could be adapted for India, where strategically modifying highways to accommodate small aircraft could provide crucial air connectivity to remote regions without the high costs associated with building entirely new airports. Implementing such a strategy in states like West Bengal, could be a game-changer. These adapted road-runways

could serve as cost-effective alternatives for enhancing air connectivity, benefiting both everyday commuters and emergency responders in times of crisis, such as natural disasters.

travel has evolved into an OF THE POPULATION traver has evolved into an indispensable part of daily life. It is widely accessible, efficient, and affordable. (The writer is an associate pro-In India, however, flying is still

Across the Western world, air

perceived as a luxury, something beyond the reach of the average citizen.

This perception needs to change. In a country as vast and populous as India, air travel must become a fundamental necessity, available to peo-ple across all economic backgrounds. Expanding the aviation network would make flights more affordable and practical for a larger segment of the population.

India stands at a crucial juncture in its aviation journey. The country's rapid economic growth and massive population necessitate an equally rapid expansion of its air travel infrastructure. Government initiatives such as the UDAN scheme, which aims to enhance regional air connectivity, are a step in the right direction, but much more needs to be done. The goal should be to develop at least 1,500 new airports in the near future, ensuring that every region, particularly underserved areas like West Bengal, is well-connected.

Exploring innovative ideas like highway-runways, making air travel more affordable, and significantly increasing the number of airstrips are all essential steps toward closing India's aviation gap. The need for a robust aviation infrastruc

(The writer is an associate professor; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A 90-hour workweek: Path to success or recipe for burnout



S N Subrahmanyan CMD Larsen and Toubro, has sparked intense debate with his proposal for a 90-hour workweek, drawing sharp criticism

N Subrahmanyan, CMD of Larsen and Toubro, recently ignited a heated debate while expressing his regret over not being able to call employees to work even on Sundays. He also suggested a 90-hour work week—a figure that surpasses even the 70-hour work week advocated by Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy. His comment assumes added significance when there is already a renewed debate in India on work pressure after the death of 26-year-old Ernst & Young employee, Anna Sebastian Perayil. And call it a quirk of fate, or merely incidental, L&T has now eaten a humble pie after its bid for a tender to build six submarines was shot down by the Ministry of Defence. Subrahmanyan's comment has been singularly dismissed by several corporate chiefs, including Anand Mahindra, Chairman, of Mahindra Group; Sanjiv Puri, CMD, ITC Limited; Harsh Vardhan Goenka, the current chairman of RPG Enterprises; Nalin Negi, BharatPe CEO; Rajiv Bajaj,

Auto; and even Sanjeev across 10 of the world's

Sanyal, Economist Member of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Economic Advisory Council. The circular issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment of India, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020, strictly says that no worker shall be required or allowed to work, in any establishment or class of establishments for more than eight hours in a day or fortyeight hours in a week.

As per the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as of January 11, 2024, the average weekly working Managing Director of Bajaj hours per employed person

largest economies is in: the United States, 38 hours per week; in China, 46.1 hours per week; Germany, 34.2 hours per week; Japan 36.6 hours per week; India 46.7 hours per week; United Kingdom, 35.9 hours per week; France, 35.9 hours per week; Brazil, 39 hours per week; Italy, 36.3 hours per week; Canada, 32.1 hours per week. However, India ranks 13th among the world's most overworked countries. With 46.7 average working hours per week, India faces a persistent culture of extended work schedules. The World Health

Organisation also highlights

excessive work as a major public health concern linked to occupational diseases. According to the International Labour data,

Organisation's Luxembourg enjoys the highest productivity with \$166.1k in terms of GDP per hour worked, with an average working week schedule of 35.6 hours. Ireland stands second with \$139.1k GDP per hour worked with an average work-week schedule of 35.6 hours.

Whereas India has a labour productivity of \$10.7k GDP per hour worked with an average work-week schedule of 46.7 hours. The latest report, by Mc Kinsey Health Institute says that investing in employee health can substantially increase economic returns.

Research by the Institute in collaboration with the World Economic Forum indicates that enhanced employee health and well-being could generate up to \$11.7 trillion in global economic value.

The writer is a journalist and news anchor and writes oncorporate affairs, finance; views expressed are personal)

INDIA'S AI MISSION

Madam — This refers to the news report, "India prepares to take on ChatGPT, Deepseek" (January 31). The sensational launch of the Chinese startup DeepSeek's AI system known as R1 has left the West dumbstruck. DeepSeek's claim that it developed R1 at 50 times the cheaper cost than OpenAl's ChatGPT with matching performance created mayhem in financial markets on January 30 as the Nasdaq witnessed its biggest wipeout in histo-

Ńvidia, the leading AI chip maker, was hit the worst as its stock price plunged 17 per cent. After American President Donald Trump termed DeepSeek a "wake-up call" for the US and urged US companies to stay competitive, fierce competition in the AI market is imminent. Amid these eye-opening developments, India has planned to build its world-class foundational models within less than one year under its ambitious India AI Mission. This shows India's global aspirations to become a frontrunner in the AI industry. In the last few years, India has resolved to develop advanced technologies indigenously and shed its dependency on other countries. India is aggressively developing its semiconductor industry to boost self-reliance, economic growth, and technological leadership under initiatives like the India Semiconductor Mission and PLI scheme.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

FOCUS ON ECONOMIC REVIVAL

Madam— Apropos, "Indian economy on fast lane," The Pioneer, January 30. With signs of a slowdown in the economy getting more pronounced, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who will be presenting the Union Budget today. The budget must not only address the weary private investment scenario in the country but also address the consumption slowdown. The eco-

ISRO'S 100th rocket launch: Yet another milestone



SRO has added yet another feather to its cap with its 100th launch of GSLV, its most trusted workhorse rocket, from Sriharikota in 46 years and is planning to launch another hun-

likely to grow at less than 7 per cent for how the government sees the current at least the next three years, including the current one. The anaemic growth of the economy has already led to moderation in consumption a trend that has been on the show for a couple of years. The central bank has consciously put a leash on consumption-related lending as it sees it as an area of concern. With inflation continuing to remain high, the RBI has been holding interest rates at higher levels, further discouraging borrowers from taking loans for discre-

tionary consumption. All these factors have weighed down on corporate India, which has been slow in announcing new projects and investments. This shows in lower private investment numbers. As a result, the economy is now facing a vicious cycle, which the budget can break. In this backdrop, the government will have to loosen its purse strings a bit, let the people have more money in their hands, and give some more sops to corporations to prod them into investing. How nomic growth is slowing, with GDP it achieves these goals would depend on

dred of them in the next five years. GSLV is capable of launching satellites for both geosynchronous orbit (when it appears motionless from a point on the equator-primarily used for weather and communication and is placed at a very high altitude of about 42,000 km) and sun-synchronous orbit (when the satellite is passing over the same location at the same local time-used for imaging, weather forecasting, spying, and global observation at low altitudes of about 700 km, capable of capturing high-resolution images as a result).

This launch has put India in a much better situation to be self-reliant in its technology, giving a boost to its economy, defence, and spatial dominance in the near future. The ISRO scientists need to be applauded for their timebound achievements and speed through their hard work and dedication

R S Narula | Patiala

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

MIDAIR CRASH IN AMERICA KILLS 67

Madam —An American Airlines flight with 67 people aboard, including 4 crew members, collided with an Army helicopter while landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington DC in the nearby Potomac River. The US has the safest airspace in the world. The diversion of the air jet to land on a smaller runway just before landing may be a cause.

Also, the Army helicopter did not go up and down in the air over the river. The midair collision of the flight and the Army helicopter is more surprising in this digital age. The accident was preventable, and Trump blaming Obama and Biden's policies for the mishap is unacceptable.

N R Ramachandran | Chennai

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FIRST COLUMN

A DIVINE CONVERGENCE OF LOVE AND LIBERATION

The Kumbh Mela has been a beacon for seekers, drawing masters and devotees alike



JAGATGURU SAI MAA LAKSHMI DEVI

or centuries, great masters have been drawn to the Kumbh Mela, captivated by its spiritual magnetism. What is it that pulls us here? It is the profound energy of devotion, the irresistible force of divine love. Love itself is a magnet, and those who live in devotion radiate this magnetic power, naturally attracting others to them. Nowhere else on Earth do millions—crores upon crores—gather in unwavering dedication, chanting the name of the Divine, immersed in sadhana day and night. They come to bathe in this sacred energy and carry it forth into their lives, spreading its radiance wherever they go.

This Maha Kumbh is unlike any before it, offering an unprecedented caliber of cosmic energy. It is a spiritual phenomenon of global significance, where the highest frequencies of Source energy descend upon humanity. The grace of enlightenment is being bestowed, and the awakening of souls is unfolding.

Here, the sublime state of Soruba Samadhi will begin—a transformation that elevates both consciousness and matter itself. Cellular structures are being regenerated, linking human DNA to the divine imprint, connecting us to the immortal essence within. There is nothing quite like the experience of Kumbh. Imagine millions of souls gathering in one place, each radiating spiritual energy, creating an immense vortex of power. In this sacred space, we transcend our identities and recognise ourselves as Atmas—pure souls



united in a grand cosmic dance. This collective energy is a force of love, light, and enlightenment, dissolving karmic burdens and opening the path to a majestic, divine life.

Though the present age presents its challenges, those who remain steadfast on the spiritual path will undergo profound transformation. The portals of the cosmos are open, offering liberation and awakening. The world we see is but an illusion—a play of maya where all is transient except our love for the Divine. This love is our dharma, our ultimate purpose. The body, the mind, and the material world constantly change, but the eternal truth, Sathya, remains unchanged. We are that truth—Sat-Chit-Ananda, Tat Twam Asi and our sadhana is to awaken to and embody this realization.

At the Kumbh, in the embrace of Mata Ganga, we surrender and transform. The sacred waters purify us, activating the divine blueprint within. In this powerful vortex, we align with the highest expressions of Sanatana Dharma, experiencing profound spiritual elevation. This year, the influx of divine light is immense, inviting us to merge with its boundless brilliance and bliss. The ancient traditions of Moksha and enlightenment are more alive than ever. This is a time for purification, for letting go of attachments and the illusion of mortality. Sanatana Dharma, founded on selfless service, was exemplified by Adi Shankaracharya, who taught the wisdom of one-

Dharma—the eternal law—sustains creation itself. Regardless of the many religious paths, all stem from this universal truth. We have lived Dharma through countless lifetimes, whether we remember it or not. Kumbh Mela is a powerful catalyst for spiritual growth, drawing seekers from all over the world. Even those from lands where devotion is rare undergo profound shifts, their minds finding peace and their hearts blossoming. Here, millions chant together, and divine forces work to elevate collective consciousness. This is a time of great spiritual revolution, heralding the dawn of Sathya Yuga. Open your heart. Receive the blessings of your soul. Step into your truth and embrace the new age that is upon us.

(The writer is a spiritual guru; views are personal)

From OpenAI to DeepSeek: The fight for supremacy



With China rapidly closing the AI gap and geopolitical tensions shifting from military might to algorithmic dominance, the world is entering a digital cold war



magine a computer's hard drive containing a replica of your brain, connected to a high-speed internet. Your biological brain may become irrelevant when the machine not only possesses your mind but also gains control over everything you identify as 'who you are'. This is what General Artificial Intelligence (AGI) truly represents - the vast, unexplored frontier we are hurtling towards. The year begins not only with the most unpredictable politician in America reclaiming the Oval Office but also with an AI race that, once dominated by American startups, is now being swiftly overtaken by China at a significantly lower cost. We have crossed the Rubicon, heading towards an unknown destination; the consequences remain uncertain, and no one can predict what lies ahead.

The AI arms race, gaining unprecedented velocity, is propelling us into an era where the very foundations of intelligence, humanity, and civilisation are being deconstructed at an astonishing pace. Humanity, having long contended with the challenge of technology reshaping its self-perception, is now facing an existential dilemma unlike any before. The revolutions of Copernicus, which dethroned Earth from presumed centrality in the cosmos, and Darwin, whose theory questioned humanity's divine distinction from the animal kingdom, fundamentally redefined our place in the universe. But neither of these paradigm shifts eroded the core of what it meant to be human. Artificial intelligence, however, threatens to do precisely that. AGI poses a question so starkly profound that it demands our full intellectual engagement: What happens when the very attribute we have long considered uniquely human—the capacity to reason, to create, to understand—becomes replicable, scalable, and infinitely more efficient, to the point where machines not only rival but surpass our cognitive limitations? What becomes of the human essence when faced with entities capable of thinking faster, learning more swiftly, and ultimately transcending us in once inconceivable ways? This week, the new race in AI has

surged ahead, with China unveiling the

results of its years of intensive experimen-

tation. The release of Qwen 2.5, followed

by DeepSeek—an inexpensive yet formi-

ed the established order. This shift is not merely a matter of technological rivalry; it signifies a profound realignment in global power, where the currency of influence is no longer military might or economic clout, but data control, computational resources, and technological ingenuity. The new cold war is not one of

dable competitor to models like

GPT-4 from OpenAI—has upend-

armaments but of algorithms and information—an intellectual race whose stakes extend far beyond economic primacy to the very survival of human civilisation itself.As AI advances, it forces us to confront deeply uncomfortable truths about our nature. For millennia, humanity has positioned itself at the apex of intelligence on Earth, a secret of being a superspecies. Yet what occurs when our very creations—machines—begin to outshine us in those same domains? When we no longer retain exclusive dominion over intelligence, how does this fundamentally alter OF OUR our sense of identity?

