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SUPREME COURT SLAMS PARASITES

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

On political parties promising freebies ahead of polls, the Supreme Court (SC) on Wednesday said instead of bringing people into the mainstream for national development, are we not creating a class of parasites? A bench of Justices BR Gavai and Augustine George Masih said it would be better to make people a part of the society's mainstream and contribute towards national development.

are not willing to work." The top court was hearing a matter concerning the right to shelter of homeless persons in urban areas and said people got free rations and money without working. "We quite appreciate your concern for them but would it not be better to make them a part of the mainstream of society and permit them to contribute to the development of the nation?" the bench asked. Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, said there was hardly anybody in the country who did not want to work, if they had work. The judge said, "You must be having only one sided knowledge. I come from an agricultural family. Because of the freebies in Maharashtra, which they just announced prior to elections, agriculturists are not getting labourers." The court, however, said it did not want to debate.

Judges said everybody, including attorney general R Venkataramani, was on the same page that providing shelter to the homeless merited due attention. "But at the same time, should it not be balanced?" the bench asked. Venkataramani said the Centre was in the process of finalising the urban poverty alleviation mission, which would address various issues, including the provision of shelter for the urban homeless. The bench asked him to verify from the Centre the time frame within which the scheme would be applicable and also place on record the aspects covered by it. "In the meantime, the attorney general is also requested to take instructions as to whether till the implementation of the said scheme, the Union of India would continue with the National Urban Livelihoods Mission," it said.

The bench further asked the Centre to collate information from all states for the consideration of the issue on a pan-India basis. One of the petitioners during the hearing said it was unfortunate that the cause of the homeless was not being addressed as it was last on the priority. The bench was irked when he claimed the authorities showed compassion only for the rich, not the poor. "Don't make a speech of Ramlila Maidan in this court," said Justice Gavai, "And don't make unnecessary allegations. Don't make a political speech here. We won't permit our courtrooms to be converted into a (place of) political battle." The judge went on to add, "How do you say the compassion is shown only for the rich? Even for the government, how can you say this?"

Painting a picture that the government did not do anything or show concern for the poor was not in a good taste, the court added. Bhushan said as per a note placed before the bench, as on December 4, 2024, a total of 2,557 shelters was sanctioned by the States or Union Territories and 1,995 shelter homes were functional with a capacity of 1.16 lakh beds. He said a survey showed there were about 3 lakh urban homeless in Delhi alone. Bhushan said as per the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, the total capacity of the shelters was 17,000 persons of which only 5,900 such facilities had beds. The DUSIB counsel said the board had 197 shelter homes running in Delhi as on date with a total capacity of 17,000 persons. In the last four years, he said, the average maximum occupancy was 5,500 in all shelter homes.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron at the Mazargues Cemetery to pay their respects to the fallen heroes, in Marseille. PTI

Modi, Macron walk together

PTI ■ PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday called for enhancing trade and investment ties between the two countries and committed to further deepening their engagement in the Indo-Pacific and various global forums and initiatives. After their wide-ranging talks, the two leaders also underlined their commitment to concrete actions to ensure that the global AI sector can drive beneficial social, economic, and environmental outcomes in the public interest. A joint statement issued after the meeting here said the talks covered a full spectrum of bilateral relations, as well as key global and regional issues. The two leaders stressed an urgent need for reform in the United Nations Security Council and agreed to coordinate closely on various global issues, including the UNSC matters. French President Macron reiterated France's firm support for India's permanent membership of the UNSC. The two leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to India-France Strategic Partnership while noting that it has steadily evolved into a multifaceted relationship over the past 25 years. Prime Minister Modi flew together from Paris to Marseille in the French Presidential Aircraft last evening and held discussions here on the full spectrum of bilateral relations and key global and regional issues. This was followed by delegation-level talks after arrival in Marseille. The two leaders reviewed cooperation in the strategic areas of defence, civil nuclear energy and space. They also discussed ways to strengthen collaboration in the fields of technology and innovation.

UPSC updates registration system online

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has introduced certain changes in its online application system for the civil services preliminary exam after aspirants complained of technical glitches while applying through it, according to an official notice. The Commission has recently extended the last date to apply for the civil services preliminary exam 2025 till February 18.

The UPSC said in the notice that some entries have been made "editable" in the one-time registration for filling up of the online application. "In view of the queries/difficulties raised by the candidates in filling up the online application form for the civil services examination, 2025, the Commission has decided the following changes in the one-time registration (OTR) for filling up of the online application," it said. The candidates are "not allowed to make any change(s) in the columns relating to 'Name (as per Class X)', 'Date of Birth', 'Father's Name', 'Mother's Name', 'Mobile Number' and 'Email ID' in the OTR profile, the Commission said in the notice.



MAGHI PURNIMA: 2 CRORE DIPS

More than two crore devotees took a dip in the Sangam till 6 pm on Wednesday on the occasion of Maghi Purnima. With the 'snan' on Maghi Purnima, another auspicious day for holy bath, the month-long 'Kalpavasi' will be ending and around 10 Lakh 'Kalpavasis' will start leaving the Maha Kumbh. The administration has requested them to follow traffic rules and use only authorised parking spaces. Overall since the start of the Maha Kumbh, over 47 crore people have taken a dip in the Sangam. The Maha Kumbh will conclude on February 26 with the final 'Amrit Snan' on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Meanwhile, Adityanath greeted everyone on the holy bathing festival while the UP government has also launched a safety drive for the pilgrims.

Detailed story on page 5

Kerala ragging turns serious

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

Five third-year students have been arrested for allegedly ragging first-year students at the Government Nursing College here, police said on Wednesday. A case was registered after three first-year students lodged a complaint, alleging that the ragging had been ongoing for nearly three months at the nursing institute, which functions under the Government Medical College. According to the complaint, the ragging began in November last year. The students reported that the incidents involved extreme brutality. They alleged that they were forced to stand naked and subjected to severe physical abuse using dumbbells, including tying them to their private parts. Further allegations include injuries inflicted using compasses and similar objects, followed by the application of lotion on the wounds. Additionally, they were forced to have cream applied to their faces, heads, and mouths. The accused students have been suspended, college authorities said. The action was taken following an inquiry conducted under the anti-ragging law, they added. The arrested students have been identified as Samuel Johnson

(20), Rahul Raj (22), Jeev (18), Rijil Jith (20), and Vivek (21). The complaint also states that senior students regularly extorted money from juniors on Sundays to buy alcohol and frequently assaulted them. On November 16, the accused allegedly forced a first-year student to transfer Rs 300 via Google Pay and hand over Rs 500 in cash under threats. Police revealed that the money was used for alcohol consumption. On December 13, a first-year student endured extreme physical torture. That night, the accused allegedly entered his room, tied his hands and legs, and restrained him. They then poured lotion all over his body and inflicted injuries using a divider. They also forced another first-year student in the room to record the incident on a mobile phone. Unable to endure the harassment any longer, three students finally lodged a complaint with the Kottayam Gandhinagar police. College authorities stated that the affected students had not informed hostel officials, teachers, or parents about the abuse. Upon receiving the complaint, the college promptly took action. Once the investigation confirmed the allegations, the case was handed over to the police, they added.

CM showcases MP's investment potential at Curtain-Raiser event

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has stated that Madhya Pradesh offers vast investment opportunities across all sectors, making it one of the most attractive destinations for industrial growth. Addressing industrialists at the Curtain Raiser event of the Global Investors Summit (GIS) 2025 in New Delhi on Wednesday, Yadav highlighted the state's abundant water resources from rivers like Narmada and Tapi, an uninterrupted electricity supply, rich forest reserves, and a robust transportation network, including roads, railways, and airways. He also emphasized the state government's commitment to providing significant incentives to industries. Yadav extended an invitation to investors for the upcoming Global Investors Summit, scheduled to be held in Bhopal on February 24-25. He urged them to seize the opportunity to explore investment prospects in Madhya Pradesh and contribute to its economic development. The Chief Minister highlighted India's rapid economic growth, stating that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country is progressing swiftly from the world's fifth-largest economy to the third-largest. He acknowledged the crucial role of investors in this transformation and emphasized that industrial expansion is essential for sustained progress. Praising the Prime Minister's efforts in global diplomacy and economic



reforms, Yadav stated that India's stature on the international stage has risen significantly. He noted that Madhya Pradesh's industry and investment policies are highly investor-friendly, with a special focus on startups. The state ensures streamlined processing of industrial operations and offers various incentives to businesses. He pointed out that land prices in Madhya Pradesh are significantly lower than in metropolitan cities, making it a cost-effective destination for industries. Highlighting the textile sector, he mentioned that the state offers 200% incentives in this area and produces high-quality cotton, which has been recognized by global brands. Yadav also remarked on the changing perception of industrialists in society. He emphasized that business leaders are now regarded as key contributors to economic growth and job creation, fostering social and economic well-being. The state government has been

actively engaging with industrialists through regional industry conclaves, even in smaller towns, to promote investment and development. During the event, Yadav reiterated India's global identity as a peaceful and progressive nation. He underscored how India's philosophy of peace and universal welfare, rooted in its ancient traditions, is now being acknowledged worldwide. The Chief Minister described the upcoming Global Investors Summit as a significant milestone for Madhya Pradesh, presenting it as an investment-ready state. He introduced the state's 3D investment model, symbolizing the synergy between investors' drive, the state's development, and the government's determination to foster industrial growth. He invited investors from all sectors to partner with the state in transforming Madhya Pradesh into a hub of innovation and economic prosperity. The Curtain Raiser event witnessed participation from over 400 business leaders, diplomats, and industry representatives. Investors from New Delhi and surrounding regions, along with delegates from 40 countries, including ambassadors, high commissioners, and trade experts, were present. Yadav held one-on-one meetings with over 15 prominent industrialists, including CEOs and chairpersons from leading companies such as PepsiCo India, Dalmia Bharati, JK Cement, Aavaad Group, Soufflet Malt, EaseMyTrip, and Greenko Group. These discussions focused on exploring investment opportunities and strengthening business partnerships in Madhya Pradesh. Several countries expressed keen interest in investing in Madhya Pradesh. The Ambassador of Australia highlighted collaboration opportunities in education, agriculture, and skill development. The Ambassador of Mexico praised the state's investor-friendly policies, while Albania showed interest in urban planning. Zimbabwe expressed enthusiasm for agricultural partnerships, and Slovenia reaffirmed its commitment to exploring tourism investments. This international interest further reinforced Madhya Pradesh's emergence as a preferred global investment destination. Madhav Krishna Singhania, Chairman of CII Northern Region and CEO of JK Cement, lauded Madhya Pradesh's strategic location, favorable policies, and streamlined administrative processes. He highlighted JK Cement's growing presence in the state, with significant investments in multiple districts, including a Rs 3,000 crore project in Panna. Other industry leaders echoed similar sentiments, recognizing Madhya Pradesh as an ideal destination for investment and industrial expansion. The event featured two interactive roundtable meetings.

NEWS BRIEFS

Ram Janmabhoomi chief priest passes away

LUCKNOW: Acharya Satyendra Das, the chief priest of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple, breathed his last at SGPGI, Lucknow. He had been battling health complications after suffering a stroke earlier this month. Despite receiving intensive care, doctors were unable to save him. His passing has cast a pall of sorrow over Ayodhya, where he had served as the chief priest since 1993. Over the decades, he became a symbol of devotion, witnessing the long and tumultuous journey from the Babri Masjid demolition to the consecration of Ram Lalla in the grand new temple.

Tragedy unfolds in Jammu, humanity loses

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi and Naik Mukesh Singh Manhas of 9 Punjab, martyred in an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector of Jammu on Tuesday, were both engaged and waiting to tie the knot in April 2025. A pall of gloom descended on the families of the soldiers as the mortal remains of these two bravehearts were dispatched to their hometowns in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand and Samba for the last rites on Wednesday. At both places, the telltale signs of ongoing renovation work were visible as their families were eagerly waiting to solemnize their marriage ceremonies. A solemn wreath-laying ceremony was organised at the Air Force Station in Jammu where Lt-Gen

Navin Sachdeva, General Officer Commanding of the Nagrota-based White Knight Corps paid homage along with several other senior police and civil officers. Captain Bakshi, who hailed from Hazaribagh in Jharkhand, had recently visited his home to oversee wedding preparations scheduled for April 5. A coursemate who had recently attended an advanced training course in the Army War College, Mhow while paying tributes to Captain Bakshi said he was very passionate about his duty. "He was a bold officer and always led from the front. We were all looking forward to attending his marriage ceremony and now we have to join a prayer meeting in his sweet memory." A close relative of Captain Bakshi said his family runs a Restaurant in Hazaribagh. Lovingly known as Puneet, Captain Bakshi had recently resumed his duties in the



Army personnel pay tribute to soldiers who were killed in a suspected IED blast near LoC, in Jammu's Akhnoor. PTI

first week of February 2025. Captain Bakshi's father, Ajinder Singh Bakshi, and mother, Neelu Bakshi, were left crestfallen by the

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Wednesday condoled the death of Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi and the slain army jawan. State BJP chief Babulal Marandi also expressed grief over the death of the army personnel. "Received the sad news of the martyrdom of Captain Karamjit Singh Bakshi from Jharkhand and another army jawan during a search operation in Akhnoor, Jammu. May Marang Buru grant peace to the souls of the martyred soldiers and give strength to the bereaved families to bear this difficult time of grief," Soren posted on X. Meanwhile, a religious function was going on at the residence of Naik Mukesh Singh Manhas in Samba when the army authorities reached out to them to inform them about the IED blast and injuries suffered by their son in the Akhnoor sector.

Naik Mukesh Singh Manhas returned to his Army unit in the Akhnoor sector on January 28 after a two-week holiday for his ring ceremony. He too was constructing his home ahead of tying the nuptial knot. Naik Mukesh Singh comes from a family of patriots. His father Chagatar Singh served in the Jammu and Kashmir police while his younger brother is currently serving in the Indian army. Paying glowing tributes to Naik Mukesh Singh, former Sarpanch Mukhtiyar Singh remembered him as an enthusiastic cricketer, motivator, and always ready to extend a helping hand to the needy. Naik Mukesh was set to get married around April 20-21, the grieving father said, as his relatives and neighbors made a beeline in front of the house to convey their condolences.

Govt committed to transforming lives of underprivileged: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

While extending greetings on the birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, reaffirmed the state government's commitment to uplifting everyone from the deprived class. He emphasized that everyone should have opportunities for progress, improved economic conditions, and access to employment. We aim to eradicate poverty, ensure youth employment, uphold women's dignity, and respect farmers, fostering equality for all. He highlighted that the state government is implementing various schemes and programmes to achieve these objectives across all sections of society. He also praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's journey, noting how he rose to the position of Prime Minister through determination

and hard work despite facing challenging circumstances. Prime Minister Modi's life story inspires us that even children from the poorest backgrounds can achieve great heights, becoming Prime Ministers or Chief Ministers. He credited Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar for granting society rights to education, healthcare, employment, and equality through the Constitution. The Chief Minister reaffirmed the state government's ongoing efforts to ensure these rights are accessible to all. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav was addressing a function organized at Hindi Bhavan on Wednesday to commemorate Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas Jayanti. Yadav inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp and worshipping the girl child. He also paid floral tribute to a portrait of Sant Ravidas. During the event, orga-

nized under the joint aegis of Navayuvak Ahirwar Samaj Sudhar Sangh Bhopal and Chamar Vikas Sangh Bhopal, Dr. Yadav released a souvenir and the Ravidas Chalisa. The Chief Minister was warmly welcomed with a garland and presented with a memento by the organizers. Prominent attendees included Bhopal Mayor Smt. Malti Rai, Bhopal South-West MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani, Municipal Corporation Chairman Kishan Suryavanshi, Ravindra Yati, and other community members. Yadav said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is committed to improving the lives of every section of society under the guiding principle of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.' He stated that the state government is diligently working in this direction under the Prime Minister's guidance. "People across the country acknowledge

that Madhya Pradesh is progressing rapidly, and the hard work of the state's citizens plays a crucial role in this progress. The Chief Minister highlighted the ongoing construction of a grand memorial dedicated to Sant Shiromani Guru Ravidas in Sagar. Referring to the Gurudwara of Sant Ravidas in Ujjain, he noted that the site continues to keep alive the memory of Sant Ravidas' visit to the city. In response to requests from the organizers, Dr. Yadav assured that arrangements would be made in Bhopal to facilitate social activities for the community. He also announced that the state government is preparing to build 10 lakh houses for underprivileged families in urban areas. To further fulfill the dream of providing permanent homes, a fresh survey will be conducted in villages to identify and assist eligible families. All deserv-

ing families will receive pucca houses in line with Prime Minister Modi's vision. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav highlighted the inspirational life of Sant Ravidas, who conveyed the message 'Man Changa to Kathauti Mein Ganga', emphasizing that divinity resides within individuals and salvation can be attained through devotion. Dr. Yadav remarked that Sant Ravidas taught that there is no distinction of high or low in God's court and prioritized dignity in work (karma) and devotion to God over divisions of country or religion. He praised Sant Ravidas for promoting a life centered on hard work, mutual trust, love, and contributing to the welfare of society. Sant Ravidas' noble ideals earned him the revered title of Sant Shiromani in the community. MLA Bhagwandas Sabnani also addressed the gathering.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav being garlanded by the members of Ahirwar Community during the 648th birth anniversary celebration of Sant Ravidas, at Hindi Bhavan in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Health-Tech startup Remote Physios wins DST grant

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bhopal-based Remote Physios, a cutting-edge health-tech startup, has been awarded the prestigious NIDHI PRAYAS grant of ₹7 lakh by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. The grant, part of the National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations, aims to support deep-tech startups working on disruptive solutions. Co-founded by neuro-physiotherapist Anant Singh and physiotherapy expert Anubha Singhai, who also serves as Editor-in-Chief of PHYSIO-TIMES Magazine, Remote Physios is integrating AI-driven therapy models and IoT-enabled electrotherapy devices to provide advanced remote rehabilitation. The startup is



backed by business leader Pradeep Karambelkar, who serves as the Executive Director, offering strategic guidance to scale its operations. The funding will accelerate the development of AI-powered personalized therapy plans, real-time patient monitoring, and remotely controlled electrotherapy devices such as TENS, IFT, ultrasound therapy, and muscle stimulators. The startup aims to expand its services to corporate

employees, elderly patients, and individuals in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities who face challenges in accessing quality physiotherapy. With ambitious plans to launch home-based physiotherapy kits, establish corporate partnerships, and introduce surface EMG-based monitoring systems, Remote Physios is set to scale rapidly. The company targets deploying 1,000 physiotherapy kiosks and reaching over 10,000 patients in the next two years. Supported by IIT Mandi Catalyst and the NIDHI PRAYAS grant, Remote Physios is poised to redefine physiotherapy accessibility across India.

'Safe Click' campaign concludes

Indore: In order to curb cyber crimes, to bring awareness among people about it, in the context of Safe Click campaign being run by Madhya Pradesh Police from 1st to 11th February, Indore Police Commissionerate has also organized various awareness programs under the said campaign continuously for the last eleven days. On the occasion of the conclusion of the said campaign, Indore Police organized a cyber security and internet fair today on 11th February 25. The said cyber fair organized in Gandhi Hall Indore was inaugurated under the chief hospitality of Police Commissioner Urban Indore Shri Santosh Kumar Singh. On this occasion, Additional Commissioner of Police (Office/Administration) Indore Shri Amit Singh and Additional Commissioner of Police (Admn./Headquarters)

Indore Shri Manoj Kumar Shrivastava and DCPs of all zones, DCP Crime and Traffic, other officers/employees and sponsors of the said fair, members of various organizations and dignitaries including a large number of school/college students and common citizens were present. On this occasion, a video song made by a team of 26 people with the help of Additional DCP Crime Shri Rajesh Dandotia and various cyber volunteers and organizations was also launched to create public awareness about cyber crimes, in which precautions to be taken to avoid various cyber frauds have been shown, so that people can be aware of these crimes. In this unique fair, various companies and institutions also set up their stalls to increase awareness about cyber crimes, which were visited by the Police Commissioner Indore along with senior officials.

