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नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री





डॉ. मोहन यादव, मुख्यमंत्री

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के दूरदर्शी नेतृत्व में देश का हृदय प्रदेश लिख रहा विकास की नई गाथा

ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स समिट उद्घाटन



[216-121] @hethele R28173H D-11195/24





अनंत संभावनाओं की भूमि मध्यप्रदेश में आपका स्वागत है

औद्योगिक विकास के लिए मुख्यमंत्री डॉ. मोहन यादव की हढ़ प्रतिबद्धता से मध्यप्रदेश में निवेश का मजबूत ईको सिस्टम विकसित हुआ है। अपनी निवेशक अनुकूल नीतियों एवं 'स्टार्ट योर बिज़नेस इन ३० डेज़', एकल खिड़की व्यवस्था, ईज़ ऑफ डूईंग बिज़नेस में अग्रणी एवं अपार संसाधनों के साथ प्रदेश निवेश के एक प्रमुख गंतव्य के रूप में उभर रहा है।



उद्योग एवं रोज़गार वर्ष - 2025

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24 फरवरी	2025	25 फरवरी	2025
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बागवानी)- सेशन हॉल २

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VIRAT VICTORY FOR INDIA

rirat Kohli showcased his penchant to lord over Pakistan in ICC tournaments once more as the batting icon's glittering unbeaten 100 helped India claim an authoritative six-wicket win over their traditional rivals and all but seal a semifinal spot in the Champions Trophy here on Sunday.

The victory should be enough for India, who are now on top of Group A with four points, to make the last four. However, Pakistan are staring at early elimination from the eight-team event after their second successive loss.

Chasing a tricky 242, India rode on Kohli's 51st ODI ton, Shreyas Iyer's classy 67-ball 56 and Shubman Gill's brilliant start of 46 off 52 balls to overhaul the target with more than seven overs to spare.

Kohli rebelled against his own modest recent form and a dangerous opposition to peel off a memorable knock that took 111 balls and was punctuated with seven fours.

Pakistan, on the other hand, are on their way out of the tournament of which they are the hosts.

Once again, they ran into their old nemesis - Kohli. The 36-year-old had several demons of his own to tame - a lean run, recurring form of dismissals and struggles against spin.

But he slayed each one of them, in a manner befitting a batter who also became the quickest to 14,000 ODI runs during the course of the knock. Pakistan might have hoped to hustle him a bit through pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Haris Rauf.

But Kohli drove them on the up with elan or pulled them with audacity as Pakistan's premier pacers transformed into dejected figures after the early high of Afridi castling Rohit Sharma (20 off 15 balls) with a peach of a vorker.

Perhaps, the biggest hope Pakistan harboured against Kohli would have been leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed, considering the Indian's recent



Virat Kohli celebrates his century with Axar Patel after scoring the winning runs during the ICC Champions Trophy between India and Pakistan, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium

travails against England's Adil Rashid Kohli did have a couple of tough moments against Ahmed but none big enough to put him in distress. He largely dealt with him in singles, cutting down risks.

But the Pakistan quicks offered him enough chances to free his arms.

At the other end, Iyer flowed with a variety of shots but a 103 metre six off spinner Salman Agha was the standout hit during his tenure, in which he assisted Kohli to raise 114 runs for the third wicket.

Iyer had to walk back to the hut after Imam-ul-Haq pulled off a stunner at covers off spinner Khushdil Shah although replays suggested that the ball might have been grounded. But by then, India had already shut

the door on Pakistan. A large chunk of credit for this win can also be rightfully claimed by Indian bowlers, who were stunningly accurate while limiting Pakistan to 241.

That total was made possible by Saud Shakeel's polished fifty and Khushdil's cameo.

Shakeel (62, 76b, 5x4) was largely untroubled and added 104 runs for the third wicket with skipper Mohammad Rizwan (46), but Pakistan never really managed to break the shackles after opting to bat. The pitch expectedly grew slow once the match entered the middle passage, and the precision of Indian bowlers made run-making a laboured task with left-arm wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav leading the way (3/40).

There was a period in Pakistan innings when both Rizwan and Shakeel failed to find the boundary rope for 55 consecutive deliveries. They were forced to traverse a

cautious path because of the early departure of Babar Azam (23) and Imam (10)

Azam looked million dollars while playing those trademark cover drives for a few boundaries off Harshit Rana and Hardik Pandya.



US military aircraft carrying Indian deportees upon its landing at the Shri Guru Ramdas Ji International Airport in Amritsar, on February 5

Deportees continue to arrive in Capital

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

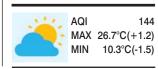
Apassenger plane carrying 12 Indians deported from the United States landed at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport on Sunday, marking the fourth such arrival in a Trump month amid administration's crackdown on illegal immigrants. They were deported in a Turkish

Airline flight. They flew back to India via Panama, officials said. Of the 12, four were from Punjab two from Gurdaspur, one from Patiala, and one from Jalandhar. Others are from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. This is the first group of Indians repatriated from Panama after the United States deported nearly 299 illegal immigrants attempting to enter the country over the last month. Panama and Costa Rica are

collaborating with the US to manage the repatriation of deported migrants. As part of this initiative, the US is relocating undocumented migrants from various Asian nations-those unwilling to return or whose home countries have refused to accept them-to these Central American nations.

The rescuers have reached round The first of the point where the tunnel deportation took place on boring machine is there. As February 5, when a US there is silt after that point, the NDRF team is making military plane transported plans to go forward. Oxygen 104 Indians to Amritsar. The second and the third round and power supply has been made available in the tunnel of deportation were also in US military planes, which and dewatering and the desilting operation is also underway. landed in Amritsar.

The deportees were shackled and restrained throughout the flight, only to be freed upon arrival in India-a move that triggered a political storm in the country and led to an uproar in both Houses of Parliament during the then-ongoing Budget session.



WEATHER

Telangana tunnel

collapse: Rescue

inches closer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

As eight persons got trapped around 14 km

inside the tunnel of the

Srisailam Left Bank Canal

project after part of its roof

collapsed on Saturday, a

rescue team made headway

and reached the spot where a

tunnel boring machine was

working during the incident.

However, silt poses a

challenge to move further to

reach the spot where the

people are believed to have

Collector B Santhosh who is

operation, on Sunday said four NDRF teams — one

from Hyderabad and three

from Vijayawada, comprising

138 members, 24 personnel

of the army, personnel of

SDRF, 23 members from

SCCL with equipment

besides members of the infra

firm are engaged in the

rescue operations.

District

rescue

been trapped, he added.

supervising the

Nagarkurnool

HYDERABAD

USAID row deepens as Congress attack Centre, BJP



mid the USAID funding row, Athe Congress on Sunday accused the BJP of indulging in "anti-national work" by spreading "fake news from America" and demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will also have to answer as to why the overnment is silent President Donald Trump and Elon Musk are "insulting" India repeatedly. Countering the attack from Congress, the BJP has rejected all allegations and called Rahul Gandhi a "traitor", accusing him of colluding with foreign forces in his bid to weaken India. Congress general secretary in-charge Jairam Ramesh said, "BJP is a procession of liars and illiterates. The news about USD 21 million, on which the BJP and their bootlickers were jumping on, turned out to be fake. The USD 21 million in 2022 was not for 'voter turnout' in India, but for Bangladesh." "Elon Musk made a fake claim, Trump got confused between Dhaka and Delhi, Amit Malviya spread the lie further, then the rest of BJP's bootlickers seized on it," he charged. the Ever since Trump administration's DOGE said on February 16 that USAID has cancelled the USD 21 million funding for "voting in India", the BJP has been making fabricated allegations against the Congress,



"Now the BJP should just answer this: Why did the BJP spread news about India's democracy? Why did the BJP did anti-national work by spreading fake news from America? If BJP's accusing India's opposition party over fake news from America is not treason, then what is it?" he said. Ramesh said "Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister will also have to answer, Donald Trump and Elon Musk are insulting India again and again, and why is our government silent on this?" The Congress leader said "Is it the case that the country's selfrespect has been compromised in the process of begging for mercy for Adani?" Trump for the fourth time in recent days has claimed that the Biden administration allocated USD 21 million funding to India for voter turnout, evoking a sharp response from the Congress which urged Prime Minister



Delhi government sets

up CAG trap for AAP

पार्श आम आदम पार्ट Senior AAP Leader and Former Delhi CM Atishi with MCD Mayor Mahesh Khinchi during a press conference at party

headquarters Photo: Ranjan Dimr

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta and Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva address a press conference Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

 A^{head} of the three-day session of the Eighth Delhi Legislative Assembly beginning on Monday, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced on Sunday that all 14 pending Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports would be tabled in the House. Gupta accused the previous AAP government of leaving an empty public exchequer before the BJP took over and assured that the Rs 2,500 monthly payment scheme for women would be implemented with detailed

planning. Gupta attended a meeting along with other BJP MLAs at the state party office ahead of the first session of the newly Delhi constituted 8th Assembly scheduled on Monday.

Addressing her first press conference after the BJP legislature party meeting alongwith Delhi state president Virendra Sachdeva, the newly appointed chief minister said, " the most important thing is going to come. The government will put the 14 pending CAG reports on the House table in the first session.

Atishi to face off **Gupta in Assembly**

RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

Former Delhi Chief Minister and Kalkaji MLA Atishi has been appointed as the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Assembly. The decision was made during a meeting of AAP MLAs on Sunday. This is the first time in history that a woman has been chosen for the role of Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly. The upcoming session of the Delhi Assembly will be the only one in the country where a woman Leader of Opposition will face a woman Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta for the first time in history. Atishi was unanimously chosen by the AAP

MLAs to be the Leader of Opposition during AAP's legislative party meeting. Her name was proposed as a strong female face to take on Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. Atishi's elevation as the Leader of Opposition is significant given the fact that top AAP leaders, including Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and Saurabh Bharadwaj lost from their respective seats in the recentlyheld election.



Ramesh said in his post in Hindi on X. "But now it is coming to light that this entire news is fake. When the money has not even reached India, then what would be the cancellation?" he said.

The controversy is actually about two USAID grants on DOGE's list that were given through the Washington-based Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening (CEPPS), the Congress leader said. The CEPPS was supposed to receive a total of USD 486 million from USAID, he said, adding that according to DOGE, the funds included USD 22 million for Moldova and USD 21 million for "voter turnout in India", he said.

'The first fund USAID gave to CEPPS for Moldova was in 2016 with the ID AID117LA1600001. But the USAID USD 21 million grant for India marked by DOGE is completely fake. Because it was for Bangladesh, not India," he

claimed. And the reality is that of the USD 21 million earmarked for Bangladesh, USD 13.4 million has already been disbursed before the January 2024 elections,

Ramesh said "Every federal grant specifies the country in which it is to be used. According to US federal spending, there have been no USAID-funded CEPPS projects in India since 2008. The only ongoing USD 21 million USAID grant CEPPS, to ID 72038822LA00001, was approved in July 2022 for Bangladesh's 'Amar Vote Amar' (My Vote Is Mine)," he pointed out. "In November 2022, the purpose of the grant was changed to 'USAID's Nagorik Programme'. A USAID official in Dhaka also confirmed this on social media during his US visit in December 2024: 'I manage the USD 21 million CEPPS/Nagorik project funded by USAID," Ramesh said.

strongly refute the allegation. The opposition party has demanded a white paper on the funds received in India from developmental agencies, aid mechanisms and multilateral forums.

Modi to talk to his friend and

It also sought legal action against the RSS-BJP and their ecosystem for making wild allegations against credible civil society members, NGOs and political parties.

Rural women in Bihar are fighting changing climate

PTI MUZAFFARPUR

Tn the heart of rural Bihar, where **↓**groundwater depletion, extreme heat and erratic weather have caused havoc for farmers, a quiet transformation is underway.

A group of women, once confined to their homes despite their education, have emerged as agri-entrepreneurs, transforming not only their own lives but also helping their communities adapt to the growing threats of climate change.

Each agri-entrepreneur (AE) works with at least 150-200 small and marginal farmers, who are hit the most by these worsening climate challenges. They provide solutions to farmers on irrigation, provide climate-resilient seeds, help out with crop diversification, and act as a helpdesk for digital work-essentially a one-stop centre for all problems they may encounter.

Their remuneration is proportional

farmers within a panchayat. Soni Kumari from Hajipur, for

to the range of services they provide agri-entrepreneur last year by registering a farmer for a farmer card. She then prepared a detailed instance, began her journey as an business proposal based on the



Hajipur, Bihar PTI

farmer's profile-his social indicators, finances and cropping patterns.

She then entered the farmer's requirements into a Management Information System, creating a database of her customers to understand demand and create a business plan for her enterprise.