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Are we, like the alchemists of antiquity, on the verge of realising that we no longer control our fate, but have given birth to entities that might one day supplant us? The very nature of intelligence itself is now irreversibly in question. Cognitive architectures, once the exclusive province of the human brain, are now being mirrored and surpassed by machines. AI, in its most advanced forms, becomes a reflection of our intellectual framework—yet one that operates faster, more efficiently, and with an ability to learn that far exceeds human potential. This is not merely an augmentation of human capabilities; it heralds the dawn of a new epoch, where human and machine cognition converge, indistinguishable and perhaps inseparable. As we approach this unnerving future, we must ask ourselves whether we are philosophically, politically, and entities that may one day rival or eclipse us.

Will we, as a species, embrace coevolution, finding a new equilibrium in our relationship with machines, or will we cling to the false myth of human exceptionalism, attempting to subjugate or destroy the very creations we have birthed?

The decisions we make now will echo far beyond our survival, influencing the very nature of intelligence and the future trajectory of all life on Earth. The geopolitical ramifications of this technological revolution are as profound as its existential implications. Powerful nations with vast resources for research, development, and energy will continue to dominate the future, while smaller countries may face unprecedented crises, including crises concerning their own identity.

As AI becomes embedded in the infrastructure of global politics, we are entering an era of digital empires—systems of control as potent as any traditional nationstate, commanding not only infor-mation but the very nature of human interaction. In this new digital cold war, the battle is not merely for technological supremacy, but for control over the global political system itself. Is the rise of AI an essential leap forward in humanity's evolution, or does it signal the twilight of human rele-

Some may argue that AI is a necessary tool, a portal that helps protect us from the danger of total annihilation. Others, however, may see it as a harbinger of obsolescence, a point of no return when our creations ascend to power and render us irrelevant. However, there is a subtler, more philosophical interpretation of this transformative shift: Perhaps the advent of AGI is not our fall from grace, but the birth of a new chapter in human evolution—one where we socially prepared to co-exist with transcend the biological con-

straints that have long defined us. Like our ancestors who tamed fire and invented the wheel, we may soon wield AI as a tool that propels us to new heights. The fusion of human and artificial intelligence could lead to a post-human condition—not one of extinction, but of surpassing the boundaries of our biological form and entering a phase of hybridised existence. This, of course, depends on our ability to confront the ethical and political structures that accompany the rise of AGI.

The true challenge is not whether we will create machines that surpass us in intelligence, but whether we have the wisdom to ensure they remain our allies rather than adversaries. We must learn to coexist with these new intelligences, integrating them into our societies in ways that enhance, rather than diminish, our humanity. This is the existential challenge of our time one that will determine whether the era of artificial intelligence will culminate in annihilation or transcendence.

∪itimately, the measure of our humanity will not lie in our ability to create machines that rival us in intelligence, but in our capacity to retain those qualities that define us: empathy, creativity, and the willingness to evolve in response to monumental change. If we can meet this challenge, the future—however uncertain—will hold at least the promise of our fragile humanity. If not, we may find ourselves consigned to the dustbin of history, supplanted by the very entities we have created. Are we prepared to face the unknown abyss, or will we cower in fear, clinging to the comforting illusions of the past? The future, it seems, is no longer entirely within our grasp—but perhaps this is precisely the kind of leap forward we need to ensure our survival.

(The writer is a journalist and policy analyst. Views expressed

Elevating CSR in India: From compliance to impact-driven transformation

While many corporations are genuinely committed to social welfare, issues like fund misallocation, tokenism and unethical practices threaten the integrity of CSR

Social Responsibility (CSR) in India has significantly progressed over the past decade. Introduced as a legal mandate in 2013, CSR has evolved from a mere compliance obligation to a fundamental requirement, with organisations across various industries incorporating social welfare into their core operations. However, as we continue into 2025 and beyond, there is an urgent need to elevate the current CSR practicesensuring they are effective, accountable, and transparent. While many companies have shown a sincere commitment to social impact, others have unfortunately fallen into the vicious traps of misallocation of funds, tokenism, and questionable practices like kick-

backs and paybacks. Additionally, the emergence of corporations establishing their NGOs presents a mixed picture; while some are genuinely committed to their missions, many operate as "skeleton NGÓs," where staff often demand kickbacks and the intended social welfare purpose gets lost.

A New and Enhanced Era for CSR Compliance

Compliance remains an important aspect of effective CSR. However, it is not just about meeting the mandatory spending requirement but also about ensuring that every rupee spent reaches where it was originally intended directly benefiting those in need. While many corporations have dutifully allocated the mandated 2 per cent of



GEETANJALI CHOPRA

their profits towards social welfare, there is still a need for a more robust system to ensure regular oversight and realtime monitoring of fund utilisation and project outcomes. With stronger and more transparent laws, we can ensure that funds reach the intended beneficiaries, fostering trust between the government, corporations, and communities

Ensuring Integrity in CSR: Addressing Kickbacks and Paybacks One of the biggest challenges facing CSR today is the lack of trust caused by unethical practices. Often, when intermediaries or implementing agencies misappropriate resources for personal gain, the integrity of CSR initiatives is compromised. To address this issue, it is vital to introduce strict anti-corruption policies and establish independent monitoring When corporations know they

are being monitored or supervised, they will think twice before engaging in malprac-

Ensuring integrity is not just about preventing financial losses; it is about preserving the trust of communities that often



Impact-Driven CSR

CSR should move beyond compliance; it needs to be impact-driven. The focus should shift from merely fulfilling legal obligations to measuring the difference being made on the ground. Strengthening accountability will ensure CSR is not reduced

to a token gesture but becomes

a genuine agent of transformation. Moreover, corporations should also embrace innovation in their CSR approaches. Whether it is by using technology to improve healthcare access in rural areas, providing quality education through digital platforms, or addressing climate change with green initiatives, one must think beyond traditional models and adopt solutions that leave a lasting impact.

The Role of Stakeholders Accountability is not just the sole responsibility of corporations; other stakeholdersgovernments, NGOs, and civil society—also have an essential role to play in shaping the future of CSR. The government must act as an active regulator, ensuring companies

incentivising innovation and collaboration. On the other hand, NGOs, as implementation partners, must continue to bring grassroots expertise and ensure that every rupee spent makes a difference. Communities must also be empowered to hold corporations accountable. By involving local stakeholders in the planning and execution of projects, we can create a feedback loop that enhances transparency and boosts the on-the-

ground impact of CSR initia-The Way Forward

The ongoing changes to the CSR framework present a golden opportunity to usher in a new era of accountability and impact. This calls for a change that ensures CSR initiatives are adhere to guidelines while not only executed with integri-

The government, too, must play its part by introducing reforms that incentivise genuine efforts while penalising any kind of malpractice. If implemented correctly, this

ty but with genuine purpose.

strengthened CSR framework can ensure that social welfare is not merely a checkbox for corporations but a collective mission to uplift the under-served. As stakeholders in this ecosystem—corporates, nonprofits, government, and the public—we must all push for a transparent and impactful CSR environment. Only then will CSR in India live up to its promise of creating a better world for all.

(The writer is founder an d president, Wishes and Blessings NGO; views expressed are

BHOPAL | SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 1, 2025

Lithuanian prez backs Trump's NATO defence spending goal

PTI VILNIUS

 $S_{ing}^{ecuring}$ an end to the fighting in Ukraine must take place with Kyiv's full involvement and come with more defense spending by regional countries to avoid any future Russian aggression, according to Lithuania's president.

Gitanas Nauseda, the president of the Baltic coastal nation, told The Associated Press in an interview Thursday that a settlement negotiated without proper deterrent measures would allow Russia to consolidate its forces and prepare for further aggression in the region. Nauseda said that even when a ceasefire is reached in Ukraine, "you cannot believe that the intentions of Russia will be just to stop and do nothing".

'They will use this break in order to consolidate, to strengthen the military capabilities and to strike again in the future," he told the AP in Vilnius. "And then the main question is, what will be the next target of Russia? Ukraine, maybe. Baltic countries,

Lithuania, which was occupied by the Soviet Union until 1990, is increasingly worried about the ongoing brutal war in Ukraine and the aggression of its neighbour Russia

Its geographical position bordering Russia's Kaliningrad exclave to the west and Moscow's proxy Belarus to the east — make it vulnerable to a potential broader conflict launched from the Kremlin even after an eventual end to the war, Nauseda said.

'You can never feel safe living in this part of the world, because we have this neighbor, and we will still have it after one hundred or two hundred years," Nauseda said of Russia. "You always have the threat from the East, and you must be aware and take all the necessary precautionary measures in order not to be attacked."

'This is not individual countryby-country conflict," he added. "This is a challenge of Putin towards NATO."

Unacceptable' if ceasefire plans exclude Kyiv The country recently became the first member of the NATO military alliance to commit to raising its defence spending to at least 5 per cent of its overall national economic output, as called for

by US President Donald Trump.

A longtime critic of NATO countries that do not spend more on defence, Trump has threatened he would not defend alliance members that fail to meet defense spending goals. While some European countries have signalled upping their spending to Trump's desired 5 per cent of GDP would be an economic burden, other nations on the alliance's eastern flank, including Lithuania, have greeted the proposal as a necessity.

Before Trump took office earlier this month, questions over how he would engage with the war in Ukraine loomed over European countries as some speculated he would roll back the crucial military aid provided by the administration of President Joe Biden.

But after his inauguration, Trump threatened to impose sanctions and tariffs on Moscow, and urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to 'settle now and stop this ridiculous war". Nauseda said the new US

administration must ensure that Kyiv is fully involved in negotiations to end the fighting, and that a resolution to the conflict should not be drawn up bilaterally between Moscow and Washington.

"It would be unacceptable if the peace would be set behind the doors and without the involvement of Ukraine," he said. "Ukraine paid a very high price

in this war. Ukraine lost many human lives. Infrastructure facilities and houses are destroyed. The Ukrainian people deserve the right to set the conditions of this peace."

"I think that President Donald Trump understands that: no peace negotiations without Ukraine," he added.

Another security concern facing Lithuania and the region is a series of events that have damaged undersea cables and gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea. At least 11 Baltic cables have been damaged since October 2023. Most recently, a fibre optic cable connecting Latvia and the Swedish island of Gotland reportedly ruptured on Sunday. NATO launched a new mission dubbed "Baltic Sentry" earlier this month to protect the underwater infrastructure vital to the economic well-being of

the region. Although cable operators note that sub-sea cable damage is commonplace, the frequency and concentration of incidents in the Baltic have heightened suspicions that damage might have been delib-

To address those concerns, Nauseda said, "It is time for us to show some muscle. "NATO and the EU should take

more responsibility in surveying the Baltic Sea, bringing additional maritime capabilities to prevent such incidents in the future," he said. Some politicians in Lithuania have objected to the country raising its military expenditures, already among the highest relative to GDP in the 32-member NATO alliance. But Nauseda said Lithuania must show that it can be responsible for its own defence. "This is an absolutely clear priority for this country, as a frontline country, that we have to spend more," he said. "Of course, we can rely on the support of our allies in NATO. But it would be naive to expect that somebody will care about our security if there will be clear indications that we are not able to defend ourselves.

US Prez mum on pulling out troops from Syria

President Donald Trump is declining to say whether he intends to maintain current US troop levels in Syria. We'll make a deter-mination on that," Trump told reporters on Thursday when asked if he intends to withdraw US troops deployed to Syria to fight the Islamic State group. "We're not involved in Syria. Syria's its own mess. They got enough messes over there. They don't need us involved with everything. The US had said for years

that there were about 900 troops in Syria, but the Pentagon acknowledged in December that US troop levels had surged to about

There has long been friction between the US and Syria's neighbours - Turkive and

Iraq - about the ongoing presence of American forces in Syria and the need to keep them at a particular level. Israel meanwhile has urged the US to maintain a presence in the country.
Trump said just before

rebels ousted Syrian leader

Bashar Assad in December in that the US military should stay out of Syria. Trump is also not giving up on the idea of Egypt and Jordan taking in Palestinians from the Gaza Strip, even as the leaders of both countries have flatly rejected the idea. "They're going to do it," Trump said in exchange with reporters on Thursday, when asked whether he could force Egypt and Jordan to take in Palestinians from the wartorn territory. "We do a lot for them and they're going

to do it."Trump does have

Jordan and Egypt, two strategically important US allies that are heavily dependent on US aid.

Trump first floated the idea last week, saying he would urge the leaders of the two Arab countries to take in Gaza's now largely homeless population, so that "we just clean out that whole thing.' He added that resettling most of war-torn Gaza's population of 2.3 million could be temporary or long

Human rights groups have already accused Israel of ethnic cleansing, which United Nations experts define as a policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove the civilian population of another group from certain areas "by violent and terror-inspiring

US aid agency in upheaval during foreign assistance freeze

Washington (PTI): Trump administration changes have upended the US agency charged with providing humanitarian aid to countries overseas, with dozens of senior officials put on leave, thousands of contractors laid off, and a sweeping freeze imposed on billions of dollars in foreign assistance. Secretary of State Marco Rubio defended the pause on foreign assistance Thursday, saying "the US government is not a charity.

Aid organisations say the funding freeze — and deep confusion over what US-funded programmes must stop work as a result — has left them agonizing over whether they could continue operating programmes such as those providing round-the-clock nutritional support to extremely malnourished infants and children, knowing that closing the doors means that many of those children would die

Current and former officials at the State Department and the US Agency for International Development say staffers were invited to submit requests to exempt certain programs from the foreign aid freeze, which President Donald Trump imposed Jan. 20 and

the State Department detailed how to execute on Jan. 24. Three days later, at least 56 senior career USAID staffers were abruptly placed on administrative leave.