Fresh spell of winter to hit Madhya Pradesh today

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A fresh wave of winter is set to sweep across Madhya Pradesh starting February 13, bringing a drop in temperatures by 2 to 3 degrees over the next two days. The mercury is expected to dip below 10 degrees Celsius in five major cities—Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Ujjain, and Jabalpur. Currently, the state is experiencing mild cold conditions with cool mornings and nights. On Monday night, temperatures recorded in major cities were: Bhopal at 15.7°C, Indore at 14.4°C, Gwalior at 11.3°C, Ujjain at 11.5°C, and Jabalpur at 13.6°C. Seoni recorded the highest night temperature at 17°C, while cities such as Chhindwara, Narmadapuram, and Sagar divisions, and by 3.1°C in Gwalior division. Meteorologist V.S. Yadav attributed the recent fluctuations to

On Tuesday, bright sunshine led to a rise in daytime temperatures, causing discomfort for residents, particularly in Bhopal, where temperatures exceeded 30°C in several parts of the city. Over the past 24 hours, weather conditions remained dry across the state. While day temperatures showed no major fluctuations, they were above normal by 1.6 to 3°C in districts under Indore, Narmadapuram, Ujjain, Rewa, and Jabalpur divisions. A more significant increase, ranging from 3.2 to 4.6°C above normal, was observed in Bhopal, Gwalior, Shahdol, and Sagar divisions. Night temperatures also remained largely unchanged but were above normal by 1.7 to 2.5°C in parts of Indore, Rewa, and Sagar divisions, and by 3.1°C in Gwalior division. Meteorologist V.S. Yadav attributed the recent fluctuations to

a Western Disturbance that had reached North India on February 8. This disturbance led to cold winds entering Madhya Pradesh. However, with the system now dissipated and wind direction shifting southward, the state is no longer receiving cold air, causing both day and night temperatures to rise. A renewed drop in temperatures is expected from February 13. Just a week ago, the state experienced cold winds blowing at speeds of 36-40 km/h, but these have since subsided, contributing to the increase in warmth. On Tuesday, jet stream winds at an altitude of 12.6 km were recorded at 231 km/h, though their impact was not felt at ground level. Overall, a slight decline in temperatures is anticipated in the coming days, marking the return of winter-like conditions across the state.



Newly wed couples of Sarv Samaj participate in a mass marriage ceremony organised under Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana on the occasion of Sant Ravidas Jayanti in Bhopal on Wednesday. Around 90 couples tied the nuptial knot at the event. Pioneer photo

'Radio Charcha' marks World Radio Day in Bhopal

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the eve of World Radio Day, which falls on February 13, Radio Charcha was organized by All India Radio (AIR), Bhopal, in collaboration with UNICEF at the UNICEF Office in Bhopal. The event witnessed the participation of around 40 radio professionals from AIR, Radio Mirchi, Radio Azad Hind, Radio LakeCity, and independent radio professionals from the city. The discussion highlighted the impact of radio in bringing social change. Minister for Cooperation, Sports, and Youth Welfare, Vishwas Sarang, who attended the event, emphasized the power of radio in influencing public perception and disseminating key messages related to climate change and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment). He lauded UNICEF's efforts in mobilizing radio professionals to mark the occasion and dis-



cussed various initiatives that could contribute to environmental sustainability. Welcoming the Minister, Anil Gulati, Officer-in-Charge, UNICEF Madhya Pradesh, underscored the credibility of radio as a source of information. He highlighted how radio has played a crucial role in raising awareness about immunization, education, breastfeeding, child rights, and climate change. Rajesh Bhatt, Programming Head, AIR

Bhopal, shared insights into how radio has contributed to environmental awareness and child rights, particularly in collaboration with UNICEF. During the discussion, Anamika from AIR narrated the story of a climate champion who was inspired by a radio program and later became an advocate for environmental causes. Dr. Prashanth Kumar, Health Specialist at UNICEF, and Narendra Singh Chouhan,

WASH Officer, made a presentation on climate change and its impact on human health. They stressed the role of radio in fostering awareness and highlighted the significance of individual action in addressing climate challenges. Radio professional Pinky Tiwari described radio as a "theatre of the mind," while several participants echoed the sentiment that radio remains the most reliable and engaging medium of communication. Dr. Debarati Dhar, Head of the Department of Mass Journalism at Jagran LakeCity University, emphasized how radio can effectively counter misinformation by providing accurate and verified information. The event also featured anchors from various AIR Bhopal programs, alongside UNICEF representatives and other radio professionals, reaffirming the role of radio as a medium for positive change in society.

AIIMS receives International Schrier Award for Pediatric Kidney Care

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Bhopal continues to achieve significant milestones in medical research. Recently, AIIMS Bhopal received the prestigious International Schrier Award 2025 from the International Society of Nephrology (ISN). This honor recognizes its outstanding contributions to pediatric kidney care and its successful partnership with McGill University, Canada, from 2018 to 2024. Additionally, AIIMS Bhopal has been designated as a Regional Center of Excellence in Pediatric Nephrology by ISN. The Schrier Award, named after Dr Robert W. Schrier, acknowledges institutions that demonstrate exceptional advancements in nephrology care, education, and research through international collaborations. With this recognition, AIIMS Bhopal now joins the ranks of the 57 ISN Sister Renal Center pairs worldwide. On this occasion, Prof. Singh appreciated the dedicated services and pioneering efforts of the Pediatric Nephrology Unit.

He congratulated Dr. Shikha Malik (Head of the Pediatric Department), Dr. Ambar Kumar, and Dr. Girish Bhatt, stating, "This significant achievement is a testament to our team's continuous efforts to advance pediatric kidney care. This recognition will not only enhance AIIMS Bhopal's reputation but also play a vital role in supporting various medical centers across India and other countries. Highlighting AIIMS Bhopal's achievements, Dr. Shikha Malik shared that the dedicated Pediatric Dialysis Unit successfully conducted over 1,000 dialysis sessions and 150 plasma exchanges last year, saving the lives of numerous children. The award was received by Dr. Girish Bhatt on behalf of AIIMS Bhopal at the World Nephrology Congress 2025. To further improve pediatric kidney care, AIIMS Bhopal has launched the International Pediatric Nephrology Fellowship and a DM program in Pediatric Nephrology, with two DM fellows already enrolled. These initiatives aim to train more specialists and expand pediatric nephrology services across India.

35 from Aakash Bhopal achieve 95 percentile

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

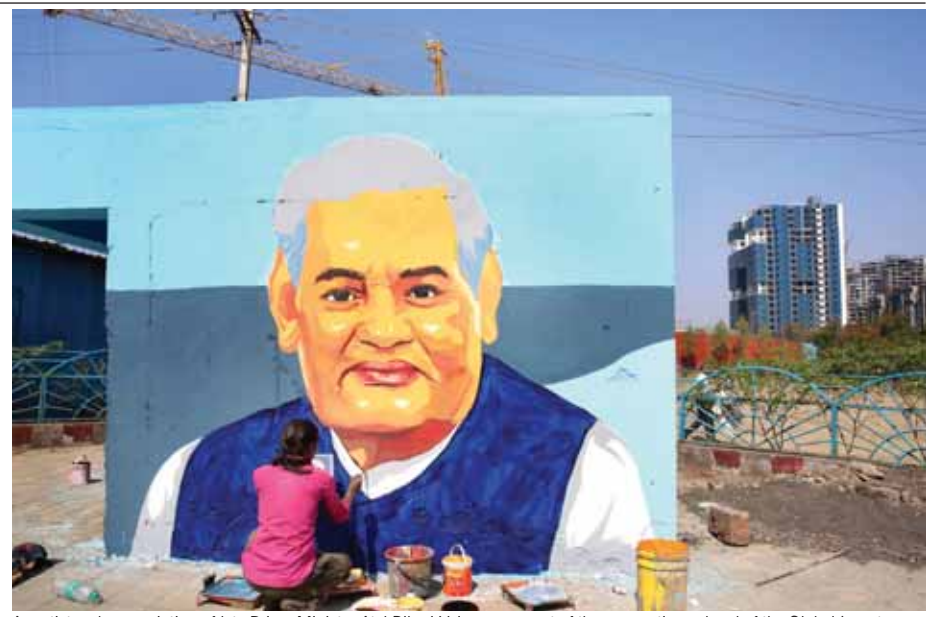
Announces an exceptional achievement in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Mains 2025 (Session 1). An impressive 35 students from Bhopal have scored 95 percentile and above in the first session of JEE Mains 2025. Top achievers include Mohammad Hamza with 99.88 percentile, Piyush Bharagava with 98.99, Aryan Kushwaha with 98.92, Manan Gupta at 98.84, and Sumit Parmar with 98.83 percentile. These results highlight the students' dedication and academic excellence in one of India's most challenging exams. The National Testing Agency announced the results yesterday, marking the beginning of this year's two scheduled JEE sessions. Most of these students enrolled in Aakash's classroom program, aiming to crack the prestigious IIT JEE, recognized globally as one of the toughest entrance exams. Congratulating the students, Dr. H. R. Rao, Chief Academic and Business Head, Aakash Educational Services Limited, congratulated the students on their impressive results. He said, "We are proud of our students' achievements in JEE Main 2025.

BHEL to develop 2x660 MW Koradi Thermal Units in Maharashtra

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has secured a major order under domestic competitive bidding, for setting up the 2x660 MW Koradi supercritical thermal power station (Units 11 & 12), in Nagpur district, Maharashtra. The order has been placed on BHEL by MAHAGENCO. BHEL's scope of work in the project envisages design, engineering, manufacturing, supply, erection, testing, and commissioning of the main plant package (Boiler, Turbine & Generator) and associated auxiliaries, along with all necessary electrical, civil, and structural works. The scope also includes the supply of advanced, high-efficiency emission control equipment. BHEL sets contribute over 75% of MAHAGENCO's installed coal-based generating capacity for the state of Maharashtra, and the company is also currently executing the utility's 660 MW Bhusawal project in the state. As India's foremost power equipment manufacturer, with over 1,70,000 MW of utility power capacity installed across the country, BHEL continues to

play a pivotal role in bolstering India's energy security and supporting the vision of self-reliance in the power sector. Meanwhile, National Productivity Week, 2025 was inaugurated today at BHEL, Bhopal by SM Ramanathan, Executive Director by administering the Productivity Pledge to all senior officials. PK Upadhyay, General Manager (Operations), all General Managers and DROs were present on the occasion. The theme of National Productivity Week this year was "From Ideas to Impact: Protecting Intellectual Property for Competitive Startups". In his address, Shri Ramanathan said that all employees should be equally encouraged to increase productivity in the company. Intellectual Property (IP) is very important for the success of a startup in an innovation driven economy. A solid Intellectual Property (IP) strategy protects innovations, increases valuation, strengthens market position and attracts investments. He said that by optimizing resources in conjunction with startup productivity tools and methodologies, costs can be reduced and growth can be accelerated.



An artist makes a painting of late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee as part of the preparations ahead of the Global Investors Summit at Atal Path, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Farmer commits suicide by hanging at Eintkhedi

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A farmer committed suicide by hanging with a tree in Eintkhedi area on Tuesday night, the police took the body down from the tree and handed it over to the family after postmortem on Wednesday. According to the family, the farmer was under mental stress for the last three months and

was undergoing treatment. According to police station in-charge Durjan Singh, Takhat Singh Jat (36), resident of Raipur, was a farmer. He is survived by his wife and two children. Family members said that he was under stress due to some family reasons and was undergoing treatment from Dr. RN Sahu. On Tuesday, the family was going to take him to the doc-

tor. Brother-in-law and nephew asked him to get ready. He got ready and left the house, but did not return. The family thought that he must have gone to the field to smoke a bidi. When he did not return for a long time, the brother-in-law and nephew went to look for him. On reaching there, they saw the body hanging from a tree in the field.

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MP emerges as India's leader in ease-of-doing-business: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that Madhya Pradesh, known for its rich cultural heritage, is now forging a new identity in the trade and investment sectors. The state government has introduced several visionary reforms to simplify and make business processes more transparent, positioning the state prominently both nationally and globally on the investment map. Dr. Yadav noted the implementation of services like a single-window clearance system, digital approval platforms, and enhanced infrastructure, which have created a business-friendly environment. These innovations have transformed Madhya Pradesh into an attractive destination for investors. Impact of digitization

Online registration, digitization of licensing, and approval processes have made processes faster and more transparent. This has also significantly reduced time and cost for entrepreneurs. **'Start Your Business in 30 Days' Initiative** Under this scheme, 22 necessary approvals are being provided to industries under a simple process. Also, new businesses are being given various types of concessions for three years, which can enable entrepreneurs to establish themselves strongly. **Facilities for Investors** The 'Invest MP' portal streamlines the approval process for investors, ensuring transparency and timely completion of all necessary procedures. This initiative has significantly enhanced the confidence of both domestic and global com-



panies in Madhya Pradesh. Transparency in Industrial Land Allocation By making the land allocation process transparent and fast, industrial land is being made available to investors in less time, which is helping in the speedy execution of projects. **Contribution of Madhya Pradesh at National and Global Levels** The role of Madhya Pradesh has been instrumental in improving

India's Ease of Doing Business ranking. The state has actively implemented the reforms suggested by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), positioning itself among the top-performing states. By streamlining 2,432 Government-to-Business (G2B) and Government-to-Citizen (G2C) processes, Madhya Pradesh has significantly enhanced its business environment. The state further simplified the investment process by integrating with the national single-window system, making business entry more accessible. These efforts contributed to India's remarkable 79-point jump in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business ranking. With ambitions of breaking into the top 10, India acknowledges Madhya Pradesh's impressive role in this achievement.

Global Investors Summit 2025 A Global Investors Summit will be held in Bhopal on February 24-25, 2025, to showcase Madhya Pradesh's efforts on the global stage. < The summit will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with leading industrialists, investors, and policymakers from both domestic and international markets expected to participate in this grand event. It will highlight the vast trade and investment opportunities available in Madhya Pradesh, helping propel the state's economic progress to new heights. Under the visionary leadership and positive policies of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Madhya Pradesh is not only strengthening its own economy but also playing a vital role in achieving Prime Minister Shri Modi's vision of a Vikas Bharat by 2047.



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav during one-to-one discussion with industrialists to invite them for Global Investors Summit in Madhya Pradesh during a curtain raiser programme in New Delhi on Wednesday. Pioneer photo



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav invites industrialists for the Global Investors Summit in Madhya Pradesh during a curtain raiser programme in New Delhi on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Anti-encroachment drive at several places

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

In a large-scale operation, Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) anti-encroachment teams removed illegal structures from several parts of the city on Wednesday. The action, part of the Global Investors Summit (GIS) preparations, targeted key areas where illegal encroachments were obstructing public movement and access. The operation was particularly extensive near the Radisson Hotel in Ward 50, where sand and gravel dumped on the streets were swiftly removed using JCB machines and dumpers. In addition, several unauthorised sheds in the area were demolished, clearing valuable space. At the Savoy Complex, five illegal kiosks were demolished. Around 60 large tyres, con-

tributing to the clutter, were also removed to further open up the area. Meanwhile, BMC teams conducted a city-wide crackdown. Similar operations were also carried out at Ashoka Garden, Awadhपुरी Chauraha, Nariyalkhedha, and AIIMS, targeting everything from flower beds and abandoned vehicles to personal belongings and kiosks. In total, two roofed carts, two kiosks, a kiosk frame, two tables, and 20 stools were confiscated. The action comes as part of an ongoing drive led by Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan, who has instructed the team to continue aggressively tackling illegal encroachments throughout the city. The municipal squad also issued warnings to residents and shopkeepers, advising them not to repeat the encroachments.

Jitu Patwari emphasizes unity, commitment to strengthen Congress party in MP

Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Congress President Jitu Patwari held meetings with Congress workers in Amarkantak and Pushparajgarh on Tuesday, where he received a grand welcome from party members. During his visit, Patwari offered prayers at the Narmada Udgam Sthal and bowed before Maa Narmada after passing under the elephant statue, a local tradition believed to bring relief from troubles and fulfill wishes. On this occasion, Patwari also paid tribute to Sant Ravidas on his birth anniversary. Addressing Congress workers, he emphasized the importance of unity and commitment to strengthening the party. He stated that the Congress ideology must reach every village in the state, and this year is being observed as the "Year of Organization and Struggle" to reinforce the party's presence. Patwari launched a scathing attack on the BJP government, accusing it of failing to fulfill promises made to farmers,

women, youth, and the general public. He alleged that atrocities against Dalits and tribals are on the rise, women are feeling unsafe, and the youth's future is being jeopardized while the state government is preoccupied with organizing events. Referring to the upcoming Investor Summit, he questioned the BJP government on the actual benefits these summits have brought to the state. "How many new industries were established? How many youths got jobs? No industries were set up, and no jobs were created. Only the public's hard-earned money has been wasted," he remarked. Patwari also reminded the public of former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's 2022 announcement of a ₹100 crore Narmada Corridor in Amarkantak and questioned the progress of the project. He further demanded clarity on the Narmada Lok project in Anuppur, asking the current government how much work had been done.

Muslim youth booked for interfaith marriage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A young man who came to register his marriage under the Special Marriage Act in the district court of Bhopal was brutally assaulted-not once, but multiple times. He was first attacked in the court canteen, then outside the police post, and even inside a police vehicle. The police, however, instead of taking action against the attackers, registered a case against the victim. Video footage clearly shows the assailants kicking and punching the young man in broad daylight. While the crowd watched as mute spectators, no one stepped in to help. Police officers were present at the scene, yet they did nothing to intervene. Instead, the victim was humiliated, forced to perform sit-ups as a form of punishment, and ultimately had a case filed against him. The victim, Syed Khan, alleged that the lawyer he trusted took Rs. 40,000 but failed to conduct the marriage and even called the attackers.

Manoj Kumar's efforts to uplift Sikligar community recognized

PNS ■ DHAR

The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD), under the Union Home Ministry, has recognized and appreciated the efforts of Superintendent of Police (SP) Dhar, Manoj Kumar Singh, in integrating the Sikligar community into the mainstream. His initiative has been prominently featured in BPRD's publication, Best Practices on Smart Policing 2024, which highlights innovative policing efforts across India. BPRD, a central institution that documents and promotes best policing practices from 28 states and eight union territories, acknowledged SP Singh's legal

and social initiatives aimed at rehabilitating members of the Sikligar community, who were historically involved in manufacturing and smuggling illegal firearms. Since his posting, SP Singh has taken proactive measures to curb illegal activities while simultaneously working towards the welfare and upliftment of the community. He engaged directly with Sikligar families through village meetings, organized oath programs to encourage lawful means of livelihood, provided employment guidance, collaborated with NGOs for skill development, and ensured that community members benefited from various government welfare schemes. His efforts also included generating local employ-

ment opportunities through community policing initiatives, which have significantly contributed to reducing crime and improving the living standards of the Sikligar community. The recognition by BPRD stands as a testament to his impactful policing strategies, which blend law enforcement with social reform. His commendable work has been documented as a model for smart policing in India. In acknowledgment of his outstanding contribution, the Madhya Pradesh government recently promoted Manoj Kumar Singh to the rank of Deputy Inspector General (DIG). His efforts continue to serve as an inspiration for law enforcement agencies across the country.

Mashakadhani regales audience at Rupak Festival

Bhopal: On the second day of the four-day Rupak Festival, several captivating theatrical performances reflecting contemporary life were presented at the Ravindra Bhawan in the state capital on Wednesday. Proceedings on day two commenced with Yuthika, written by Acharya Reva Prasad Dwivedi and performed by the Central Sanskrit University from Himachal Pradesh. This play explored the emotional journey of Yuthika and Harsh from two distinct clans, highlighting the complexities of human relationships. Through their story of love and reconciliation, the play connected deeply with the audience, shedding light on the universal nature of bonds and the intricacies of human emotions.

Next, Mashakadhani, a satirical comedy by Professor Radhavallabh Tripathi, took the stage. The play humorously depicted the everyday nuisance of mosquitoes, turning a mundane issue into a clever source of comedy. Other notable performances on the day included Dharmachakra Pravartanam, a spiritual play by Acharya Vasant Kumar Bhatt, presented by the Calicut Adarsha Sanskrit Vidyapeeth. Dharmachakra Pravartanam reminded the audience of the timeless pursuit of knowledge and humility, encouraging introspection on the deeper aspects of life beyond worldly distractions. Alongside the theatre performances, the festival also showcased Nimari and Bundeli folk songs, celebrating India's rich cultural heritage.



Senior Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Digvijaya Singh with his son Congress MLA Jaiwardhan Singh take a holy dip at Triveni Sangam on Magh Purnima during Mahakumbh at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

NEP being effectively implemented in MP: Minister

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

National Education Policy 2020 is being effectively implemented by the School Education Department in the state. A state level task force has been constituted for implementation under the chairmanship of School Education Minister Uday Pratap Singh. Along with this, chapter wise state level committees have also been constituted in the new education policy. Officials, principals and teachers have been given online orientation training focused on the New Education Policy. Implementation is being regularly reviewed with the New Education Policy Tracker.

On the basis of approval of the annual action plan for the year 2024-25, pre-primary classes are being conducted in 4473 schools in the state. About one lakh children of age group 3 to 6 are enrolled in these schools. Activities related to early childhood care and education are being organised by additional teachers available in schools and teachers teaching class 1 and 2. Provision has been made on the education portal to provide PM nutrition to children of pre-primary classes. 170 master trainers related to early childhood care and education (ECE) have been trained. Work-books Part-1, 2 and 3 for nursery, KG-I and KG-II children and overall progress sheets have been prepared for

their evaluation. Posters have been prepared on 10 subjects for the language and cognitive development of these children. In the first phase, 18 thousand 650 Anganwadi workers of the state were trained. In the second phase, about 40 thousand Anganwadi workers have been trained. After the training, Anganwadi workers are taking care of children with efficiency, imparting knowledge of alphabets and language. Subject wise practice books and teacher guides for class 1 and 2 have been prepared and made available to children and teachers in the state. Learning kits have been prepared by the department for primary classes and made available to schools.