Once a homemaker, Soni who is a science graduate said she never imagined she would one day be at forefront of promoting the sustainable farming practices.

"I opened a shop with a microfinancing loan, where I stock everything from climate-resilient seeds to organic manure and fertilisers. We even have a drone for irrigation," Soni said.

The drone technology Soni uses has been a game-changer for her, she added.

It sprays water evenly across fields, ensuring efficient water use and reducing labour costs.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Mohan Yaday upon his arrival at Raja Bhoj Airport in Bhopal on Sunday. Pioneer photo



PM lays foundation stone for Bageshwar Dham Medical Institute

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

nime Minister Narendra Modi stated that providing affordable and high-quality healthcare services to people is one of the government's top priorities. It is our responsibility to free people from the burden of medical expenses. The government is continuously working to ensure better healthcare services for all sections of society. The Prime Minister made these remarks at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Bageshwar Dham Medical Science & Research Institute, which is being built at a cost of Rs. 218 crores in Garha, Chhatarpur district.

During the ceremony, prominent figures including Governor Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav, Khajuraho MP V.D. Sharma, Saint Ram Bhadracharya, Bageshwar

Dham Peethadhishwar Pandit a health institution in case of any Dhirendra Krishna Shastri, doubt. He warned against the national storyteller Sadhvi dangers of smoking, tobacco, Ritambhara Didi, and Mahant Balak Yogeshwar Das Ji were present.

Prime Minister Modi began his speech in the Bundeli dialect, greeting people with folded hands and saying, "Mori taraf se doi haath jod ke Ram Ram." He expressed his joy at visiting the land of warriors twice in the past 60 days. He emphasized that Bageshwar Dham is not only a center of faith but is now becoming a center of healthcare as well. He praised the efforts of report any instance of corrup-Bageshwar Dham Jan Seva Samiti in constructing a cancer hospital and lauded Pandit tion or demand for bribes in the Dhirendra Shastri for this noble initiative.

The Prime Minister urged people above 30 years of age to undergo regular health checkups and to immediately consult

scored the need for academia

to bridge the gap between

research and real-world busi-

ness applications. He empha-

sized that AI should not

replace human intelligence

but should serve as a tool to

enhance decision-making,

predictive analysis, and prob-

lem-solving. Former ISRO scientist Dr. Shiv Mohan reit-

erated that Industry 5.0 is about achieving synergy

between humans and

machines, where both com-

plement each other in deci-

sion-making and operational

Prominent speakers, includ-

Siddharth Rajhans, provided

key insights into emerging

Gurmani highlighted the

impact of digital transfor-

mation, citing the Digi Yatra

app as a breakthrough in

CP Gurmani and

efficiency.

ing

gutkha, and pan masala, emphasizing the need to stay away from these harmful substances. Before 2014, poor people in India were more afraid of the cost of treatment than the disease itself, the Prime Minister stated. To address this concern, the Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched, providing free treatment up to Rs 5 lakhs per person. Now, even senior citizens above 70 years of age are eligible for free treatment under this scheme. He urged people to

> scheme. PM Modi highlighted the launch of PM Jan Aushadhi Kendras, where medicines are available at an 80% discount. He mentioned that in this year's budget, the cost of cancer med

icines has been reduced. The government is planning to establish cancer daycare centers in every district in the next three years. To tackle kidney disease, over 1,500 dialysis centers have been opened across 700 districts, providing free dialysis services.

The Mahakumbh in Prayagraj is a symbol of unity and service, PM Modi said. He praised sanitation workers for maintaining cleanliness at the event and acknowledged the efforts of police officers and personnel in ensuring security. He also highlighted the Netra Mahakumbh, where over 2 lakh people received eye check-ups, 1.5 lakh were given free medicines and spectacles, and 16,000 free cataract surgeries were performed.

Modi praised Pandit Dhirendra Shastri's efforts in spreading the message of unity and raising awareness about healthcare. He expressed his commitment to attending the inauguration of the cancer hospital once it is completed.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said that the Medical Science & Research Institute being built at Bageshwar Dham will set a new precedent in the country, where underprivileged and suffering patients will receive free treatment. He welcomed PM Modi to Bundelkhand, calling it a day of great enthusiasm and excitement for the region. Yadav credited PM Modi's lead-

ership for projects like the Ken-Betwa river linking, bringing water security to Bundelkhand. He highlighted India's economic rise from 11th to 5th place globally under Modi's leadership and congratulated Pandit Dhirendra Krishna Shastri for initiating the cancer hospital project.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a memento by spiritual leader Dhirendra Krishna Shastri during the foundation stone ceremony of Bageshwar Dham Medical and Science Research Institute, in Chhatarpur district Madhya Pradesh on Sunday

PIMR conference concludes with transformative insights on Industry 5.0 Call centre raided, found involved in cyber crime enhancing travel experiences.

forms like WhatsApp.

was honored with the PIMR

Young Leader Award, while

Devash Mohan received the

Outstanding Alumnus Award. A wide range of

research papers were pre-

sented, covering topics such

as financial investments by

women, dividend policies in

the automobile sector, PR

practices in healthcare, and

consumer preferences for

organic food. A vibrant Q&A

session allowed participants

PNS INDORE

◄he 20th International Conference, PICOM-25, hosted by Prestige Institute of Management and Research (PIMR), concluded on a high note, bringing together over 150 scholars, industry experts, and acade-micians from across the world. Centered on "Human-Machine Collaboration in the Era of Industry 5.0," the conference served as a dynamic platform for thought-provoking discussions on AI, automation, finance, corporate governance, healthcare, and consumer behavior.

In his keynote address, Dr. technological trends. Davish Jain, Chairman of Prestige Education Foundation and Chancellor of Prestige University, under-

Rajhans discussed the revothese crucial subjects. lutionary role of AI in busi-A key highlight was the ness transformation, referrelease of the conference souencing advanced models such

venir, featuring key takeaways, research papers, and as Meta AI, ChatGPT, and expert opinions. Additionally, Gemini, which are now being the Research Methodology Workshop was launched to integrated into everyday plat-The conference also recogequip scholars and academicians with advanced research nized outstanding contributions in research and inno-vation. Sharad Chaturvedi techniques.

to engage with experts on

PICOM-25 reinforced the growing importance of human-machine collaboration in shaping Industry 5.0 and set the stage for future innovations and business transformations. The event concluded with the announcement of the best research papers and meritbased student awards, marking another milestone in PIMR's commitment to academic excellence and industry-driven education.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

ishbagh police raided a call center at P5rab-A a call center at P5rab-hat Petrol pump square. Total 26 SIM cards along with 2 computers found, 11 people were working, cyber fraud was committed from the call centre. A call center named Idealogy Advance Stock Private Limited was operated in a building at Prabhat Square. On receiving information about suspicious activity in it, Ashbagh police raided on Saturday night. During the police raid, 11 young men and women were

PNS INDORE

n a bid to ensure the timely resolution of revenue

cases with complete appli-

cant satisfaction, the Indore

district administration has

intensified its efforts, warning

of strict action against negli-

gent officials. On the initiative

of Collector Ashish Singh, a

Sushasan Samvad Kendra has

been set up to gather feedback

from applicants regarding the

resolution of their cases and

assess their level of satisfac-

The center has already com-

menced operations and will

be reaching out to applicants

resolved in the past six

months. Based on its findings,

three Patwaris have been sus-

pended for negligence in

resolving revenue matters.

The suspended officials

include Nagendra Gwale and

Akashdeep Bharkundiya from

Mhow and Archana Sanwale

found doing tele calling work here. Police have seized two computers along with 26 SIM cards from the call center. Police is interrogating the suspects working here.

One of the seized SIMs has been used in cyber fraud committed in Uttar Pradesh. A complaint has also been lodged there. Other records including CCTV footage have also been seized from the call center.

ASI Pawan Raghuvanshi said that the young men and women working in the call center told that they used to advertise investment in the share market on social media platforms.

On this basis, the police believe that people were being made to invest through the call center. There is a possibility of a big scam in this. Police has taken the investigation forward on this angle. The name of Afzal Khan, resident of Kammu Ka Bagh, has come up in the call center operation. He is also

In a meeting with Additional

Collectors, SDMs, Tehsildars,

Naib Tehsildars, and other

revenue officers, Collector

Singh issued strict instruc-

tions, emphasizing the need

for dedication, transparency,

and accountability in revenue

administration. He warned

that negligence or indifference

will not be tolerated, and

strict action will be taken

being questioned. Two girls working at the call center reached the police station on Saturday to lodge a complaint. Both of them told that they work at a call center. They have not received salary for the last three months. They also told about cyber fraud. After this, the police raided the call

center.

ciency.

Initial investigation has revealed that the young men and women found at the call center were hired on a salary of 7 to 8 thousand rupees per month. What kind of work was done by them? What kind of calls reached people through the SIM received from the call center. Police investigation is going on on all these points. Police suspects that Afzal is associated with a big gang of thugs.

Collector cracks down on revenue case negligence back collection through the Sushasan Samvad Kendra. He also ordered strict monitoring of subordinate officials to ensure discipline and effi-

A key directive issued was that all revenue cases must be reg-istered on the RCMS portal. If any case is found unregistered, action will be taken against the responsible officer. Revenue Collection Targets

against erring officials. During the meeting, the Set With just one month left in Collector reviewed pending cases related to disputed and the financial year, Singh also undisputed name transfers, stressed the need to accelerate partition matters, and land demarcation. He directed that revenue collection, particularly from diversion charges and other dues. He set a tarall revenue cases be resolved at least ? get of recovering crore per day and urged officials to work swiftly to meet Even after repeated contacts and district revenue goals. The administration's latest actions signal a firm stance against inefficiency and a renewed push for transparent and citizen-friendly governance in Indore's revenue sector.

from Consumer panel **STAFF REPORTER** BHOPAL

IAS officer gets relief

capital 04

Babel District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has given an important decision regarding the rights of the customer. The case is related to Senior IAS Faiz Ahmed Kidwai of Madhya Pradesh. He had complained against the airlines and travel agency demanding a refund on ticket cancellation.

Commission Consumer Chairman Yogesh Dutt Shukla and member Pratibha Pandey have recently ordered the travel company Ease My Trip to refund Rs 26,000. At the same time, an order has been given to pay Rs 7,000 as compensation for mental suffering and other expenses. After the decision, Faiz Ahmed Kidwai said that the ticket was cancelled, but the travel compa-

ny did not refund the money. The trip had to be cancelled suddenly Senior advocate Bhavna Yadav told that senior IAS Faiz Ahmed Kidwai was going to visit London with his wife. The flight was from Mumbai, so he had booked air tickets from Bhopal to Mumbai on 13 November 2022 and from Mumbai to Bhopal on 27 November 2022. He had purchased these tickets from IndiGo and Air India through Ease My

Trip. However, on 5 November 2022, due to an emergency, he had to decide to cancel the ticket. He contacted the airlines and travel agency to cancel his Mumbai trip and get a refund of the ticket amount. Ease My Trip said that the decision to refund the ticket amount would be of the airlines nd they distan



oat Club decorated with flags to welcome delegates of Global Investors Summit in Bhopal on Sunday.

AIIMS research boosts accuracy in early prostate cancer detection

cancer.

accurate detection.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

he AIIMS Bhopal is con-ducting a groundbreaking study to improve the early and accurate diagnosis of prostate cancer, which is one of the most common cancers among men.

The study, titled "Using PCA3 to Diagnose Different Stages of Prostate Cancer: A Central India-Based Pilot Study," is being led by Dr Debprosit Karmakar under the guidance of Dr. Sukhes Mukherjee from Department the of

Biochemistry and Dr. Ketan Mehra from Urology. Prostate cancer is the second most common cancer among men globally and ranks sixth in India

Early detection plays a crucial role in successful treatment and recovery. At present, doctors rely on the Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) test for screening. However, PSA levels can also rise due to non-cancerous conditions such as infections or prostate enlargement, often leading to unnecessary biopsies and causing stress to patients. To address this issue, the study at AIIMS Bhopal is evaluating a more specific test known as Prostate Cancer Antigen 3 ventions.