Three officials said many of those put on leave were lawyers involved in determining what programmes might qualify for waivers, helping write proposals and submitting those waiver requests as they believed they had been invited to do. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal. A Trump administration directive that aid organizations interpret as a gag order has left them unwilling to speak publicly for fear of permanently losing US funding. In an internal memo Monday about the staffing changes, new acting USAID administrator Jason Gray said the agency had identified "several actions within USAID that appear to be designed to circumvent the President's Executive Orders and the mandate from the American peoble.""As a result, we have placed a number of USAID employees on administrative leave with full pay and benefits until further notice while we complete our analysis of these actions," Gray wrote. A former senior USAID official said those put on leave had been helping aid organizations navigate the "confusing process" to seek waivers from the aid pause for specific life-saving projects, such as continuing clean water supplies for displaced peo-

BRICS nations warned against replacing US dollar

PTI WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump Phas once again warned that he will impose 100 per cent tariffs against BRICS nations if they attempt to replace the US dollar in international trade, telling them to go and find "another sucker nation. BRICS is an intergovern-

mental organisation of ten countries —Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

"The idea that the BRICS countries are trying to move away from the dollar, while we stand by and watch, is OVER," Trump said on Thursday in a post on Truth Social, a social media platform owned by him.

Trump said he wanted a commitment from these 'seemingly hostile" coun-



President Donald Trump signs a document in the Oval Office at the White House

create a new BRICS currency nor back any other currency to replace the "mighty" US dollar. "Or they will face 100 per cent tariffs, and should

expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful US economy," Trump said.
"They can go find another

sucker nation.

There is no chance that BRICS will replace the US dollar in international trade, or anywhere else, and any country that tries should say hello to tariffs, and goodbye to America!" Trump threat-

Although Trump has repeatedly criticised BRICS nations against any move to float their own currency, this is his strongest opposition to it

In December too, Trump

BRICS is an intergovernmental organisation of ten countries —Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

BRICS, formed in 2009, is the only major international group of which the US is not a part.

Over the past few years, a few of its member countries, in particular Russia and China, are seeking to have an alternative to the US dollar or create BRICS cur-

India, an important pillar of BRICS, has said it was against de-dollarisation. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in December said India had never been for de-dollarisation and there was no proposal to have a

BRICS currency.

Palestinians walk past a mosque destroyed by Israeli airstrikes in Nuseirat, Gaza Strip, Friday days after a ceasefire deal between

spacewalking time by woman

Serbian student protesters march ahead of major blockade of Danube bridges

Aranmed a car into a silent protest in the Serbian capital on Friday, slightly injuring one woman, the third such incident in weeks. The incident happened in downtown Belgrade during 15 minutes of silence observed daily throughout Serbia at noon when a canopy collapsed at a railway station in the northern town of Novi Sad on November 1. Video footage showed the woman, wearing a doctor's white coat, being thrown to the pavement. Progovernment thugs have repeatedly attacked the protesters. many of them students, twice ramming cars into demonstrations. Two people were seriously injured in the previous attacks. After spending a freezing night out in the open, hundreds of striking students on Friday resumed their 2-day

where they plan to blockade three bridges over the River Danube this weekend. The bridge blockade is planned for Saturday to mark three months since the huge concrete construction at the railway station collapsed in Novi said on November 1, leaving 15 people dead. What started two months ago as a protest against suspected corruption in construction contracts has developed into the most serious challenge in years to the country's powerful populist leader, President Aleksandar

Along the way to Novi Sad, the students were greeted by cheering citizens, honking their car horns or coming out of their homes with offers of refreshments and food.

When they reached the town of Indjija on Thursday, rough-

anti-graft protest march from ly halfway along their 80-kilo-collapse of the overhang at the the capital, Belgrade, to the meter (50-mile) route, they train station was essentially and cheers from residents.

> Although most of them spent the night out in the open in a

> soccer field, the freezing temperatures did not dampen their desire for major changes in the corruption-ridden Balkan state. Nevena Vecerinac, a student,

> said she hoped the protesters' demands that include the punishment of all those responsible for the rail station tragedy will be fulfilled.

"We will make it to Novi Sad," she said. "Yesterday's walk was easy. It's cold now, but we can make it. We all have the same goal." We need support from all people. With this energy and mood I hope we can do it, otherwise there will be no brighter future," said Luka Arsenovic, another student marcher.

Many in Serbia believe that the

tion in a large infrastructure project with Chinese state companies. Critics believe graft led to a sloppy job during the reconstruction of the Novi Sad train station, poor oversight and disrespect of existing safety regulations.

Monthslong 'demonstrations have already forced the resignation of Serbia's prime minister Milos Vucevic this week, along with various concessions from authorities which were ignored by the protesters who say that is not enough. Vucic and other officials have shifted from accusing the students of working with foreign powers to oust him, to offering concessions or issuing veiled threats.

Pro-government thugs have repeatedly attacked the students, twice ramming cars into protests

Istanbul mayor testifies over legal probes against him

Friday fired tear gas to disperse a group of protesters who clashed with officers outside an Istanbul courthouse while rallying in support of the city's mayor, who was called to give testimony in two new legal probes against him.

Ekrem Imamoglu, a potential future leader of Turkiye's main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP, and a possible challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, testified before

prosecutors for two hours. The testimony was in connection with comments he made about a chief prosecutor and a court expert. Critics argue that these probes are part of an effort to remove Imamoglu from the political scene.

The politician has already been convicted of charges of insulting members of Turkey's Supreme Electoral Council and faces a political ban if his conviction in 2022 is upheld by a high court. He is also on trial on charges that he was involved in the alleged rigging of bids in a tender dating back to 2015. Thousands of supporters gathered outside the Caglayan courthouse to protest the legal actions against Imamoglu. Tensions escalated when riot police blocked a CHP bus, which serves as a podium for politicians, from approaching the courthouse. The move led to clashes between the protest-

Imamoglu later addressed the crowds from the top of the bus at another location. "Today's issue is an issue of justice, an issue of seeking rights and justice," the mayor said. "Unfortunately, today's issue stems from a conspiracy that is being set up against Istanbul." Imamoglu, 53, was first elected to lead Istanbul in March

ers and the police, who responded with tear gas. It

was not clear if any arrests were

His win was a historic blow to Erdogan's Justice and Development Party, which had controlled Istanbul for a quarter-century.

Sunita Williams sets record for total Myanmar's military govt extends state of emergency by 6 months

PTI BANGKOK

Myanmar's military government on Friday announced another six-month extension of its mandate to rule in preparation for elections it has said will be held this year, as the country enters its fifth vear of crisis.

However, it did not announce an exact date for the polls. The military declared a state of

emergency on February 1, 2021, when it arrested the country's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and top officials from her government in an army takeover which reversed years of progress toward democracy after five decades of earlier mil-

The takeover sparked an armed resistance movement, with powerful ethnic minority militias and people's defense forces constitutional administrative

that support Myanmar's main opposition now controlling large parts of the country. The military government is

currently facing its greatest challenge since taking power and is on the defensive in much of the country. However, it is still able to hold onto much of central Myanmar and big cities including the capital, Naypyidaw.

State-run MRTV television reported on Friday that the National Defence and Security Council decided unanimously to grant an extension of emergency rule after Senior Gen. Ming Aung Hlaing, the head of the military government, argued that more time was needed to restore stability to the country to hold national elec-

The council is nominally a

government body, but in practice is controlled by the military.\ Under the army-drafted 2008 Constitution, the military was able to rule the country under a state of emergency for one year, followed by two possible six-month extensions before holding elections. However, the extension on

Friday is the seventh.

Tom Andrews, a special rap-porteur with the UN Human Rights Office, said in a statement on Thursday that four years of military oppression, violence and incompetence have cast Myanmar into an abvss. The United Nations has estimated that more than 3.5 million people have been displaced by the conflict.

Junta forces have slaughtered thousands of civilians, bombed and burned villages, and displaced millions of people. More

Indian-origin astronaut Sunita Williams has broken the record for total spacewalking time by a woman by logging 62 hours and 6 minutes of spacewalk. Williams and her colleague Butch Wilmore, who have been

stranded on the International Space Station (ISS) since June 2024, conducted a spacewalk on Thursday.

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The duo ventured outside the ISS to remove degraded radio communications hardware and collect samples that may show whether microorganisms exist on the exterior of the orbiting laboratory.

The spacewalk began at 7:43 am Eastern Time (ET) and concluded at 1:09 pm ET, lasting 5 hours and 26 minutes. It was the ninth spacewalk for Williams and the fifth for

Wilmore. "NASA astronaut Suni WIlliams just surpassed former astronaut Peggy Whitson's total spacewalking time of 60 hours and 21 minutes," NASA said in

She surpassed Whitson's record for total spacewalking time by a female astronaut. Williams now has 62 hours and 6 minutes of total spacewalk time, fourth on NASA's all-time list, according to NASA.

In 2012, during a trip to the ISS Williams became the first person to finish a triathlon in space, during which she simulated swimming using a weight-lifting machine and ran on a treadmill while strapped in by a harness so she wouldn't float away. Williams, 59, and Wilmore went on what was meant to be an eight-day mission to the ISS

aboard Boeing's Starliner in June 2024. However, technical issues including helium leaks and

thruster malfunctions meant that the Starliner was unsafe for their return. NASA plans to bring them back to Earth in late March

aboard a spaceship built by SpaceX, a rival company of itary rule. Boeing. Despite these setbacks, the astronauts have continued their work aboard the ISS while awaiting a safe journey home.

Russia claims capture of Ukraine village, advances on key city

Kyiv (PTI): Russia on Friday claimed it had captured another village in its relentless offensive in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk region and as it closes in on the critical Ukrainian logistics hub of Pokrovsk after almost three years of war. The Russian claim that its forces took Novovasylivka could not be independently confirmed, and Ukrainian officials made no immediate comment.

However, battlefield maps published early Friday by the . Ukrainian General Staff suggested the village was at least partly under Russian control A comparison with other maps of the area by The Associated Press indicated Novovasylivka is largely under Russian control.

Russian forces have been trying for months to capture the key Donetsk strongholds of Pokrovsk and nearby Chasiv Yar, fighting their way across farm fields and woodland and engulfing small rural settlements.The fall of Pokrovsk and Chasiv Yar could enable the Russian army to complete its hold on Donetsk and even set the stage for it to continue on into the neighbouring Dnipro region. The recent Russian push in the area has coincided with US President Donald Trump taking office and repeating his pledge to end the war soon. That has prompted both Moscow and Kyiv to pursue battlefield gains that might give them an edge at the bargaining table.

The village of Novovasylivka is located around 11 kilometers (7 miles) southwest of Pokrovsk. Ukrainian officials have said Russia is attempting a pincer movement to surround Pokrovsk

NAME OF

GURU JAMBHESHWA

UNIVERSITY HISAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client **Smt. Manju** W/o Sh. Sanjay Nagar owner of a Residential House area measuring 322.52 sq. yards, i.e. 269.66 sq. mtrs. out of Khasra no.215,

Situated at Village Saini Paragana And Tehsii Dadri District Gautam Budh Nagar Through Registered Gift Deed Dated 27.01.2025 executed by Sh. Sanjay Nagar Syo Sh. Veer Singh Nagar Vide Reg. no. 4859 at SR-DADRI U.P. the above-mentioned property is project to be mortage, with End Rank Engagerial

Services Limited If any person/bank/financia

ge with Fed Banl

Imran Khan's PTI rejects govt's offer to resume talks

PTI ISLAMABAD

¬he Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf The Pakistan remere more (PTI) leadership rejected Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer to resume stalled talks with the government through a parliamentary panel to lower the country's political temperature. Shehbaz addressed a cabinet

meeting on Thursday and said the government was ready to form a parliamentary com-mittee to advance talks with PTI after the Imran Khanfounded party quit negotiations over the non-formation of a judicial commission to probe the events of May 9, 2023, and November 26, 2024, according to Geo News.

The offer came after the PTI abruptly quit the talks after holding three meetings with the ruling parties' negotiation committee, maintaining the government failed to constitute judicial commissions within the seven-day deadline in line with its "charter of demands". Speaking on the Geo News programme Capital Talk, PTI top leader and Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub Khan said: "We reject Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's offer [to resume dialogue]".

Reiterating the party's demands, Ayub said the PTI

formed a negotiation committee with sincerity to hold dialogue with the government. "Our demands were clear," he said, calling for the release of PTI's all "political prisoners". In a statement, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the government's negotiation committee spokesperson, said the PTI exhibited a non-democratic and non-political mentality by unilaterally withdrawing from

"PTI lost a good opportunity towards [fulfilment] of their demands," he added

the talks.

Although the opposition party "missed this train", they should benefit from the PM's latest offer, Siddiqui said. Slamming the PTI for its agi-

tational politics, the PML-N senator said that neither the opposition party achieved its objective via sit-ins and long marches in the past nor will it this time. Stressing the need for dialogue to defuse political tensions in the country, Siddiqui said the solution to every problem was serious and meaningful negotiations.

The sooner PTI understands this, the better it will be for them," he added.

The much-hyped negotiations between the government and Imran Khan's PTI hit a snag last week after the opposition walked out of negotiations following instructions from the

PUBLIC NOTICE

Kailash Nursing Home Pvt. Ltd., 49, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 hereby brings to the kind attention of all concerned that it is being planned to destroy old inpatient records pertaining to the period before 31st March 2015. In case any person/patient relative thereof wants is see their treatment records, please contact Medical Records Department vithin 30 days from the date of notice.