Student volunteers, teachers confident of GIS success

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ BHOPAL

Students and faculty members from the management and economics streams in the state capital have expressed confidence that the Global Investors Summit will bring about meaningful changes in the industrial landscape of the city. A commerce student and volunteer at the summit, Aryan, said, "This summit will help students shape their careers and build a network that can assist them in the future." MBA student Sufian, also among the summit volunteers, said, "I will get a brief view of the world's top global leaders and administrators, which will help me shape my career. It will also help me understand how a business mind works, so that I, too, can become an investor." Danish, a UPSC aspirant and management student, shared his enthusiasm about volunteering at the event, saying, "It

will be a great opportunity for me to meet key people and learn about investment opportunities in Madhya Pradesh. It is a valuable platform to connect with leading figures in the corporate world." Meanwhile, Assistant Professor at Bhopal School of Social Sciences (BSSS), Aamir Mehboob, highlighted the summit's significance. He said, "This event will motivate students to establish startups. Additionally, the IT sector, cybersecurity, advertising, and logistics supply chain management will also be promoted. There is a high possibility that Madhya Pradesh and Bhopal will emerge as new business hubs. This will lead to significant employment generation, as the state has numerous skilled colleges capable of transforming students into a competent workforce." He further added, "Students will gain practical skills rather than just theoretical knowledge. For them, this summit

location's infrastructure, and we need to highlight our strengths." "While the government's efforts are commendable, additional research is needed to identify the best areas for investment," she continued. "If this summit proves successful, its impact will be most significant on our capital, Bhopal, rather than just the state as a whole. People's per capita income will rise, leading to lifestyle improvements. Now is the right time to satisfy the needs of major business minds from India and abroad so that investments come in as quickly as possible. The biggest achievement of this summit will be job creation." Economics expert Darshan Sabharwal stated, "If the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed during the summit are implemented effectively, our state will undoubtedly experience growth. We need more skilled workers, and the government's Skill India programme is steering

youth in the right direction. If this summit proves successful, Madhya Pradesh will emerge as a leading state in the next five years, with greater opportunities in rural areas." Meanwhile, finance expert Alpa Ghosh highlighted the benefits of investment for the stock market. She said, "With new investments, the stock market will flourish, and opportunities and expectations will be balanced. The industrial climate and infrastructure will improve, and rural areas will benefit significantly as they supply raw materials. Since the state itself is a partner in these investments, the risks involved will be considerably lower." Hundreds of students from various city colleges and universities will be present as volunteers at the summit when it gets underway later this month. The students are scheduled for a special seven-day training programme before they are assigned responsibilities at the conclave.

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STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 (in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		
		31-Dec-24 Unaudited	30-Sep-24 Unaudited	31-Dec-23 Unaudited	31-Dec-24 Unaudited	31-Dec-23 Unaudited	Year Ended Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	1,029.18	1,043.79	879.95	2,946.16	2,561.86	3,596.49
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	141.38	180.25	66.36	482.56	215.14	275.36
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	141.38	180.25	66.36	482.56	215.14	275.36
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	180.09	162.32	58.06	454.34	176.47	144.30
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	180.09	162.32	58.41	454.34	171.60	143.01
6.	Equity Share Capital	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52
7.	Earnings per equity share (for Continuing and Discontinuing Operations)						
	- Basic (₹)	0.57	0.51	0.18	1.43	0.56	0.45
	- Diluted (₹)	0.57	0.51	0.18	1.43	0.56	0.45

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 (in Lakhs)

Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Nine Months Ended		
		31-Dec-24 Unaudited	30-Sep-24 Unaudited	31-Dec-23 Unaudited	31-Dec-24 Unaudited	31-Dec-23 Unaudited	Year Ended Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	1,041.41	1,038.31	877.76	2,949.10	2,563.84	3,589.12
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	145.72	166.25	71.18	463.08	207.69	258.16
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	145.72	166.25	71.76	463.08	208.27	258.16
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	183.83	150.90	59.02	438.97	169.74	131.53
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax))	183.83	150.90	57.37	438.97	164.87	130.24
6.	Equity Share Capital	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52	1,588.52
7.	Earnings per equity share (not annualized for quarter)						
	- Basic (₹)	0.58	0.47	0.19	1.38	0.53	0.41
	- Diluted (₹)	0.58	0.47	0.19	1.38	0.53	0.41

Notes:
a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Statement of Unaudited Consolidated and Standalone Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2024 filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter and nine months ended financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and Company's website viz. www.aartechsolonics.com.
b) The above unaudited standalone and consolidated financial results were reviewed by the audit committee and thereafter approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 12th February, 2025. The auditors have issued unqualified audit opinion on these results. The IndAS compliant financial results were subjected to limited review or audit. However, the management has exercised due diligence to ensure that the financial results provide a true and fair view of its affairs.
c) Figures for previous period / year have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary to make them comparable with those of the current period presentation.
d) The Company does not have sufficient and appropriate information despite several follow-ups regarding the financial statement of Enerqual Technology Pvt. Ltd. ("Associate") due to the ongoing dispute with the Associate entity. Accordingly, the Company has not included the impact in the Consolidated financial statement of the Group. Further, the dispute is not going to have any material impact in the consolidated financial statement of the Group.
e) The Group has a 20% equity interest in Epsilon Ten Ltd, a company incorporated outside India. The Associate entity has not prepared the financial statement due to which we could not get the audited results of the Associate. Further the management is actively following up with the Associate to get the financial results so that the impact of the same can be included in the consolidated financial results of the Group.
f) As mentioned in Note (d) and (e) above regarding the ongoing dispute with the Associate company, the Company is not able to obtain sufficient and appropriate information due to which the impact of share of profit/(loss) in Associate is not included in the unaudited consolidated financial results of the Company.

Place: Bhopal
Date: 12th February 2025

For AARTECH SOLONICS LIMITED
Sd/- Amit Anil Rajee, Chairman and Managing Director (DIN: 00282385)

No child will be discrimination: SC on Rohingya access to schools

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

No child will be discriminated against in education, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while fixing for next week a plea seeking a direction to the Centre and the Delhi governments to grant Rohingya refugees in the city access to public schools and hospitals.

The court just wants to know where these Rohingya families are living, in whose house and what are their particulars, a bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiwar Singh said while making the the no discrimination in education point. Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the NGO Rohingya Human Rights Initiative, said he has filed an affidavit giving the details and pointed out that the Rohingya refugees have UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) cards.

It will be easier for the NGO to give the particulars if these Rohingya families have these cards, Justice Surya Kant said. Gonsalves then sought some time to furnish more details to



Photo: File photo

the court. The top court posted the matter for further hearing after 10 days. On January 31, the top court asked the NGO to apprise the court where the Rohingya refugees have settled in the city and the facilities accessible to them. It also asked Gonsalves to file an affidavit indicating their places of settlement in Delhi. Gonsalves said the NGO

sought access to public schools and hospitals to Rohingya refugees as they were denied the access due to lack of Aadhaar cards. "They are refugees having UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) cards and therefore they can't have Aadhaar cards. But for want of Aadhaar they are not being granted access to public schools and hospitals," he sub-



mitted. Gonsalves said Rohingya refugees resided in Shaheen Bagh, Kalindi Kunj and Khajuri Khas areas of Delhi. "In Shaheen Bagh and Kalindi Kunj they are residing in slums and in Khajuri Khas they are residing in rented accommodation," he had submitted. The top court had said it asked the questions to understand if they lived in camps, the nature

of relief would be different than the one mentioned in the PIL. The PIL has sought a direction to authorities to grant admission to all Rohingya children free of cost irrespective of Aadhaar cards and allow them to participate in all examinations, including Classes 10 and 12 and graduation, without government insistence on the ID proof.

India, France to develop modern nuclear reactors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and France on Wednesday expressed an intent to jointly develop modern nuclear reactors, emphasising that nuclear power was crucial for energy security and transition to a low-carbon economy.

The two countries signed a letter of intent on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) and Advanced Modular Reactors (AMRs), according to a joint statement issued after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met French President Emmanuel Macron in Paris.

"Prime Minister Modi and President Macron stressed that nuclear energy is an essential part of the energy mix for strengthening energy security and transitioning towards a low-carbon economy," according to the statement. SMRs are compact nuclear fission reactors that can be manufactured in factories and then installed elsewhere. They typically have a smaller capacity than conventional nuclear reactors.

The two leaders also acknowledged the strong civil nuclear ties between India and France and efforts in cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron during the inauguration of the Indian Consulate, in Marseille, France PTI

notably in relation to the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project.

They also renewed a memorandum of understanding between India's Department of Atomic Energy and France's Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives of France, concerning cooperation with the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP). Both the nations agreed to enhance collaboration in training and education for nuclear professionals. Later on Wednesday, Modi is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump, with nuclear power expected to be among the topics of discussion. India aims to generate 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047 as part of its transition to

clean energy. Earlier this month, the government announced plans to launch a Nuclear Energy Mission with a budget of Rs 20,000 crore to support research and development of SMRs. As part of the initiative, India plans to operationalise at least five indigenously developed SMRs by 2033. To enable private sector participation, the government is considering amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act.

At present, nuclear power plants contribute 1.8 per cent of India's total installed power capacity of 462 gigawatts and around 3 per cent of total electricity generation. This helps save around 41 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually.

India to host first Global Coalition for Social Justice

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya will inaugurate first-ever Regional Dialogue on Global Coalition for Social Justice here on February 24-25, an official statement said here on Wednesday.

Giving details, it said Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Employers' Federation of India (EFI) will host the Dialogue at Bharat Mandapam. This landmark event is a significant contribution to the Global Coalition for Social Justice.

Launched by ILO in 2023 the Coalition is a platform for governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international and regional organizations, financial institutions and development banks, enterprises, international non-governmental organizations and academia committed to advancing social justice and engaging in collaborative efforts to achieve shared objectives.

The Coalition leverages collaboration among partners to amplify the unique strengths of each participant, comprehensively and coherently addressing social justice challenges. As a member of the Asia Pacific Coordinating Group,

India is spearheading the first 'Regional Dialogue' under the Global Coalition for Social Justice and championing the key intervention "Responsible Businesses for Inclusive and Sustainable Societies" under the Coalition's thematic area of "Expanding access to and capabilities for Productive and freely chosen Employment and Sustainable Enterprises."

The Regional Dialogue will bring together nearly 80 Coalition partners from the Asia Pacific region and beyond to explore innovative approaches, exchange best practices, and strengthen collaboration to advancing social justice in the region. The event will also mark the 74th Foundation Day of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), celebrating its unwavering commitment to ensuring dignified healthcare and economic security for India's workforce. The ESIC Foundation Day is an occasion to recognize the vital contribution of the organization in fostering social justice through the extension of comprehensive social security benefits for workers and their families in the formal sector. Discussions will focus on critical dimensions of social justice, including responsible business conduct and social protection, aligning with the Coalition's thematic priorities.

Ayush Ministry, social justice department sign MoU for senior citizens

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Ministry of Ayush and Department of Social Justice and Empowerment signed a MoU on Wednesday to improve the well-being of senior citizens and address the growing concern of substance abuse. This strategic partnership seeks to implement Ayush-based interventions to promote geriatric healthcare and combat substance abuse, Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav said. He said the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is a pioneering step to develop cooperative initiatives for health promotion among senior citizens and those affected by substance abuse.



Photo: File photo

"Geriatric healthcare and substance abuse are critical areas that require special focus, especially as we face an ageing population and growing concerns around addiction," Jadhav said.

This collaboration between the Ministry of Ayush and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE) represents a significant step towards addressing these chal-

lenges. "By leveraging the holistic approach of Ayush systems alongside social welfare initiatives, we aim to empower our senior citizens and those affected by substance abuse," the Minister stated. While addressing the gathering, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B L Verma, said, "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government has taken several steps to ensure the welfare of our senior citizens. The signing of the MoU with the Ministry of Ayush will benefit our senior citizens in a big way. "The development of elderly-specific training modules, treat-

ment protocols, yoga training programs, sharing of preventive and curative practices, etc, under the MoU will go a long way in enabling our senior citizens to lead a healthy life. By joining hands with the Ministry of Ayush, I am sure that together we can provide comprehensive services to the community," Verma said. By leveraging the strengths of Ayush systems, both ministries committed to working together on various initiatives, including awareness programmes, capacity-building for service providers and the establishment of geriatric health and de-addiction units under Ayush autonomous bodies. Key objectives of the MoU include developing coopera-

tion, convergence and synergy between the Ministry of Ayush and DoSJE to foster innovative initiatives for promoting the health of senior citizens, reducing the demand for drugs, addressing substance abuse and aiding mental rehabilitation. This will be achieved through the generation of awareness and capacity-building of service providers using Ayush systems. It also includes encouraging research in the areas of geriatric health, substance abuse and mental health, with a focus on exploring the therapeutic benefits of traditional healthcare practices and supporting additional activities for health promotion tailored to both the geriatric population and individuals affected by substance abuse.

PM Modi embarks on two-day US visit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day working visit to the US starting Wednesday and hold a bilateral meeting with President Donald Trump, with New Delhi saying it will give further direction and momentum to this "important partnership". Modi, who is currently visiting France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron, would be among the first few world leaders to visit the United States following the January 20 inauguration after Trump's vic-

tory in the US elections last November. The visit will provide a "valuable opportunity" to engage the new administration in all areas of mutual interest, senior officials said. The prime minister's visit to the US at the invitation of President Trump shows the "importance of India-US partnership and is also reflective of the bipartisan support that this partnership enjoys in the US", Foreign Secretary said Vikram Misri said here in a briefing on February seven. Modi will also interact with business leaders and members of the Indian community in the US.

India and the US. "The 5.4 million-strong Indian community in the US and the more than 3,50,000 students from India who are pursuing studies in universities strengthen this bond immeasurably," Misri said. "The prime minister's visit to the United States will give further direction and momentum to this important partnership. We expect a joint statement to be adopted at the end of the visit and will share that in due course," the foreign secretary said. This will be Modi's first visit since the inauguration of the second presidential term of Trump on January 20.

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Judicial officers' pension: Unified pension scheme notified, Centre tells SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that it recently notified the Unified Pension Scheme which might address the concerns of judicial officers.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih heard the submission made by the Centre's counsel. Attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre and apprised the bench about the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

ence how the Unified Pension Scheme worked and then take a call on the issues at hand. The matter would be heard after 12 weeks. The case raises concerns over the disbursement of pension to officers of the district judiciary and retired high court judges. The top court is dealing with salaries, arrears and allowances of the officers of district judiciary. The finance ministry notified the UPS on January 25 and it promises an assured pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior to superannuation. UPS would be applicable to Central government employees who were covered under the National Pension System and chose the option under the system, according to a gazette notification issued by the finance ministry.

UPS or assured payout would not be available in case of removal or dismissal from service or resignation of the employee, as per the notification published on January 25. The matter relates to the applicability of the New Pension Scheme to the officers of the district judiciary. "It is the submission of the attorney general as well as the solicitor general that the Unified Pension Scheme may address concerns of all the employees, including the judicial officers," observed the bench. The court therefore found it appropriate to defer the matter for some time to experi-

Supreme Court denies Indrani Mukerjea plea to travel abroad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed the plea of Indrani Mukerjea, accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora, against a ruling denying her permission to travel abroad. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Rajesh Binal directed the trial court to conduct the proceedings in the case within a year and upheld the Bombay High Court order refusing her plea. "There is no guarantee that



Photo: File photo

you will come back. Trial is at an advanced stage. Taking into con-

sideration the fact that the trial is ongoing, we are not inclined to

consider the request at this stage. We direct the trial court to expedite the hearing and conclude within a year," it said. Indrani is also an Accused turned Approver in the INX Media bribery case. Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and son Karti are accused in this case filed by CBI and ED. Indrani confessed before the court that she gave bribes to Karti linked firms to get saved from Income Tax and FDI violations. Opposing the permission, the CBI counsel said it was a sensitive matter and

the trial had reached halfway with the examination of 96 witnesses. The counsel for Mukerjea, a former media executive, submitted she was given bail by the top court and 92 witnesses still remained to be examined in the case. She said the trial court was vacant for the last four months and the proceedings could take a long time to conclude. The travel restriction matter came up in the Supreme Court after a special court on July 19 allowed Mukerjea's plea to visit Spain and the United Kingdom

for 10 days over the next three months. The Bombay High Court however set aside the order on September 27 after the CBI filed an appeal. Mukerjea moved the apex court against the high court order. In her plea, filed through advocate Sana Raees Khan, Mukerjea said she was a British citizen as she sought permission to visit Spain and her home country for "making necessary changes and amendments and taking care of pending work which cannot be transacted without her personal presence".

Deepika Padukone shares stress management tips with students on PM's PPC 2025

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Identify the cause of your stress and express it to someone you can trust, Bollywood actor Deepika Padukone has told school students during an interaction on PM's Pariksha Pe Charcha aired on Wednesday. The actor shared insights on mental health, stress management and how to stay calm during exams at a special session of 'Pariksha Pe Charcha', an annual event in which the Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students appearing for board examinations. In a shift from the traditional

town hall format, Modi preferred a more informal setting this time and took the students to Delhi iconic Sunder Nursery for his annual interaction with them ahead of board exams. "I think competition and comparison is a part of life. Competition is not a bad thing, but recognising our strengths and weaknesses, focusing more on our strengths, and working on our weaknesses is probably the only way to do it," Padukone said during the session. During the session, the actor shared her struggle with depression and also advised the students to learn to derive happiness from their own strengths.

"To manage stress, talk to your parents the night before exams. Identify the cause of your stress and express it to someone you can trust," she said during the interaction broadcast on Wednesday. Eminent personalities like Boxer MC Mary Kom and spiritual leader Sadhguru have also shared their experiences and knowledge with students on key aspects of life and learning in different episodes of Pariksha Pe Charcha this year. Padukone, who revealed her depression diagnosis in 2015, said there was a time when discussion around mental health was not encouraged in India.



Photo: File photo

"Mental health used to be a stigma in our country. As soon

as I started talking about this illness, I started feeling so free,

light. From there, my journey towards mental health awareness began. Depression, anxiety, stress could happen to anyone, anytime. "Like Shri Narendra Modi ji has mentioned in his book 'Exam Warriors' - 'express, never suppress'. When you're preparing for exams, you start feeling better. And you're able to live a happier, healthier life," she told students during the episode of the PPC session which was telecast on Wednesday. Calling depression an "invisible" illness, the "Pathaan" star said there was a time she was working continuously and one day in 2014 she just passed out. It was

her mother, who was then visiting her in Mumbai from Bengaluru, who realised that something wasn't ok. "They asked me if something happened, someone said anything to me, something happened at work. And, I said, 'No. I don't know what it is. I'm just feeling completely helpless and hopeless. I just don't want to live anymore. I was lucky in that moment that my mother realised and she decided to call a psychologist," she recalled. When a student asked for tips to care for one's mental health, Padukone shared three pointers. "Sleep is very important. It is a

freely available superpower. You must go out for adequate sunlight and fresh air. Always reach out for help." The 39-year-old also said patience is an important virtue and one can only do what's in their control. "So take a short break. Relax the mind. And then address it again. Sometimes, you just (need to) have a fresh take on whatever you are studying. Feeling stressed is quite natural. How we handle it is important. It's important to be patient - related to your exams, results or preparations... Sleep well, hydrate, exercise, and meditate," she added.

Millions take holy dip in Prayagraj on Maghi Purnima

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The ghats of Prayagraj came alive with devotion as millions of pilgrims took a sacred dip at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati on the auspicious occasion of Maghi Purnima. A sea of saffron-clad sadhus, devotees in colorful traditional attire, and spiritual seekers from across the country thronged the banks, creating a surreal atmosphere of faith and celebration.

Government claims that by the end of Wednesday over 2 crore people have taken a dip at Sangam.

From the break of dawn, chants of "Har Har Gange" echoed across the riverbanks, blending with the sound of temple bells and conch shells. As the golden hues of the rising sun kissed the holy waters, devotees stepped into

the river, some folding their hands in prayer, others bowing completely in reverence. Some wept tears of joy, while others stood silently, letting the sacred moment wash over them.

"The feeling is indescribable," said Anuradha Mishra, a 62-year-old pilgrim from Varanasi. "The moment you step into the Sangam, it's as if all your worries dissolve. This is not just a ritual, it is liberation."

Adding to the divine ambiance, authorities orchestrated a grand floral shower on the devotees. Thousands of marigold and rose petals rained down from atop buildings and helicopters, turning the ghats into a vibrant, fragrant spectacle.

The sight left many in awe. "It felt like the heavens themselves were blessing us," said 28-year-old Ramesh Tiwari, who had traveled from



Devotees gather to take a holy dip at the Sangam on the occasion of 'Maghi Purnima' bath festival during ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, in Prayagraj

Madhya Pradesh with his family. "I have been coming here for years, but this time,

the energy is truly something else." Despite the enormous footfall, the movement of devotees remained smooth, thanks to well-planned arrangements by the authorities. "The Maghi Purnima snan has been conducted peacefully and efficiently," said a senior government official Anuj Kumar Jha. "Over 40 million devotees have already taken the holy dip. Our entire team is working tirelessly to ensure that facilities, crowd management, and sanitation are up to the mark."

According to officials, nearly one-third of India's population has participated in the ongoing Magh Mela's holy baths, a staggering testament to the event's significance. "This is an unprecedented turnout," said Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar. "On peak weekends, crowds swell, sometimes causing traffic

slowdowns, but our teams work round the clock to keep everything under control. The sheer scale of faith on display here is beyond words."