CM pays tribute to Sant Gadge STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

(PCA3). Unlike PSA, PCA3 is highly specific to prostate can-cer and can be detected through Minister hief Mohan Yadav has a urine test, making it a nonpaid tribute to social reformer Sant Gadge Ji Maharaj on his birth invasive and potentially more reliable screening method. anniversary. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has Research suggests that PCA3 can help reduce unnecessary biopsies and provide better written in social media 'X' that Sant Gadge Ji insights into the severity of Maharaj's inimitable con-The research team at AIIMS tribution towards social Bhopal aims to compare PCA3 reform, education, cleanwith the conventional PSA test liness and service will conto determine its effectiveness in tinue to inspire for public

diagnosing prostate cancer in welfare. Indian patients. If proven suc-Chief Minister Yadav cessful, this study could revoappreciated the good lutionize prostate cancer screenefforts of Sant Gadge Ji to ing and treatment in the counbring awareness against try, benefiting thousands of superstition, ostentation, men by ensuring early and stereotypes, evils and vices present in the society of Speaking on the importance of that time. He said that the this study, Prof. Singh said, thoughts and ideals of Sant "Early and precise diagnosis of Gadge Ji will continue to

prostate cancer can save countguide the society till eterless lives. This research is a nity. major step forward in improv-It is noteworthy that Sant Gadge Ji Maharaj empha-sized on social reforms, ing cancer screening methods in India." The findings from this study are expected to contribute especially the promotion significantly to the developof cleanliness and educament of better diagnostic protion in his life. His tocols, ultimately reducing the risks associated with unnecesthoughts and contributions are still relevant and sary biopsies and medical interremain a source of inspiration for the society.

Auto-rickshaw driver kidnapped and assaulted in daylight, accused at large

tion.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

45-year-old autorickshaw driver was A rickshaw driver was kidnapped and assaulted in broad day-light in the Piplani area by a criminal under police surveillance. The incident occurred on February 14, but an FIR was registered only on Saturday night after an investigation.

According to police officials, the accused, Mushtaq Khan, a known offender on the watch list of Piplani police, abducted the victim, Kaushlendra Yadav, and took him to a deserted street in Jahangirabad, where he physically assaulted him. Khan remains at large.

Inspector Anurag Lal of Piplani police station stated that Yadav, who owns four auto-rickshaws and also employs other drivers, was waiting for passengers in Sector F around 9 p.m. on February 14 when Khan confronted him. The accused taunted him, saying, "Your brother is in the army, so you think you have power?" before pulling out a knife and

forcibly making him sit on a bike by grabbing his collar.

Khan, along with an accomplice, took Yadav to a secluded spot near the Gurudwara at Pul Bogda, where they brutally beat him. While the assault was taking place, Yadav's brother called him. Under duress, the accused forced him to falsely claim that he was buying alcohol at a liquor shop near Apsara Talkies.

As the kidnappers became distracted while drinking, Yadav seized the opportunity to escape. He rushed home and narrated the ordeal to his wife and son. His wife immediately informed his brother, an RPF personnel residing in Bangrasia. Yadav later visited the police station with his brother and filed a

complaint. The victim also disclosed that Khan had assaulted him previously, but he had remained silent to avoid conflicts due to his business commitments.

The police have launched a manhunt to apprehend the accused.

the stipulated and that applicants should not have to struggle to get their work done.

Monitoring & digital registration of cases

To streamline processes, Singh instructed that every applicant must provide their phone number on applications, which will be used for feedAhmed Kidwai did not get his ticket amount back, he filed a case in Bhopal District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission on April 6, 2023.

waiting for months, when Faiz

The airlines and travel agency followed unfair trade practices.

from the matter.



Artistes from Bundelkhand region perform their traditional dance 'Badhai' during a cultural event titled 'Sambhavana' at State Tribal Museum in Bhopal on Sunday

One killed, 10 injured in Chhatarpur road accident

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

n Chhatarpur, a car carrying devotees returning from Bageshwar Dham overturned while attempting to avoid a ramming cow, one person died while 10 sustained injuries.

The incident occurred at 6 am in Kadri, within the Civil Line police station area. There were 11 people in the car, one of whom died in the

accident, while 10 others sustained injuries.

The body of the deceased will undergo postmortem at the district hospital.

The group of 11 people had traveled to Bageshwar Dham from Prayagraj Mahakumbh in their car on Saturday. After visiting the site, they set off for Bhopal early in the morning.

However, a cow suddenly appeared in front of their car

in Kadri, leading to the crash. The injured were referred to Sagar Medical College and Jhansi for treatment.

Civil Line TI Valmiki Choubey confirmed that the devotees were on their way to Bhopal when the accident occurred, resulting in one fatality and 10 injuries. The iniured individuals were admitted to the district hos-

pital for further care.

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MP Tourism set for major investment push at GIS 2025

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

The Global Investors Summit (GIS) in Bhopal is set to open new avenues for tourism investment in Madhya Pradesh. On the second day of the summit, February 25, a panel discussion will highlight the role of tourism and culture in shaping a "Future-Ready Madhya Pradesh."

Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, V. Vidyavathi, and Principal Secretary, Tourism, Culture, and Religious Trusts & Endowments Department, and Managing Director, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board Sheo Shekhar Shukla, will be among the esteemed participants. The event will also witness the presence of historian Padma

KK Mohammed, Adventure Tour Operators Association of India President Padma Ajit Bajaj, renowned actor . Pankaj Tripathi, Executive Vice President of Indian Hotels Company Limited Rohit Khosla, Head of Corporate Communications & Corporate Affairs, MakeMyTrip, . Sameer Bajaj, Jehan Numa Hotels Director Ali Rashid, and actor . Vijay Vikram Singh. The Madhya Pradesh Tourism

Department has undertaken extensive measures to enhance tourism infrastructure and attract investments. Principal Secretary Sheo Shekhar Shukla stated that over 1,000 hectares of land have been identified for investment-driven tourism projects, including hotels, resorts, golf courses, and wayside amenities. The new includes grants for regional Tourism Policy 2025 offers films in dialects like Malvi and

lucrative incentives for investors willing to develop

these projects. Under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, Madhya Pradesh is offering investment opportunities across prime destinations such as Hanuwantiya, Mandu, Orchha, and Amarkantak. Investors can explore projects like tent cities, caravan tourism, ropeways, golf courses, and cruise tourism linking Omkareshwar's 'Statue of Oneness' with Gujarat's 'Statue of Unity? Madhya Pradesh's new Tourism

and Film Tourism Policies provide substantial incentives to investors. A streamlined "single-window system" ensures quick, transparent approvals for film shooting. The policy also

premium facilities, includ-

ing airport transfers, high

Sadar Manzil emphasises

vegetarian cuisine, featur-

ing the Diwan-e-Khas din-

ing hall and Charbagh

Courtyard. Guests can also

enjoy fine wines at the

During the inauguration, CM Yadav launched MP

Tourism's 'Swagatam Bada'

campaign, highlighting key heritage sites like

and

spa treatments.

Maikhana Bar.

Bundelkhandi, along with special incentives for children's cinema and women-centric films. Additional grants are available for films based on the state's cultural and historical legacy, as well as independent short films. The Film Tourism Policy 2025 aims to position Madhya Pradesh as a premier filmmaking destination by offering financial grants up to INR 10 crore for international films, INR 2 crore for feature films, INR 1.5 crore for web series, and INR 1 crore for TV serials. These incentives apply only if 75% of the production is filmed in the state.

The policy also encourages the establishment of single-screen theatres and renovations of existing ones to bridge infrastructure gaps. Documentary films winning national and international accolades will

receive grants, and foreign filmmakers will be incentivized to showcase Madhya Pradesh's scenic beauty and heritage globally.

To facilitate investment, the Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board has established an 'Investment Promotion Cell.' Transparent land allocation processes ensure seamless access to land parcels, heritage properties, and wayside amenities. Mega projects exceeding INR 100 crore will receive preferential incentives, including land allocation at collector guideline rates for up to 90 years. Capital grants ranging from 15% to 30%, up to a max-imum of INR 90 crore, will be provided. Incentives for wildlife resorts and electric cruises, along with additional grants for projects in remote areas, are



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, BJP State President VD Sharma and Deputy Chief Ministers Jagdish Devda and Rajendra Shukla before a meeting with MPs and MLAs at Kushabhau Thackeray convention center in Bhopal on Sunday.



Foreign delegates arrive to attend the Global Investors Summit, at Raja Bhoj Airport in Bhopal on Sunday

Newly restored Sadar Manzil welcomes first guests

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

◄he late 19th century Sadar Manzil welcomed its first guests on Sunday, a day after the carefully restored heritage hotel was formally inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to coincide with the Global Investors Summit. The painstakingly restored

heritage building, boasts of 22 rooms that are fully booked through the summit dates.

The opening of the hotel has brought fresh excitement in the area which formed a part of a royal enclave during Bhopal's

end crowds thronged the Iqbal Maidan where a defunct fountain has been tea, live performances, and restored to welcome guests to the neighbourhood.

The Chief Minister also inaugurated the tent city at Kaliasot Ground late on Saturday. He was accompanied by BJP State President VD Sharma and other officials in atten-

dance. He praised the restoration, describing it as a symbol of Bhopal's heritage

Sanchi Mahakaleshwar. The cam-Top industry leaders will paign, led by the MP Tourism Board, will be be the first guests at the hotel, which will open to the public after GIS. The promoted across multiple hotel offers vintage-style media platforms to boost suites, royal welcomes, and tourism in the state

Modi delays departure for GIS venue by 15 minutes Bhopal Mayor welcomes GIS delegates

also part of the policy.

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

undreds of delegates arrived in the city for the two-day Global Investors Summit on Sunday. Dignitaries, investors, and officials were warmly welcomed at Raja Bhoj Airport with tradi-tional hospitality.

Among the prominent arrivals were Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan, Union Minister for Fisheries George Kurian, BJP leader Shiv Prakash, and Patanjali Chairman Acharya Balkrishna. Mayor Malti Rai greeted them at the airport with floral bouquets, marking the start of a high-profile event. Complementing the summit, a three-day Rural Products Fair has begun at Raag Bhopali, 10 Number Market. Women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are

displaying handcrafted Zardozi items, Chanderi sarees, Bagh print textiles, and silk ensembles, showcasing Madhya Pradesh's rich artisanal heritage. Visitors can also savour local

delicacies like bhelpuri, chaatphulki, and tea while enjoying cultural performances such as an official said on Sunday. the Sohani Sangeet Sandhya. The fair highlights the success of the 'One District, One Product' initiative, which has trained Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya here, but he will now leave at 10 105 women in intricate Zardozi Officials said Modi will launch

embroidery. With Bhopal seamlessly blending business and culture, the Global Investors Summit promises a unique experience for attendees. The city's vibrant atmosphere and world-class hospitality are setting the scene for productive results when serious talks begin on Monday morning.

CM visits GIS venue late in the night

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav reached the IGRMS in Shyamla Hills late on Sunday night and inspected the Global Investors Summit venue to be held on February 24 and 25. Yadav observed the entire campus. The Chief Minister visited various meeting rooms of the venue. He discussed with the officials after getting information about various conference halls, media center, seating arrangements for the audience, stage and other arrangements. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav also discussed with media representatives on the importance of

Global Investors Summit.

observed the entire campus. Chief Minister Dr. Yadav visited various conference halls of the venue. He gave instructions to the officials after getting information about the stage of the main program, various conference halls, media center, seating arrangements for investors and participants and other arrangements. Additional Chief Secretary, Chief Minister's Office Dr. Rajesh Rajoura were present on this occasion. Yadav said that Global Investors

Summit is an effort to write a new chapter of development. This will be a historic event. Madhya Pradesh government is implementing many new policies for domestic and foreign investors. Attractive offers are

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL which will be held on February 24-25.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has tweaked his "Keeping in mind the interests of students supreme, the prime schedule for the Global minister has extended his pro-Investors Summit, starting in gramme by 15 minutes and Bhopal on Monday, to ensure fixed it at 10 am," the official that students taking annual said. exams are not inconvenienced, Modi took the decision to

enable students to reach their The PM was scheduled to start examination centres without from Raj Bhavan at 9.45 am and any hassles, he said. head for GIS-2025 at the Chief Minister Mohan Yadav

lauded the PM's concern for students. He is always sensitive towards students and their bright future, and also boosts their morale by organising various programmes from time to

time, said the CM. Modi's 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme is very popular and inspiring for students, he added. The programme is an initiative by Modi to interact with students and help them

tackle exam pressure. The PM arrived in Madhya Pradesh on Sunday and laid the foundation stone for Shree Bageshwar Medical Sciences And Research Institute, which will include a cancer hospital, in Chhatarpur. He is scheduled to attend a few other events in Bhopal in the evening and will stay overnight at raj Bhavan.

Upper Lake dazzles with thrilling Water Sports to regale delegates

including sailing, kayaking,

canoeing, and rowing. These

preparatory performances pro-

vided a glimpse of the electrify-

ing spectacle awaiting visitors

In a bid to create a vibrant and

welcoming atmosphere, grand

banners on sailing boats will be

used to greet the esteemed del-

Guests will be able to watch the

performances from VIP Road

and the bridge, offering specta-

during the summit.