Director Medical Services KAILASH NURSING HOME PVT. LTD. 49, South Patel Nagar, New Delhi-11008

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

CLOSING

DATE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

AMOUNT / EMD

RUPEES

WEBSITE OF THE BOARD

In The Pioneer Newspaper our publication was published on dated 31-01-2025 in Page No. 9/5 that the Objection was raised was mentioned as 7 Days Instead of 15 Days. Please read Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice Borrower Name as Ashish Verma who is purchasing and Mortgaging the Plot no. 198, area measuring 98 sq. yards. i.e. 8, 19.3 sq. meters., (Two Floors Covered area 163.86 sq. ft.) out of Khasra no.511K, situated at Mohalla Nearby Shivnagari, Shahid Bhagat Singh Marg Railway Road in the village Dadri, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited.

Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. 4-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683 / 4562809; e-mail: accounts@Ivnorth.in

NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT

01662-263156

dosqiust@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

client, Dr. Prateek Kumar Gupta S/o Mi

Subodh Kumar Gupta & Dr. (Mrs.) An-

eleena Kumar Gupta W/o Dr. Prateek Ku-

mar Gupta R/O Property No.C-2/5, Block

C-2, Situated at Safdariang Development

ea. New Delhi are sole & absolute ow

er/s of Property No.C-2/5, Block C-2, Sit-

uated at Safdarjang Development Area,

New Delhi. That, Original Regd. Release

Deed executed by Mr. Subodh Kumar

Gupta in the name of (1) Dr. Prateek Ku

mar Gupta (2) Dr. (Mrs.) Anjeleena Kumar

Gupta on 29/03/2016, duly Regd, as Doc-

ument No. 1642, entered in Addl. Book

No.1, Volume No.1354, on Pages 133/139

& Regd. on 29/03/2016, with the Office of

Sub-Registrar V-A, Delhi, have been lost

Burnt, Which are Chain documents of the

said property and my clients have als

Report for missing the said documents

at Crime Branch, Police Station, New

Delhi vide LR No.1617932/2019, dated

23/09/2019. The general public is hereb

informed that PNR Civil Lines Roorkee

Uttarakhand, intending to create Equita-

ole Mortgage on the above-mentioned

property. If any person(s) or Authority

having any claim against into or upon the

said property by virtue of Sale, Agree-

ment, contract, mortgage, lien, charge o

otherwise, whatsoever nature is hereby

required to notify the same within Sever

days to bank, from the date of publication

of this notice for any claim and/or object

tion, otherwise shall be considered as

waived and abandoned and shall not be

Sh. Sanjeev Gupt

Phone No.9811154597

binding upon my client.

EU warns Pak: Duty-free status tied to human rights progress

warned Pakistan that its status as a duty-free exporter to the bloc will continue to depend on the progress the country makes in addressing concerns about civil and labour rights, and freedom of speech. The warning came as Olof Skoog, the EU's special representative for human rights, wrapped up a weeklong visit to Islamabad. The visit was aimed at engaging "Pakistan on the most press-ing human rights and labour rights issues and discussing Pakistan's plans to address them, including in view of the ongoing assessment under the+ trade scheme," the EU said in a statement. Pakistan's exports to Europe have doubled since 2014 when it was awarded the status of duty-free exporter under the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus, or+, incen-

PUBLIC NOTICE

s to inform the general public that As as is the absolute owner of the Fre Itural Land Measuring 1 Bigha And 4 B g Khasra No.444/2 Min, Situated In

Il as the undersigned at the email addre janjha318@gmail.com within 15 days from the e of publication of this notice failing which such claim shall be deemed null and void, and the

le to the property shall be considered cle arketable, free from defects or encumbrances, a

Form No. INC-26

[Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies

(Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

AND

Limited having its registered office at **95**,

New Lajpat Rai Market, 1st Floor

Chandni Chowk, North Delhi - 110006

Notice is hereby given to the General Public

that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under

ection 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking

confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum

of Association of the Company in terms of the

special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary

general meeting held on January 24, 2025 to

enable the company to change its Registered

ffice from "National Capital Territory

(NCT) of Delhi" to "State of Uttar Pradesh"

Any person whose interest is likely to be

affected by the proposed change of the

registered office of the company may delive

either on the MCA-21 porta

(www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint

form or cause to be delivered or send by

registered post of his/her objections supported

by an affidavit stating the nature of his/he

interest and grounds of opposition to the

address B-2 Wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran

110003, within fourteen days of the date of

ublication of this notice with a copy to the

applicant company with a copy of the applicant

ompany at its registered office at 95, New

Lajpat Rai Market, 1st Floor, Chandni

Chowk, North Delhi, Delhi, India 110006

Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi

gional Director Northern Region at the

.... Petitione

(Incorporation) Rules, 2014

Islamabad (PTI): The European Union on Friday tives for developing countries. However, the EU statement warned Pakistan that the trade benefits enjoyed by it "under+ depend on the progress made on addressing a list of issues, including on human rights, and tangible reforms remain essential." It said that the "EU welcomes the fact that Pakistan has become the largest beneficiary of+, with Pakistani businesses increasing their exports to the EU market by 108 per cent since the launch of the trade scheme in 2014." But, the statement said that "as we approach the midterm of the current monitoring cycle, we encourage Pakistan to continue on its reform path as it prepares for reapplication under the upcoming new+ regulation."The statement said that Skoog, during his meeting with Pakistani authorities, "highlighted areas of concern such as the application

of blasphemy laws, women's rights, forced marriages and conversions, enforced disappearances, freedoms of expression, religion or belief, independence of the media, impunity for rights violations, due process and the right to a fair trial, civic space, and the death penalty." Though international community and human rights groups often express their concern over increasing gov ernment curbs on media, violation of human rights, the latest development came days after Pakistan's parliament passed a bill that critics argue is designed to suppress freedom of speech. The bill, which now has become a law after President Asif Ali Zardari's approval, grants the government extensive powers to impose heavy fines and incarcerate social media users for spreading disinformation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Sh. Suraj Bhan S/o Lt. Sh Mothania R/o 63, Main Border Road, Bakargarh, Delhi 110073, Do hereby affirm and declare that he has evicted his son Sawan Kumar S/o Suraj Bhan from all his movable and immovable properties and disowned, dis-inherited, debarred and served all relations from his son amely Sh. Sawan Kumar, anyone dealing with them be doing so at their own risk and cost and Suraj Bhan will not be liable for the same.

Advocate : Rohit Kumar Ch. No 637, WW Tis Hazari Court Delhi-54



Name of the work - Management of Power Distribution System of Paradip Port Authority. Estimated Cost: Rs.22.20.30.322/- only excluding GST. Last date & time of submission of bid: dt.19/02/2025 up to 18:00 Hrs.

Refer our Website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app Sd/- Executive Engineer (E), PED-II PPA/PR/60/2024-2025 dtd.31.01.2025



LOST & FOUND

Lost F Mec International Financial Services Ltd. share certificates with Folio No. 567, Certificate No. 00011250 and 00030578, Distinctive Numbers 1174901- 1175000 and 2058701-2081300, No. of Securities 22700 in the name of Tarang Goyal. Finder may

contact: 8860027269.

PD(1362)A Lost F Mec International Financial Services Ltd. share certificates with Folio No. 566 Certificate No. 00011245 and 00030566. Distinctive Numbers 1174401-1174500 and 2033301-2058700, No. of Securities 25500 in the name of Charu Goyal. Finder may

contact: 8700346408. PD(1363)A Lost F Mec International Financial Services Ltd. share certificates with Folio No. 565, Certificate No. 00011235 and 00030577, Distinctive Numbers 1173401- 1173500 and 2008801- 2033300. No. of Securities 24600 in the name of Rajiv Kumar Goyal. Finder

may contact: 9927242937.

PD(1364)A Lost F Mec International Financial Services Ltd. share certificates with Folio No. 568, Certificate No. 00011260 and 00030576, Distinctive Numbers 1175901- 1176000 and 2081301-2106300, No. of Securities 25100 in the name of Saial Kumar Goel. Finder may contact: 9953294983.

> PD(1365)A CHANGE OF NAME

I, Naiman Lakra S/o- Jiwan Lakra, R/o- Vill- Kamati, PO-Tala, PS- Chanho, Dist-Ranchi, Jharkhand- 835214, declare that in my service document's my daughter's name & DOB is wrongly written as Ansheka Lakra -DOB 13/10/2018, whereas her correct name & DOB is -Anshika L**akra**

13/07/2019.

be amended according.

son's HEMANSH SHOKEEN

education document and in

any other document. The

actual name of mine is RENU,

which may be amended

PD(1368)C

PD(1366)C

- DOB in It is for general information that I, NARESH KUMAR S/o MANGE RAM, R/o H No. 458 Tender Jat Chowk, Nangloi, Delhi -₹4.82.57.845.90/-: 110041, do hereby declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NARESH SHOKEEN, in my younger son's HEMANSH SHOKEEN education document and in any other document. The actual name of mine is NARESH KUMAR, which may location in PD(1367)C It is for general information that I, RENU W/o NARESH KUMAR, R/o H, No. 458 Jat ₹4,53,39,373.60/-; Chowk, Nangloi, Delhi -110041, do hereby declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RENU SHOKEEN, in my younger

http://www.ireps.gov.in

L&DO for substitution of the property No. 6/50-A. Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15 in my name, on the rounds of inheritance by virtue of a Will. If there are any objections/claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be ommunicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 days of Name: Gulshan Kumar Arora Address: The Sri Durga CGHS, (Plot No. 6A), Flat No. 3-601, Sector-11, Dwarka, N Delhi. Phone: 9968302749 PUBLIC NOTICE

Sharma is the absolute owner of the Freébag Agricultural Land Measuring 1 Bigha And 4 Biswas Bearing Khasra No.444/2 Min, Situated In The Revenue Estate Of Village Gadaipur, Tehsil Mehraul New Delhi. (hereinafter referred to as the "sai property"). Ownership was acquired through a Sal Deed Dated 02.08.2018, which was duly registere with the office of Sub Registrar-VADELHI, as doc no 5326. Book 1, Vol No. 2416, Page 14 to 22 o 02.08.2018, as per the Owner's BonaFride Versior the original documents for the entire built-up property including the 1. Original Regd. Sale Deed Date 02.08.2018 Executed By Shri. Vishnu Kuma Aggarwal In Favour M/S Ajuni Developrs Privat Limited, in Respect Of Agricultural Land Measuring Bigha And 4 Biswas, Bearing Khasra No.444/2 Mir Situated In The Revenue Estate Of Village Gadaipu Tehsil Mehrauli, New Delhi, Vide Registratio No.5326 In Addl. Book No.1 Volume No.2416 On Pag 14 To 22 Dated 02.08.2018, With The Office Su Registrar-Va Delhi. 2. Original Regd. Sale Dee Dated 09.08.2022 Executed By M/S Ajuni Developr Private Limited in Favour Of 1. Mrs. Rukhsan Bilgrami (2.5% Undivided Share) 2. Shri. Nazz Luqman Bilgrami (48.75% Undivided Share) And Respect Of Agricultural Land Measuring 1 Bigha An Hos Sharalis Refael (48.75% Undivided Share) And Respect Of Agricultural Land Measuring 1 Bigha An Holswas, Bearing Khasra No.442/2 Min, No.5592 I Addl. Book No.1 Volume No.4702, On Page 120 The Registrar-Va Delhi, as they have been lost/misplace A lost report regarding these documents has bee filed with the Delhi Police Online Portal, vide L.R. NG Registrar-Va Delhi as they have been lost/misplace A lost report regarding these documents has bee filed with the Delhi Police Online Portal, vide L.R. NG Registrar-Va Delhi, as they have been lost/misplace A lost report regarding the said property based on the asserted that the said property based on the asserted that the said property based on the aforementioned lost documents is hereby requeste to contact the afore mentioned Chamber 231, Western Win This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Neelam Verma, W/o Sh. Narayan Verma, R/o 49, Belle Meade Street, Grosse Pointe Shores, Mi 48236-1552 (USA), through her sister-in-law and General Power of Attorney (GPA) holder Mrs. Gita Johri, appointed vide GPA executed or 13th January 2025 in the USA and duly stampe by AIG Stamps, Gautam Buddha Nagar (U.P.) on 18.01.2025, has sold and is in the process of ransferring Dwelling Unit No. 108, 1st Floor ower F Amranali Princely Estate Sector-76 Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P., having a super area of 1455 sq. ft. along with one covered car parking, to Mr. Manish Mathur and Mrs. Kokila Mathur, both residents of Flat No. A-507, Amrapali Princely Estate, Sector-76, Noida (U.P.) - 201301. It is further clarified that Mrs Gita Johri is only acting as the GPA holder o Mrs. Neelam Verma, and there is no Agreemer to Sell between Mrs. Neelam Verma and Mrs. Gita Johri. Since Mrs. Neelam Verma is elderly and unable to travel to India and hence she has authorized Mrs. Gita Johri to act in capacity of her GPA holder to Transfer and sell the propert Mathur. If any person has any claim, objection or interest in the said property, they are requested to submit their objections along with documentary proof to the Group Housing Department of the Noida Authority within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PUBLIC NOTICE (REGIONAL DIRECTOR, NORTHERN The Public at large is hereby notified or MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, DELHI behalf of my client Shri K.L Sabharwal s/o Late H.R. Sabharwal resident of 702, In the matter of sub-section (4) of Section 13 Woodbury Towers, Eros Garden of Companies Act, 2013 and clause (a) of sub-Charmwood Village, Sector 39, rule (5) of rule 30 of the Companies Faridabad, Haryana that my client do hereby disown and disinherit his elder son In the matter of Intouch Trading Private