Key routes such as Andawa to Jhansi and the Shastri Bridge witnessed a steady flow of pilgrims. Even around the iconic Bade Hanuman Temple, where devotees often queue for hours, the crowd was well-regulated.

The grand event was also marked by spiritual declarations. Former Uttar Pradesh Shia Waqf Board Chairman Wasim Rizvi, now known as Jitendra Narayan Singh Tyagi after his conversion to Hinduism, took a dip in the Sangam and expressed his joy.

"Sangam Snan is not just about bathing, it is about inner transformation. It fills my soul with bliss," he said, standing on the ghats surrounded by his supporters. He went on to

announce his plans for a new organization aimed at supporting those who choose to embrace Sanatan Dharma. "We will provide financial aid to converts, help them establish businesses, and ensure they are welcomed into society with dignity."

His statements sparked mixed reactions among devotees, with some expressing support, while others preferred to focus on the spiritual essence of the gathering.

The Magh Mela, often considered a precursor to the grand Maha Kumbh, has once again reaffirmed Prayagraj's role as the epicenter of Hindu spirituality.

As Maghi Purnima draws to a close, the energy at the Sangam remains electric, with pilgrims continuing their prayers and taking one last dip before heading home-hearts full, spirits uplifted, and faith renewed.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hails Aero India 2025 as historic success

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said India is going through a revolutionary phase of transformation, and the country's fighter jets, missile systems, naval vessels are not only protecting our borders but are also becoming the centre of attraction for the entire world. He said this at the indigenisation ceremony of Aero India 2025 here.

"Aero India has reached heights that are not only unparalleled but historic," the Defence Minister said. "I was personally present for the past three days in this event and if I have to express my



Photo: File photo

experience in three words, it is energy, energy and energy," he said. "Whatever we could see in

from India but from across the world. The enthusiasm seen among our entrepreneurs, our startups and innovators is commendable."

Noting that the country is going through a revolutionary phase of transformation, the Defence Minister said, "We all know that India has historically been dependent on imports for its defence needs. If I look back about a decade ago, 65 to 70 per cent of defence equipment was being imported into our country."

"If we look at the situation today, you may call it resolution or a miracle, but almost the same percentage of defence equipment is being manufactured in the country

today," he said. Rajnath Singh said, "Today we are standing at such a juncture where fighter jets, missile systems, naval vessels, or many such equipment and platforms, are not only protecting our borders but are also becoming the centre of attraction for the entire world."

"Today, we are exporting everything from small artillery to large platforms like Brahmos and Akash missile system to many countries. This is not only increasing our defence exports, but our new partnerships with different countries are also developing and strengthening at the global level," he said.

Operation Chaturbhuj to monitor devotees

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

A special security operation, Operation Chaturbhuj, was launched to ensure the safety of devotees from across the country and abroad for the holy bath on Magh Purnima in Mahakumbh Nagar. This initiative was carried out under the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, reinforcing stringent security measures. Additionally, a dedicated team from the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) was crucial in

establishing a robust security framework by leveraging advanced technology for comprehensive surveillance. Every aspect of safety, convenience, crime control, and crowd management from Tuesday night onwards was meticulously monitored. The ICCC oversees the fairgrounds and the entire city through 2,750 high-tech cameras, an anti-drone system, and specialized security teams, ensuring round-the-clock vigilance. Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rajesh Dwivedi emphasized that 24/7 aerial

surveillance is being conducted via drones, while special security arrangements at the ICCC have significantly enhanced crowd management. He added, "Furthermore, the anti-drone system remains on high alert in Mahakumbh Nagar, actively preventing unauthorized aerial activity. On the auspicious occasion of Magh Purnima, stringent measures were in place to detect and neutralize suspicious drones, ensuring an incident-free and secure environment for all devotees."

Panchayat steps up against drug menace in Himachal Pradesh



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
BILASPUR

Two days after Auhar gram Panchayat here decided to stop facilities for the families whose members are caught with adulterated heroin, another Panchayat, Gatwar has also decided to debar the members from receiving benefits.

Deputy Pradhan of Gatwar Panchayat, Ajay Sharma, said that the decision was taken to save the youths and the society at large from addiction to drugs such as 'chitta' (adulterated heroin).

He said that the various schemes are being run at the Panchayat level for the people and actions against drug addicts or the people involved in the business are necessary. The Panchayat has decided if any person is found to be involved in drug consumption or business, a proposal would be brought to deprive the family of any benefits, he added. The facilities given by Panchayats include facilities provided under the Below Poverty Line

(BPL), the Integrated Rural Development Scheme (IRDP), the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and others. Sharma said that the approval of money for building a house, water storage tank and other facilities would not be provided to such families.

The Panchayat has also decided to start an awareness campaign to save the youth from the increasing menace of drug addiction and its ill effects, Gram Panchayat pradhan Naval Bajaj said.

Parents are making every effort to provide better education and living standards to their children. However, the youth falling into the trap of drug addiction is a matter of concern for the society. A campaign against drug addiction will be run in every ward and village under the Panchayat. The Panchayat has appealed for cooperation from self-help groups, youth groups, women groups and social service organisations to make this campaign successful.

Former cricketer Anil Kumble, wife take holy dip in Sangam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Former Indian cricketer and coach Anil Kumble took the holy dip in Triveni Sangam on the auspicious occasion of Magh Purnima in Prayagraj. Accompanied by his wife, Chaitna Ramtirtha, Kumble immersed himself in the revered waters, embracing the spiritual significance of the occasion.

Later, he shared photos of the event on social media platform X, captioning them with a single word: "Blessed." Through this simple message, Kumble expressed that the holy immersion had granted him spiritual merit and the



Former Indian cricket captain Anil Kumble prays after taking holy dip at the Sangam on Maghi Purnima, during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

blessings of Prayagraj. Anil Kumble, known for his masterful spin bowling, arrived in Prayagraj on

Tuesday. However, he chose the auspicious occasion of Magh Purnima for his sacred dip at Triveni Sangam. On this day, no VIP protocols are observed at the Mahakumbh, yet Kumble opted to join the devotees as a regular pilgrim. He boarded a boat to reach the confluence and took the holy dip, accompanied by his wife, Chetana.

The couple offered prayers to Lord Sun and performed traditional rituals before immersing themselves in the sacred waters. Kumble also captured the moment, sharing a selfie from the boat and a stunning image of the full moon on Magh Purnima with his fans.

BJP delegation calls on Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla amid political crisis

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
IMPHAL

A mid a political crisis in Astrife-torn Manipur, senior BJP leader Sambit Patra on Wednesday morning called on Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan here, sources said.

They held discussions for some time but the outcome of the meeting is not yet known.

Patra, the BJP's Northeast in-charge, later headed for a hotel, where he is likely to meet party MLAs during the day.

A BJP delegation led by Patra had on Tuesday met Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan amid a leadership crisis following the resignation of N Biren Singh as the chief minister of the ethnic violence-hit state on February 9.

Meanwhile, experts have warned that with no one staking claim to form the government so far, the BJP-ruled Manipur may head towards a constitutional crisis.

If the situation remains so, the state is likely to be under President's rule, they said.

Senior Supreme Court Advocate Arunabh Chowdhury told PTI, "In Manipur, the assembly is a live one... it is not under suspended animation or President's Rule. It is mandatory to hold assembly sessions as per the Supreme Court order.

Obviously, it will lead to a big constitutional crisis." There is no provision in Article 174 saying that this can be extended or be condoned beyond six months, he said.

Article 174 says that the Governor shall from time to time summon the House or each House of the Legislature of a state to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session.

After six months, it will lead to a constitutional deadlock and the President's Rule under Article 356 is the only option, Chowdhury said.

Article 356 of the Constitution gives the President the power to impose this rule on a state on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh had on February 9 resigned from his post and Governor A K Bhalla accepted the same. He requested the CM to continue in office until alternative arrangements are made.

The Governor has already declared the seventh session of the 12th Manipur Legislative Assembly, which was set to commence on February 10, as null and void. The last session of the assembly in the restive state concluded on August 12, 2024.

Aligning technologies with future warfare is not the only answer: General Anil Chauhan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday said aligning technologies with future warfare is not the sole solution to achieving victory in war. He emphasised the need to develop new concepts and doctrines to complement technological advancements.

Making these assertions in a seminar on aligning technologies with future conflicts at Aero India here, the CDS said "Aligning technologies with future warfare is only part of the solution to achieving victory. You must evolve

new concepts, create new doctrines, establish new organizations for such combat, and build a new culture and processes if you want to win." He added, "Technology will only provide a part of the answer."

Noting that warfare initially evolved on land before expanding into the maritime and air domains, the CDS said, "With each new domain, there has been an influence on the preceding one. Even within these domains, significant changes continue to occur." In the land domain warfare has evolved to include terrain-based and urban combat, he said. "In the

maritime domain, apart from surface warfare, battles are now extending underwater-almost to the seabed. In the airspace we are witnessing an expansion into near space." "We need to align technologies to fight in these increasingly complex domains, and that is where technology will assist us," he added.

Speaking on how combat is evolving due to technological advancements, General Chauhan said, "For generations warfare has been between human beings but today we are on the verge of redefining this. In the future combat may be between humans and

machines and later it could be entirely between autonomous machines." He also highlighted that warfare is becoming multi-domain, meaning that battles will be fought simultaneously across multiple domains.

As warfare grows more complex the need to develop technologies for cross-domain operations and cross-domain command emerge, the CDS stressed. "Warfare is also becoming more intelligent due to battlefield digitisation, the networking of terrestrial, aerial, and satellite systems, and the shift toward data-centric warfare," he added.

CM Mamata Banerjee slams BJP for Kumbh mess

SAUGAR SENGUPTA
KOLKATA

Consequent to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's corruption diatribe on Bengal Government, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday mounted a blistering attack on the Centre and the BJP on a host of issues - including alleged fudging of voters' lists to win elections, mismanaging the Kumbh Mela as also suppressing facts post stampede deaths in Prayagraj and central deprivation of Bengal.

"Those who talk of corruption first look into their own acts... they are embodiment of corruption... let Nirmala Devi control their own

corruptions... she has stopped grants to us... even your own Gujarat Government is crying for grants... you attack us every time but how will you explain the ghost voters that swell the voters' lists causing you to win elections... from where this 40 lakh votes came," she asked in an apparent reference to the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

"You send ED and CBI to frighten the opposition into silence but allow your own corruption to go unchecked," Banerjee said roundly blaming the BJP for winning elections by fudging the voters' list and manipulating the Election Commission.

Banerjee was speaking to the

media after the State Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya on Wednesday placed the last full-time Budget before the next year's Assembly elections. Saying that she was ready to take on the BJP she said, "though the BJP has introduced lakhs of fake voters from Bihar in the voters' lists (some other States)... we will not allow them to do that in Bengal our administration is quite alert about that... we will thwart your plans."

Earlier state Finance Minister Bhattacharya presented a ₹3.89-Lakh Crore budget for 2025-26 with a significant focus on social welfare, and announced a four per cent hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for State government

employees. The State Government employees who had been fighting a long-drawn case in the Calcutta High Court and then in the Supreme Court would now get a 18 per cent DA as compared to their central counterparts that get 53 per cent.

For the first time speaking vehemently on the Kumbh Mela deaths she said, in other places they ask for setting up commissions but how many commissions they set up after the deaths in Kumbh Mela where there is no account of how many people died... they stopped media from entering the area for full 24 hours... they blocked internet and did everything to hide the number of

deaths... I was told how dead bodies were thrown in the river... we saw similar things happening during the corona... thousands of sandals lay strewn in places as testimony to the number of deaths during the stampede." About 30 pilgrims had died in the stampede on January 29 at Prayagraj.

"There was no plan to manage the crowd... everything was concentrated on VIP movement... whereas here in Ganga Sagar I do not visit the Mela during the main occasion so as not to create problem in crowd management... this was not so in Prayagraj," Banerjee said.

Abhijit Mukherjee quits TMC, joins Congress

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress leader and former MP Abhijit Mukherjee on Wednesday returned to the Congress after a gap of four years. Mukherjee is the son of former President Pranab Mukherjee.

Mukherjee who joined the Congress in the presence of AICC in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir and PCC president Subhankar Sarkar said it was like "ghar wapsi" or homecoming for him.

When asked whether rejoining Congress was a politically correct move, given Congress' condition in the State, he said, "It does not matter what the Congress's situation is. I went there due



Photo: File photo

to a personal reason, I do not want to disclose. We carry forward orders, we do what responsibility we are given." Sarkar said that Mukherjee's rejoining the Congress would strengthen

the State party. His joining the Congress days after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that she will not ally with the tricolor party which had nothing left in it in the State.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Yunus Govt in the crosshair

Bangladesh army shifts away from the Yunus Government as it calls for stronger ties with India amid chaos and downward slide

Bangladesh is currently facing a period of political uncertainty and unrest as the government led by Muhammad Yunus finds itself increasingly at odds with the country's powerful military establishment. The recent statements made by General Waker-uz-Zaman, the Chief of Army Staff, at the Dhaka International Marathon 2025, indicate a significant shift in the military's stance towards the civilian government. His emphasis on peace, stability and international cooperation—particularly with India—suggests growing dissatisfaction within the army ranks regarding the Yunus administration's policies and governance approach. The military in Bangladesh has historically played a crucial role in maintaining internal stability, often stepping in when political crises spiral out of control. With political tensions escalating under the Yunus government, the army appears to be distancing itself from the administration, signalling a potential realignment in the country's power dynamics. Several factors seem to be driving the military's dissatisfaction with the Yunus government. This indicates the military's concerns over the deteriorating economic conditions and increasing social divisions under Yunus's leadership. Persistent political unrest could be damaging to foreign investments and economic growth, both of which are essential for national development.

The military appears to be worried about governance inefficiencies and security concerns, especially as political violence and mass protests become more frequent. The Yunus government's inability to control these disruptions may be viewed as a failure to ensure stability, a key concern for the army. Bangladesh's military leadership values strong bilateral relations with key regional powers. General Waker's remarks about India underscore the army's desire for a pragmatic foreign policy approach that prioritises stability and mutual benefits rather than ideological stances or populist rhetoric. General Waker-uz-Zaman's statement emphasising India as an important neighbour and a key partner in regional security and economic cooperation suggests a strategic recalibration in Bangladesh's foreign policy. His remarks that Bangladesh "depends on India in many matters" and that both countries should respect each other's strategic interests signal a clear endorsement of closer ties with New Delhi. India and Bangladesh share deep economic linkages, including trade, energy cooperation and infrastructure projects. A stable relationship with India ensures continued economic growth and regional connectivity. Cooperation in counterterrorism efforts and border management is crucial for maintaining peace and stability. Bangladesh's military leadership might be viewing stronger ties with India as a means to maintain a balanced foreign policy, ensuring that Dhaka does not become overly reliant on any single regional power. The balance of power between the civilian leadership and the military will be crucial in determining the country's direction in the coming months.



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PICTALK



Devotees perform rituals during the Thaipusam festival at Vadapalani Murugan temple, in Chennai

Breaking barriers: Building a future for women in science

Trailblazing women scientists continue to defy the odds, proving that inclusion is not just a matter of fairness but a necessity for scientific and societal progress

In the 21st century, where scientific breakthroughs continue to shape our world, the persistent under-representation of women in science remains a glaring issue. Women have been at the forefront of some of the greatest scientific achievements across the globe in diverse fields from basic science to space science. Despite these inspiring role models, systemic barriers continue to stifle women's participation in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). It's time we confront these challenges and build a future where women can truly thrive in science. What kind of scientific world are we building if we exclude half of our population?



Without the full participation of women, we lose access to a vast pool of talent, creativity, and innovative solutions that could address some of our biggest challenges. Many girls are discouraged from pursuing science from a young age due to stereotypes that frame these fields as "unsuitable" or "too difficult." The so-called "leaky pipeline" begins to take its toll as early as high school, with fewer girls opting for science-related studies and careers. Even for those who break through these initial hurdles, the challenges persist in higher education and professional life. Women in research face a lack of mentorship, unequal access to funding and systemic biases in hiring and promotions. The numbers speak for themselves: UNESCO reports that only 35 per cent of STEM students globally are women, and their representation in leadership roles remains even lower. In India, the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) confirms that while the number of women pursuing science has grown, their presence in top research positions and leadership roles is still dismal. Despite these odds, many Indian women scientists have

defied the status quo and achieved remarkable success. Dr Indira Hinduja revolutionised reproductive medicine by developing India's first test-tube baby in 1986 and pioneering the gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) technique. Dr Soumya Swaminathan's leadership as Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO) played a crucial role in global health policy. Kalpana Kalahasti, a senior scientist at ISRO, was instrumental in India's triumphant Chandrayaan-3 mission and earned a spot in Nature's list of notable figures in 2023. These trailblazers not only pushed the boundaries of scientific knowledge but also broke societal barriers, paving the way for future generations of women in science. Does this make any difference to the society? Society benefits from more inclusive and comprehensive solutions when women are at the forefront of scientific innovation. Areas like maternal health, gender-specific medicine and community health interventions often flourish because of women scientists who understand these challenges first-

hand. Inclusion isn't just about fairness—it's about enriching science itself. So, how do we move forward? Building a future for women in science requires collective effort on multiple fronts. We must dismantle the structural barriers hindering women's advancement, provide mentorship programmes and promote policies that ensure equal hiring, funding, and career progression opportunities. Educational institutions should actively encourage girls to pursue STEM fields, while workplaces must offer flexible work environments that allow women to balance personal and professional responsibilities. It is time to tear down these barriers and build a future where every young girl who dreams of becoming a scientist can do so without limitations. When women are given equal opportunities to contribute to science, we all stand to gain—from groundbreaking discoveries to a more inclusive and prosperous world.



BIJU DHARMAPALAN

(The writer is the Dean Academic Affairs, Garden City University, Bangalore, views are personal)

Mann ki baat: Leading the global revival of radio



SANTOSH MATHEW

As we celebrate World Radio Day, Mann Ki Baat reminds us that the essence of communication remains the same—connecting, inspiring and bringing people together

Radio is not just a medium; it is a lifeline that transcends borders, connects people and amplifies voices. On World Radio Day, as the world celebrates the power of this enduring platform, India stands at the forefront of a remarkable communication revolution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly broadcast, Mann Ki Baat, which recently aired its 118th episode, exemplifies how radio is experiencing a renaissance in the digital age, proving to be one of the most effective tools of governance, inspiration, and soft power diplomacy. When UNESCO designated February 13 as World Radio Day in 2011, the objective was clear: to recognise the influence of radio in fostering dialogue, spreading awareness, and bridging communities worldwide.