Bhopal: Bhopal's iconic Upper Lake is set to become the centre of attraction during the Global Investors Summit as it hosts an exhilarating display of water sports performances.

the 'Invest Madhya Pradesh -

Global Investors Summit-2025',

am, he said.

The Minister for Cooperation, Sports, and Youth Welfare, Vishwas Kailash Sarang, announced that from February 24-25, athletes from the Water Sports Academy of the Department of Sports and Youth Welfare will captivate delegates from across the country and beyond with their remarkable skills.

On Sunday morning, a practice session was held, featuring a variety of thrilling water sports,

tors a breathtaking view. The main attractions will include adrenaline-pumping activities such as sailing, kayaking, canoeing, and rowing. Minister Sarang highlighted that

egates.

the water sports show will be conducted in two daily sessions-from 10 AM to 2 PM and from 4 PM to 8 PM-promising an action-packed experience for all attendees. More than 100 athletes will take to the waters, demonstrating their extraordinary talent in this grand show-

case. He emphasised that Upper Lake is not only a historic landmark but also a symbol of Bhopal's rich bio-heritage. This event will significantly elevate its national and international recognition, drawing attention from potential investors and adding to the city's growing prominence on the global stage.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER CAPITAL DIVISION NO:II, P.W.D., BHOPAL No. 770/SAC/C-2/24 Bhopal, Dated: 14.02.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited on behalf of Governor of M.P. for the following works on SOR issued by MP P.W.D. for Building works with effect from 01-01-24 with all amendments issued upto date of issue of NIT from the Registered Contractors with the Government of M.P., PW.D. The tenders will be received through registered AD Post or speed post service or by hand in the office mentioned. The department will not be responsible for any postal delay.

Prime Minister arrives in city for maiden overnight visit

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Bhopal for his maiden overnight visit to the state capital on Sunday. The visit, lasting nearly 24 hours, will see the Prime Minister interact with party leaders and open the keenly awaited Global Investors Summit.

On Monday morning, Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the Global Investors Summit in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav and around 3,000 guests.

Keeping the Prime Minister's security in mind, traffic arrangements in the city have been altered. A three-layer security system has been implemented for his convoy and overnight stay. The first layer comprises SPG commandos, the second consists of IPS officers, and the third includes police personnel

Monday is also the day of the Madhya Pradesh Board examinations, for which an advisory has already been issued. Students have been advised to wear their school uniforms while appearing for the exams to avoid any inconvenience during security checks. Additionally, students will be allowed to cross roads in VIP movement areas up to 15 minutes before restrictions are enforced. In light of the Global Investors

Summit, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has made temporary changes to two exam centres for the exams scheduled on February 24-25. Students who were supposed to take their exams at Bal Bhavan School, Shyamla Hills, will now appear at Anand Vihar School. Similarly, those assigned to Demonstration Multipurpose School will now take their exams at Kamla Nehru School (CBSE), Kamla Nagar, Kotra Sultanabad. This change will be applicable only on Monday, Minister's visit.

February 24, and Tuesday, February 25. Additionally, Barkatullah University (BU) has postponed its February 24 exams scheduled at the Regional Institute of Education, Shyamla Hills. The B.Ed. First Semester, M.Ed. First Semester, and M.Ed. Third Semester exams will now be held on March 1, 6, and 17, affecting around 500 students. For commuting between Old Bhopal and New Bhopal, people have been advised to avoid Polytechnic Chauraha and instead use alternative routes via Retghat, Moti Masjid, Budhwara, Talaiya, Lal Parade Ground, Control Room, and Roshanpura Students travelling to exam centres such as Regional College, Bal Bhavan School, St Joseph Co-Ed,

Anand Vihar School, and Kamla Nehru School will be allowed to use VIP routes. The entry of heavy vehicles has also been restricted in several parts of Bhopal during the Prime

Triveni Sangam during ongoing Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh on Sunday.

Chief Minister Dr. Yadav being given to investors.	po.	51 301 110	e of by fiand in the office filefillo	neu. me	acpartitie	in will not b	c responsible i	or any posta	ruciay.
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	3	dated	Washrooms Renovation work for Higher Education Department at Right Side of Wing "A" at Satpura Bhawan, Bhopal	2000.00	1) 9.80 Lakhs 2) 19,600/-	-do-	-do-	-do-	1) 30 days including rainy season 2), 1st call
	 Note: (1) Blank tender form can be obtained on payment of non-refundable cost shown above from the office of the undersigned during office hours. (2) Validity of tender will be 120 days from the date of opening of tender. (3) In case of holidays the tender shall be received/ opened on the next working day. (4) Application for purchase of blank tender shall accompany with following documents. If the contractor fails to submit these required documents tender form will not be issued to the applicant. (x) Copy of the valid Registraton Certificate as a contractor with Govt. of M.P.P.W.D. In case of firm or partnership submit copy of DEED & Power of Attorney. (xi) Copy of Income Tax clearance Certificate (xii) GSTN Registration. 								
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Congress State President Jitu Patwari offers prayers while taking a holy dip at									
Trivoni Sangam during ongoing Maha Kumhh at Prayagrai, Uttar Pradosh, on							E/5, ARERA	COLONY,	BHUPAL

Pioneer nhoto G-23410/24

Bhopal: Where hope resides, and patience endures

AKBAR KHAN BHOPAL

spiration is too small a word for all the connota-Thions it carries. Beyond communicating hope and optimism, it also hints at a degree of effort missing in synonyms like 'hope' and 'desire.

As a city, Bhopal has remained hopeful and desirous for far too long. Its penchant for clinging to the faintest glimmer—though commendable—was often seen as daydreaming from the outside. But within the city, hope was a fair currency—perhaps the only one it had left.

Farmers sowed their fields season after season, despite minimal returns, in the hope of a good monsoon and a better yield. Parents scraped together every penny to send their children to school, even when the promises



met with celebration-whether it of employment remained unkept. was the first concrete bridge, 'Pul And yet, the city rejoiced, cele-Pukhta,' (the sturdy overpass), or brated, and laughed while the installation of the city's first patiently biding its time. After all, traffic signal, which earned its crossroads the name 'Char Batti patience itself is a virtue born of hope. And when there was nothing else to celebrate, the city Chauraha.'

found joy in the changing sea-Yes, the average city resident sons-waiting, always, for its indulged in overstatement—not moment in the sun. out of arrogance, but as a way to Bhopal waited, patiently, for live out an imagined reality in funds to trickle down. Every words, even when circumstances small step toward progress was denied its manifestation in deed.

Though thoroughly enjoyable and equally understandable, this proclivity for verbal extravagance, found residents being targeted with countless 'Soorma Bhopali' jokes.

Though the first of these jokes came from an incredibly gifted yet unimaginably irreverent poet whom the city had mothered after he was cast out by his own father, Bhopal decided to grace-fully look the other way, choosing instead to extend its generosity and the benefit of doubt to the wordsmith.

Patience, and the quiet healing power of time, is deeply revered among Bhopal's residents, who apply it to everything from minor insults to mammoth tragedies that fade out little by little, with changing seasons. And if that doesn't sound compelling enough, wait a minute.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Rise of the Right

Giorgia Meloni's recent speech struck a chord with the Right, yet it also exposed its inherent contradictions

talian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni recently made headlines with her fiery remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in the US. Speaking via video link, she claimed that the global Right is unfairly branded as a threat to democracy, while the Left enjoys undeserved legitimacy. In her speech, she drew a parallel between figures like Donald Trump, Argentina's Javier Milei and India's Narendra Modi, arguing that when the Left created a global network in the 1990s, it was celebrated, whereas today's Right is vilified for doing the same. While Meloni's argument taps into the grievances of conservative movements worldwide, it is riddled with logical gaps and selective reasoning. Meloni paints a picture of right-wing leaders as persecuted underdogs fighting against an entrenched leftist establishment. However, the reality is more complex. The rise of leaders like Trump, Milei and Modi demonstrates that conservative politics is not an underdog movement but a dominant force in many parts of the world.



Trump served as the President of the United States, Narendra Modi is in his third term as India's Prime Minister and Milei recently won the Argentine presidency. If anything, the Right has been steadily gaining power rather than being systematically oppressed. Moreover, Meloni's assertion that the world no longer believes in the Left's "lies" is an oversimplification. The political landscape remains deeply divided, with both right-wing and left-wing parties winning elections in different parts of the world.

While conservative movements have gained momentum, liberal and progressive politics continue to hold substantial influence. The notion that people have

wholesale rejected the Left is misleading and fails to acknowledge the electoral victories of left-leaning leaders in countries like Brazil, Germany and Spain. Trump's tenure was marked by an unprecedented number of falsehoods, ranging from his claims about election fraud to downplaying the COVID-19 pandemic. If the global Right is positioning itself as a movement rooted in truth, aligning with a figure like Trump severely undermines that claim. The argument that the Right is unfairly labelled as a threat to democracy also ignores the legitimate concerns surrounding authoritarian tendencies within conservative movements. Trump's refusal to accept the results of the 2020 US election and the subsequent Capitol riot were direct attacks on democratic institutions. Similarly, Modi's government has faced criticism for suppressing dissent and Milei has made inflammatory remarks about eliminating key government institutions. Indeed, Meloni's speech captures the defiant spirit of the modern Right, but it also exposes its selective reasoning and internal contradictions. While it is true that right-wing movements have gained traction, it does not follow that concerns about the Right's democratic integrity are unfounded. Yes, the world may be more right than left at the moment-but that does not mean all is right with the Right.



Prakriti Lamsal tragic death: A wake-up call



Prakriti Lamsal's tragic fate calls for urgent reflection on education diplomacy, bilateral trust and the necessity of systemic reforms

rmed Forces personnel often narrate stories of valour and courage of Nepali Gorkha soldiers. They say their sacrifice for India's security is unparalleled. The unique tradition of Honorary General Rank to each other's Chief of Army Staff is a jewel in bilateral relations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier noted, "I salute the Nepali braves who have laid down their lives for India" during his address to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal (August 3, 2014).

In bilateral relations such as these, a private university's administration acted inhumanely and irresponsibly to the grievance of harassment - the outcome - a 20-year-old Nepali female student Prakriti Lamsal committed suicide (under investigation) on February 16, 2025, at KIIT Bhubaneshwar. Other resident Nepali students, shocked by the alleged suicide, protested against the harassment of Lamsal. Nepali students were abused, asked to leave and forcibly evicted. Hundreds of Nepali students rushed back to Nepal with bare survival means. Nepali students in trauma due to the death of Lamsal and the ordeal they underwent seek answers. So, "What did we miss?"

It has been alleged that Lamsal complained to the college authorities of harassment by her batchmate but no action was taken. Did willful neglect and cruelty lead to Lamsal committing suicide? Access to emergency medical services and safeguarding evidence after being declared dead did not seem to function as one would expect.

Undoubtedly, the basic compliances to safeguard students failed. Several key questions are unanswered to day as the state investigation is under progress and justice is yet to be served. The case is no longer about justice for a deceased Nepali student but leaves a question mark on the capability of India as a nation to assure wellbeing and justice to a

oreign student. The authorities

did not stop at mere oral refusal of information but abused, used

fear and forced eviction of hun-



their lives. No doubt that KIIT's conduct should be a template of 'what not to do' for every public or private institution in India dealing with foreign students. There has to be zero tolerance

for actions against the law of the land, the ethos of the nation and the civilisational legacy that India and Nepal take pride in. Every Indian condemned the action of the KIIT Administration and expressed unequivocal solidarity with Nepali Students. It is at this junction, recollecting PM Modi's Address to the Constituent Assembly of Nepal in August 2014 "When an adverse wind blows in Nepal,

India too feels cold." "How can India be happy if Nepal is unhappy". One wonders why the Prime Minister has not addressed the people of India and Nepal assuring Nepali Students' safety, security and wellbeing as high priority. Reiterating these words to Nepali parents and students would strengthen relations for immemorial. times Undoubtedly, the Government of India managed the situation diligently, however, it is PM Modi whose personal connection with Nepal reinforces trust among Nepali people. PM Modi has spoken for the

The Vishwamitra vision of India's foreign policy begins at home. To recalibrate the India-Nepal friendship and heal the wounds inflicted by the ill deeds of KIIT, India must be consciously seen as Vishwa Bandhu of Nepal. It is neces-sary to walk the extra mile towards the safety and wellbeing of foreign students, bring culprits to justice and regain the trust of Nepali Parents as "India First" for educational pursuits.