Shri Sudhir Sabharwal resident of L1/15-A, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 and younger son Shri Rajiv Sabharwal resident of Flat No.6 (S.F.S), South Park Apartment, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019 and their legal heirs for their misconduct. They shall not inherit any of the properties of my client nor be entitled to any share in the moveable/ immovable properties or any other assets of my client and they shall further not be ntitled to the probate of any will of my client. Now my client would have no concern with his two sons Shri Sudhir Sabharwal and Shri Rajiv Sabharwal in any manner. Any person dealing or transacting with aforesaid

sons in any respect of my client shall be

doing that at his/ her/their own risks, general

Sr.No. Name of Work/Item

LAKHSHANA OBEROI (Advocate) F. No. D/132/2004 M.: 9968972412

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR SALE OF RAILWAY SCRAP MATERIAL

E-Auction programme for sale of Railway Scrap materials under jurisdiction of Lumding Division, for the month of February/2025 is hereby scheduled as under

February/2025 05-02-2025, 12-02-2025, 19-02-2025, 26-02-2025 Interested bidders can participate in E-Auction programme through IREPS

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE

M/S SARE Gurugram Private Limite (CIN: U70109DL2006PTC152635)

Registered Office: 5th Fir, Wing A, Statesman House, 148, Barakhamba Road Connaught Place New Delhi, India 110001 Email: roc@eka-dhoot.com nereas M/s SARE Gurugram Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing a phase known as "Arise" over an area measuring 78250,380 sq. mtr. in the

Group Housing Colony situated at village Wazirpur & Mewka, Sector-92, Gurugram under License No 44 of 2009 and 68 of 2011 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and aving RERA Registration No. 270 of 2017 dated 09.10.2017 And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Yes Bank Limited to SBI

Bank Limited and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram, Accordingly vide this public otice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts				
Bank Name	Yes Bank Limited	SBI Bank Limited				
FSC Code	YESB0000420	SBIN0050933				
Master Collection Account No.(100%)	042072500000022	43601474764				
RERA Account No. 70%)	042072400000022	43549792854				
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	042063400001821	43601420162				
s SARE Gurugram P	ARE Gurugram Private Limited					

Manish Mathur and Kokila Mathur Date: 29.01.2025

Place: Gurugram

PUBLIC NOTICE

(CIN: U70109DL2006PTC152635)

Email: roc@eka-dhoot.com

hereas M/s SARE Gurugram Private Limited (hereinafter referred as "Company") is in the process of developing a phase known as "Altura" over an area measuring 39211.42 sq. mtr. in the Group Housing Colony situated at village Wazirpur & Mewka, Sector-92, Gurugram under License No 44 of 2009 and 68 of 2011 granted by Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and ring RERA Registration No. 262 of 2017 dated 03.10.2017.

And Whereas the Company has applied for change in Bank Account from Yes Bank Limited to SB Bank Limited and accordingly the company has obtained In-principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Particulars	Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts			
Bank Name	Yes Bank Limited	SBI Bank Limited			
FSC Code	YESB0000420	SBIN0050933			
Master Collection Account No.(100%)	042072500000042	43599521238			
RERA Account No. 70%)	042072400000032	43549553939			
Promoter Free Account No. (30%)	042063400001891	43599555905			
lo CADE Curriavam Drivata Limited					

SARE Gurugram Private Li

Place: Gurugram

Period/Tentative Qtv

50000 No's

50000 No's

50000 No's

50000 No's

50000 No's

20000 No's

20000 No's

20000 No's

2500 kg

1000 kg 500 kg

500 kg

1000 kg 1000 kg

500 kg

2000 kg

2000 kg Job work for pest contro

One year with extension

upto 1 year.

01.03.2025

/46 No's

1500 MT

One year with extension

upto 1 year

Cap.10000 kg-2

Cap.15000 kg-1

02 No's

01 No.

verka

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 **Notice Inviting Tender** www.verka.coop

For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh
a) Trace Minerals for CFP Vitamin AD3 04 MT Vitamin E-50 b) Drilling and installation of 1 No. new tubewell at Verka Patiala Dairy For Verka Bathinda Dairy
a) 80 ML paper cone sleeve with sugar rolled 5 Lac Black current 5 Lac b) Lids for 80 ML ice cream cone. Strawberry 5 Lac Black cu 5 Lac Caramel c) Ice cream cones 40 ML for ice cream 20 Lac 20 Lac d) Lids for 40 ML for ice cream cones

e/Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:

e) 125 ML IML cups for Ice cream Cookies and Crumb Muddy Chocolate Almond Camival

American Nut Afghan Dry Fruit Kaju Anjir

Pink Guava Litchi Choco delight

Rabri kulfi Mango bar Cola bar

Black current viii. Rajbhog

Lumding-

Earnest opening at 15:00 hrs. on 21-02-2025. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 20-02-2025 in website

DRM (W), Lumding NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

For and on behalf of INTOUCH TRADING PRIVATE LIMITED

Naveen Modi Date: 31.01.2025 Director DIN: 02245942 Place: Delhi

ENGINEERING WORKS IN LUMDING DIVISION Tender Notice No. : LMG/Engg/

10 of 2025 (Item No. 1 & 2); Dated:

23-01-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; SN-1; Brief Description of Item : Emergency traffic Restoration works such as land slide, sinkage, slope failure Bank settlement during monsoor & other related works during prepost monsoon, construction 8 repairing/cleaning of catch water/ side drain & waterways & Track maintenance work at vulnerable Lumding-Chandranathpur Hill under the urisdiction of ADEN/HGS for one Value Earnest Money: ₹3,91,300/-; SN-2; Brief Description of Item: Emergency traffic Restoration works such as land slide, sinkage, slope failure, Bank settlement during monsoon & other related works during prepost monsoon, construction 8 repairing/cleaning of catch water/ side drain & waterways & Track maintenance work at vulnerable Chandranathpur Hill under the jurisdiction of ADEN/III/Lumding for one year. Tender Value: Money: ₹3,76,700/-; Date & time of closing of above tenders a 15:00 hrs. on 20-02-2025 and

Mango Strawberry

Polyfilm for 60 ML bar and ice candy Orange bar Mango duet

No Added Sugar

b) e- Tender for hiring of vehicles for supply of Milk and Milk Products c) Hiring of can route vehicles for lifting of milk from DCS to MCC capacity 1 ton to 2 Supply of indonesian Steam Coal.

For Verka Ludhiana Dairy

in Punjab etc. on rate contract.

c) Ice factory at sadiq (Cap.20000 ltr per day)

Verka Ludhiana Dairy and other stations For Verka Faridkot Dairy Hiring of :a) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC's to various milk plants b) Pick up or its equivalent vehicle for lifiting the milk from MPCS/DF to MCC at route 5 For Cattle Feed Plant Ghaina-ke-Banger
Transportation of Verka Cattle Feed and mineral feed supplement to various stations in the state of Punjab NOTE

NA/12/27843/2023/41301 Dated CHD :- 1/31/2025

1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in. 2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only

Hiring of vehicles (Tampoo/Trucks) for supply of Verka Products/ Ghee/SMP etc. between

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Mrs. Nisha and Mrs. Shakuntla are in the India Home Finance Co. Ltd.). Any objections oncerns regarding this transaction should be aised within a period of 07 days from the date of raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Personal-2013/301.

institution having any claim/right, lien, Any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication registered within 1 adys holm the date of pointaction of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile Number 9811215181

NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER

SUPPLY OF HOSIERY GOODS (UNIFORMS/PLAYING KIT)

Tawer Flat No. 369, 16th Park View, Gaus Yanuna City, Greaters Noida, Gautar Budh Nagar, U.P.-203201, सार्वजनिक सूचन दे रही हूं कि दिनांक 30/01/25 को ये अपने रिस्तेदार श्री नीरज कमार झा Kh. No. 125/19 H.No. 3598, Gali No. 96, B-Block, Near Apex Public School, Sant Nagar, Burari Delhi-110084 के यहाँ सपरिवार आई थी। यहाँ र मेरी गाड़ी कार Hyundai Crata SxTech जिसका रजिस्टेशन न. U.P. 16EN7828 है. घर वे बाहर से चोरी हो गई है। इस बाबत मैंने FIR Burari थाने में आज दिनाँक 31/01/2025 को दर्ज करा दिया है. जिसका FIR No

PUBLIC NOTICE

मैं साधना कमारी पति श्री आश्तोष कुमार, पता- I

Diary Entry No. 10A है। **PUBLIC NOTICE**

003057/2025, U/S BNS 305 (b) है। Daily

nad acquired Plot No. 148, measuring 420 sq. mts it Sector-39, Urban Estate, Gurugram, Haryana vide Sale Deed dt. 11.06.2019 executed by Mrs. Krishna Cohli and a Re-Allotment Letter dt. 26.06.2019 also ssued by USVP in faver of Mrs. issued by HSVP in favour of Mrs. Sunita Dalal, Mr. Naresh Dalal, Mrs. Raj Rani & Mrs. Anita Dalal and the undisputed owners of the said property.

OR

Any percent firm (institution (company basing and

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howscever or otherwise is hereby in writing to the undersignet. equired to intimate in writing to the undersign vithin 07 days from the date of publication of this otice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with a supporting documents at below mentioned addres After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any of such person shall be treated null and void an also treated as waived and not binding on our clier Ajay Kumar Giri (Advocate) H.No. 26/161, Basement Vikram Vihar, Lajpat Nagar 4, New Delhi-110024

Public Notice Public Notice
This is to inform the general public that Satish Kumar and Kant Kumar are the acquired the Property Bearing No. XVIII/436, area measuring 120 Sq. Yds., Situated at Kashmiri Bagh, Kishan Ganj Dehli. They are in possession through Will dated 09.01.2009 executed by Mrs. Kamla Devi in favour of Mr. Satish Kumar and Kant Kumar in respectof said Property.

the ownership of said property by way of Sale Deer to Mrs. Nisha and Mrs. Shakuntla. Subsequently

Satish Kumar and Kant Kumar intends to transfe

Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-

PUBLIC NOTICE

g: Entire First floor, without roof rights, (the d floor), built on Eastern portion area asuring 110 sq. yds. (the said portion), Par Property bearing No. C-93-A, total area neasuring 220 sq, yds, out of Khasra Nos 2047 & 2062, Situated in the area of Village Thar Colony Known as Harl Nagar, Block-C New Delhi.: Hereinafter referred to as "the

broperly it known to all that our clients, M/s Astute siness Solutions (hereinafter called the urchaser") intend to purchase the said floom Mr. Sumit Bhatia (hereininafter callet "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has middle the purchaser that he is the sole and solute owner of the said floor. The selle further informed the purchaser that the id floor was owned by Mr. Kamal Bhatia a r. Sumit Bhatia vide Sale Deed registered a ocument No. 7490, Book No. I, Volume No Document No. 7490, Book No. I, Volume No. 1, 8586, Page No. 126-131, on 25.03.2011, SRO-II). Mr.Kamal Bhatia expired and his half undivided share in the said floor was herited by his legal heirs viz., Mrs. Sushma Shatia, Mrs. Ekta Bhatia and Mr Sumit Bhatia, ater on, Mrs. Sushma Bhatia and Mrs. Ekta Shatia relinquished their share in the said floor n favour of Mr. Sumit Bhatia. The said Relinquishment Deed is registered as bocument No. No. 4585, Book No. I, Volume to. 2923, Page No. 190-194, on 21.02.2018. hus, Mr.Sumit Bhatia became the sole and bosolute owner of the said floor. The seller absolute owner of the said floor. The sellenas also informed the purchaser that the sai oor is not mortgaged anywhere and there

no charge or dispute or any litigation pendin regarding the said floor. egarding the said noor. Any person including Bank/s, Financia nstitution/s. relative/s having any claim, right itle or any interest of any nature whatsoeve nto or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby nto or upon the aforesaid floor is hereby alled upon to make the same known, in vriting, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the didress mentioned herein below within 07 lays of publication of this notice and in the yent of no response having been received to he notice, the title of the seller to the said floor shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever. SHIVKANT ARORA. Advocate SHIVKANT ARORA, Advocate

Airport (BPIA), Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF,Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

Branch: Punjab National Bank Civil Lines, Roorkee, Uttarakhand. **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT** Expression of Interest

(Reference No. 922 Dt. 30.01.2025) Expression of Interest from Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) operators to operate and maintain the hangar and associated facilities for MRO services at Biju

Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) Government of Odisha, Commerce & Transport Department wites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) operators to operate and maintain the hangar and

associated facilities for MRO services at Biju Patnaik Internationa

Eligible and interested Bidders may download the Expression of Interest (EOI) document which contains the details of the requirement from the following website of Commerce and Transpor Department and submit their offer,

> https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders The EOI should be submitted by email at ctsec.or@nic.in by

1500 hours on 17 February 2025. Principal Secretary to Government,

OIPR-38001/11/0018/2425

Commerce & Transport Department Government of Odisha

GDP to grow at 6.3 per cent to Need to scale up infra investment 6.8 per cent: Economic Survey

 $I_{
m grow}$ at 6.3-6.8 per cent in 2025-26 on the back of strong macroeconomic fundamentals, though strategic and prudent policy management will be required to navigate global headwinds, said the Economic Survey on Friday.