In India, Mann Ki Baat is a testimony to the enduring power of radio. Launched in 2014, this monthly programme has transformed into one of the largest and most effective communication experiments in the world, reaching millions of listeners not just in India but globally. With an unparalleled ability to engage audiences through storytelling, Modi's initiative underscores the relevance of radio in an era dominated by digital noise. At a time when many predicted the decline of traditional radio, Mann Ki Baat has revived and redefined its significance. The programme's strength lies in its simplicity and relatability. Every episode delivers not just policy discussions but also inspirational stories of common citizens, grassroots innovations, cultural heritage and national achievements. The 118th episode was no different, weaving narratives that resonated with the spirit of nation-building, environmental consciousness, and collective responsibility. Beyond its national appeal, Mann Ki Baat has become an instrument of India's soft power diplomacy. The global Indian diaspora tunes in eagerly, fostering a sense of connection with the homeland. The broadcast's reach extends beyond national boundaries, often being



translated into multiple languages, including regional South Asian tongues, strengthening India's diplomatic and cultural ties with neighbouring nations. As India emerges as a global leader, leveraging radio as a tool for soft power projection enhances its image as a nation that values dialogue, shared heritage and cooperation. South Asia, a region bound by deep historical, cultural, and linguistic ties, finds an unexpected bridge in Mann Ki Baat. The programme's themes—self-reliance, community-driven initiatives, environmental sustainability and youth empowerment—are not just relevant to India but also resonate with India's neighbours. In an era where integration efforts in South Asia often face political roadblocks, the revival of radio as a medium of cultural and ideological exchange holds immense potential. India's radio diplomacy, through Mann Ki Baat, can become a catalyst for fostering deeper South Asian engagement, promoting shared developmental narratives, and creating common aspirations among regional populations. The 118th episode once again demonstrated how radio can be used as a participatory medium. Modi's interactions with citizens, his references to



AS INDIA EMERGES AS A GLOBAL LEADER, LEVERAGING RADIO AS A TOOL FOR SOFT POWER PROJECTION ENHANCES ITS IMAGE AS A NATION THAT VALUES DIALOGUE, SHARED HERITAGE AND COOPERATION

letters and messages from listeners, and his emphasis on people-centric governance make Mann Ki Baat an inclusive space for dialogue. Unlike social media platforms that are often fragmented and dominated by echo chambers, radio, through this programme, emerges as a unifying force that connects the masses uninterrupted and intimately. From the fishermen in Tamil Nadu to the farmers in Punjab, from students in Meghalaya to entrepreneurs in Gujarat, Mann Ki Baat speaks to every Indian, transcending linguistic, geographic, and socio-economic barriers. It harnesses the power of storytelling to amplify the voices of unsung heroes, small businesses, and cultural custodians. Radio has always been a tool of influence, but Mann Ki Baat takes it a step further by combining traditional broadcasting with modern digital integration. The program is simultaneously aired on multiple platforms, including community radio stations, AIR (All India Radio), podcasts, and social media channels. This hybrid model ensures that the message reaches every demographic, from the rural farmer with a transistor radio to the urban professional tuning in via a smartphone app. On World Radio Day, as glob-

al discussions revolve around the revival and impact of radio, Mann Ki Baat stands as a shining example of how the medium can be harnessed for nation-building and diplomacy. Countries across the world can draw lessons from India's use of radio as a tool for constructive engagement, leadership communication, and global outreach. In an era where polarization is rampant, radio's ability to create a sense of collective consciousness is more valuable than ever. India, with its vast diversity, has found in Mann Ki Baat a unifying voice that reflects the aspirations of its people. The power of voice, the magic of words, and the intimacy of audio storytelling are elements that make this programme not just a political initiative but a cultural phenomenon. As the world looks for ways to reinvent traditional communication platforms, India's example showcases that radio is not just surviving but thriving in the digital age. Mann Ki Baat is leading this revival, proving that in the cacophony of digital noise, the human voice still holds the power to unite and inspire. (The writer is an Associate Professor Centre For South Asian Studies, Pondicherry Central University. Views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AI FOR PUBLIC GOOD

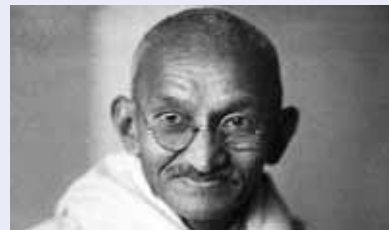
Madam — Artificial intelligence has become a truly global technology. The adoption of AI in healthcare, education, finance, labour and transportation is impacting society on a global scale while fundamental breakthroughs are being facilitated by research collaborations around the world. Its rapid deployment also creates major challenges in terms of the reliability of information, the protection of basic rights and accessibility. It is the international community's responsibility to maintain balance in our societies and to craft AI that respects universal values. The Paris AI Summit has been focused on several key themes related to opportunities, benefits and governance of AI. Also, these themes include AI for public good, for global AI governance, for innovation and culture and for environmentally sustainable AI solutions. The aim of the summit is to strike a balance between technological advancement and the preservation of universal values. The Paris AI Summit is of significant importance for the future of AI due to its focus on global governance, accessibility and ethical development of AI. The AI Action Committee at Paris, co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, shed light on India and France's joint work in the five dedicated working groups to tackle key issues for tomorrow: Public interest AI, future of work, innovation and culture Trust in AI and global AI governance. The role of India in the Paris AI Summit is laudable.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

US TARIFFS ON ALUMINIUM, STEEL

Madam— US President Donald Trump has virtually dropped another bomb on the global economy with the announcement of levying a 25 percent duty on steel and aluminium imports and reciprocal duty on all other imports from all countries. India is one of the largest exporters of steel to the US. While the world was aware of Trump's unconventional policies, his blanket threat to impose reciprocal tariffs—without any exceptions—almost upends the World Trade

Gandhi's insight on education



propos the article "Rekindling Gandhian values in education." Mahatma Gandhi wrote a few articles in a simple manner on the value of education that should serve as a big motivation for the students of our country. If the students read those writings and apply them in the modern perspective, they will surely give a new dimension to our education system. Gandhi played a significant role in value

education by emphasising the importance of moral and ethical principles. He encouraged educators to teach values like truth, non-violence and respect for others. He felt that instilling these values in students would help them become responsible and compassionate individuals. Gandhi described himself as a curious and eager learner during his student days. He valued education and believed that it was essential for personal growth. We have to apply Mahatma Gandhi's ideas on value education as a demand of time. Gandhi's unique and refined views about value education are not only important but are worth applying not only in India but also in the rest of the world.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

Organisation's (WTO) mandate to promote free trade by eliminating tariffs, quotas and other restrictions.

The free trade regime in the last 20 years kept inflation in manufactured products under control globally. However, Trump's populist agenda to find jobs for his support base consisting of semi-literate people in the US could damage the US-led alliance based on the Bretton Woods system. While the immediate threat from Trump's tariff on steel and aluminium could be negligible, the Indian economy could face the heat from fleeing foreign investors which could affect stock valuations and rupee weakness which could result in imported inflation.

N Sathasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

AFFORESTATION NEEDED TO SAVE FORESTS

Madam—It is indeed a matter of concern that a government agency like NHAI is overenthusiastic in felling a huge number of trees but not interested in attending to the compensatory afforestation. The government brought amendments in the Forest Act last year, which is sure to reduce

the forest cover in the country. Already the country's forest cover has come down from the recommended level of 1/3 to 1/5 of the land area.

Now we can expect further deterioration in the status, as using forest land is permitted for shikar and industrial activities. The centuries-old valuable thick forests in the Northeast are threatened with their very existence in the coming years. Mines are given to private players to hasten the process of exploiting the fossil fuels. This is an act that goes against the concern of everyone over the fast-changing climate. Every mine project begins with the destruction of forests in the vast sheet of hill areas, which will take many decades to reconstruct by afforestation efforts. It is high time the moments to save forests take the form of a people's movement to sensitise all the concerned and save the globe to make it fit enough to live. The apex court's concern conveyed to NHAI is welcome.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN ONE FAITH ONE WORLD

It's easy to point fingers when things go wrong, but true growth begins with self-reflection



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR **NIKUNJ JI**

All of us have heard the famous phrase "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" during our school days through the simple story of an old farmer who, on his deathbed, taught the importance of unity to his disunited sons through a bundle of sticks. That story still holds an important place in our society and has even gained popularity because discord, disunity, strife and warfare have assumed unprecedented proportions in the modern world. Today, one of the most arduous challenges that face humanity is to establish harmony among people of different religions. There is no doubt that political and religious leaders have time and again endeavoured to bring people onto a common platform and find ways and means to forge better understanding and acceptance of each faith. But despite their hard efforts, not much has changed. Hence, the greatest question of all at present is whether can the diverse religions and faiths ever be united. If so, then how? If we walk down history lane, we would find that one of the important reasons why the need for religious harmony originated is that the most



violent wars and conflicts in human history were based on religious intolerance and hatred. It might be a shocking statement, but it's the harsh reality that religions, which are supposed to make people more peaceful and loving, have today become the biggest cause of discord and bloodshed in the world. It's so appalling to see organized groups across the globe sworn to spread terror in the name of religion and carry out ethnic cleansing in the name of removing evil from the world.

If we closely examine the growth of each faith through the centuries, it reveals an interesting pattern. Even though there are some common values and tenets in all faiths, there are far too many misconceptions and conflicting beliefs that have continually fanned mistrust and hostility among the masses. It's quite imperative to know that, at the time of their inception, every religion had the power of purity, truth, and unity.

Gradually, cracks, factionalism, shallowness, delusion, deception and ritualistic adherence devoid of spiritual significance began to appear. Hence, instead of empowering spiritual values, religions perpetuated dogmas, disciplines, and barriers that segregate people on many lines. Many fall prey to the very evils they preach against, such as the lust for power, pleasure and money. There can be better understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of each faith, but there cannot be unity unless there is a single or common belief. So, what's the best way to reach a common solution acceptable to all faiths? According to divine knowledge imparted by the Supreme Almighty, everything in the eternal cycle of the human world drama goes through a change, which means that everything degrades from a perfect state to an imperfect, fragmented state. Be it human souls, nature, religions, or civilisations, almost everything passes through the sato (pure), rajo (mixed) and tamo (impure) stages as the time cycle spins from the Golden Age to the Iron Age.

As of today, we are witnessing the tamo-pradhan (most degraded) stage of all aspects of human existence, and religions are no exception to this process of change. Hence, we can envisage a unified faith only in terms of the spirituality inherent in all faiths. It is said that God is Truth, and true religion embodies that truth. Hence, when humans embrace that truth in their hearts, there will be a unified world. So, let us all stand united with one unified faith to welcome the new world where truth, peace and harmony will prevail.

(The writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

The MBA dilemma: Why degrees alone no longer guarantee success



DINESH SOOD

Once considered a guaranteed gateway to lucrative careers, the MBA is under scrutiny as unemployment rates rise—even among graduates from elite institutions



The job market for MBA graduates has reached a critical juncture, sparking conversations that resonate with a growing number of aspirants and professionals grappling with the changing realities of employment. Once seen as a surefire ticket to high-paying corporate roles, the MBA degree is scrutinised for relevance in an evolving economic landscape. This issue is not confined to India alone; even graduates from elite institutions like Harvard, Stanford, and Wharton feel the squeeze. The Wall Street Journal recently reported that in 2024, 23 per cent of Harvard Business School's MBA graduates were jobless. Other top-tier business schools like Stanford and Wharton have seen similar dips, with unemployment rates hovering around 20 per cent.

The problem is not just limited to the United States. According to the International Labour Organisation's Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024, 13 per cent of the global youth labour force was unemployed in 2023—a staggering figure representing nearly 65 million people. This unsettling trend makes traditional, generalist MBA degrees less appealing than targeted skill certifications. A recent Forbes report highlighted how some MBA graduates have succeeded by lowering their expectations and opting for less conventional roles. In an era where industries are shifting dynamically, the rigid, cookie-cutter MBA model is struggling to keep pace. The need for a 360-degree reimagining of this degree has never been more pressing.

Degrees Alone Won't Cut It Anymore One fundamental truth is becoming evident: degrees alone no longer guarantee job or entrepreneurship security. The future belongs to professionals who continuously upskill and adapt to meet the ever-changing demands of the workforce. What used to be a clear, structured career trajectory for MBA graduates—typically leading to consulting, finance, or management roles—is now blurred. The stark reality is that a prestigious qualification, while valuable, no longer provides



WHAT USED TO BE A CLEAR, STRUCTURED CAREER TRAJECTORY FOR MBA GRADUATES—TYPICALLY LEADING TO CONSULTING, FINANCE, OR MANAGEMENT ROLES—IS NOW BLURRED

immunity against unemployment or underemployment. Even more telling is the global shift in job seekers' mindsets. While travelling to Canada, I recently observed an MBA graduate running a salon branded "MBA Barber Shop." This reflects an important reality—many skilled gig jobs are vital for holistic growth, but traditional academic pathways have often dismissed such careers as unworthy. Yet, most developed nations respect one's skills rather than qualifications or family background. We must ask: Why doesn't Indian society do the same? **Skill Respect Over Degree Prestige**

The changing job landscape demands a fundamental shift in how we perceive employment, education, and career success. Skill acquisition is about individuals learning new competencies and families being sensitised to alternative career paths. It is about communities understanding the implications of an evolving job market. It is about cities and regions acknowledging and respecting those who possess the skills necessary to sustain a livelihood, irrespective of whether they hold an MBA or a B.Tech degree.

The MBA has been a gateway to professional and financial success for decades. However, the economy's evolution demands a departure from this narrow thinking. In India and many other countries, social conditioning has led to an unspoken hierarchy of professions. White-collar corporate roles are celebrated, while vocational or blue-collar jobs are often overlooked. This mindset is outdated and damaging in a world where adaptability and skills matter more than mere academic credentials. **A 360-Degree Skills Revolution** What we need now is a complete rethinking of education and skill development. The traditional MBA

must evolve from a broad-spectrum business degree into a dynamic, skills-focused program that integrates emerging industry trends. A 360-degree approach should include everything from finance to marketing and HR. MBA programmes must incorporate niche skills such as data analytics, digital transformation, sustainability management and entrepreneurship in beauty-wellness, the most emerging sector. Instead of theoretical coursework, there should be a stronger focus on apprenticeships, live projects and problem-solving in real-world business scenarios. Understanding AI, automation, and emerging technologies should be a core part of the curriculum to prepare graduates for future-ready roles. Rather than treating entrepreneurship as an alternative, business schools should actively promote and equip students with the skills to start and sustain their ventures. Business schools must recognise the gig economy's rise and train students to navigate freelance and contract-based work models. **Beyond Livelihood—Dignity in Work**

Redefining career success means placing equal value on all forms of work. Whether a person is an MBA graduate managing a corporate division, an AI consultant, a skilled tradesperson, or a self-employed barber, their ability to contribute meaningfully to society matters. The prestige of a job should be measured not by its title but by its impact and sustainability. Parents, educators, and policymakers have a role in fostering this change. We must instil in young minds that success is not confined to traditional white-collar professions. Regardless of their chosen field, a skilled individual should be celebrated just as much as a corporate executive. If an MBA graduate decides to become an artisan,

a chef, a salon owner or a renewable energy technician, they should be seen as pioneers, not failures. **The Need for Institutional Change**

Educational institutions must move beyond outdated frameworks and align themselves with industry demands. Business schools should foster adaptive thinking, preparing students for unconventional but lucrative career paths. The focus should be on problem-solving, digital proficiency, and entrepreneurial agility rather than rigid academic theories. Governments and industries should also contribute by incentivising skill-based education. Scholarships, subsidies, and awareness campaigns can help shift societal perspectives on what constitutes a respectable and rewarding career.

Conclusion: A Future Built on Skills Once a golden ticket to corporate success, the MBA faces an existential crisis. If it is to remain relevant, it must undergo radical transformation. A degree is no longer a guarantee; what truly matters is an individual's ability to adapt, innovate, and deliver value in an ever-changing world. As a society, we need to support and encourage young professionals in their quest to discover their true potential—even in jobs that were once considered "odd." In reality, no job is odd; what matters is its necessity and impact. By embracing a 360-degree perspective on skills and careers, we can build a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready workforce. The time for change is now.

(The writer is a Co-Founder and MD of Orane International, a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation, and a Network Member, of India International Skill Centres. View express are personal)

Ethics-driven AI in predictive healthcare: Building a foundation of trust and accountability

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionising predictive healthcare, offering early disease detection, personalised treatment plans and improved patient outcomes

In today's rapidly advancing healthcare landscape, Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a transformative role, particularly in predictive healthcare. AI's ability to analyse vast datasets enables early disease detection, personalised treatment plans and improved patient outcomes. The global AI in healthcare market, valued at approximately \$15.4 billion in 2022, is projected to surge to \$187.95 billion by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 37 per cent. Yet, with this potential comes a responsibility to ensure that AI is used responsibly, ethically, and equitably. Establishing a framework that prioritises privacy, fairness, transparency and accountability is essential to protect patient rights and



GERALD JAIDEEP

maintain public trust. The Power of AI in Predictive Healthcare AI's role in predictive healthcare is primarily driven by machine learning and data analytics, empowering it to forecast diseases, assess risk factors, and recommend preventive measures. By examining patterns in com-

prehensive datasets, such as medical histories, genetic profiles, lifestyle information and real-time health data, AI can predict the likelihood of conditions ranging from diabetes and cardiovascular diseases to complex ailments like cancer and Alzheimer's. This shift from reactive to preventive care can ease the burden on healthcare systems and improve patient quality of life. For example, AI-based diagnostics for diabetic retinopathy have shown an accuracy rate of over 87 per cent, enabling early detection and timely intervention. Similarly, IBM Watson's Oncology AI has achieved 90 per cent accuracy in cancer treatment recommendations that align with those of human oncologists. However, to har-

ness AI's potential responsibly, it's crucial to address the ethical challenges it introduces. **Safeguarding Data Privacy and Security** The ethical use of AI in healthcare hinges on the responsible management of patient data. Predictive healthcare AI relies heavily on sensitive information, including medical, genetic, and behavioural data. Yet, the need for privacy is ever more pressing—72 per cent of Americans express significant concerns about data privacy in AI applications, particularly in healthcare. In 2022, nearly 50 million healthcare records were exposed to data breaches in the United States, underscoring the need for strong data security protocols. To protect this information, AI systems must



prioritise rigorous security measures such as encryption, anonymisation and regular audits. Patients should also provide informed consent, clearly explaining how their data will be used and stored. By centring data protection in AI development, healthcare can ensure patient confidentiality and foster the trust necessary for AI's

continued adoption. **Addressing Bias for Fair and Equitable Predictions** AI's reliance on historical data introduces the risk of bias, which can lead to predictions that disproportionately impact certain demographic groups. Research has shown that AI models trained on biased data result in 35 per cent more misdiagnoses for Black and Hispanic patients compared to white patients. In healthcare, such biases could exacerbate disparities for marginalised populations. Ensuring fairness requires AI systems trained on diverse, representative datasets, as well as continuous monitoring and adjustments to detect and correct biases. A study published in Nature Medicine found that AI systems trained on

inclusive datasets significantly reduce diagnostic discrepancies, underscoring the importance of inclusivity in training data. Collaboration with healthcare professionals and ethicists is also vital to developing AI solutions that are equitable and serve all patients effectively. **Promoting Transparency and Explainability in AI Models** The complexity of AI algorithms often results in "black box" decision-making, where the reasoning behind predictions is not fully understood by users or developers. In predictive healthcare, this lack of transparency can hinder trust and adoption among patients and healthcare providers alike. In a survey by the American Medical Association, 67 per cent of healthcare providers

expressed reservations about using "black-box" AI systems, highlighting the need for explainable AI. Currently, only 23 per cent of AI-based diagnostic tools meet explainability standards to ensure transparency. By developing interpretable models, researchers can make AI's decision-making processes accessible to healthcare providers, enabling them to communicate AI-driven recommendations clearly and fostering patient involvement in care decisions.

As AI continues to advance, a strong ethical framework will be essential to uphold public trust and ensure that AI-driven healthcare remains a force for good.

(The writer is CEO, Medvarity; views are personal)

Trump admn battles lawsuit to block USAID dismantling

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration will present an unforbearing argument for dismantling the US Agency for International Development to a federal judge Wednesday: USAID is rife with "insubordination" and must be shut down for the administration to decide what pieces of it to salvage. The argument, made in an affidavit by political appointee and deputy USAID administrator Pete Marocco, comes as the administration confronts a lawsuit by two groups representing federal employees. USAID staffers deny insubordination and call the accusation a pretext to break up the more than 60-year-old agency, one of the world's biggest donors of humanitarian and development assistance. Accounts of USAID staffers filed Tuesday in support of the lawsuit revealed new details of the destruction of the agency. That includes a sworn statement from a USAID staffer describing a special leader in billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency teams allegedly directing USAID staffers on Monday in the immediate termination of about 200 USAID programs without proper authorisation or process. US District Judge Carl Nichols, an appointee of President Donald Trump, dealt the administration a setback Friday in its dismantling of the agency, temporarily halting plans to pull all but a fraction of USAID staffers off the job worldwide. Nichols is due to

Trump readies matching tariffs on trade partners

Washington (PTI): President Donald Trump is taking additional action to upset the world trade system, with plans to sign an order as soon as Wednesday that would require that US tariffs on imports match the tax rates charged by other countries. "It's time to be reciprocal," Trump told reporters earlier this week. "You'll be hearing that word a lot. Reciprocal. If they charge us, we charge them." The president had suggested that the order would come on Tuesday or Wednesday. But when Tuesday passed without the tariffs being officially announced, Trump was asked if he would sign the order on Wednesday and Trump answered: "We'll see what happens." As Trump has unleashed a series of tariffs after being in power for less than a month, he has fully taken ownership of the path of the US economy. It's a bet that his economic ideas can eventually deliver meaningful results for vot-

ers, even if by Trump's own admission the import taxes could involve some financial pain in the form of inflation and economic disruptions. For all of Trump's talk, the impact will likely depend on the details of the tariffs and how other nations respond. A reciprocal tariffs order could amount to a substantial tax hike to be shouldered largely by US consumers and businesses as the Census Bureau reported that the country had total imports of USD 4.1 trillion last year. The tariffs could set off retaliatory measures by trading partners that could roil growth around the globe and reset where the United States stands with allies and rivals alike. By signing the order, Trump would fulfil his long-standing pledge to raise taxes on most imported goods, a clear break with his recent White House predecessors who saw tariffs as either targeted tools to use strategically or barriers worth lowering.

hear arguments Wednesday on a request from the employment groups to keep blocking the move to put thousands of staffers on leave as well as broaden his order. They contend the government has already violated the judge's order, which also reinstated USAID staffers already placed on leave but declined to suspend the administration's freeze on foreign assistance. Trump and Musk's cost-cutting DOGE have hit USAID particularly hard as they look to shrink the size of the federal government, accusing its work of being wasteful and out of line with Trump's agenda. In the court case, a government

motion shows the administration pressing arguments by Vice President JD Vance and others questioning if courts have the authority to check Trump's power. "The President's powers in the realm of foreign affairs are generally vast and unreviewable," government lawyers argued. USAID staffers and supporters call the aid agency's humanitarian and development work abroad essential to national security. They argue each step of the administration's breakup of USAID has been unnecessarily cruel to its thousands of workers and devastating for people around the world who are being cut off from clean water, life-saving medical care, education, training and more since Trump signed an executive order on Jan. 20 freezing foreign assistance. "This is a full-scale gutting of virtually all the personnel of an entire agency," Karla Gilbride, attorney for the employee associations, told the judge last week. The American Foreign

Service Association and the American Federation of Government Employees argue that Trump lacks the authority to shut down the agency without approval from Congress. Democratic lawmakers have made the same argument. In an affidavit ahead of Wednesday's hearing, Marocco, a returning USAID political appointee from Trump's first term, presents without evidence a description of agency workers stalling and resisting the administration's orders to abruptly cut off funds for programs worldwide and subject each one to a rigorous review. In the face of "deceit," "noncompliance" and "insubordination," USAID's new leaders "ultimately determined that the placement of a substantial number of USAID personnel on paid administrative leave was the only way to ... faithfully implement the pause and conduct a full and unimpeded audit of USAID's operations and programs," Marocco stated. Staffers deny resisting the funding freeze.