The education system in Nepal is flawed. On average, about five lakh students appear for THE CASE IS NO grade X every year, and less LONGER ABOUT than 50 per cent pass the exam. Frustrated with ghost JUSTICE FOR A colleges and universities, students want to leave Nepal for DECEASED even Grade X and two levels. NEPALI STUDENT If 70 per cent of eligible higher secondary pass-out stu-BUT LEAVES A dents are leaving for abroad, then where does the account-QUESTION ability lie for the state of MARK ON THE despair among youth? If the National Lawmakers do CAPABILITY

not respect the youth's future, where and how the youth will garner respect abroad? The lawmakers roar for a while in Parliament, make powerful nationalistic statements, victim's family reconciles eventually and Nepali lawmakers

mittee to review education reforms and migration-related safeguards.

How many of these 70 per cent of students traveling abroad are registered with Nepali missions, and receive any cultural or crisis-handling counselling? When Lamsal did not get counselling support against harassment, why did she not reach out to local law enforcement authorities or the Nepali Embassv?

There have been unfortunate incidents in earlier years with Nepali students studying abroad, as in the case of Pramod Bhattarai found dead in the USA, Shristi Bhandari in Australia and John Lama in Japan.Wake up Nepal!! Invest in your demographic dividend, Nepali youth, impart technical education, skill and empower them with cognitive and socio-emotional skills for holistic development. This is not the first and certainly not the last unpleasant event in

global disruptive times. It is high time that sustainable lessons are learned at all levels. If education diplomacy between the two open border states fails, the repercussions are far-reaching. India and Nepal boasting of timeless relations and open border culdiseased with short memory tural ties should invest in its outh, their aspirations and importantly grievances. (The author is a financial, geopolitical and security ana*lyst; views are personal)*

A worker paints the statue of Lord Shiva ahead of the Maha Shivaratri festival, in Chikmagalu

Steep hike in passport & visa services

abroad: A big blow to blue-collar workers



B K JHA

This sharp price hike could impose severe financial strain on most vulnerable citizens, who work under harsh conditions to support their families back home

sending every possible rupee

as remittance to cover house-

hold expenses, children's edu-

Despite enduring harsh work-

ing conditions, low wages,

and exploitative contracts,

threatens their already fragile

It is easy to understand how

this fee hike will harm Indian

20,000- Rs 30,000 per month,

barely manage to save. A

sudden jump in service fees-

from \$5-\$7 to \$90-\$100-

means they will have to cut

down on basic necessities.

Many may even struggle to

renew passports or access

essential documentation,

financial stability.

cation, and medical needs.

or millions of Indian workers abroad, securing and renewing essential documents like passports and visas is already a challenging process. However, a newly revised Request for Proposal (RFP) by the Government of India threatens to make it even more difficult by drastically increasing service fees. This move, which could raise costs by 15 to 20 times, is set to impose a significant financial burden on blue-collar workers-individuals who work tirelessly overseas to support their families and contribute to India's economy through remittances. It is a fact that adrastic fee hike

threatens millions of Indian workers abroad. The Government of India has introduced a revised Request for Proposal (RFP) for outsourcing Passport, Visa, and Consular (CPV) services 23 across Indian Missions/Posts worldwide. There is genuine concern that this new fee structure could increase service costs by 15 to 20 times and that could impose a heavy financial burden on those blue-collar workers who is considered the backbone of India's global



A mandatory bundled service cannot be justified at an exorbitant price! The proposed model enforces a "Service Fee per application" that requires applicants to pay for a bundled package, including document digitization, fingerprint and facial biometric capture, and four additional services-photocopying, pho-tography, form filling, and courier services. Crucially, this fee is mandatory, even if the applicant does not require

all these services. As a result, a simple service that currently costs \$5-\$7 could surge to an alarming \$90-\$100. This hike disproportionately affects Indian workers in Gulf countries, the UK, and beyond, many of whom struggle to make ends meet.

jeopardizing their employ-ment abroad.Many of these It is also well-known that Indian blue-collar workers abroad face several unseen workers rely on loans to struggles. They form the backfinance their overseas bone of industries such as employment. Higher service construction, hospitality, and fees add financial strain, potentially pushing them into domestic labour across the Gulf, the UK, and Southeast debt or forcing them to return Asia. Most come from humhome jobless because they ble backgrounds, often taking cannot afford visa renewals or loans to secure jobs abroad. work permits. Furthermore, the hike will be Their primary goal is to sup-

port their families back home, a direct hit to India's foreign remittances. India received over \$100 billion in remittances in 2023, much of it from blue-collar workers. If rising service costs force many to return home, the country could see a significant drop in these workers persevere for a better future. However, the remittances, affecting millions of dependent families government's latest fee hike and impacting the national economy. The question remains-will India's policymakers stand by their overseas workers, or will they burworkers. Earning as little as Rs den them further with unnecessary and exploitative service many blue-collar workers costs? The government must reconsider this fee structure to prevent further hardship for millions of Indian workers who contribute not only to

their families but also to the nation's economy. (The writer is a senior jour*nalist; views are personal)*

rights of Palestinians, Afghans and Bangladeshi minorities. It is even more important that he is seen assuring Nepali dreds of Nepali students risking Students' concerns.

STUDENT stituted any high-level com-

move on abandoning pending education reforms. There has been no news so far if the Nepali government con-

ETTERSIO

CORRUPTION CONTINUES TO RISE

Madam - Recently, Transparency International, a global organisation, released its Corruption Perceptions Index for 2024, ranking India 96th out of 180 countries. In 2023, India was ranked 93rd, indicating that corruption has increased. Even today, corruption scandals involving politicians, government employees and high-ranking officials continue to surface in every state across the country. Despite the widespread use of digital technology, the level of corruption has not decreased, as evidenced by this report. We often talk about India's glorious past and the ideals of 'Ram Rajya', but honesty, integrity and transparency are rarely reflected in our actions.

There is a clear disconnect between what we preach and what we practice. Moreover, corruption has gained social acceptance, allowing individuals to amass wealth through dishonest means because they know that society primarily respects and honours the wealthy. Honest government employees, leaders and selfemployed individuals do not receive the same social recognition. This is why corruption, like the mythical demon 'Bhasmasura,' continues to grow day by day. To eradicate corruption, the citizens of the country must become aware and stop giving social respect to corrupt individuals. Additionally, the government must strictly enforce stringent laws against corruption to set an example. Only then can corruption be truly erad-

Jitesh Mori | Kutch

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR DELHIITES

Madam - Newspapers are abuzz with the news about the new BJP government in Delhi under the new CM Rekha Gupta. Now Delhi enters political tranquility after a decade of turmoil. All the welfare schemes, including Ayushman Bharat, will now be implemented for Delhiites. It also ends an era of confrontation with the Union Government. This is perhaps the first time that the environmental

New bat virus identified



recent study has identified a new bat coronavirus in China That has the potential to infect humans, raising concerns about future zoonotic outbreaks. Bats have long been recognised as natural reservoirs for coronaviruses and this discovery underscores the ongoing risk of spillover events-where viruses jump from animals to humans. Scientists emphasise

issues, i.e., Yamuna cleaning and pollution, are top on the people's agenda taken up by the present BJP government. The BJP state government should closely work with the Union Home Ministry for law and order. Delhi is mini-India, so the performance of the Delhi state government will have a multiplier effect throughout the country.

It needs to be considered that the Delhi government owes about Rs 11000 crore on subsidy bills and cumulatively for five years, it is a significant factor to derail the development and result in deficit budgets of Delhi. This phantom expenditure, if put to the development programmes, may construct several new schools, colleges, hospitals, flyovers, industrial areas and district centres. Huge employment will also be generated. Only needy and incapacitated people who work and engage in employment should get free facilities of ration, education, water, and electricity. The development should be the top priority and get momentum. Public expectations are high. Vinod Johri | Delhi

the importance of monitoring such viruses closely, as past outbreaks like SARS and COVID-19 originated from similar sources

While there is no immediate evidence of human-to-human transmission, the genetic makeup of this new virus suggests it could adapt over time. Factors such as habitat destruction, illegal wildlife trade and increased human-animal interactions contribute to the growing emergence of such diseases. The key takeaway from this finding is the need for proactive research and global collaboration in tracking and containing potential threats. With advancements in virus surveillance and vaccine technology, early detection could prevent future pandemics.

Anushka Bohra | Ujjain

EDUCATION NEEDS REFORM

Madam — Attention must be drawn to the alarming findings of India's Graduate Skill Index 2025 by Mercer-Mettl. The report reveals that only 42.6 per cent of Indian graduates are employable, reflecting a decline from 44.3 per cent in 2023. This downward trend highlights a growing mismatch between academic training and industry requirements. Bridging this gap requires urgent intervention. Academic institutions must align their programmes with industry demands, incorporating skill-based training, internships and technology-driven learning.

Additionally, collaboration between policymakers, educators and businesses is essential to reform the education system and enhance career readiness. The employability crisis, if left unaddressed, will hinder India's economic growth and global competitiveness.

Akash Kumar | Jagraon

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

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FIRSTCOLUMN

A KASHMIRI AT MAHA KUMBH

Maha Kumbh is a deeply immersive experience, a transformative journey like no other



JEHANZEB ALLAQABAND

s a Kashmiri Muslim, I, Jehanzeb Allaqaband, had heard of the Maha Kumbh Mela but never imagined experiencing it. In 2025, my friend Yuvraj Srivastava invited me to witness the event in Prayagraj, and what was meant to be a two-day visit turned into an unforgettable week. The spiritual energy and unity of the gathering left me deeply moved, and I didn't want to leave, though prior commitments forced me to return home. The Kumbh Mela was a unique blend of ancient rituals and modern technology.

The event attracted millions of pilgrims and was especially significant due to a rare cosmic alignment. It was more than just a religious event; it was an experience of learning, connection and respect for all cultures. I was struck by the seamless combination of tradition and innovation, such as AI being used to manage crowds and sustainability efforts. The efforts of the Uttar Pradesh government under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were impressive. The cleanliness, security and hospitality were top-notch. I was particularly moved by the creation of a temporary city for the pilgrims, with 150,000 tents, medical camps and free healthcare. When I fell ill, I received prompt treatment without charge

One remarkable initiative was the "Vidya Kumbh" project, which provided free education to the children of 15,000 sanitation workers. This showed the administration's commitment to both the event and the well-being of the workers' families. As a Kashmiri Muslim, I was warmly welcomed by the pilgrims, and the sense of unity and brotherhood was palpable.

The experience left a lasting impression on me, strengthening my belief in the power of faith and unity. My time at the Maha Kumbh Mela was a life-changing experience. As a social activist, I am com-



mitted to applying the lessons of spirituality, unity, and service to humanity within my community. The event's success under Yogi Adityanath's leadership is a model of effective public administration, showing how large-scale gatherings can honour tradition while

Agarwood: The golden green tree revives Tripura's economy



analys \$ 07

As Tripura emerges as India's Agarwood hub, farmers across the country are eyeing its cultivation. However, unlocking its full potential requires streamlining regulatory policies



he Agar tree known scientifically as Aquilaria malaccensis in India is found primarily in the North-Eastern states of Assam, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. The capital city of Agartala was once full of Agarwood trees and hence named after it by the Tripura Royal family. Myanmar, Sumatra, Laos, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, Borneo and the Philippines. It is a critically endangered tree species due to its heavy demand and illegal trade and is on the Red list of the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN). There are 15 crore Agarwood trees in India and the tree DURING THE LAST species are making a ripple in Tripura due to proactive actions taken by the state government on its promotion and value addition and providing a platform for its conservation and promotion on private lands. Now farmers from other states are taking seedlings from Tripura and North-East and this species is poised to grow in other suitable localities. I visited Tripura in the second week of this month to study the economic and ecological potential of Agar trees in Tripura and such for the farmers of the country. The Architecture of Agar tree management espe-cially in Tripura has undergone a sea change for the last eight to ten years and the Dharmanagar area in North Tripura is now becoming an epicentre of Agar tree propagation and value addition. Earlier the distillation units were raided and destroyed by the forest department now is being promoted along with the big push for plantation on farmers' land considering its immense potential for increasing the income of farmers manifold. Considering the demand for Agarwood oil and chips in the international market especially in Middle Eastern countries there is huge scope for its propagation in a big way. The Agarwood market was initially monopolised by a sin-gle family of Assam as it thrived also from illegal cutting of trees from Tripura and Assam but now after a major policy thrust by the government and involvement of farmers and traders, Tripura is driving not only the conservation of Agarwood tree but leading the nation in its innovative value addi-