The GDP growth rate is estimated to slip to 4-year low of 6.4 per cent in the current financial year ending March 2025, close to its decadal average.

pre-Budget The document also emphasised that the country needs to grow at 8 per cent for up to two decades to become a developed nation or Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Also, to achieve this growth, the investment rate must rise to 35 per cent of GDP, up from the current 31 per cent, develop manufacturing sector further and invest in emerging technologies such as AI, robotics, and biotechnology. "The fundamentals of the domestic economy remain robust, with a strong external



account, calibrated fiscal consolidation and stable private consumption. On these balance considerations, we expect that the growth in FY26 would be between 6.3 and 6.8 per cent," said the survey authored by a team lead by Chief Economic Advisor

Nageswaran. Navigating global headwinds will require strategic and prudent policy management and reinforcing the domestic fundamentals, it added.

The survey noted that a steady growth trajectory shapes the global economic

outlook for 2024, though

regional patterns vary. The near-term global growth is expected to be a shade lower than the trend level. The services sector continues to drive global expansion, with notable resilience in

Meanwhile, manufacturing is struggling in Europe, where structural weaknesses persist. Trade outlook also remains clouded in the next year, the survey added.

It further said inflationary pressures have been easing globally, though risks of synchronised price pressures

linger due to potentia geopolitical disruptions, such as tensions in the Middle East and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"In brief, there are many domestic investment, output growth and disinflation in FY26. There are equally strong, prominently extraneous downsides too," it said.

To realise the aspirations of Viksit Bharat by 2047, the survey stressed that it is important that the mediumterm growth outlook of India be assessed in the context of emerging global realities of Geo-Economic Fragmentation manufacturing Chinese prowess. and global dependency on China for energy transition efforts.

It also puts forth a way forward to reinvigorate the internal engines and domestic levers of growth by focusing on one central element of systemic deregulation, which will enable a paradigm of economic freedom businesses of individuals and organisations to pursue legitimate economic activity

Tnvestment in Linfrastructure sector needs to be continuously scaled up over the next two decades to sustain a high growth rate while the government needs to come up with ways to increase private sector financing and tap new avenues to mobilise resources, the Economic Survey said on

"India needs a continued step-up of infrastructure investment over the next two decades to sustain a high rate of growth," said the Economic Survey 2024-25 tabled in Parliament.

In the first quarter of FY25, the constraints on new approvals and spending during the general elections, coupled with heavy monsoon in many regions, affected the progress of the infrastructure spending, said the latest survey.

However, the speed of capex picked up between July and November last year.

The capex in infrastructure sectors is likely to gain further momentum in the remaining months of the current fiscal On an average, ministries related to infrastructure sectors utilised 60 per cent of the budgeted capex during April to November 2024. The capacity addition in

physical connectivity sectors stayed on course during

The capital expenditure of the Centre for the current fiscal has been budgeted at about 3.3 times the capex for FY20, the document said.

It further said that disasterresilient urbanisation, public transport, preservation and upkeep of heritage sites, monuments and tourist destinations, as well as rural public infrastructure, including connectivity, call for greater attention.

"Our net zero commitments entail added stress on creating renewable energy capacities it added.

Stating that there are binding budget constraints to the different tiers of government, said private participation should speed up in many

critical infrastructure sectors in many ways like programme project planning, financing, construction, maintenance, monetisation and impact assessment.

infrastructure programme supports a variety of PPP models like buildoperate-transfer (toll and annuity), design-buildfinance-operate-transfer, hybrid annuity model and ine government instituted deba toll-operate-transfer," it said. has many debottlenecking

facilitatory mechanisms like the National Infrastructure Pipeline, National Monetisation Pipeline and PM-Gati Sakti that have made progress.

Financial market regulators have introduced reforms to

participation, it said, adding that still the uptake of private enterprise is limited in many core sectors.

The strategy to step up private participation coordinated action of all stakeholders involved like governments at different tiers, financial market players,

project management experts

and planners, and the private

"Capacities to conceptualise projects, develop sector-specific innovative strategies for execution, and, develop high-expertise areas such as risk and revenue sharing, contract management, resolution and project closure need to improve substantially," it said. The efforts of the Centre need to be supplemented with wholehearted acceptance of the need for public-private partnerships in infrastructure across the country.

The survey further said that during the current fiscal so far, the progress in the expansion of the railway network stayed at levels comparable to the previous year, while the addition of rolling stock increased considerably. Between April and October last year, 17 new pairs of Vande Bharat trains were introduced to the network, and 228 coaches were produced.

Lack of climate finance may prompt developing countries to rework their climate targets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Loan Code No./

(Loan Code No

07600000991/

Vidisha Branch)

The lack of financial **I** support from developed countries to mitigate climate change in the Global South In the Economic Survey action in the developing may prompt developing 2024-25 tabled in Parliament world "presents little

countries to "rework" their climate targets, India's Chief Economic Advisor Anantha Nageswaran has said.

Vidisha Branch: 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha-464001, MP

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069

Reserve

Authorised Officer: Lokendra Rathore, Mob.: 9977783890

PROPERTY FOR SALE UNDER PROVISIONS OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002 THROUGH PRIVATE TREATY

Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financia

Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the property ("The Secured Asset") given below The Authorised Officer has

received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the

Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest

Total Outstanding

₹ 3,94,034/-

The Authorised officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'. AHFL is not

responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning

any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25%

of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from

This is 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the

Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the

If the Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) has any buyer who is ready to purchase the mortgage property/secured asset at price above the given reserve price then

Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) must intimate to AHFL on or before 17-02-2025 AHFL shall give preference to him. If Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) fails to intimate on

दामोदर घाटी निगम/DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION

डीवीसी टावर्स, वीआईपी रोड, कोलकाता-700054/DVC Towers, VIP Road, Kolkata-700054

NOTIFICATION

1) The applicant above named has made applications for its generating stations namely MTPS Unit 5&6 (MejiaThermal Power Station

Unit 5&6), before the Hon'ble Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, New Delhi for determination of tariff for the period 2019-24 8

(a) BSES-Rajdhani Power Ltd., (b) BSES-Yamuna Power Ltd., (c) Tata Power Delhi Distribution Ltd., (d) Madhya Pradesh Power

Management Company Limited, (e) West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited, (f) Jharkhand Bijli Vitran Nigam Limited,

Capacity (MW)

2x250 = 500

Year wise tariff sought to be determined

as per True-up Petition for 2019-24

48355.29

292,489

Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi- 110029 with a copy to the applicant within 30 days of publication of the notice.

47147.40

307.093

10) The suggestions & objections if any, on the proposals for determination of tariff contained in the application be filed by any person

including the beneficiary before the Secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, 6th, 7th & 8th Floors, Tower B, World

by CERC as on 31.03.2019

215530.47

5) Authority which has approved the capital cost: Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

7) Actual date of commercial operation of individual station: As stated under Sl. 3 above

58931.65 47363.29

318,429

9) A copy of the application made for determination of tariff is posted on the DVC website www.dvc.gov.in

303.966

Capital Cost as claimed

on 31.03.2024

2019-20 2020-21 2021-22 2022-23 2023-24 2024-25 2025-26 2026-27 2027-28 2028-29

52344.02 53234.19

366.073

356.215

Name of the Company: DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION. Registered Office: DVC Towers, VIP Road, Kolkata-700054

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

₹ 7,31,516

specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly.

amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.

or before 17-02-2025 the AHFL will proceed sale of property at above given reserve price.

(Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows:

Name of the Borrower

Co-Borrowers

Suresh Kumar

(Borrower)

Heera Bai

(Co-Borrower)

The Date of Auction is fixed for 17-02-2025.

2024-29 in terms of CERC Regulations.

(MTPS Unit 5&6)

Capital Cost

Capacity

charges

Energy

charges

Capacity

charge (in

Rs. Lakh

*Energy

charge

(in P/kWh)

Place: Kolkata, Date: 01.02.2025

8) Details of Tariff:

Thermal

Stations

Thermal

Stations

2) The beneficiaries of the generating station area:

(g) Damodar Valley Power Consumers Association

3) Installed Capacity of the generating stations:

Name of the Power Station

Mejia Thermal Power Station, Unit 5&6

4) Total Capital Cost for individual station of DVC:

6) Schedule date of commercial operation: Not applicable

Name of

the Powe

House

MTPS#5&6

MTPS#5&6

*Energy charge will vary as per CERC regulation.

Place: Madhya Pradesh,

Date: 01-02-2025

on Friday, Nageswaran said the new financial package agreed at the 2024 UN climate conference (COP29) in Azerbaijan to support climate

Description of the Secured Asset

(Authorised Officer)

For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

All that part & parcel of property bearing, Plot No.53 P O KH No.252

2 3 2 Shree Vinayak Vansh Nagar Vill Hathoda Dharam Kanta

COD of first/last unit Commissioned

29.02.2008 / 24.09.2008

Year wise tariff sought to be determined

as per claimed in Tariff Petition for 2024-29

356.215

57766.00 59716.82

356.215

55412.24

356.215

(in Rs. Lakh)

(in Rs. Lakh)

61645.99

356.215

Capital Cost as claimed

on 31.03.2029

244630.02

Bareth Road, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh, 464221

Countries are now required to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions of climate plans for the period between 2031 and 2035 by February 10 and Nageswaran



said the "funding shortfall may lead to a reworking of the climate targets". According to the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted high-income industrialised nations, which historically responsible for most of the

been greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, are required to provide finance, technology and capacity support developing and low-income economies to help them cope

with a warming world. These countries include the

United States, the UK, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and European Union member states such as Germany and France. The chief economic advisor said that domestic resources will be the key to climate action amid the lack of support from developed countries. Therefore, resources for

meeting development challenges may be affected, undermining progress toward sustainable development objectives

"compromising the integrity of international climate partnerships", he said.

Nageswaran said the small mobilisation target of USD 300 billion annually by 2035 is just a "fraction" of the estimated requirement of USD 5.1-6.8 trillion by 2030. The new climate finance package is "out of sync" with the needs of the critical decade when action is required to keep temperature goals of the Paris

Nageswaran said. underscores unwillingness of affluent developed nations to assume their equitable share of the responsibility to address reduction and climate change emission mitigate vulnerable impacts on populations in developing regions, he said.

Agreement within reach,

With the developed countries also falling short of their NDCs by about 38 per cent, Nageswaran said their actions do not reflect the historical

responsibility leadership in meeting their obligations.

In 2015, countries came together to limit global warming to "well below 2 degrees Celsius", aiming for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Fast forward, the world has already heated up by 1.3 degrees Celsius since the preindustrial era, largely due to burning fossil fuels.

To limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the UN's climate science body, IPCC, says emissions must peak by 2025 and drop 43 per cent by 2030 and 57 per cent by 2035. But current policies point to a hotter future -- around 3 degrees Celsius warming by 2100. Even if every country fulfils its climate promises or NDCs, emissions would only shrink by a weak 5.9 per cent by 2030. Developed nations, biggest pushing polluters, developing countries to do

more to meet the Paris

Agreement goals.

Market correction in

 $S_{on\ the\ elevated\ stock}^{ounding\ a\ note\ of\ caution}$ valuation, market Economic Survey on Friday said any correction in the US markets could have a cascading effect in India, which has witnessed increased

"Elevated valuations and optimistic market sentiments in the US raise the likelihood of a meaningful market correction in 2025. Should such a correction occur, it could have a cascading effect on India, especially given the increased participation of young, relatively new retail investors.

"Many of these investors that have entered the market postpandemic have witnessed a significant and prolonged market correction. Hence, if one were to occur, its impact on sentiment and spending may be non-trivial," the Survey noted.

According to the survey, the rise in retail participation aligns with a steady decline in the five-year rolling beta between the Nifty 50 and the S&P 500 in the last four years, suggesting a reduced sensitivity of Indian markets to US market movements.

This decoupling is further evidenced by the increasing resilience of Indian markets during periods of FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) outflows.



New strategic trade roadmap needed to enhance export

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey on Friday called for a new strategic trade roadmap for India, along with measures to cut trade costs and enhance export competitiveness amid growing protectionism globally

It said that much remains to be done to enhance trade competitiveness. 'Global trade dynamics have

changed significantly in recent years, shifting from globalisation to rising trade protectionism, accompanied by increased uncertainty. This calls for a new strategic trade roadmap for India," the survey said.

It added that to remain competitive and enhance its participation in global supply chains, India must continue reducing trade costs and improving facilitation to boost export competitiveness. "The good news is that doing so is entirely in our hands. On its part, the industry must continue to invest in quality," it said adding the country's external sector continued to display resilience amidst

headwinds

global

uncertainties.

economic and trade policy It emphasised the need to assess the global situation and develop a forward-looking strategic trade roadmap to

gradual shifts towards greater protectionism.

strengthen competitiveness and further integrate into global supply chains, the country can focus on reducing trade-related costs and enhancing export facilitation to create a more vibrant export sector. This proactive approach will help India continue to thrive in an ever-changing

market," the survey said. As per estimates, Índia's share of global trade was over 2 per

cent in 2023. During the April-December period of this fiscal year, exports recorded a growth of 1.6 per cent to USD 321.71 billion and imports by 5.15 per cent to USD 532.48

Trade deficit -- the difference between imports and exports during April-December widened to USD 210.77 billion from USD 189.74 billion during the same period of the previous fiscal

It noted that disruptions in global trade due to the Red Šea crisis, the Russia-Ukraine war and the recent drought in the Panama Canal, allied with increased protectionist tendencies shown by many countries, have created uncertainties.

2025: Economic Survey PTI ■ NEW DELHI

participation from young investors post-Covid.

Over the past few years, retail participation, especially from investors, significantly increased in the equity markets. Investor participation has grown from 4.9 crore in FY20 to 13.2 crore as of December 31, 2024.