Leaders of Indonesia, Turkiye hold talks on defence, economic ties

PTI ■ BOGOR

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto on Wednesday for talks aimed at strengthening economic and defence ties between the two Muslim-majority nations. The two countries are holding their first High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council summit after agreeing to create the forum at a meeting in Bali in 2022. Erdogan's state visit to Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country and Southeast Asia's largest economy, was his second stop in a four-day visit that also includes Malaysia and Pakistan. "This meeting is the highest regular bilateral forum

between the two countries where all matters of common interest will be discussed, including strategic issues and priorities," said Indonesian foreign ministry spokesperson Rolliansyah Soemirat ahead of the visit. A Turkish statement said the discussions will be focused on current regional and global issues, particularly the war in Gaza. On Monday, the Turkish leader met Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and reiterated his opposition to a US proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza and said Israel should pay for the territory's reconstruction. "We do not consider the proposal to exile the Palestinians from the lands they have lived in for thousands of years as

something to be taken seriously," Erdogan said. Erdogan and his wife, First Lady Emine Erdogan, arrived in Jakarta late Tuesday and was welcomed by Subianto at Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport in a light rain. Erdogan rode with Subianto in a motorcade to his hotel. Indonesia and Turkiye have built an increasingly close relationship in recent years, and the two leaders previously met in Ankara last July when Subianto was still president-elect and defence minister. Subianto pledged to "elevate defense cooperation and other strategic fields for mutual benefit". The two countries signed a defense cooperation agreement in 2010, under which

Indonesia's state-run arms producer Pindad and Turkiye's FNSS jointly developed a new model of medium tank. In 2023, the two countries inked a plan of action for joint military exercises and defence industry cooperation. In addition to Indonesia, Turkiye has HILSCC cooperation forums with 21 other countries, including Pakistan. Turkiye and Indonesia plan to sign agreements on trade, investment, education and technology during Erdogan's visit. Erdogan will head on to Pakistan on Wednesday, where he and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will address the Pakistan-Turkiye Business and Investment Forum and attend another HILSCC meeting.



President Donald Trump, greets Marc Fogel at the White House, Tuesday.

PTI

Investigators file criminal complaints against Duterte

Manila (PTI): Philippine government investigators filed criminal complaints, including sedition, against Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday over her public threat to have the president assassinated if she herself was killed in an escalating political storm.

National Bureau of Investigation Director Jaime Santiago said at a news conference that the complaints of inciting to sedition and grave threats against Duterte were filed at the Department of Justice, which would decide whether to dismiss the complaints outright or elevate them to court.

The vice president, a lawyer and daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, reacted briefly by saying that she had expected the move by the NBI. She has accused her political rivals of taking steps to prevent her from seeking the presidency when President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's term ends in 2028. The vice president's father himself, whose presidential term ended in 2022, is facing legal troubles. The International Criminal Court has been investigating the widespread killings under a brutal anti-drug crackdown he oversaw while in office as a possible crime against humanity. Sara Duterte ran as Marcos' vice presidential running mate in 2022. Their whirlwind political alliance, however, quickly frayed and deteriorated into a bitter feud in an Asian democracy that has long been hamstrung by clashing political clans. Last week, the vice president was impeached by the House of Representatives on a range of accusations that included her threat to have Marcos, his wife and House Speaker Martin Romualdez killed if she herself were fatally attacked in an unspecified plot that she brought up in an online news conference in November. The impeachment complaint, which was signed by majority of the more than 300 members of the House, which is dominated by Marcos' allies, also included allegations of largescale corruption and misuse of her office's confidential funds.

THE PIONEERS CLASSIFIED

LOST & FOUND
Dear sir my name is zubaida w/o Dilshad my property paper chain are lost in Delhi, Property address-village sarawa pargana sarawa teshil & dist-meerut details -book no-1 documents no-137, zild no-2129, page no-15 to 30 Date- 08/01/2001.
PD(1478)C

CHANGE OF NAME
I Rank No.3407092N, NK. Narender S/o Ishwar Singh R/o Bhawar (2) Sonipat Haryana 131302 inform that name of my mother Nirmla has been mentioned in my office documents wrongly as Nirmal Devi, Correct name of my mother is Nirmla which may be amended accordingly.
PD(1466)A

I, Pravesh Kumar/ Pravesh Thukral S/o Shri Bhim Sain, C-42-A School Lane, Acharya Niketan, Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-110091, that my name wrongly written in my daughter Pari Thukral, CBSE, 10th class marksheet as Parvash Thukral, correct name is Pravesh Thukral.
PD(1467)C

I, Pooja W/o Manoj Sharma R/o House No.-74, Gali No.-2, Vaishali, Dabri, Delhi-110045 have changed my name to POOJA SHARMA.
PD(1477)C

I, Basappa Father of No.8038827X L/NK Manjunath Nuchchundi, R/o- Vill & PO- Shivapur, Teh-Gokak, Dist- Belgaum, Karnataka- 591312, have changed my Name from Basappa Nuchchundi, vide Affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1468)C

I, Doddavva Mother of No.8038827X L/NK Manjunath Nuchchundi, R/o-Vill & PO- Shivapur, Teh-Gokak, Dist- Belgaum, Karnataka- 591312, have changed my name from Doddavva Nuchchundi, vide Affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1469)C

UN: Abuses against Hindus, Ahmadiyya muslims during protests

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Human rights abuses were inflicted on some members of Bangladeshi Hindu, Ahmadiyya Muslim, and indigenous communities during anti-discrimination protests and its aftermath last year, a UN report said. "Bangladesh's former government, security and intelligence services, alongside violent elements associated with the Awami League party, systematically engaged in a range of serious human rights violations during last year's student-led protests," the report by the UN Human Rights Office said. The report said that in the aftermath of the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government last year, "widespread attacks were reported against Hindu homes, businesses, and places of worship, especially in rural and historically tense areas such as Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, and Dinajpur, as well as other places such as Sylhet, Khulna, and Rangpur". The report said this destruction was especially prevalent in areas perceived to be sympathetic to the Awami League as Hindus

have often been stereotypically associated with this political faction. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Fact-Finding Report: 'Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh' also documents "troubling instances" of retaliatory killings and other serious revenge violence targeting Awami League officials and supporters, police and media as the former government started to lose control of the country. Hindus, Ahmadiyya Muslims, and indigenous people from the Chittagong Hill Tracts were also subjected to human rights abuses. While some 100 arrests about attacks on distinct religious and indigenous groups have reportedly been made, the perpetrators of many other acts of revenge violence and attacks on such groups still enjoy impunity," the report said. It added the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights interviewed Hindu business owners and homeowners in some of these areas who reported that their businesses, houses, land and

religious sites had been targeted while shops owned by Hindus were also looted. "The violence often involved property destruction, arson, and physical threats, compounded by insufficient police responses, suggesting systemic impunity, and potential political motives," it said. One interviewee said that Hindu funeral sites and temples were vandalized in Thakurgaon, and other witnesses described that after attacks on their property, approximately 3,000 - 4,000 Hindus from those villages fearing communal violence sought refuge near the border with India. Affected families reported a pervasive sense of insecurity and heavy financial losses, with many losing essential items, livestock, and whole businesses, the report said. The report further said that witnesses and victims' accounts provided to one source indicated that attacks were primarily carried out by individuals involved in "victory processions" celebrating the Hasina government's collapse. "While the identity of the perpetrators in these attacks was not always

clear, witnesses to some of the incidents testified the attackers were local supporters of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islami, and other organised groups." However, there were also interventions from these political parties condemning the violence. After August 6, there were localised efforts by BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, student groups, and Christian organisations to protect houses and places of worship of the Hindu community, the report said. BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Students against Discrimination leaders, and Interim Government Chief Advisor Mohammed Yunus all made public statements condemning the violence, it noted. Several allegations were reported of violent mobs coercing Hindu headmasters and teachers to resign. The report added that "some local members and supporters of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami opposition parties bear responsibility for human rights abuses committed during revenge attacks, including against members of the Hindu community". The report noted there had been a longer record of attacks

on places of worship, especially temples and shrines, in Bangladesh. In terms of the period under consideration in this report, between August 5 and 15, media and other local sources reported attacks on places of worship associated with Hindu, Ahmadiyya, Buddhist, and Christian communities across several regions. According to information submitted to OHCHR, three temples were attacked and set ablaze, along with the looting of approximately 20 houses, in Burashardubi, Hatibandha, and Lalmonirhat, reflecting significant levels of community unrest. There was also an arson attack in Meherpur on a temple of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), it said. Specific incidents reported to OHCHR also underlined the complexities surrounding these attacks. "For example, the Kali temple in Nandipara was attacked on August 7, but, upon investigation, it became clear the damage stemmed not from religious intolerance, but rather a local dispute over land ownership," it said.

Relatives of Israeli hostages terrified as Gaza ceasefire teeters

PTI ■ TEL AVIV

After 16 months of excruciating uncertainty, Idit Ohel finally received word this week that her 24-year-old son, a hostage in Gaza, is still alive. She said she fainted upon hearing the brutal details of his captivity from freed hostages who had been held with him by Hamas since October 7, 2023. Bound by chains in an underground tunnel, Alon Ohel has subsisted on a piece of bread or less each day. "He hasn't seen sunlight in 493 days," she told reporters on Monday. As the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas seems increasingly at risk of falling apart — Hamas says it will not free three hostages on Saturday as planned, and Israel says it's ready to resume the war if it doesn't — families of the hostages are struggling to maintain hope. They are pleading with

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to give up on the ceasefire framework, and to speed up the timeline of releases if possible. Their worries about the ceasefire collapsing have been exacerbated by President Donald Trump's demand that all of the hostages be freed by Saturday — and his insistence that Gaza be emptied of all Palestinians and redeveloped as a tourist enclave controlled by the United States. The emaciated state of three hostages released last Saturday has infuriated Israelis and terrified families of the remaining hostages, especially as more details come out about the conditions of their captivity. The situation is especially difficult for relatives of hostages who are not on the list of 33 hostages expected to be released in the ceasefire's first, six-week phase, which began on January 19. The agreement requires Israel

to free 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and detainees, whose families are also worried about how their enemy treats them. Two hostages released on Saturday, Or Levy and Eli Sharabi, were held together with Alon Ohel, and a fourth hostage, Elyah Cohen. The four were held underground since their kidnapping. Idit Ohel said Cohen is expected to be released in the ceasefire's first stage; Ohel would be freed in the second stage, if Israel and Hamas reach that point. Levy, Ohel, and Cohen were kidnapped from a bomb shelter near a music festival in southern Israel, along with Hersh Goldberg-Polin, an American-Israeli who was killed in captivity in August. "It breaks my heart to know he was chained and to know what happened to him in the tunnels from people in the tunnels," Cohens fiancée, Ziv Abud, 27, told reporters on Tuesday.

The returned hostages said that Cohen had lost more than 20 kilograms (44 pounds) and had a bullet in his leg that did not receive medical attention. While they were with him, Cohen was unaware that Abud had survived the Hamas attack on the bomb shelter where they were hiding. During the October 7 attack, militants tossed grenades and sprayed bullets inside the concrete bomb shelter near the music festival, where almost 30 people had crammed inside. At least 16 people inside the shelter were killed. Abud said she was protected by the crush of bodies above her. Going in and out of consciousness, she spent hours laying beneath the bodies of her nephew and his girlfriend. For families of hostages who are not scheduled for release in the first phase of the ceasefire, its uncertainty is even more difficult to bear.

Germany extends border controls by six months

Berlin (PTI): Germany's outgoing government on Wednesday extended by six months the border checks it imposed on all its frontiers last fall as it attempts to cut the number of migrants arriving in the country, an issue that has become a top issue in the campaign for the February 23 election. Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his government notified the European Union's executive commission of the extension to September 15. "With the border controls, we are pushing irregular migration down successfully. The figures prove this," he said. Germany turned back 47,000 people back at its borders, seeing one-third fewer asylum requests year-on-year and arresting 1,900 smugglers. The country was already controlling its borders with Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland before it

extended the checks last September to its remaining borders, with France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark. The EU has a visa-free travel area known as Schengen that allows citizens of most member states to travel easily across borders for work and pleasure. Switzerland also belongs to Schengen although it is not an EU member. According to the EU, member states are allowed to temporarily reintroduce border controls in cases of a serious threat, like internal security. But it also says border controls should be applied as a last resort in exceptional situations, and must be limited in time. German opposition leader Friedrich Merz, the front-runner in the election, wants to go further than the current government.

US Defence secy makes first visit to NATO with allies

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday made the first trip to NATO by a member of the new Trump administration, as the allies wait to learn how much military and financial support Washington intends to provide to Ukraine's government.

Hegseth held talks with UK Defence Secretary John Healey, before a meeting of the Ukraine Defence Contact Group at NATO headquarters in Brussels. Hegseth's predecessor, former Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, set up the forum for drumming up arms and ammunition for Ukraine in 2022.

Over nearly three years, around 50 countries have collectively provided Ukraine more than USD 126 billion in weapons and military assistance. But the meeting this week was convened by another country for the first time: the United Kingdom. All previous chairmen of the forum were chaired by the United States.

No decision has been made on who might chair the next meeting, if one is called.

Hegseth wasn't expected to make any announcement on new weapons for Ukraine. His trip comes less than two weeks before the third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Most US allies fear that Russian President Vladimir Putin won't stop at Ukraine's borders if he wins, and that Europe's biggest land war in decades poses an existential threat to their security.

US President Donald Trump has promised to quickly end the war. He's complained that it's costing American taxpayers too much money. He has suggested that Ukraine should pay for US support with access to its rare earth minerals, energy and other resources. Some US allies worry that a hasty deal might be clinched on terms that aren't favorable to Ukraine. On top of that, Trump appears to believe that European countries should take responsibility for Ukraine's security going forward.

Washington's 31 NATO allies also want to hear what Trump's new administration has in store for the world's biggest security organization. Trump traumatized his European partners during his first term in office by threatening not to defend any member that doesn't meet NATO guidelines for military spending.

NATO is founded on the principle that an attack on any ally must be considered an attack on them all and met with a collective response. Membership is considered to be the ultimate security guarantee, and it's one that Ukraine is trying to secure.

Kyiv's security needs and defense spending will be discussed on Thursday. European allies have hiked their military budgets since Putin ordered his troops into Ukraine, and 23 are estimated to have reached or exceeded last year's target of spending 2 per cent of gross domestic product.

However, a third of members still haven't reached that threshold, and Trump is almost certain to target them again. Recently, Trump called for NATO members to increase defense spending to 5 per cent of GDP, a level that no member has reached so far — not even Poland, which is the closest, spending more than 4 per cent and expected to approach 5% this year. Speaking to reporters in Germany on Tuesday, Hegseth wouldn't commit to having the US increase its defense spending to 5 per cent of GDP.

Hegseth said that he believes that the US should spend more than it did under the Biden administration and "should not go lower than 3 per cent."

He said any final decision would be up to Trump, but added that "we live in fiscally constrained times" and need to be responsible with taxpayer money.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Since Mr. Anoop Singh Sr. Azad Singh seeking a home loan from INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK for the property i.e. House No. 60, area measuring 299.2 sq. yds., Block-F, situated at Village Gadipur, Thana, Tiki, Ward No. 10, Sector-48, Tehsil Badshapur and District Gurugram, Haryana; hereafter referred to as "said property".

That, the said property was transferred several times. That, Mr. Jagdish Chander (80%) and Yogesh Kumar (20%) was owner through Sale Deed dated 09.02.2022. Thereafter, they have transferred between themselves 1/3rd Share Each i.e. Jagdish Chander (33.33%), Mr. Yogesh Kumar (33.33%) and Mr. Parvesh (33.33%) through transfer deed 1579 dated 03.05.2024. Finally, Mr. Parvesh (33.33%) has transferred his right to Mr. Jagdish Chander (16.66%) and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (16.66%). Therefore, Mr. Jagdish Chander (50%) and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (50%) became owner transfer deed dated 15.02.2025. Now, that Mr. Jagdish Chander and Mr. Yogesh Kumar were absolute owners of the said property. Therefore, Mr. Anoop Singh is purchasing said property. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, please contact the undersigned with the documents/proof substantiating his/her objections/claims/details of disputes within seven (7) days from the date of this publication. Village Gadipur, Thana, Tiki, Ward No. 10, Sector-48, Tehsil Badshapur and District Gurugram, Haryana. Mr. Anoop Singh will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the said property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained and moved forth accordingly.

M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLP
B-132, L.G.F. Malviya Nagar
New Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991116066

FOR SALE
FOR IMMEDIATE SALE
300 SQ YDS. 12 MTR ROADE
2/12 DLF PHASE-1 GURGAON,
PRASHANT WADHWA SHANTI
PROPERTIES
☎-9891555575

PUBLIC NOTICE
LOSS OF ID CARD

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID card of Ravenna issued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 2511336 has been found missing and/or lost on 11-02-2025. Anyone who find the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager Dept Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 7, Community Centre, S.D. Tower, Sector-8, Rohini, N. Delhi-85.

Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank Limited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized person holding the said ID Card No. 2511336.

Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at his/her own costs, risk and peril and ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any payment.

For ICICI Bank Limited
---Sd---
Place : Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all, SURESH CHANDER SAHU S/O LATE SH. OM PARKASH SAHU & SMT. SUMAN RANI SAHU W/O SH. SURESH CHANDER SAHU both R/O HOUSE NO.332, TOPKIANA BAZAR, STREET NO.4, AMBALA CANTT., HARYANA-133001 allottee/owner of LIC FLAT NO.50, SECOND FLOOR, BLOCK-D-1, POKHRI-4, SECTOR-34, ROHINI, DELHI, have applied for certified copies conveyance deed in DDA. The original documents i.e. POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER AND ELECTRICITY CONNECTION of the above said flat have been lost. An LR NO.2579346/2025 dated 12/02/2025 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.8560292588 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director (Housing), Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE

No. EM/MCHP/Tender-01/25/53
Date: 10/02/2025

Name of the Work "Design, Fabrication, Supply, Erection and Commissioning of one no. of Stacker 4000 TPH Capacity". Estimated cost: Rs.55,10,00,000/- Last date & time of submission of bid: 12.03.2025 up-to 17:15 Hrs. Refer our website for details <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (M)
MCHP, PPA

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Dharamvir Singh Bhati and Abhishek Bhati claims to be owner and in possession of Prop No. 208, Block-B, Sec-46, Noida, U.P., hereinafter called the said property by virtue of Transfer Deed Cum Gift Deed dated 03.02.2025 executed by Rajesh Bhati through GPA holder (His Brother) Dharamvir Singh Bhati reg vide Doc. No. 1682 R/w Transfer Deed dated 14.09.2007 reg. vide Doc. No. 2893, and Said Dharamvir Singh Bhati and Abhishek Bhati has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients Standard Chartered Bank ITO Branch, any person's having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby intimated to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 10 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)
For Diwan and Company LLP
House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D-19
Mobile No. 9818399999

FEDDERS ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING LIMITED
Reg. Off: 6 and 6/1 UPS/IDC Industrial Area, Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, UP-203205
CIN: L29299UP1957PL0021118 Email: imcapital19830@gmail.com
Website: <https://imcapitals.com/fedders-electric-engineering/>

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 (Rs. in Crore)

Particulars	Standalone		
	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Quarter Ended
	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2023 (Unaudited)
1 Total Income from operations	93.72	337.27	191.54
2 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	3.57	31.28	41.01
3 Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	3.97	31.08	41.01
4 Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year (after tax and other Comprehensive Income/(Loss) (after tax))	2.33	30.21	41.05
5 Equity paidup share capital	30.00	30.00	30.00
6 Earnings per share (Not annualised) :			
Diluted (₹)	1.32	10.36	13.67
Basic (₹)	1.32	10.36	13.67

1. The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee & approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 11th February, 2025. The Financial results for the Third quarter ended 31st December, 2024 have been limited reviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Standalone Quarter ended filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Unaudited Standalone Results are available on the Stock Exchange website, www.bseindia.com & www.nseindia.com and on the company website <https://imcapitals.com/fedders-electric-engineering/>.