Thanks to policy support from the state government the forest department during the last seven years has worked on all fronts of Agar from propagation to marketing to value addition and soon it will be grown in every homestead making its conservation easy and value addition perfect for the farmers to earn big money. Let us discuss the eco-THE FOREST nomics of growing Agarwood trees and the steps needed to be further taken by the government of India DEPARTMENT and the States. Each tree if inoculated artificially or naturally attacked by fungi like Fusarium, SEVEN YEARS Lasiodiplodia, Penicillium, and Aspergillus after around seven years of age or more will yield resin in the ALL FRONTS OF he felled to extra t the HAS WORKED ON be felled to extract the resin which AGAR FROM then can be distilled to produce around 20 to 25 ml of Agar oil worth PROPAGATION TO Rs 20,000 and worth Rs 80,000 MARKETING TO national market according to Mr Ujjain in Agartala on February 11 national market according to Mr who is going to invest 5 crore to help VALUE ADDITION AND SOON IT WILL BE GROWN WILL BE GROWN in the international market is 10 IN EVERY lakhs per litre and of the chips is 1 lakh per kg. HOMESTEAD A farmer can earn anything between MAKING ITS 15 to 20 lakh per year from around 500 trees in one hectare of CONSERVATION Agarwood plantation and thus 2 crores in ten to fifteen years. Agar, EASY AND VALUE therefore, is a Golden Green Tree ADDITION and a wonderful gift of nature that needs to be promoted on a large PERFECT FOR THE scale in India through trials along with a policy push that helps farm-FARMERS TO ers adopt it on a large scale. During EARN BIG MONEY my visit, I spoke with Mr Mamon Ali proprietor of 'Momin Enterprise distillery'in Kadamtala in North Tripura and visited his plantations and distillery. He is having a turnover of more than one crore every year. The government of Tripura has also very rich and big trader because he

promoted its diversification in perfume making from the oil of Ågar resin. In Middle Eastern countries Agar oil is used directly but a few value addition units for perfume and Agarbatti production had been set up by a few entrepreneurs in Tripura and the quality of the perfume is very pleasing. In yet another example, the forest department had through a public-private partnership initiated a project to artificially Agartala through chemicals under which nine inoculation supplier firms are participating. The initial results are encouraging after burning the chips for perfume. The chips are sold for religious purposes to Buddhists and other religious groups and for that, the smoke yields a good fragrance. During my visit to Tripura, I met a senior Priest of Mahakaal Jyotirlinga

found the Laos government had created a very trader and farmerfriendly quick system of approval for export within a few days. In India, it is still a big bureaucrat-

ic process and involves a lot of paperwork at every stage which discourages the farmers and entrepreneurs. The government apart from promoting Agar plantation trials in suitable agro-climatic zones of the country must first create a customerfriendly business environment.

Like in Laos, the DFO office should issue the clearance online and it must have online access with govt of India and the CITES office simultaneously so that clearance is given to traders quickly. With a suitable infrastructure and a friendly regulatory policy framework, the Agarwood business profile has the potential of touching 15,000 to 20,000 crores in the next ten to twelve vears.

The tea export of 250.7 million kg during the fiscal year 2023-24 with a value of US\$ 776 million corre-sponding to around 7,000 crores Rupees. I have been writing to create an Agarwood and Red Sanders Board at the government of India level to promote these two species at the international level and to double the farmer's income as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed with PCCF and Principal Secretary RK Samal who is keen on leapfrogging the Agarwood policy framework.

embracing progress.

Indeed, Maha Kumbh is not just a religious congregation; it is a symbol of unity, inclusivity and spiritual awakening. Held once every twelve years, this grand event draws millions of people from across the world, transcending barriers of caste, creed, nationality and social status. From ascetics and spiritual seekers to scholars, pilgrims, and tourists, everyone comes together in pursuit of divine blessings, wisdom, and self-discovery.

At its core, Maha Kumbh embodies the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—"the world is one family." It fosters an environment where people from diverse backgrounds coexist in harmony, sharing prayers, knowledge and experiences. The sacred rivers become the melting pot of traditions, where faith unites humanity beyond differences. It is a place where the rich and the poor, the learned and the unlettered, stand side by side, immersed in devotion and introspection. Beyond its spiritual significance, Maha Kumbh serves as a cultural confluence, bringing together art, philosophy, and age-old traditions. It is a global event where seekers of truth and wisdom are welcomed with open arms. Maha Kumbh is for all-an enduring testament to inclusivity, faith, and the boundless spirit of togetherness that defines humanity.

(The writer is an activist; views are personal)

farmers grow Agar trees in collab-oration with the forest department to produce Agarwood dust for the Mahakaal temple of Ujjain.

The Royal family of Baroda had funded him for this investment. Now the question is what needs to be done at the national level to promote income generation for the farmers. Agar tree is under the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) of wild flora and fauna. Therefore, Agar product sales and exports are regulated as per international protocols. For every state, a quota is fixed and recently the Government of India had increased the quota from states. However, if we want to make Agar Tree a household tree the government needs to emulate the example of one trader Mr Habib Chaudhury from Assam. He took his Agar business from Assam to Laos and settled there and is now a

It is, therefore, high time that both Centre and States sit together and chalk out a policy framework for this by creating a National Board for Agarwood and Red Sanders to be housed in the Commerce Ministry. (The writer is former Director-

General of ICFRE and Chancellor FRI Deemed University, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; views are personal)

The footwear industry takes a step towards sustainability and social empowerment

With the footwear sector projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 12.39 per cent, the emphasis on sustainable growth has never been more crucial

⊣he Indian footwear industry has evolved significantly in the 21st century, blending tradition with innovation. Once solely focused on fashion and quality, the industry now embraces sustainability, fairness and social empowerment. Of late the industry is agressively pursuing its corporate social responsibility as it is in direct touch with the poeple on the lower rung of the society. With the footwear sector projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of nearly 12.39 per cent from 2025 to 2032 (as per Statista), the emphasis on sustainable growth has never been more crucial. Embracing CSR as a Core Strategy The journey towards sustain-



SUNIL BATRA

ability begins with a clear vision that prioritises human welfare alongside business growth. As the Indian footwear industry rapidly expands, it is adapting to meet the expectations of socially conscious consumers. Companies are integrating CSR efforts with government schemes to focus on environmental conservation, education and healthcare. highlights the power of

Yojana.

storage capacity of 146,000

For instance, Relaxo's CSR responsible water manageinitiatives stem from a deepment in enhancing rural liveliseated commitment to uplifthoods. ing underserved communities

hoods. Another impactful initiative is a large-scale afforestation pro-ject near the Sariska Tiger Reserve. By planting 50,000 saplings, including 25-30 per cent fruit-bearing trees, this project net only restores bioand making a tangible differ-ence in their lives. One of the most compelling examples of CSR in action is project not only restores bioseen in Rajasthan's Alwar disdiversity but also provides sustainable income opportunitrict, where water scarcity has long been a pressing issue. In response, check dams have been constructed along the ties for local communities. By involving villagers directly in Ruparel River under the conservation efforts, such pro-⁶Mukhya Mantri Jal Sanchay jects promote environmental awareness and reduce human-These reservoirs, with a total wildlife conflicts.

Education and Skill Development:

cubic meters, have transformed local agriculture by recharging 455 hectares of irrigated land, benefiting near-Beyond environmental initiatives, the Indian footwear industry is actively driving ly 1,000 families. This initiative change in education and skill development. Recognising the



importance of quality education, companies like Relaxo have taken significant steps to improve school infrastructure. The Parivartan Model School Project, for instance, has revitalised over 100 government schools in Haridwar district, particularly in the Khanpur and Laksar blocks. With 77

project has upgraded classrooms, built protective boundaries, and improved sanitation and mid-day meal facilities. These enhancements have significantly boosted student enrollment and retention, particularly among girls, creating a more inclusive learning environment.

Equally transformative are vocational training programs that equip young people with marketable skills. Collaborations with NGOs such as GMRVF and Teamlease Foundation have facilitated training for nearly 400 youths annually in fields like customer service, front office management, banking, and financial services. With a job placement rate of around 80 per cent, these programmes schools already renovated, the are empowering young indi-

viduals with skills that ensure long-term career stability.

Healthcare is another area where CSR initiatives are making a significant impact. Relaxo's "Nayan Avoidable Blindness Project" is a shining example. This initiative provides high-quality eye care services to 194 villages in Rajasthan's Tijara Block. Since its inception in 2018, the project has established two advanced vision centers staffed by certified ophthalmic professionals.

Utilising state-of-the-art technology, these centers offer comprehensive eye exams and vision correction services. The project also prioritises training local youth, particularly women, in eye care professions, thereby fostering economic independence. By 2026,

the initiative aims to screen nearly 60,000 students across 281 government schools, improving both health outcomes and quality of life in marginalised communities. Sustainable Business Growth: The future of India's footwear industry is bright, fueled by robust market growth and a strong commitment to CSR.

As consumer awareness grows, leading companies like Relaxo are proving that profitability and social responsibility can go hand in hand.

By prioritising people and sustainability, the Indian footwear sector is setting a global example-demonstratng that businesses can thrive while making a lasting positive impact on society.

(The wrtier is ED & CFO, Relaxo; views are personal)



Nasrallah shares the funeral

with his cousin and successor,

Hashem Safieddine, who was

killed in an Israeli airstrike on

a Beirut suburb a few days later.

The late Hezbollah leader will

be laid to rest later Sunday in

Beirut while Safieddine will be

buried in his hometown in

southern Lebanon. Both had

temporarily been buried in

secret locations. Hezbollah ear-

lier this month announced

plans for their official funerals.

As the coffins were paraded

Bagher Qalibaf, and Foreign

parliament speaker and repre-

would bless them.

Tens of thousands attend funeral of Hezbollah leader Nasrallah

PTI BEIRUT

Tens of thousands of people packed into a stadium in Beirut early Sunday to attend the funeral of Hezbollah's former leader, Hassan Nasrallah, nearly five months after he was

killed in an Israeli airstrike. Nasrallah died after Israel's air force dropped more than 80 bombs on the militant group's main operations room in a southern suburb of the Lebanese capital. His death was a major blow for the Iranbacked group that the late leader transformed into a potent force in the Middle East

He was one of the group's founders and led it for more than 30 years, enjoying wide influence among Iran-backed groups in the region. The late Hezbollah chief was widely respected in the so-called Iranled axis of resistance that included Iraqi, Yemeni and Palestinian factions. Sahar al-Attar, a mourner who travelled from Lebanon's Bekaa Valley for the funeral said she still "cannot believe what happened".

"We would have come even

under bullets" to attend Nasrallah's burial, she said. "It is an indescribable feeling." Qalibaf and Araghchi arrived

Qalibaf and Araghchi arrived on separate flights from Tehran Sunday morning in an appar-ent lifting of a ban on flights from Iran that Lebanese authorities imposed after the Israeli army claimed the Islamic Republic was smuggling cash to Hezbollah on commercial flights. Senior Hezbollah official Ali Daamoush told reporters Saturday that about 800 figures from 65 countries will be attending the funeral in addition to thousands of individuals and activists from around the world.

before the huge crowd, men on a platform tossed flowers, while "Come from every home, village and city so that we tell the some threw clothing articles in enemy that this resistance will the hope they come in contact stay and is ready in the field," with the coffin, believing it Daamoush said, referring to Officials from around the Israel. Hezbollah has been callregion, including Iran's parliaing on its supporters to attend the funeral in large numbers in ment speaker Mohammad what appears to be a move to show that the group remains Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived at the Lebanese capital's powerful after suffering major blows during a 14-month war with Israel that left many of its main sports stadium. Lebanese senior political and military sentatives of the president and officials dead. prime minister were also in In the crowded stands, thouattendance at the funeral



People gather for the funeral ceremony of the Lebanon's late Hezbollah leaders Hassan Nasrallah and Hashern Safieddine at the Sports City Stadium in Beirut Lebanon on Sunday AP/PTI

sands of Hezbollah supporters America, death to Israel." waved the group's yellow flag and chanted: "Death to

shows that Hezbollah is still Sarah Taqi, an attendee, said the large number of mourners strong. "There is pain, but we have to be strong," Taqi said.

Hours before and during the funeral, the Israeli military launched a series of strikes in southern and eastern Lebanon. The Israeli army said in a statement that it had "conducted a precise intelligencebased strike on a military site containing rocket launchers and weapons in Lebanese ter-ritory." Lebanon's state news agency reported that one of the strikes wounded a Syrian woman. "The Israeli Air Force planes that are flying now in the skies over Beirut above the funeral of Hassan Nasrallah," Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz, adding that it is to "send a clear message: whoever threatens to annihilate Israel and strike Israel - that will be his end." Israeli jets also flew at low altitude over Beirut as Nasrallah's coffin was paraded into the stadium while his speech following the 2006 war with Israel played. The crowd chanted: "Death to Israel" in response. Hezbollah was served another blow with the fall of the

flow of weapons and money from Iran. As part of the US-brokered ceasefire deal that ended the war with Israel on November 27, Hezbollah is not supposed to have an armed presence along the border with İsrael. Hezbollah's rivals have been calling on the group to lay down its weapons all over Lebanon and become a politi-

cal faction.

world 08

Hezbollah has prepared for the funeral by setting up the stadium to host tens of thousands of people while giant screens were placed along the airport road outside the stadium for people who won't get a space inside to watch the funeral. Tight security measures have been taken, including the closure of major roads in the area of the funeral.