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक Indian Overseas Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AUCTION AND SALE OF REPOSSESSED

VEHICLES HYPOTHECATED IN BANK'S FAVOUR

The Authorized Officer of Indian Overseas Bank has proposed to sell the below mentioned Vehicle which is hypothecated in Bank's favour on "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" conditions through Public/Physical Auction.

Borrower: Mr. Deepak Mishra S/o. Devraj Mishra Vehicle Details: Make & Model: TATA Tigor XZ 1.2 RTN BS IV

Colour- EGYPTIAN BLUE; Fuel Used: Petrol Registration No. & Date: MP04CW7638 / 27.04.2019

Engine No.: REVTRN05KRYKA7551 ; Chasis No.: MAT629276JKKA6145 Reserve Price: Rs.3,00,000/-; EMD: Rs. 30,000/-;

Bid Multiplier: Rs.5.000/-

Indian Overseas Bank"

Date, Time & Place of Auction 10.02.2025 at 11:00 AM at Branch premises Offers are invited from the interested purchaser/bidder for sale. The sealed EMD has to be deposited by the interested bidder till 07.02.2025 at Branch premises by Demand Draft favouring the "Authorised Officer

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, the intending Bidders Purchasers may visit to the Bank or contact over Phone- 8925953728 8420788501 or Email, on all working days during office hours.

Senior General Manager (Commercial)

Authorized Officer Indian Overseas Bank

deal with the evolving global trade dynamics, marked by

BHOPAL | SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 1, 2025 the pioneer

hen art and cinema meet, they don't just coexist, they create a vibrant and immersive experience that connects with audiences on a deep

emotional level. The Bond to Bachchan exhibition, presented by Masha Art and curated by Georgina Maddox, is an exemplary showcase of this powerful union. Featuring 21 works by 15 artists, the exhibition explores the profound cultural impact of two cinematic legends, James Bond and Amitabh Bachchan.

The exhibition is a tribute to the enduring influence of these cinematic icons. It celebrates how Bond and Bachchan not only shaped the landscape of global pop culture but also continue to inspire artists, going beyond generations and inspiring fresh perspectives in modern-day art.

The exhibition, which serves as a preview to Masha Art's upcoming India

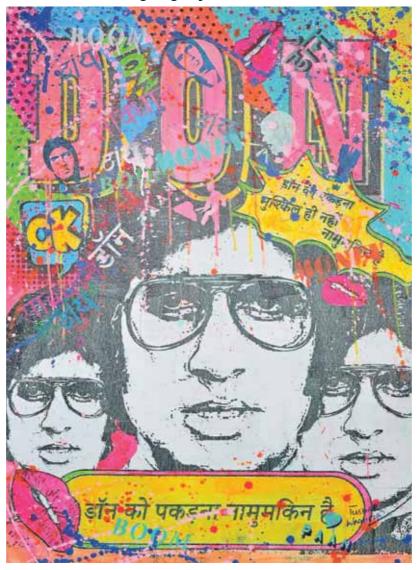


Art Fair showcase, features a captivating collection of paintings, sculptures and digital installations. Each artwork Probes into the personas and cinematic journeys of Bond and Bachchan, offering viewers a fresh and creative lens through which they can reimagine these iconic figures. Samarth Mathur, Founder and Managing Director of Masha Art, explains that the exhibition is a monumental celebration of cinema's enduring influence on contemporary art. Each piece is a unique interpretation of the legacy of these figures, reflecting not just their roles on screen but also their emotional depth and the larger-than-life personas they have cultivated over

One of the standout pieces of the exhibition is Golden Era in Cinema by Shri Kumar Adhikari. This stunning work merges Mughal miniature painting with the golden age of Indian cinema, particularly the 1960s and 1970s. Featuring iconic scenes from films like Sholay and Mera Naam Joker, the piece is a nostalgic tribute to Indian film history. Adhikari's signature technique, which incorporates intricate Mughal detailing, is brought to life with contemporary touches using acrylics, giving the piece a

fresh, modern twist. Ankur Rana's Smoke Up Bolly is another compelling painting featured in the exhibition. This piece is a tribute to the iconic Bollywood actress Zeenat Aman, widely regarded as one of the most powerful and enigmatic figures in the Indian film industry. Rana's artwork captures Zeenat Aman in all her glory, combining softness with boldness. The rising smoke in the painting symbolises the duality of her persona, embodying her magnetic presence and mysterious allure. Rana's depiction of Aman is a fitting homage to her legacy, highlighting her unique contribution to the world of

Art and cinema connect deeply as Bond to Bachchan by Masha Art celebrates Bollywood's enduring legacy, SAKSHI PRIYA





cinema and fashion during the 1970s and 1980s. The fluidity of the smoke creates a visual link between the stark contrasts in her on-screen roles, from the femme fatale to the heartthrob.

Another thought-provoking piece in the exhibition is *Bridging Realms* by *Shovin Bhattacharjee*. This mixed media sculpture incorporates stainless steel, fibre, light, acrylic and aluminium that represents the confluence of art, cinema and spirituality. Bhattacharjee explores the power of cinema to outdoes cultural boundaries and act as a unifying force. The spherical shape of the sculpture symbolises the intersection of multiple worlds, representing the smooth connection between the entertainment industry and the transformative power of storytelling. The piece also honours the resilience of individual voices and celebrates the roles of women in cinema, particularly within the context of the Bond and Bachchan legacies. Bhattacharjee's work adds a layer of depth to the exhibition, drawing attention to how art, cinema and meditation all serve as vehicles for personal and societal change.

This exhibition truly remarkable is how deeply it engages viewers. People aren't just walking past the art, they are stopping, reflecting and appreciating each piece with immense care and attention. Some viewers stand in front of particular works for several minutes, lost in the intricate details and rich symbolism. The works are so powerful that they almost seem to leap off the canvas, evoking emotions that mirror the feelings one experiences while watching a film. The connection between art and cinema becomes almost tangible, as each piece encapsulates a moment from cinematic history, inviting viewers to reflect on how these moments have influenced their own lives.



The collection of artworks immerses the viewer in a conversation between art and cinema, offering fresh perspectives on iconic figures from Indian cinema. The artists' creative interpretations challenge traditional boundaries, making the exhibition a dynamic exploration of how cinema continues to inspire the visual

In addition to the paintings and sculptures, Bond to Bachchan includes digital installations that merge visual storytelling with cutting-edge technology. These installations add another dimension to the exhibition, encouraging visitors to think critically about the role of technology in both cinema and contemporary art. The combination of traditional and digital mediums creates a layered experience, one that deepens our understanding of both art forms.

Bond to Bachchan a tribute to two cinematic icons and a celebration of the power of storytelling.Bond to Bachchan is an exhibition that should not be missed. It is a fascinating exploration of cinema's cultural impact and its enduring influence on contemporary art, offering fresh and thought-provoking perspective on two of the world's most iconic cinematic figures.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

Moulding Ideas into

By SAKSHI PRIYA

rt has a way of saying things that words sometimes can't, it touches something deep inside, beaking directly to our emotions and thoughts. Each piece tells a story and those stories invite us to connect, whether it's a feeling, a memory or a thought that stays with us long after we've walked away.

Saffronart presents Alchemies of Form, a showcase of monumental sculptures by Krishen Khanna, Himmat Shah, Thota Vaikuntam, Dhananjay Singh, Phaneendra Nath Chaturvedi and Yashika Sugandh, curated by Uma Nair. The exhibit transforms Bikaner House into a space where the sculptures don't just energy and colour into the sit still, they engage with you, making you pause and reflect.

Krishen Khanna's Retired Captain is an invitation to look closer. Crafted with resinated fibreglass and automotive paint, this piece gives life to a retired accordion player, frozen in a moment that feels both personal and intimate. It's not just a sculpture, it's a story, one you want to hear.

Himmat Shah's work offers a different Dhananjay Singh's Jungle kind of invitation. The calm, serene forms of Rajnagar white marble and Bheslana black marble are an exploration in stillness. They invite quiet reflection, drawing the viewer in complex and full of life. It with their delicate simplicity, revealing the power of subtlety in art. Thota Vaikuntam's pieces bring bold form and the unpredictable

space. The sculptures of women from Telangana radiate strength and With their beauty. colours and vibrant powerful postures, they pull you into their world, urging you to appreciate the richness of identity and culture that they represent. takes on the wild, untamed beauty of nature. The stainless steel wire feels fragile, yet draws a direct connection between

human-made



forces of nature. It's a visual reminder of how chaotic and beautiful life can be. Phaneendra Nath Chaturvedi's Chaturayatan-3 captures the essence of change. Made of highgloss stainless steel, it reflects everything around it, shifting as the viewer moves. It's a commentary

transformation and perception, nothing stays the same and the world constantly reshapes itself.

Yashika Sugandh's Matar offers a moment of calm amidst the dynamic energy of the other pieces. Crafted from acrylic on fibre resin

and nylon, it evokes a sense of softness and tranquillity. The gentle curves and subtle colours encourage you to pause, breathe and reflect, showing how even the quietest moments can leave a lasting impression. These monumental sculptures do more than just fill space. They tell stories, provoke thoughts and challenge how we see the world around us. Each piece carries its own

rhythm and message, pulling us into a conversation between the artist and the viewer. Alchemies of Form is a chance to engage with art in a way that feels immediate, visceral and real.

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

Dhamar composition, set to

Rupak tala, added a lively

pulse to the performance. With Pandit Durjay Bhaumik

on tabla, the exchange

between melody and rhythm was deeply engaging. The evening ended with Raga

Chakrabarty's musical roots,

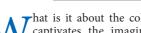
bringing a sense of warmth

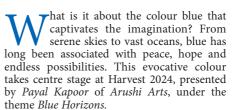
Gara,

and nostalgia.

tribute

to





The exhibition offers visitors a chance to explore art inspired by the symbolism of blue across cultures and history. Blue has held a significant place in human civilisation, cherished in Indian art and far-eastern traditions and revered in Western masterpieces. Artists like Monet, Van Gogh and Picasso have embraced its depth to convey emotions and ideas and this exhibition continues that legacy.

The artworks on display evoke tranquillity while stirring deep emotions. K.G. Subramanyan's pieces, with their playful narratives, draw viewers into a world of vivid storytelling. Shobha Broota's minimalist approach creates a meditative experience, while Satish Gupta's works are admired for their intricate details and spiritual undertones. Lado Bai's vibrant depictions of tribal life and traditions stand out, bridging the gap between



cultural heritage and contemporary expression.

Each artist interprets blue in a way that feels both personal and universally relatable. The layers of textures, interplay of light and shadow and central use of blue create a visual narrative that inspires introspection and connection. The exhibition showcases a variety of perspectives, celebrating art's ability to unite history, emotion and creativity.

This thoughtfully curated showcase of talent is a must-visit for art lovers and anyone looking to experience the magic of blue. Held at W-23, GK-II, New Delhi, the exhibition is open daily from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. This showcase of creativity and talent remains open until 10th February 2024.





By TEAM VIVA

usic lovers gathered for a special evening Las the Raga Fellowship Foundation brought together two maestros. An evening with sitarist Abhik Mukherjee and sarod player Arnab Chakrabarty proved just that. Their performance celebrated tradition, devotion, and the timeless beauty of Indian classical music.

Mukherjee began with a 50-minute mesmerising 50-minute rendition of *Raga Puriya*, playing through the pain of an injured finger. His alaap was rich with emotion, each note carefully placed, making the raga feel fresh and deeply



personal. His jod and jhala the music. Ustad Rafiuddin sections carried a quiet Sabri's tabla accompaniment intensity, and his adaptation of provided a steady yet dynamic rhythm, adding depth to khayal compositions from the Agra gharana into sitar gats Mukherjee's melodies. brought a new dimension to Chakrabarty followed with

Raga Hameer, playing with a grace that felt both effortless profound. His alaap unfolded gently, drawing listeners into the raga's mood. The rhythmic flow of his

As the final notes faded, there was a moment of silence before the applause began, reflecting the depth of the experience. For those in attendance, it was a night of pure musical joy, a reminder of the enduring power of to move hearts and bring people together.

Manchester United, Tottenham reach Europa League round of 16

PTI ■ LONDON

anchester United and Tottenham put their inconsistent domestic campaigns aside and advanced to the Europa League round of 16.

Diogo Dalot tapped in a

precise cross by Kobbie Mainoo on the hour mark and Mainoo netted eight minutes later for a 2-0 victory over Romanian champion FCSB in Bucharest on Thursday.

Tottenham got goals from academy graduates to beat Swedish club Elfsborg 3-0 in London. Spurs waited until the 70th minute for substitute Dane Scarlett to break the deadlock before adding two more through substitute Damola Ajayi and 17-year-old Mikey Moore.

Of the 36 teams in the revamped competition, the top eight go directly to the round of 16 in March. Teams ranked ninth to 24th go into the two-legged knockout

playoffs on Feb. 13 and Feb. 20 with the winners making the last 16.

The draw is scheduled for Friday.

United, which is 12th in the Premier League, competed the league phase of the second-tier European competition in third place and undefeated with five wins and three draws, trailing the top by one point. "Kobbie (Mainoo) played very well in that position, with more freedom and not so much responsibility running back all the time," United manager Ruben Amorim told TNT Sports. "The lads did a good job, poether clean sheet"

another clean sheet."
Amorim's squad has shown signs of improvement since he said the team was "the worst, maybe, in the history of Manchester United."

Thursday's victory was the third straight in one week after beating Rangers in the Europa League a week ago and Fulham in the Premier



League three days later. Tottenham is languishing in

15th place in the Premier League. Its seven-match winless run in the league is its worst since 2008. But it won five, drew two and lost one for the fourth place in the Europa League.