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Fedders Electric and Engineering Limited
Sd/-
VISHAL SINGHAL (Managing Director)
DIN: 03518795

Place : Sikandrabad (U.P.)
Date : 12th Feb, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my client Axis Bank Limited, having one of its Branch at Ground Floor, Tower-1, Axis House, Sector-12B, Noida, Uttar Pradesh, is in possession of Loan facility to Sh. Pradeep Sharma against security of DDA's Janta Flat bearing No.60, in Block-B, in Pocket-11, on Third Floor, in the layout plan of Housing Estate Jasola, situated at Jasola, New Delhi, hereinafter referred to as "Said Property". Smt. Usha Ram W/o Sh. Darshan Singh acquired the Said Property from Smt. Sarita Crauhan W/o Sh. Neeraj Crauhan vide Sale Deed bearing Doc. No. 4429 on 26.03.2022, who died intestate on 17.08.2022 leaving behind her only son, Gunvinder Singh Sodhi as per SMC No. 9069000163951 dated 26.09.2022 issued by office of the District Magistrate Kalkaji, who intends to sell the Said Property to Proposed Borrower. Any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to title or interest in the said property/portion in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with supporting documents in respect of their claim(s) objection(s). If no such claim is received within a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any paramount right, title, or interest in the Said Property and even if someone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have given up the same.

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate)
Contact No: 9810310373, 011-41830049
E-mail Address: alolegals@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Public Notice regarding cancellation of property

This Public Notice is from M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd for Mr Tarun Kumar bearing unit no. C1-1405 at JKG Palm Court, Plot No. GH-01D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh- 201009.

We have offered possession of your allotted unit in February 2021, basis which we have shared final demand notice of unit C1-1405 on 09.04.2022, 02.06.2022, 16.08.2022, 07.10.2022, 17.08.2024, 24.08.2024 & 26.08.2024 you failed to make the payment as per final demand notice. Hence we have cancelled your allotted unit via cancellation intimation letter dated 02.12.2024. Neither got any response from your end nor we have received any payment so far which tantamount to your tacit acceptance that you are no more interested in taking possession of the said flat.

Hence your allotted flat C1-1405 is being cancelled on 16.01.2025, as such the allotment has become null & void and you have no claim on the dwelling unit and your deposited amount shall be refunded as per BBA Claus.

For M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Abdul Hamid S/o Abdul Wahid R/o House No. 878/33A, Ward No. 6, Pili Khana, Mehrauli, South Delhi, Delhi-110030 has renounced disowned and severed all their relations with his son Abdul Sahil on account of his misdeeds from all the self-acquired movable as well as immovable properties belonging to my client. Abdul Sahil will not stake for any claim of any nature whatsoever in the said properties of my client any person dealing with Abdul Sahil will do so at his own risks and perils.

Ramesh Kumar (Advocate), D/O- M-1, Malviya Nagar, ND-17

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED
Regd. office. 18th KM Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road, NH24, Village-Amhera, Distt: J.P.NAGAR-244102, U.P.
CIN: L17291UP1979PLC004804
PH: 91-9760091983, Email: info@prakashwoollen.com, Website: www.prakashwoollen.com

Extract of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter Ended 31/12/2024 (Rs in lakhs)

Particulars	Quarter ended			Nine months ended		Year Ended
	3 months ended (31.12.2024)	Preceding 3 months ended (30.09.2024)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (31.12.2023)	Year to date figures for current period ended (31.12.2024)	Year to date figures Year to the previous year ended (31.12.2023)	
1. Total income from operations (net)	5707.87	2827.13	4889.55	9922.14	9029.26	10214.36
2. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before Tax and Exceptional items	(338.34)	(191.42)	173.71	(582.85)	3.47	18.51
3. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax and after Exceptional items	(338.34)	(191.42)	173.71	(582.85)	3.47	18.51
4. Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional items	(496.07)	(99.13)	172.70	(626.79)	13.88	95.97
5. Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(496.07)	(99.13)	172.70	(626.79)	13.88	79.80
6. Equity Share Capital (Face value Rs 10 each)	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
7. Other equity	-	-	-	-	-	-
8. Earnings per share for discontinued & continuing operations (of Rs. 10/-each):						
(a) Basic	(4.84)	(0.97)	1.68	(6.11)	0.14	0.94
(b) Diluted	(4.84)	(0.97)	1.68	(6.11)	0.14	0.94

Notes:

- The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on February 12, 2025.
- The standalone results have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable.
- The company is engaged in the blankets business, therefore, there is only one reportable segment in accordance with the Accounting Standards on Segment Reporting (Ind AS 108). Hence segment reporting is not applicable to the company.
- The blankets business is seasonal in nature and accordingly financial results for the quarter are not representative of the whole year.
- Previous year/quarter figures have been regrouped wherever required.

By Order of The Board
For Prakash Woolen & Synthetic Mills Limited
Vijay Kumar Gupta
Whole Time Director & CFO
DIN: 00335325

Place : Village Amhera (Amroha)
Date : 12th February 2025

ORIENTAL NAGPUR BETUL HIGHWAY LIMITED
Regd. Off.: Unit No 307A, 3rd floor, Worldmark 2 Asset Area No 8, Hospitality Dist. Delhi Aerocity, New Delhi - 110037.
E-mail: onhlinvestors.relations@orientalinfrastructure.com; CIN: U04500DL2010PLC203649

FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 (₹ in Millions)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2024 (Un-audited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 (Un-audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Total income from operations (net)	1,019.67	952.42	3,918.30
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional Items)	469.78	497.03	2,020.75
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional Items)	469.78	497.03	2,020.75
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional Items)	436.37	495.83	1,973.07
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	436.79	495.87	1,973.09
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	181.35	181.35	181.35
7	Reserves (excluding (excluding Debenture Redemption Reserve)	8,541.15	7,692.75	8,269.23
8	Securities Premium	3,443.66	3,443.66	3,443.66
9	Net Worth	10,999.19	9,479.21	9,942.89
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	17,830.28	20,098.18	18,969.53
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.77:1	2.12:1	2.13:1
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)			
1 Basic:	24.09	27.34	108.80	
2 Diluted:	24.09	27.34	108.80	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-
15	Debture Redemption Reserve	1,376.70	1,605.12	1,491.82
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.03:1	1.10:1	1.14:1
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.06:1	2.01:1	2.00:1

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of the un-audited financial results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the un-audited financial results are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (<http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in>).
- For the other line items referred to in Regulation 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange and are available on the websites of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the listed entity (<http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.in>).
- The un-audited financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at its meeting held on February 12, 2025.
- The financial results of the company have been prepared in accordance with Indian Accounting standard prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
Oriental Nagpur Betul Highway Limited
Sd/-
Rajesh Yadav
Director
Place: New Delhi
Date: February 12, 2025

SAANEH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED
Regd. Office: Deiton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Daryaganj New Delhi -110002
CIN: L74899DL1980PL060079, Phone No. 011-45795859, Website: <https://saneh.in/>, E-mail: sanehild@gmail.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024 (Rs. In Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended 31.12.2024	Nine Month ended 31.12.2024	Quarter ended 31.12.2023	Quarter ended 31.12.2024	Nine Month ended 31.12.2024	Quarter ended 31.12.2023
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited
1	Total income from operations (net)	4.10	4.10	1.07	18.52	26.47	23.93
2	Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	3.41	0.27	(0.28)	16.83	20.84	19.31
3	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	3.41	0.27	(0.28)	16.83	20.84	19.31
4	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional and / or Extraordinary items)	3.06	(0.07)	(0.28)	10.04	9.03	19.31
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	880.20	1,371.25	287.01	3,316.41	5,145.05	1,105.91
6	Equity share capital (Face Value of Rs.10/- each)	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	24.00
7	Earnings Per Share (before extraordinary items) (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each)						
(a) Basic (Rs.)	1.28	(0.03)	(0.12)	4.18	3.76	8.05	
(b) Diluted (Rs.)	1.28	(0.03)	(0.12)	4.18	3.76	8.05	

NOTES:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange Website (www.sei-india.com) and on Company's Website (<https://saneh.in/>).
- The above results have been prepared in accordance with principle and procedures of Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) as notified under the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 as specified under section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- The above Unaudited Financial Results (Standalone and Consolidated) were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors of the Company at their respective meetings held on February 11, 2025.

For and on behalf of the Board
Sd/-
Vivek Gupta
Director
DIN No.: 00035916

Place : Delhi
Date : February 11, 2025

ReNew Fazilka Solar Power Private Limited
CIN No. : U40108HR2015PTCO05470
Regd. Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India
Corporate Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Phone No. : 124 489 6670/80

Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2024 (Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless otherwise stated)

Particulars	Quarter ended 31 December 2024	Quarter ended 30 September 2024	Quarter ended 31 December 2023	9 months ended 31 December 2024	9 months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 March 2024
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	Audited
Total Income from Operations	40	35	40	126	122	238
Net Profit for the year (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	46	41	32	144	129	182
Net Profit for the year before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	46	41	32	144	129	182
Net Profit for the year after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	35	30	23	107	96	134
Total Comprehensive Income for the year [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	35	30	23	107	96	134
Paid up Equity Share Capital	21	21	21	21	21	21
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	6,601	6,567	6,431	6,601	6,431	6,494
Securities premium	6,063	6,063	6,063	6,063	6,063	6,063
Net worth	6,642	6,608	6,497	6,642	6,497	6,534
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,898	3,114	3,259	2,898	3,259	3,259
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Debt Equity Ratio	0.43	0.47	0.50	0.43	0.50	0.49
Earnings Per Share* (face value of per share INR 10) (for continuing and discontinued operations)						
1. Basic:	8.69	7.42	5.67	26.33	23.46	32.89
2. Diluted:	8.69	7.42	5.67	26.33	23.46	32.89
Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Debenture Redemption Reserve	116	95	33	116	33	53
Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	2.04	2.12	1.57			

New tax bill introduces Tax Year, omits Assessment Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The simplified Income Tax bill 2025, which brings in the concept of 'tax year' and abolishes the archaic and complicated terms 'previous' and 'assessment years', is likely to be introduced in Parliament on Thursday.

The bill comprises 536 sections, 23 chapters and 16 schedules in just 622 pages. It does not bring in any new taxes, but only simplifies the language of the existing Income Tax Act, 1961. The six-decade old legislation has 298 sections and 14 schedules. It had 880 pages when the Act was introduced.

The new bill seeks to replace the Income Tax Act, 1961 which has become too voluminous due to the amendments made over the last 60 years. The new law is expected to come into effect from April 1, 2026.

The new bill has omitted redundant sections, like those relating to Fringe Benefit Tax. The bill is free from



Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Parliament House complex presenting the 'Union Budget 2025-26' -PTI

'explanations or provisos', thereby making it easier to read and comprehend.

Also, the word 'notwithstanding', which was used extensively in the Income Tax Act, 1961, has been done away with in the new bill and almost everywhere replaced with the term 'irrespective'.

The bill uses shorter sentences and has been made reader friendly with the use of tables and formulae. Tables have been provided for provisions relating to TDS, presumptive taxation, salaries, and deductions for bad debt. The 'Taxpayer's Charter' has been included in the bill which outlines the rights and

obligations of the taxpayers. The bill replaces the term 'previous year' as mentioned in the Income Tax Act, 1961 with 'tax year'. Also, the concept of assessment year has been done away with. Currently, for income earned in the previous year (say 2023-24), tax is paid in assessment year (say 2024-25).

This previous year and assessment year (AY) concept has been removed and only tax year under the simplified bill has been brought in.

Once introduced in the Lok Sabha likely on Thursday, the Bill will be sent to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance for further deliberations.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the new I-T bill said that the Income-tax Act passed in 1961 has been subjected to numerous amendments since its passage 60 years ago. "As a result of these amendments the basic structure of the Income-tax Act has been overburdened and language has become complex, increasing cost of compliance for taxpayers and hampering efficiency of direct-tax administration," it said. Tax administrators, practitioners and taxpayers had also raised concerns about the complicated provisions and structure of the Income Tax act.

Trump readies matching tariffs on trade partners

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

United States (US) President Donald Trump is taking additional action to upset the world trade system, with plans to sign an order as soon as Wednesday that would require that US tariffs on imports match the tax rates charged by other countries.

"It's time to be reciprocal," Trump said earlier this week. "You'll be hearing that word a lot. Reciprocal. If they charge us, we charge them."

The president had suggested that the order would come on Tuesday or Wednesday. But when Tuesday passed without the tariffs being officially announced, Trump was asked if he would sign the order on Wednesday and Trump answered: "We'll see what happens."

As Trump has unleashed a series of tariffs after being in power for less than a month, he has fully taken ownership of the path of the US economy.

It's a bet that his economic ideas can eventually deliver meaningful results for voters,

even if by Trump's own admission the import taxes could involve some financial pain in the form of inflation and economic disruptions. For all of Trump's talk, the impact will likely depend on the details of the tariffs and how other nations respond.

A reciprocal tariffs order could amount to a substantial tax hike to be shouldered largely by US consumers and businesses as the Census Bureau reported that the country had total imports of \$4.1 Trillion last year. The tariffs could set off retaliatory measures by trading partners that could coil growth around the globe and reset where the United States stands with allies and rivals alike.

By signing the order, Trump would fulfil his long-standing pledge to raise taxes on most imported goods, a clear break with his recent White House predecessors who saw tariffs as either targeted tools to use strategically or barriers worth lowering.

Trump has broken with that precedent by saying he wants to return the United States to

the 1890s when taxes on imports were the government's dominant source of revenues. But should job gains never materialise and should inflation stay high, it's an easy line of attack for Democratic lawmakers and candidates that Trump helped the ultrawealthy at the expense of the middle class.

"No matter which way you slice it, costs are going to climb for consumers," Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said earlier this month. "I will work with my colleagues to undo this mess, get costs down and get these billionaires out of the way."

Trump put 10 per cent tariffs on China over its contributions to the production of the illicit drug fentanyl, and China has taken retaliatory measures. He said he is ready if necessary on March 1 after a 30-day suspension, to put tariffs on Mexico and Canada over his belief they should do more to fight illegal immigration and drug smuggling.

Samsung to upskill teachers

ABHI SINGHAL ■ NEW DELHI

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the education landscape, making classrooms more interactive and personalised. AI-driven tools help educators analyse student performance, customise lesson plans, and enhance engagement through digital platforms.

Recognising this shift, Samsung has introduced a new initiative called Galaxy Empowered, aimed at upskilling 20,000 teachers across the country by 2025. This community-led program will equip educators with modern teaching techniques and digital tools to enhance classroom learning.

The initiative was launched in New Delhi in the presence of Olympic Gold Medalist Abhinav Bindra, who emphasised the importance of equipping teachers with the right resources to improve education standards.

The program will provide teachers with training through workshops, online courses, and certification programs, ensuring they stay ahead in an evolving educational landscape. Samsung's Galaxy Empowered aims to transform classrooms by integrating technology into



daily lessons. Teachers will learn to use interactive apps, digital platforms, and gamification techniques to make learning more engaging for students. The program also focuses on hands-on training, giving educators access to mentorship opportunities and specialised curriculum support.

The initiative is structured around three main components: technology upskilling, hands-on training, and networking opportunities. Educators will have access to flexible online courses, in-person bootcamps, and a library of resources. In addition, they can connect with

fellow teachers, industry experts, and thought leaders through exclusive events and panel discussions. Participants in the program will also receive special benefits, including discounts on Samsung devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops. Additional perks include extended warranties, free insurance, and time-limited offers on consumer electronics. Through Galaxy Empowered, Samsung is making a significant contribution to the education sector, ensuring that teachers have the necessary tools and knowledge to prepare students for a technology-driven future.

Retail inflation slows to five-month low

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Continuing the downward trend, retail inflation fell to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January, mainly due to a decline in the prices of vegetables, eggs, and pulses.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation was 5.22 per cent in December and 5.1 per cent in January 2024. The previous low inflation was in August 2024 at 3.65 per cent. The CPI has been on a decline since October.

The inflation in the food basket was 6.02 per cent in January, the lowest after August 2024 when it was 5.66 per cent.

There is a decline of 91 basis points in headline inflation of January 2025 in comparison to December 2024 and it is the lowest year-on-year inflation after August 2024, the National Statistics Office (NSO) data showed. According to the data, the top five items showing the highest year on year inflation were coconut oil (54.2 per cent), potato (49.61 per cent), coconut (38.71 per cent), garlic (30.65 per cent), peas (30.17 per cent). On the other hand, the key items having the lowest year on year inflation in January were jeera (-32.25 per cent), ginger (-30.92 per cent), dry chilies (-

11.27 per cent), brinjal (-9.94 per cent), LPG (excluding conveyance) (-9.29 per cent). Last week, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) years effected a rate cut of 25 basis points after a gap of five years to spur growth as inflation was in its comfort zone. The central bank has been mandated by the government to ensure CPI remains at four per cent with a margin of two per cent on either side. NSO further said a significant decline in headline and food inflation in the rural sector was observed in January 2025. It was 4.64 per cent in January compared to 5.76 per cent in the preceding month.

The food inflation in the rural sector was 6.31 per cent in comparison to 8.65 per cent in December 2024. Similarly, urban inflation witnessed a sharp decline from 4.58 per cent in December 2024 to 3.87 per cent in January. Food inflation decreased from 7.9 per cent in December to 5.53 per cent in January 2025. Housing inflation rate was marginally higher in January 2.76 per cent over December.

"The significant decline in headline inflation and food inflation during the month of January, 2025 is mainly attributed to decline in inflation

of vegetables, eggs, pulses and products, cereals and products, education, clothing and health," NSO said.

The data further showed that top five states which had higher inflation than the national average in January were Kerala (6.76 per cent), Odisha (6.05 per cent), Chhattisgarh (5.85 per cent), Haryana (5.1 per cent), and Bihar (5.06 per cent). The lowest inflation was in Delhi at 2.02 per cent. The NSO collects price data from selected 1,114 urban markets and 1,181 villages covering all states and UTs on a weekly roster.

Commenting on the data, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said the CPI inflation fell appreciably sharper than expected to a five-month low, led primarily by food items, vindicating the unanimous rate cut effected by the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) last week.

"Looking ahead, ICRA believes that the growth-inflation outlook suggests that there is room for another 25 bps rate cut in either the April or the June 2025 meetings. The exact timing of the same would depend on the incoming data, global developments, and the movements in the USD and INR pair," she added.

Equity investors' wealth erode by ₹18 Lakh Crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors suffered an erosion of ₹18 Lakh Crore in six days of market fall, where the BSE benchmark Sensex tanked three per cent, amid continuous foreign fund outflows and trade war worries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex, which had tanked more than 900 points intra-day, ended at 76,171.08, down by 122.52 points or 0.16 per cent following a recovery in bank stocks in the last hour.

During the day, the benchmark tanked 905.21 points or 1.18 per cent to sink below the 76,000-level and hit a low of 75,388.39.

Since February 4, the BSE bellwether gauge has slumped 2,412.73 points or 3.07 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms slumped ₹18,04,418 Crore to ₹4,07,46,408.11 Crore (\$4.69 Trillion) since February 4.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Mahindra and Mahindra, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, Titan and

Infosys were the biggest laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, Larsen and Toubro, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,486.41 Crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

"Markets were extremely choppy and gyrated sharply in intra-day trade. After crashing over 900 points in early trade, markets recouped lost ground in late trade but select profit-taking in IT, banking and auto stocks saw benchmarks end marginally lower," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.49 per cent and midcap index went lower by 0.45 per cent.

"Equity markets displayed resilience today, with Nifty rebounding nearly 250 points from the day's low to close at 23,045, down just 26 points (-0.1 per cent)," Siddhartha Khemka, head, research, wealth management at Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd, said.

Sensex, Nifty fall for sixth day dragged by FII outflows

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Stock markets closed lower for the sixth straight day on Wednesday with Sensex falling by 122 points on unabated foreign fund outflows and trade war worries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex, which had tanked more than 900 points intra-day, closed at 76,171.08, down by 122.52 points or 0.16 per cent following a recovery in financial stocks in the last hour.

During the day, the benchmark tanked 905.21 points or 1.18 per cent to sink below the 76,000-level to hit a low of 75,388.39.

The NSE Nifty dipped 26.55 points or 0.12 per cent to 23,045.25, marking its sixth straight day of losses. Intra-day,

it tumbled 273.45 points or 1.18 per cent to 22,798.35, falling below the crucial 23,000-mark. Since February 4, the BSE bellwether gauge has slumped 2,412.73 points or 3.07 per cent, while the Nifty tanked 694 points or 2.92 per cent.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Mahindra and Mahindra, ITC, Power Grid, Reliance Industries, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, Titan and Infosys were the biggest laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, Larsen and Toubro, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata Motors were among the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,486.41 Crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. "The Indian market saw a slight

recovery from the sharp intraday declines, however, overall sentiment remained weak due to elevated broader market valuations and muted Q3 earnings growth. Concerns over excessive valuations are expected to sustain the ongoing consolidation phase," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Additionally, uncertainty regarding the impact of metal tariffs added to market caution, Nair said.

"The upcoming release of US CPI inflation data will provide further market direction," he added.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the positive territory. European markets were trading higher.

Rupee falls eight paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee failed to sustained its recovery and depreciated eight paise to close at 86.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Wednesday due to a firm American currency and unending outflow of foreign funds.

According to forex traders, rupee stayed firm initially but lost grounds amid volatile domestic equity markets that also added to the trend of withdrawal by foreign institutional investors.