Lebanese army and police forces were placed on alert and the army has banned the use of drones in Beirut and its suburbs during the day. Flights to and from Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport were set to halt for four hours starting at noon. Hezbollah has given a title to the funeral: "We are committed to the covenant."

of gun violence in recent years

that has swept through US hospitals and medical centres,

which have struggled to adapt

to the growing threats. Such attacks have helped make health care one of the nation's

most violent fields, with workers suffering more non-

Israel says troops will remain in some West Bank areas for year

PTI QABATIYA (WEST BANK)

Israel's defence musel on Sunday troops would srael's defence minister said remain "for the coming year" in parts of the occupied West Bank where they have launched a weekslong offensive and would prevent tens of thou-sands of displaced Palestinians from returning, as Israel deep-ens its crackdown on the Palestinian territory.

Israel launched a broad offensive on the northern West Bank on January 21 – two days after the ceasefire that paused the war in Gaza took hold — and then expanded it to include other nearby areas. Israel says it is determined to stamp out militancy amid a rise in attacks. Palestinians view such raids as part of an effort to cement Israeli control over the territory, where 3 million Palestinians live under military rule. The raids have been dead ly, caused destruction to urban areas and displaced tens of thousands.

Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said he had instructed the military to prepare to remain in some of the West Bank's urban refugee camps, from where he said some 40,000 Palestinians a figure confirmed by the United Nations - leaving the areas "emptied of residents".



Demonstrators light a flare during a protest demanding the immediate release of hostages held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, in PTI Tel Aviv. Israel. on Saturday

sent tanks to the territory since 2002, in response to a deadly in Gaza and in Lebanon on Palestinian uprising. hold, Israeli Prime Minister The refugee camps are home to descendants of Palestinians Benjamin Netanyahu has been under pressure from his farwho fled or were forced to flee right governing partners to crack down on militancy in the during wars with Israel decades West Bank. ago. More than

blasts rocked three empty ing that time, but with fighting parked buses in Israel, what police are viewing as a suspected militant attack.

Israel delays release of Palestinian prisoners: The intensifying raids come at a sensitive time, as the truce Israel and

Four people detained in France after deadly stabbing Paris (PTI): Four people were

in custody on Sunday after a deadly stabbing in eastern France that authorities linked to Islamic extremism, according to the national anti-terror-ism prosecutor's office. A Portuguese man was killed in the Saturday attack in the city of Mulhouse, near the border with Germany. Seven police officers were wounded, includ-ing a parking control agent hospitalized with grave injuries, the prosecutor's office said.

Those detained include the suspected assailant, a 37-yearold Algerian man identified by prosecutors as Brahim A. The interior minister described him as an Islamic extremist with a schizophrenic profile. Two of the suspect's family members and a person who lodged him were also detained, the prosecutor's office said.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the government has "complete determination" to respond to the attack, which he blamed on 'Islamist terrorism, France has been on high

alert for extremist threats. The suspect repeatedly said 'Allahu akbar" — "God is great" in Arabic — during the attack, the prosecutor said. He was

armed with a knife and a

Officer killed after gunman takes hostages at US hosp The shooting is part of a wave

Assad family's five-decade rule

in Syria in early December, a

strong ally of the Lebanese

group and a main route for the

PTI NEW YORK

A man armed with a pistol and carrying zip ties entered a Pennsylvania hospital's intensive care unit on Saturday and took staff members hostage before he was killed by police in a shootout that also left an officer dead,

authorities said. Three staffers at UPMC Memorial Hospital, including a doctor, a nurse and a custodian, and two other officers were shot and wounded in the attack, York County District Attorney Tim Barker said. A fourth staff member was injured during a fall, Barker said.

Gunfire erupted after officers from several different agencies went to engage the shooter, who Barker identified as Diogenes Archangel-Ortiz, 49. He said Archangel-Ortiz was holding at gunpoint a female staff member hostage who had her hands tied with zin ties when police opened zip ties when police opened fire.

"This is a huge loss to our community," Barker said at a press conference following the shooting. "It is absolutely

clear, and beyond any and all doubt, that the officers were justified in taking their action using deadly force." The officer who died in the shooting was identified as Andrew Duarte of the West York Borough Police Department. "We all have broken hearts and are grieving at his loss," West York Borough Manager Shawn Mauck told The Associated Press Associated Press. Duarte was a law enforcement

fatal injuries from workplace veteran who joined the West York Borough Police Department in 2022 after five years with the Denver Police Department in Colorado, according to his LinkedIn

profile. He described receiving a "hero award" in 2021 from Mothers Against Drunk Driving for his work in impaired driving enforcement for the state of Colorado.

"I have a type A personality and like to succeed in all that I do," his LinkedIn profile said. UPMC Memorial is a fivestory, 104-bed hospital that opened in 2019 in York, a city of about 40,000 people known for its creation of York Peppermint Patties in 1940.

violence than workers in any other profession, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. In 2023, a shooter killed a security guard in the lobby of New Hampshire's state psychiatric hospital before being fatally shot by a state trooper. In 2022, a man killed two workers at a Dallas hospital while there to watch his child's birth. In May of that year, a man opened fire in a medical centre waiting room in Atlanta, killing one woman and wounding four. And just one month later, a gunman killed his surgeon and three other people at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical office because he blamed the doctor

for his continuing pain after

an operation.

Shooting after pursuit at Air Force Base in New Mexico kills airman

He said in a statement he had ordered the military to "prepare for an extended stay in the camps that were cleared for the coming year and to not allow the return of residents or for terror to grow again". It was not clear for how long Palestinians would be prevented from returning. The military said it was expanding the raid in the West Bank to other areas and, in a rare move, was sending tanks to Jenin, long a bastion of armed struggle against Israel. It was the first time Israel had crack down on the West Bank: Under interim peace agreements from the early 1990s,

Israel maintains control over large parts of the West Bank while the Palestinian Authority administers other areas. Israel regularly sends troops into Palestinian zones but it typically withdraws them once forces complete their missions.

The UN says the current operation is the longest since the Palestinian uprising of the early 2000s. Violence has surged in the

West Bank throughout the Israel-Hamas war. Israel has carried out repeated raids dur-West Bank and late Thursday,

have been killed in the West Bank since the war in Gaza erupted on October 7, 2023. Israel says most of those were militants, but stone-throwing youths protesting the incursions as well as people not involved in confrontations have also been killed

In the most recent operation, a pregnant Palestinian woman was killed

Jewish settlers have also carried out repeated rampages throughout Palestinian areas in the territory. There has also been a spike in Palestinian attacks emanating from the

Gaza holds yet remains tenuous. Israel said it was delaying the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners until it gets assurances that Hamas stops what Israel says are "humiliating" handovers of hostages being freed.

The sides do not yet appear to have begun negotiations on extending the ceasefire and its collapse could lead to renewed fighting in war-torn Gaza. Israel captured the West Bank Gaza and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war, and Palestinians want all three territories for their future independent state.

following a respiratory crisis

and blood transfusions, as he

remains in critical condition

with a complex lung infection,

The brief statement early

Sunday didn't mention if

Francis was out of bed or eat-

ing breakfast, which it had on previous days. "The night

passed quietly, the pope rested," it said. The Vatican later said

Francis was conscious, contin-

uing to receive supplemental

oxygen and that further clini-

cal tests were being conducted

A more detailed medical

update was expected later

On Saturday, doctors said the

88-year-old pope, who had

part of one lung removed as a

young man, was in critical

condition after suffering a pro-

longed asthmatic respiratory

crisis while being treated for

pneumonia and a complex

The pope received "high flows"

of oxygen to help him breathe

through a nasal tube. He also

received blood transfusions

after tests showed low counts of

lung infection.

the Vatican said.

Sunday.

The suspect arrived in France without papers in 2014 and was arrested and convicted of glorifying terrorism in the wake of

the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau told reporters Saturday night. Police experts had "detected a schizophrenic profile" in the suspect, he added.

After several months in prison for that conviction, the suspect was confined to house arrest as authorities sought to expel him to Algeria. Retailleau criticised Algeria for resisting the return of criminals France is seeking to deport.

PTI ALBUQUERQUE

shooting at a US Air Force Ashooting at a Collection of the Saturday left one airman dead and another wounded, military officials said, adding that it was not an act of terrorism or an attack by an outsider.

A statement from Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque said security forces responded to a shooting near one of the entrances to the base at about 2 am. One airman died at the scene, and the other was taken to a hospital with a gunshot wound to a hand and later discharged, the statement said. An update in the afternoon said the shooting occurred following "an off-base pursuit". There was no threat to the public, it

The Air Force released few

other details and did not imme-

diately say whether anyone

was in custody. A spokesperson

of the therapy!" The message

noted the upcoming anniver-

sary of Russia's invasion of

Ukraine, "a painful and shame-

ful occasion for the whole of

The main threat facing the

pope is sepsis: Doctors have

warned that the main threat

facing Francis would be the

onset of sepsis, a serious infec-

tion of the blood that can

occur as a complication of

humanity?

Investigations was leading the probe. FBI investigators were also at the scene being helped by Albuquerque police, said Gilbert Gallegos, a police spokesperson. Police were not searching for any suspects, he

declined to say whether the

shooter or shooters also were

airmen. The names of the air-

men who were shot were not

The Air Force Office of Special

immediately released.

added.

Europe leaders attempt to urge Pope conscious, receiving supplemental oxygen Trump not to abandon Ukraine PTI 📕 ROME platelets, which are needed for clotting, the Vatican said in a pneumonia. As of Friday, there

London (PTI): The leaders of France and Britain are making tag-team visits to Washington this week as Europe attempts to persuade President Donald Trump not to abandon Ukraine in pursuit of a peace deal in the three-year-old war with Russia. There is an element of good cop, bad cop in efforts by UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron to salvage American support for Kyiv.

Starmer, reluctant to openly confront Trump, speaks of being a bridge between Europe and the US administration. Macron has more strongly criticised Trump's recent statements that echo Russia's narrative and American moves to negotiate with Moscow while sidelining Ukraine.

Both leaders stress Ukraine's voice and sovereignty must be at the center of any peace talks. The French president warned Trump against appearing "weak in the face of President Putin."

"It's not you, it's not your trademark, it's not in your interest," said Macron, who is due at the White House on Monday, the

third anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Starmer is set to follow on Thursday.

Double-track diplomacy: The trips come after Macron called a crisis meeting of European leaders in Paris last week to discuss the continent's next steps - and after Trump on Friday claimed Macron and Starmer "haven't done anything" over the past three years to end the war. The centrist French leader, known for his bold diplomatic moves, says he'll seek to persuade Trump that American and European interests are the same, telling him: "If you let Russia take over Ukraine, it would be unstoppable."

Starmer, a cautious center-left politician, has avoided directly contradicting Trump or criticizing his actions. The UK joined the US in refusing to sign a joint declaration at an Artificial Intelligence summit hosted by Macron in Paris this month in what was seen as an attempt to curry favour with Washington.

But the prime minister has reaffirmed Britain's support for Ukraine, rejecting Trump's

assertion that Zelenskyy is a "dictator" and the president's suggestion that Kyiv started the war, which erupted when

Russia invaded its neighbour on February 24, 2022. Starmer spoke to Zelenskyy on Saturday, expressing "the Ú.K.'s ironclad support for Ukraine and commitment to securing a just and enduring peace." He said he would stress "safeguarding Ukraine's sovereign-' when he speaks to Trump in Washington. Some historians say the idea that Britain can be a transatlantic bridge is built on shaky foundations.

'The special relationship' has always been more important from the British end," said Oxford University history professor Margaret MacMillan. When it comes right down to it, great powers tend to do what suits them?

Macron and Starmer will say in Washington that Ukraine must be at the table for negotiations on its future. They hope to get U.S. support for an emerging plan to have Europe deploy troops in a "reassurance force" to help guarantee Ukraine's future security.