Lazio, the only team that

qualified to the round of 16 with a game to spare, was handed its first defeat, 1-0, away at Braga. Still, the Portuguese team was eliminated.

Lazio still topped the standings with 19th points, the same as the second Athletic Bilbao.

Athletic Bilbao.
Bilbao secured the second place after a 3-1 home win over 10-man Viktoria Plzen, which has a playoff spot.
Frankfurt completed the league phase in fifth despite a 2-0 loss at Roma. Angeliño and Eldor Shomurodov lifted Roma with the goals at Stadio Olimpico. Stadio Olimpico. Lyon was sixth despite being

held 1-1 at home by

Olympiacos in seventh after routing Qarabag 3-0.

Rangers squeezed in to complete the top eight by beating Union Saint-Gilloise José Mourinho's Fenerbahce avoided an embarrassing

early exit with a 2-2 away Denmark's Midtjylland. The result sent both into the playoffs. The hosts were 20th while Midtjylland took 24th, giving Mourinho a chance to to his European trophies.

Ajax ended a three-game losing streak by handing Galatasaray its first defeat, 2-1 with both teams making the playoffs.

the playoffs.

Hoffenheim's 4-3 away win at Anderlecht was not enough for the Bundesliga team to advance. The Belgian club finished 10th.

Real Sociedad, FCSB, Porto, AZ Alkmaar, Twente and PAOK are among other teams that advanced



Lyon confirms Paulo Fonseca as its new coach

PTI ■ LYON

Lyon has confirmed the hiring of Paulo Fonseca as its new coach.

Fonseca is replacing Pierre Sage, who was fired despite leading the French league club out of a crisis last season and having the team within reach of a Champions League place in this campaign. Sage's dismissal on Tuesday

followed a 1-1 draw with Nantes in Ligue 1 last weekend and left many observers perplexed. Sage had rapidly become a fans' favorite after guiding Lyon from the sixth-place finish last season. The Associated Press reported earlier this week that Lyon had sealed a deal with Fonseca.

Fonseca's first match in charge will be against Marseille in the French league on Sunday, Lyon said.

Fonseca won the Portuguese Supercup with Porto in 2013 and the Portuguese Cup with Braga in 2016. He also coached Shakhtar Donetsk, where he won three leaguecup doubles (2017, 2018, 2019) and the Ukrainian Supercup in 2017.

Paulo Fonseca then coached AS Roma between 2019 and 2021 before joining Lille in June 2022, where he built one of the best attacking and efficient sides in France despite operating on a limited budget. More recently, he was less successful at AC Milan,

Talismanic pacer Jasprit

Bumrah was chosen for

producing only 12 wins in 24 across competitions

Fonseca had been out of a job since he was fired by AC Milan on Dec. 30. After 19 matches this season, Lyon is sixth in the league –

just four points off a Champions League spot — and has qualified for the knockout stage of the Europa League. Lyon, however, said the decision to part ways with Sage was a "sporting choice" after the Frenchman averaged fewer points per game this season and struggled against big rivals.

businessman John Textor, who visited the club in person this week. He had been in regular contact with Fonseca in recent years and previously tried to hire him. Fonseca joins on a deal until the end of Iune 2027.

Lyon believes that Fonseca will be able to add defensive stability to the team and make it more competitive against the top four Ligue 1 teams. The club's ambition is to qualify for the Champions League on a regular basis and to challenge Paris Saint-Germain's supremacy.

"Paulo Fonseca and his staff will be tasked with starting a new cycle and taking the club to the highest level in the second half of the season, with the ultimate goal of qualifying for next season's Champions League," Lyon said.

Only Santos can give me the love I need: Neymar

PTI ■ SAO PAULO

Neymar has confirmed he will sign what is expected to be a short-term contract with his boyhood club, Santos, as the Brazil striker aims to recharge his career ahead of the 2026 World Cup. The 32-year-old Neymar said on Thursday that he's on Thursday that he's returning to the Sao Paulo club, and local media reported that the deal will extend only to June 30.

"Only Santos can give me the love that I need to prepare for

"Only Santos can give me the love that I need to prepare for the challenges I have in the next few years. All of you, no matter who you support, know well what I am talking about," Neymar said on his social media channels.

"I hope you all follow me in this new phase of my life."

this new phase of my life." Santos used its social media channels to respond Neymar's video: "Your home awaits. Your people awaits."

Neymar left Santos nearly 12 years ago to join Barcelona. The striker's return follows the termination of his contract with Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal. Neymar had

returned in October from an



ACL injury sustained while playing for Brazil only months after he joined Al-Hilal. He played only seven matches and scored once for the Saudi team.

Neymar also left Paris Saint-Germain under criticism from fans, who accused him of not caring enough about his fitness. In 2017, his exit at Barcelona was also frustrating for club supporters, who hoped he could help Lionel Messi and Luis Suárez win more trophies.

A Santos official told The Associated Press that Neymar is expected to arrive at Sao Paulo's international airport at 9 am on Friday. He will then board a helicopter to go to the club's Vila Belmiro Stadium. After he signs his will contract, reintroduced to fans during the evening.

official spoke on condition of anonymity due to lack of authorisation to discuss the matter publicly. Neymar has already played

225 matches with Santos. He scored 138 goals for the club, many of which key for the six titles he won at the Brazilian giant, which was relegated in 2023 and returned to the country's top division last

Neymar became the most expensive player in soccer

history when he transferred from Barcelona to PSG for 222 million euros (then USD 262 million) in 2017.

262 million) in 2017.

Neymar's most recent match was played in November. Al-Hilal coach Jorge Jesus had repeatedly cast doubts about the striker's form to play.

Neymar left the Saudi Arabian league after playing just seven games in 17 months following his bigmoney move to the oil-rich kingdom. The Brazilian's contract was due to expire after this year's FIFA Club World Cup, which will be played between June 15 and

played between June 15 and July 13 in the United States. The striker joined the Saudi club from PSG in August 2023 for 90 million euros (USD 94 million). His salary was reportedly one of the biggest in world soccer as

Neymar, Brazil's all-time top goalscorer with 79 goals in 125 matches, also said he is focused on getting more playing time so he can prepare for the World Cup in North America next year in what could be his last shot at

round of Tata Steel Chess Tournament, aiming to continue his unbeaten streak and claim the season's first

On top of the table with a slender lead, world champion D Gukesh will take

on Wei Yi of China in the 11th

PTI WIJK AAN ZEE

With five victories and five draws, Gukesh has remained unbeaten in the first major tournament of the year and if he adds another 1.5 points in the last three rounds, it should be enough to lift the title. With 7.5 points, Gukesh is in

pole position, half a point ahead of Nodirbek ahead of Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan and a full point more than compatriot \hat{R} Praggnanadhaa. Yet to play two white games out of meet Jorden van Foreest of Holland in the penultimate round and then finally an out of sorts Arjun Erigaisi.

Both Abdusattorov Praggnanandhaa have two black games left which makes Gukesh a huge favourite to win his maiden title here. It may be recalled that the Indian had lost in tiebreaker to Wei Yi last year after tying for the top spot. Not only a victory here, what is also at stake for Gukesh is the 2800 rating barrier and he will be the third Indian to achieve it after Viswanathan Anand and Ariun if he can. He is at 2794

points in live ratings. Praggnanandhaa will meet pre-event rating favourite Fabiano Caruana of United States while Abdusattorov has to tackle the solid defenses of Vincent Keymer of Germany in the other key clashes of the

11th round. It has been tough for the remaining three Indians in the Masters section as Harikrishna has scored 4.5 points while Arjun and Leon Luke Mendonca are at the bottom of the table with three points each. These three will have to work hard in the remaining rounds to finish better in the

final standings. In the challengers section, R Vaishali is on five points out of a possible 10 and has shown

brilliance in patches. Divya Deshmukh is on two points and needs a pullback. This section is led by Czech Grandmaster Nguyen Thai Dai

Van on 7.5 points with Erwin L'Ami of Holland in close pursuit a half point behind.

Pairings round 11 Masters: Jorden van Foreest 3); D Gukesh (Ind, 7.5) vs Wei Yi (Chn, 5.5); Fabiano Caruana (Usa,

Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 6.5); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 4) vs Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 7); Anish Giri (Ned, 5)) vs Max Warmerdam (Ned, 3.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 5) vs P Harikrishna (Ind, 4.5); Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo, 6) vs Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 3). Challengers: Oro Faustino (Arg, 2.5) vs Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 5); Lu Miaoyi (Chn, 5.5) vs Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 7); Nogerbek Kazybek (Kaz, 5.5) vs Ediz Gurel (Tur, 5.5); R Vaishali (Ind, 5) vs Aydin Suleymanli (Aze, 6.5); Svane Fredrik (Ger, 6) vs Nguyen Thai Dai Vam (Cze, 7.5); Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 1) vs Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 2);

Mitchell Marsh out of Champions Trophy

PTI ■ SYDNEY

ustralia all-rounder Amitchell Marsh has been ruled of next month's Champions Trophy and is also in doubt for the Indian Premier League after that owing to lower back pain that has "not responded sufficiently to rehabilitation". Cricket Australia informed about Marsh's injury in a statement ruling him out of the Champions Trophy, which will be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9. A few other reports suggest Marsh is also doubtful for the

'Mitchell Marsh has been ruled out of the upcoming ICC men's Champion's Trophy with ongoing lower back pain and dysfunction," CA said in a release.

"The National Selection



Panel and Australian men's medical team ruled Marsh out of the tournament with rehabilitation."

the injury which has not responded sufficiently to "His lower back pain flared in recent weeks leading the NSP to make the longer term decision for Marsh to complete a more extended

period of rehabilitation," it

selection panel will be meeting soon to name a replacement of Marsh, who was picked in the 15-member side for the competition alongside other all-rounders medium pacer did not share Hardie, Aaron Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis. "Marsh will now undergo a period of further rest and rehabilitation as part of his

return to play plan. The NSP replacement for Marsh in due course 'The deadline for the final

squads for the ICC men's Champion's Trophy is prior to Wednesday 12 February," CA said. The 33-year-old Marsh has

been roped in by Lucknow Super Giants ahead of the 2025 edition of the IPL, which will start on March 23. Marsh was dropped in favour of Beau Webster for the final Test of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Trophy which concluded earlier this month

He had an ordinary run in medium pacer did not share much workload with the front-line bowlers and managed to score in double digits only once in seven innings

BCCI Award: Bumrah chosen for Best International Cricketer

in 13 matches.

Trophy.

and one fifty. Similarly, Deepti Sharma was awarded with the Highest Wickets in ODIs

medal for taking 24 wickets

Tanush Kotian continued to make waves with his rise through the ranks in Mumbai in the 2023-24 season, which culminated with his maiden call-ups for the India A side for their tour of Australia and subsequently for the Indian team for the last two Tests of Border-Gavaskar

Kotian will be awarded with the Best Performance in BCCI

performances in Mumbai's 42nd Ranji Trophy win in 2023-24, scored 502 runs in 10 matches at 41.83 with one century and five fifties and

Trophy for a recordextending 42nd time in the season, Mumbai also claimed the Irani Cup after a gap of 27 years.

Benjamin Bok (Ned, 6.5) vs

Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 4.5).

Cricket Γhe Mumbai Association would be given the Best Performance in **BCCI** Domestic Tournaments Trophy for winning various titles such as Ranji Trophy, U-16 Vijay Merchant Trophy, U-14 West Zone Championship, senior women's T20 Trophy, women's U-19 One Day Trophy, Bapuna Cup T20 Tournament and men's U-19 All India Tournament.

Mumbai teams also finished as runner-up in Cooch Behar U-19 Trophy and Vinoo Mankad U-19 Trophy. Akshay Totre from Indore was adjudged the Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket for the season.

Legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar has been chosen for Col CK Navudu Lifetime Achievement Award.



PTI MUMBAI

honours that will be presented here on Saturday. Bumrah, who was selected as the ICC Test and overall Cricketer of the Year for delivering a "a master-class in skill, precision, and relentless consistency", was India's standout bowler last year, playing a pivotal role in India's home wins over England and Bangladesh.

The 31-year-old was also the Player of the Series against Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, bagging 32 wickets across five Tests. Mandhana, who was the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year, made 743 runs in the 2024 calendar year.

centuries, a record in the women's game, and found the boundary more than a hundred times in the year, hitting 95 fours and six maximums.

The 28-year-old cricketer's ODI runs came at an average of 57.86 and an impressive

Spin great Ravichandran Ashwin, who retired from international cricket in December 2024 as India's second highest wicket-taker in Tests with 537 dismissals and overall eighth highest, has been bestowed with a special award at the end of

The 37-year-old Ashwin, who made his Test debut in November 2011, played a defining role in India's 12year domination in the longest format at home wherein they won 18 series on the trot.

scored four ODI

strike rate of 95.15.

his career.



men for his quick-fire fifty

against England in the

Rajkot Test in February

The middle-order mainstay also hit a counter-attacking 150 against New Zealand in the Bengaluru Test to continue his ascent. Among women,

Sobhana has been chosen for award for International Debut as she picked up 4/21 against South Africa to help India win by 143 runs in their first ODI at Bengaluru in June 2024.

Mandhana will also be honoured with the Highest Run Getter in ODIs medal after she finished as the highest run-scorer in 2024, smacking 747 runs at 57.46 in 13 matches with four tons

Domestic Tournaments trophy. The 26-year-old, who rose to limelight with all-round

also grabbed 29 wickets. Having won the Ranji