They said the easing crude oil prices supported the Indian currency at lower level but at the same time the currency markets saw muted participation awaiting cues from the inflation and

industrial output data to be released by the government.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.44 and moved between the high of 86.36 and the low of 86.91 against the greenback during intra-day. The unit ended the session at 86.87 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of eight paise from its previous close.

On Tuesday, the rupee appreciated 66 paise, logging the maximum single-day gain since March 3, 2023, to close at 86.79 against the US dollar.

The steep surge came a day after the unit plunged to near 88 per US dollar-level during intra-day on Monday, though the currency ended the session with gains at 87.45 against the greenback.

SEBI slaps ₹2.83 Crore notice to ex-TV anchor

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Market regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and has sent a demand notice to Pradeep Bajinath Pandya, who was anchoring stock market shows on a television channel, and seven other entities for failing to pay ₹2.83 Crore fines that have been imposed in connection with fraudulent trading activities.

Apart from Pandya, Toshee Trade, Mahan Investment, Manish Vasanti Furiya (HUF), Manish Vasanti Furiya, Alpa Alpesh Furiya, Alpesh Vasanti Furiya (HUF) and Alpesh Vasanti Furiya were also sent notices to pay the fines.

The demand notices came after these entities failed to pay the

penalties imposed on them by the SEBI in June last year.

The markets regulator warned that assets, including bank accounts of Pandya and other entities, will be attached if they failed to make the payment within 15 days of the notices issued on February 7.

In seven separate demand notices, SEBI has directed these entities to pay ₹2.83 crore, including interest and recovery costs within 15 days.

In June last year, SEBI had barred Pandya and seven other entities from the securities market for five years and imposed a fine of ₹2.6 Crore collectively for indulging in fraudulent trading activities.

Pandya was the host and co-host of various shows at CNBC Awaaz till August 2021, while

Alpesh Furiya appeared on the television channel as a guest and external expert and gave stock recommendations on his X handle.

A high correlation was noted between the stock recommendations given by Pradeep Pandya on the show 'Pandya Ka Funda' and the buy-today-sell-tomorrow trades and intra-day trades executed by Alpesh Furiya and connected entities during the period from November 2019 to January 2021.

Alpesh Furiya, capitalised on this privileged information, executed trades through his own accounts and those of related entities, positioning himself to profit before the recommendations were publicly aired, it added.

Equity mutual funds see ₹39,688 Crore inflow in January

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investors' confidence in equity mutual funds remains strong with the segment attracting ₹39,688 Crore in January, driven by sharp inflow in small cap and flexi-cap schemes, even as market volatilities continued. However, this was 3.56 per cent lower than the net inflow of ₹41,156 Crore registered in December. The latest fund infusion by investors also marks the 47th consecutive month of inflows into the segment, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Wednesday.

Moreover, inflows into systematic investment plans (SIP) came at ₹26,400 Crore, a tad lower from December's ₹26,459 Crore. The SIP assets under management stood at ₹13.2 Lakh Crore, which is

around a fifth of the overall pie. "Despite market volatility, SIP contributions remained robust, totalling ₹26,400 Crore for the month. We will continue to educate investors to stay invested through phases of volatility with a focus on disciplined, long-term approach to wealth creation," Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, Amfi, said.

The decline in equity fund inflows occurred amid sluggish equity markets, with the BSE Sensex dropping by 1.28 per cent in January.

The investors' focus towards making the most of the market fall in January can also be gauged from the fact that around 30.7 Lakh new folios were added in January, Himanshu Srivastava, associate director-manager research, Morningstar Investment



Research India, said. Further, volatility in the Indian equity markets, combined with geopolitical uncertainties and anticipation of the Union Budget, led to a decline in equity mutual fund AUM, Jatinder Pal Singh, CEO, ITI Mutual Fund, said.

The assets under management

₹15,331 Crore inflow in December. The midcap category saw inflows of ₹5,148 Crore in January 2025, while the smallcap category witnessed inflows of ₹5,721 Crore, the data showed.

The small and midcap schemes of mutual funds continued to attract investors with inflows highlighting their preference for these segments largely driven by the high returns that they have generated over the last few years, Srivastava said.

The large schemes, which are being recommended by a slew of experts as a safer bet, saw inflows rising to ₹3,063 Crore in January from ₹2,010 Crore in December, while inflow in flexi-cap category grew to ₹5,697 Crore from ₹4,731 Crore.

Apart from equities, debt funds

registered an inflow of ₹1.28 Lakh Crore in the month of January, against an outflow of ₹1.27 Lakh Crore in December. The inflow in debt funds was primarily in the overnight, ultra-short duration, low duration and money market funds along with liquid funds which offset the outflows in debt funds with a maturity of over one year, Sanjay Agarwal, senior director, CareEdge Ratings, said.

Additionally, the inflows into gold Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) to the tune of ₹3,751 Crore indicate a shift toward safer assets during uncertain times.

The overall assets under management of mutual funds came at ₹67.25 Lakh Crore as on January 31, 2025 as compared to ₹66.93 Lakh Crore in the previous month.

INBRIEF

GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY INTER-DEPARTMENT GIRLS' CRICKET TOURNAMENT CONCLUDES

AMRITSAR: Under the able guidance and support of Vice Chancellor Prof (Dr) Karamjeet Singh the Guru Nanak Dev University successfully organised the Inter-Department Cricket (Girls) Tournament as part of the Fit India program initiated by the Government of India.

GAUTAM SOLAR AIMS FOR 5 GW BY 2025

NEW DELHI: In a record-breaking achievement, Gautam Solar has established a state-of-the-art solar module manufacturing plant in Bhiwani, Haryana, within just one year.

CPA AUSTRALIA, ASSOCHAM HOST GLOBAL SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN INDIA

NEW DELHI: New Delhi witnessed a landmark global summit on "Accelerated Value Creation for Sustainable Growth", jointly hosted by CPA Australia and ASSOCHAM. The event brought together industry leaders to explore emerging cross-border trends and local challenges.

India thrashes England by 142 runs, sweeps series 3-0

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

A robust batting front led by the Shubman Gill's attractive century heralded India's 142-run hammering of England in the third and final ODI as the hosts completed a dominant 3-0 clean sweep to culminate preparations for the Champions Trophy, here on Wednesday. India ticked all the remaining boxes with vice-captain Gill (112) following up his twin fifties earlier in the series with a seventh ODI ton of his career while middle-order mainstays Virat Kohli (52) and Shreyas Iyer (78) pushed India to a formidable 356 in the first half. Indian bowlers then took over the mantle to complete the England demolition job, bundling out the visitors for a mere 214 in 34.2 overs to complete a comprehensive victory — their second largest in ODIs in terms of runs against a familiar opponent. There was no change in the script for England, who came crashing down against spin after a sparkling start against

pace, which was provided by the pair of Ben Duckett (34) and Phil Salt (24) in tow. The slowness of the surface aided Indian bowlers as strike-making became difficult as the match progressed. Duckett took charge of England's response early on but played one shot too many. After smacking Arshdeep Singh (2/33) for four consecutive boundaries around the park in the fifth over, he again went after the left-arm seamer but was deceived by the 'pace off' knuckle ball. The mishit was collected cleanly by India skipper Rohit Sharma at mid-off and Arshdeep soon bounced out Salt, albeit off a slower one which the batter hit meekly to Axar Patel for a simple grab. Tom Banton gave a good example of himself playing his first ODI against India, hitting a couple of attractive reverse sweeps against spinners but he could not push on beyond a 41-ball 38 with four fours and two sixes. Joe Root perished for just 24 when an inside edge off Axar (2/22) crashed into his



stumps and Harshit Rana (2/31) hastened the end of England's resistance by getting the rid of Harry Brook (19) and Jos Buttler (6) in quick succession. From 84/2 after 10 overs, England's resolve petered out as Indian bowlers tightened the screws with regular strikes and the visitors also lacked gumption on a pitch which remained true in its nature. Earlier, Gill led the way with a fluent 112 while Kohli and Iyer also cashed in on ideal conditions in their last outing before the Champions Trophy, helping India set a 357-run target. Gill anchored India's innings en route to his seventh ODI ton — 112 off 104 balls

of scoring a century each across the three international formats at the same venue. Gill, meanwhile, has also scored an IPL hundred here at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Attacking the fast bowlers and spinners alike, Gill's knock was replete with rich strokes particularly down the ground. The opener displayed immaculate footwork at the crease early on to take the attack to the opposition and remained resolute to score off spin, until he was cleaned up by Adil Rashid (4/64). On his part, Kohli took his time to find the rhythm and when he did, the batting mainstay looked hitting his strides. Kohli made the most of a juicy overpitched delivery from Mark Wood which he drove through the covers for his first four, then got on top of the ball from Saqib Mahmood to swat it for another boundary through mid-wicket and punished the England pacer for being wayward as he cut him for his third four. While his stroke play was compelling in the run-a-ball fifty for his 73rd half-

century, there were elements of struggle against leg-spinner Rashid. Rashid continued to have wood over Kohli as soon after he raised his bat for fifty, the England spinner had him caught behind with a loopy leg-break that took an outside edge before settling in the wicketkeeper's gloves. This was the fifth time Rashid has dismissed Kohli in ODIs. Kohli was stranded 37 runs short of becoming only the third batter ever to make 14,000 ODI runs, missing a personal landmark like his teammate Rohit Sharma earlier in the innings. It is expected to be completed during Champions Trophy. Coming off a terrific century in second ODI, Rohit (1) could not even get a start as a delivery from Wood which was angled in, straightened enough to take the outside edge and Phil Salt collected a sharp catch. Iyer only had himself to blame for missing out on a triple-digit score after he was caught behind on a delivery fired down the leg stump by Rashid, one that he needlessly chased and edged.



Starc withdraws, Smith to lead Australia in Champions Trophy

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Steve Smith-led Australia will be without their frontline pace attack at the Champions Trophy (CT) after fast bowler Mitchell Starc withdrew from the tournament citing personal reasons. The ODI World Cup holders have been forced to make several changes to their 15-member provisional squad due to injuries to captain Pat Cummins, pacer Josh Hazlewood, and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh, along with Marcus Stoinis' surprise retirement. "We understand and respect Mitch's decision," Chair of men's selectors George Bailey said on Wednesday. "Mitch is deeply respected for his commitment to international cricket and the priority he places on performing for Australia." Starc, who appeared to be in discomfort due to a left ankle issue during the latter stages of the final Test in Galle last week, will also miss the upcoming ODI series in Sri Lanka starting Wednesday. "His well-documented ability to play through pain and adversity, as well as forgoing opportunities in other parts of his career to put his country first, should be applauded," Bailey added. Cricket Australia said Starc has requested privacy and will

not be commenting on his decision. The development comes as a major blow for Australia, who will be without the three pacers — Cummins, Hazlewood and Starc — who played a crucial role in their 2023 ODI World Cup victory. "His loss is, of course, a blow for the Champions Trophy campaign, but it provides an opportunity for someone else to make their mark on the tournament," Bailey said. Smith, who is leading the side on the tour of Sri Lanka, will captain the team in the absence of Cummins and Marsh during the tournament, which will be played across Pakistan and the UAE. "The squad has changed significantly over the past month due to untimely injuries and the retirement of Marcus Stoinis," Bailey remarked. Pacers Spencer Johnson, Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott, and Ben Dwarshuis have been named in Australia's final 15-man squad for the Champions Trophy. "The upside is that we have been able to call on players who have had international exposure and success over the past 12 months," Bailey said. "A strong core of some of our most experienced players will provide a strong foundation in our attempt to win this edition of the Champions Trophy.

India, England teams support BCCI's 'Donate Organs, Save Lives' campaign

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India and England cricket teams took the field for the third and final ODI here on Wednesday wearing green armbands to support the BCCI's initiative of "Donate Organs, Save Lives" campaign. The BCCI informed this in a statement shortly after the commencement of the match here at the Narendra Modi Stadium. "Both teams are wearing green armbands to support BCCI's initiative 'Donate Organs, Save Lives'. The initiative is spearheaded by ICC Chairman Mr Jay Shah," the BCCI release stated. The initiative was announced by ICC chairman and former BCCI secretary Shah on Monday.



Shah wrote on X, "On the occasion of the 3rd ODI between India and England in Ahmedabad on February 12th, we are proud to launch an awareness initiative — 'Donate Organs, Save Lives'." "Sport has the power to inspire, unite, and create lasting impact beyond the field. Through this initiative, we urge everyone to take a step towards giving the greatest gift of all — the gift of life. "One pledge, one decision, can save multiple lives. Let's come together and make a difference!" he added. The initiative was supported by several Indian players, including Virat Kohli and vice-captain Shubman Gill. "Score the ultimate century. Your organs can help others live beyond your lifetime. Register as a donor and make every life count," Kohli said in a video shared by the BCCI. Gill added, "Be the captain of life. Just like a captain leads the team to victory, you can lead someone to life by pledging to donate your organs." Other Indian cricketers to support the initiative were batters Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul. "One donor can save up to eight lives. Pledge today and hit a six for humanity," Iyer said. Rahul added, "Play the ultimate winning shot. Your decision to donate your organs can be the match winning moment in someone's life. Be a hero off the field too."

has long been one of the most iconic players in the history of the competition. He also holds the distinction of being the only player to win two consecutive Golden Bats (for the highest run-getter) in the tournament. His remarkable achievements include being named the Player of the Tournament in the 2013 edition, as well as holding the record for the most centuries in Champions Trophy history. "Some of my most cherished cricketing memories come from playing in the Champions Trophy. In the coming weeks, we will see the world's best teams pouring their heart and soul into every match, with everything they have worked for on the line," said Dhawan.

Shikhar Dhawan among four event ambassadors for Champions Trophy

PTI ■ DUBAI

Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan was on Wednesday named as one of the four event ambassadors for the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) to be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9. Besides Dhawan, the ICC has also named Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy winning captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson, and New Zealand's legendary fast bowler, Tim Southee as event ambassadors. The quartet will write guest columns and will also attend matches, sharing their thoughts on the event, where the world's best eight teams will compete for the top



honour. "It is such a special feeling to be part of a Champions Trophy, and to be given the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming edition as an Ambassador is an honour," Dhawan said in an ICC release. "It's the ultimate competition where it's all on the line, and that is what makes it such a thrilling spectacle. It's a tournament full of passion, pride, and determination, and that's what makes it such a thrilling and emotional journey for everyone. As India's highest run-scorer in the Champions Trophy, with an outstanding 701 runs across two editions, Dhawan

teenage Afghanistan off-spinner AM Ghazanfar has been ruled out of both the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) and the IPL due to a lower back fracture that will keep him on the sidelines for at least four months, the country's cricket board announced on Wednesday. Left-arm spinner Nangeyalia Kharote, originally named as a reserve, has replaced the 18-year-old in the main squad for Champions Trophy, which will be held in Pakistan and the UAE from February 19. The 20-year-old Kharote is a left-arm spinner and has played seven ODIs and six T20 Internationals since making his debut last year. Ghazanfar sustained the injury during Afghanistan's tour of Zimbabwe late last year, sidelining him for "at least four months." "AM Ghazanfar has been ruled out of the ICC Champions Trophy due to a fracture in the L4 vertebra (located in the lower back), specifically in the left pars interarticularis," the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) posted on X. "He sustained the injury during Afghanistan's recent tour of Zimbabwe and will be sidelined for a minimum



Ghazanfar ruled out of both Champions Trophy and IPL

PTI ■ KABUL

of four months, remaining under treatment during this period," it added. The IPL is scheduled to take place from March 21 to May 25 and Ghazanfar was to make his maiden appearance at the event after being bought by Mumbai Indians. The ACB also informed that off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman will continue to miss ODI action "until he has fully recovered," despite playing for Paarl Royals in the SA20 through January and early February. Mujeeb, who was not included in the provisional squad for Champions Trophy, last played an ODI during the 2023 World Cup. Afghanistan will begin their Champions Trophy campaign against South Africa on February 21 in Karachi, followed by matches against England and Australia. "Afghanistan squad for Champions Trophy" Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Ibrahim Zadran, Ikrar Alikhil (wk), Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah (vice-capt), Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Fareeh Ahmad, Fazalhaq Farooqi, Nangeyalia Kharote, Naveed Zadran, Noor Ahmad.

match, and the big wigs did not want an encore in Dubai. India is now placing confidence in Rohit, who made a hundred at Cuttack, and Shubman Gill, who scored two fifties in as many ODIs against England, to deliver at the top consistently in the Champions Trophy. They are hoping that Kohli will find a way to return to his imperious scoring ways and will not put pressure on the rest of the middle-order. The management has taken the risk of believing that the top five will be in fine fettle throughout the tournament. They have also risked the traditionally iffy fitness of Hardik Pandya and his ability to plug the gap as the third seamer behind Mohammed Shami and Arshdeep Singh or Harshit Rana. Looking at the squad, India seem to have taken one risk too many. Will they get the desired high reward? Or will they falter?

India adopts high-risk-high-reward approach in squad selection

PTI ■ BENGALURU

It aligns with head coach Gautam Gambhir's high-risk-high-reward approach but can India's Champions Trophy squad, having lost its game-changing pace talisman Jasprit Bumrah to injury, deliver the goods at the ODI showpiece? The answer to that question is not particularly straightforward given the audacious calls taken to decide the final 15. The selection risks start with the drafting in of five spinners. The Dubai-bound flight will feature Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarty in a spin-heavy bowling attack. Harshit Rana has replaced Bumrah with the more experienced Mohammed Siraj relegated to the group of non-travelling reserves alongside young batter Yashasvi Jaiswal and all-rounder Shivam Dube.

India's matches will be held in Dubai, a venue where pacers have found more success traditionally in the 50-over format. Available data shows that the Dubai International Cricket Stadium, where India will play all their matches, has hosted 58 ODIs since 2009, and pacers have taken 466 wickets here at an average of 28.6 and economy of 4.8. The spinners have combined to take 334 wickets till now at the DICS, and their average goes up to 30 but with a slightly better economy of 4.2. "The Dubai surface has a bit more carry than say in Sharjah, and the pacers here have found some good success and that's why Pakistan has picked more pacers in their squad, though they are supposed to play only a couple of matches here," a former national selector told PTI. "If you use the new ball well, then you can have a good

purchase there. I am not faulting the selection of Varun. He is in good form, but I would have liked to see one more experienced pacer in that side, someone like Siraj," he added. **Spinners' role in Dubai** From outside, having five spinners looks like an over-estimation of the conditions. But the management took a chance with Chakravarty because of his excellent recent form. Chakravarty has been trusted to deliver in a multi-nation tournament, after his failure to do so in the T20 World Cup 2021 at the same venue. What might have tilted the scales in his favour is the fact that none of India's league stage opposition in the Champions Trophy — Bangladesh, Pakistan and New Zealand — have played him before. The way he managed to trouble England in the ongoing home series on account of being an unknown entity for the visitors



also worked to his advantage. But on the flip side, it leaves Kuldeep Yadav in peril. With Jadeja and Axar being the first-choice spinners considering their batting prowess, the fight for the third spinner's slot will be between Kuldeep and Chakravarty. If India follows the template of the recent second ODI against England at Cuttack, Chakravarty can pip the left-arm wrist spinner, at least in the initial stages of the Champions Trophy. **Why Siraj was overlooked** Another selection paradox is placing Rana ahead of Siraj as Bumrah's replacement for a tournament in which teams will have to do the tight-rope walk of three matches in the league phase. Conventional thinking says that experience more than explosiveness matters in such events, but the wise men went ahead with Rana. According to skipper Rohit Sharma, ineffectiveness with the old ball led to Siraj's omission from the marquee event. On that count, Rana has already given them two examples of his ability to strike when the white ball loses its luster. In his T20I debut, Rana was the sixth bowler, a much-debated concussion substitute for Shivam Dube, and walked away with game-changing figures of 3 for 33. In ODIs, Rana went for a few runs, but showed the gumption to bowl across three spells in three various passages of the match. The risk that the management has taken is to trust Rana to grow in his role quickly and deliver in a high-pressure

tournament as and when he is called for. Why was Jaiswal dropped? A common line of thinking can be that the selectors wanted a bowler with some mystery element about him in the squad once Bumrah was ruled out with a lower back injury. So, they picked an in-form Chakravarty. Fair call. But why select him in place of Jaiswal, an opener? Should they have replaced a spinner for him? Perhaps Washington Sundar could have been the one to be omitted to accommodate Chakravarty. However, in one shot, the selectors have also avoided the opening conundrum that haunted them in the first ODI against England at Nagpur. It was tough to accommodate Jaiswal and Shreyas Iyer in the same eleven but an injury to Virat Kohli gave them a temporary relief. Once Kohli came back, Jaiswal missed out in the second

match, and the big wigs did not want an encore in Dubai. India is now placing confidence in Rohit, who made a hundred at Cuttack, and Shubman Gill, who scored two fifties in as many ODIs against England, to deliver at the top consistently in the Champions Trophy. They are hoping that Kohli will find a way to return to his imperious scoring ways and will not put pressure on the rest of the middle-order. The management has taken the risk of believing that the top five will be in fine fettle throughout the tournament. They have also risked the traditionally iffy fitness of Hardik Pandya and his ability to plug the gap as the third seamer behind Mohammed Shami and Arshdeep Singh or Harshit Rana. Looking at the squad, India seem to have taken one risk too many. Will they get the desired high reward? Or will they falter?