Pope Francis was conscious but still receiving high flows late update. The Saturday statement also of supplemental oxygen Sunday

said that the pontiff "continues to be alert and spent the day in an armchair although in more discomfort than yesterday." Doctors said the prognosis was 'reserved". Doctors have said Francis' con-

dition is touch-and-go, given his age, fragility and pre-existing lung disease. His condition has revived speculation about what might happen if he becomes unconscious or otherwise incapacitated, and whether he might resign. Prayers for pope at Vatican:

Francis was supposed to have celebrated Mass on Sunday morning in St. Peter's Basilica and ordained deacons as part

Year commemoration. The organiser of the Holy Year, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, celebrated the Mass in his place and offered a special prayer for Francis from the close to us, we feel him present among us," Fisichella told the hundreds of white-robed dea-



said.

Nuns pray for Pope Francis in front of the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic, in Rome PT on Saturday

cons. "And this compels us to make even stronger and more intense our prayer that the Lord will assist him in his time of trial and illness."

A pre-written message that Francis had prepared for his Sunday noon prayer but did not deliver said he was "confidently continuing my hospitalization at the Gemelli Hospital, carrying on with the necessary treatment; and rest is also part

was no evidence of any sepsis, and Francis was responding to the various drugs he is taking, the pope's medical team said in their first in-depth update on

the pope's condition. Saturday's blood tests showed that he had developed a low platelet count, a condition called platelopenia or thrombocytopenia. Platelets are cell-like fragments that circulate in the blood that help form blood clots to stop bleeding or help wounds heal. Low platelet counts can be caused by a number of things, including side effects from medicines or infections, according to the US National Institutes of Health.

Francis, who has chronic lung disease and is prone to bronchitis in winter, was admitted to Gemelli hospital on February 14 after a weeklong bout of

bronchitis worsened. Doctors first diagnosed the complex viral, bacterial and fungal respiratory tract infection and then the onset of pneumonia in both lungs. They prescribed "absolute rest" and a combination of cortisone and antibiotics, along with supplemental oxygen when he needs it.

of the Vatican's yearlong Holy

altar before delivering the homily the pope had prepared. "Even though he is in a hospital bed, we feel Pope Francis



Germany votes in election with economy, migration in focus

PTI BERLIN

rerman voters are choos-Ging a new government in an election on Sunday dominated by worries about the years-long stagnation of Europe's biggest economy, pressure to curb migration and growing uncertainty over the future of Ukraine and Europe's alliance with the United States

The centre-right opposition is favoured to win, while polls point to the strongest result for a far-right party since World War II. Germany is the most populous country in the 27-nation European Union and a leading member of NATO. It has been Ukraine's second-biggest weapons supplier, after the US.

It will be central to shaping the continent's response to the challenges of the coming years, including the Trump administration's confrontational foreign and trade policy. The top candidates, conservative front-runner Friedrich Merz and current Chancellor Olaf Scholz of the Social Democrats, voted within minutes of each other in different parts of the country on Sunday morning.

What are Germans voting for?: More than 59 million people in the nation of 84 million are eligible to elect the 630 members of the lower house of parliament, the Bundestag, who will take their seats under the glass dome of Berlin's landmark Reichstag building.

Germany's electoral system rarely produces absolute majorities, and no party looks anywhere near one this time. It's expected that two or more parties will form a coalition, following potentially difficult negotiations that will take weeks or even months before the Bundestag elects the next chancellor.



German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier casts his vote at a polling station in Berlin, Germany, on Sunday AP/PT

This election is taking place seven months before it was originally planned after centreleft Chancellor Olaf Scholz's coalition collapsed in November, three years into a term that was increasingly marred by infighting. There's widespread discontent and not much enthusiasm for any of the candidates Who could take charge?:

Centre-right opposition leader Friedrich Merz's Union bloc has consistently led polls, with 28-32 per cent support in the most recent surveys, and Merz is favoured to replace Scholz. Scholz's Social Democrats have been polling between 14-16 per cent, which would be their worst postwar result in a national parliamentary election. The far-right, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, or AfD, has been running in second place with around 20 per cent of the vote well above its previous best of 12.6 per cent in a national election, from 2017 — and has fielded its first candidate for may not manage to stay in par-

chancellor in Alice Weidel. But other parties say they won't work with it, a stance often known as the "firewall". The environmentalist Greens also are running for the top job, with outgoing Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, but have been polling a little

behind Scholz's party. Merz has pledged "stability instead of chaos" after Scholz's three-party coalition collapsed following long-running internal arguments, including over how to revitalize the economy. But it's unclear whether the conservative leader, if he wins, will be able to put together a stable government that does much better. Merz hopes for a two-party coalition, but may end up needing a third partner to form a government. The realistic candidates to join a Merz government are Scholz's Social Democrats, the Greens and the pro-business Free Democrats — who were the smallest partner in Scholz's collapsed government and

liament. The Free Democrats and another small party are hovering at around 5 per cent of the vote, the threshold to qualify for seats in parlia-ment. If they do, there may be no majority for a two-party coalition.

What are the main issues?: The contenders have made contrasting proposals to turn around the German economy, which has shrunk for the past two years and hasn't managed real growth in much longer. That's going to be a central job for the new government. Migration moved to the fore-

front of the campaign in the past month following deadly attacks committed by immigrants. Merz vowed to bar people from entering the country without proper papers and to step up deportations if he is elected chancellor. He then brought a non-binding motion calling for many more migrants to be turned back at Germany's borders. Parliament approved it by a narrow major ity thanks to AfD votes – a

first in postwar Germany. Rivals made Merz's attitude toward AfD, which generated protests, an issue. Scholz accused Merz of "irresponsible gambling" and breaking a taboo. Merz has rejected those accusations, saying that he didn't and won't work with AfD. He has repeatedly and categorically said since that his party will "never" do so.

Mainstream parties have vowed to keep up support for Ukraine in its war against Russia. And after the Scholz government reached a NATO target of spending 2 per cent of gross domestic product on defence, the next administration will have to find a way to keep that going - and likely expand it, in the face of US demands — once a special 100 billion-euro (USD 105 billion) fund to modernise the military is used up in 2027.

Congo's prez says he will create a unity government

Kinshasa (Congo): Congo's president says he is going to launch a unity government, as violence spreads across the country's east and pressure mounts over his handling of the crisis. On Saturday, in some of his first statements since Rwandan-backed rebels captured major cities in eastern Congo, President Felix Tshisekedi, told a meeting of the Sacred Union of the Nation ruling coalition not to be distracted by internal quarrels. "I lost the battle and not the war. I must reach out to everyone including the opposition. There will be a govern-ment of national unity," said Tshisekedi. He didn't give more details on what that would entail or when it would

happen. M23 rebels — the most prominent of more than 100 armed groups vying for control and influence in eastern Congo have swept through the region seizing key cities, killing some 3,000 people. In a lightning three-week offensive, the M23 took control of eastern Congo's main city Goma and seized the second largest city, Bukavu. The rebels are supported by about 4,000 troops from neigh-

bouring Rwanda, according to UN experts, and at times have vowed to march as far as Congo's capital, Kinshasa, over 1,000 miles away.

Rwanda has accused Congo of enlisting ethnic Hutu fighters responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda of minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus. M23 says it's fighting to protect Tutsis and Congolese of Rwandan origin from dis-crimination and wants to transform Congo from a failed state to a modern one. Analysts have called those pretexts for Rwanda's involvement. On Saturday, Tshisekedi paid tribute to soldiers who were killed and vowed to prop up the army.

US officials who resist immigration crackdown face fines, jail time PTI 📕 ATLANTA adopted policies inhibiting arrests and deportations by U.S. Immigration and Customs

Enforcement. The Department

of Justice has sued Illinois,

Chicago and Cook County,

alleging they are violating fed-

eral law by not cooperating with immigration authorities.

A Georgia law enacted last year already mandates that local

law enforcement cooperate

with federal authorities to iden-

tify and detain immigrants in

the U.S. illegally, or else lose

state funding and face misde-

meanor charges. The legislation recently passed by the state Senate doubles down by letting

people sue local governments,

officials and employees for violating the ban. Immigrants

and advocates in Georgia say

the legislation, if passed, could

stoke fear in communities already worried about ICE

officials arresting loved ones in

'This all relates to Donald

Trump's war on immigrants

and local people trying to gar-

ner favor with him through leg-

islation that doesn't solve any

problems," said Charles Kuck,

an Atlanta immigration attor-

ney who opposes the legisla-tion. Mike Mitchell, deputy

executive director of the

Georgia Sheriffs' Association, said the organization has a

"neutral" position on the bill but noted sheriffs already are

Louisiana passed a law last year

requiring law enforcement

agencies to "use best efforts" to

enforce federal immigration

law. Earlier this month,

Louisiana Attorney General

Liz Murrill sued the sheriff's

office in New Orleans, alleging

it is violating the state ban on

following immigration law.

homes, churches or schools.

Republican state lawmakers seeking to aid President Donald Trump's crackdown on illegal immigration are threatening local officials who resist with lawsuits, fines and even potential jail time.

Lawmakers in more than 20 states this year have filed legislation targeting so-called sanctuary policies that limit cooperation with federal immigration authorities, according to an Associated Press analysis using the bill-tracking software Plural.

Some of those states already ban sanctuary policies but are now proposing to punish mayors, council members and other government officials who violate the prohibition.

The goal is to provide "teeth to those who are being aggrieved by local governments and local officials who are not abiding by Georgia immigration law," said Republican state Sen. Blake Tillery, whose legislation would allow lawsuits against anyone who implements sanctuary policies. His bill recently passed the Senate and is now in the House. Opponents have raised concerns that the legislation could lead local police and sheriffs to detain immigrants for longer than they are supposed to under federal law out of fear of getting sued.

'We're threatening our local law enforcement who are doing the best job they can to keep our communities safe," said Georgia state Sen Nikki Merritt, a Democrat.

The state proposals come as the Trump administration also has begun taking legal action against governments that have sanctuary immigration policies. The Orleans Parish Sheriff's Office declines ICE requests to hold detainees for extra time except when they face murder, rape, kidnapping, treason or robbery charges, according to a 2013 policy put in place under a consent judgment in federal court. The attorney general's lawsuit seeks to end that federal court order.

world 09

The sheriff's office also restricts the information it shares with ICE and prevents federal immigration agents from entering its facilities without court authorization or interviewing detainees without legal counsel. The sheriff's office said in an emailed statement that it "remains in full compliance with all applicable state laws and valid court orders related to ICE detainers.'

An anti-sanctuary measure was the first item signed into law by Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden of South Dakota after he took over for former Gov. Kristi Noem, who was picked by Trump to be homeland security secretary. The law bans state and local policies that limit communication with federal officials about people's immigration status, however it contains no penalties.

Other states have gone further. A sweeping immigration law signed recently by Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis requires the attorney general to take legal action against local governments that adopt policies refusing to comply with federal requests to detain immigrants in the country illegally. Local officials who willfully violate a ban on such sanctuary policies can face fines up to \$5,000.

Trump defends deportations, says he is draining swamp

US President Donald Trump has defended the mass deportation of undocumented foreign nationals, saying his administration draining the swamp by sending home fraudsters, cheaters, globalists and deep state bureaucrats. Trump has made the mass deportation of undocumented migrants a key policy.

Addressing the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) outside Washington on Saturday, he said, "The fraudsters, liars, cheaters, and bureaucrats are being sent packing.'



Meloni slams Left's | Musk gives all federal workers 48 hrs 'double standards' to explain what they did last week

'Todav, when Trump, Maloni, PTI NEW YORK

(President of Argentina Javier) Hundreds of thousands of federal workers have been Milei or maybe Modi talk, they are called a threat to democracy. This is the last given little more than 48 hours double standard, but we are to explain what they accomrespond. used to it, and the good news plished over the last week, is people no longer believe in sparking confusion across key their lies, despite all the mud agencies as billionaire Elon Musk expands his crusade to they throw at us. Citizens slash the size of federal governkeep voting for us," said Musl the State ervi President Donald Trump's cost-Department, as senior officutting chief, teased the extracials worked to verify the message's authenticity Saturday ordinary request on his social night and in some cases media network on Saturday. "Consistent with President instructed their employees not @realDonaldTrump's instructo respond. tions, all federal employees Thousands of government will shortly receive an email employees have already been against requesting to understand what forced out of the federal workthey got done last week," Musk force — either by being fired or posted on X, which he owns. offered a buyout — during the Failure to respond will be first month of Trump's admintaken as a resignation." istration as the White House Shortly afterward, federal and Musk's so-called Department of Government employees received a three-line email with this instruction: Efficiency fire both new and "Please reply to this email with career workers, tell agency approx. 5 bullets of what you leaders to plan for "large-scale accomplished last week and cc reductions in force" and freeze your manager." trillions of dollars in federal

The deadline to reply is Monday at 11:59 pm, although the email did not include Musk's social media threat about those who fail to

The latest unusual directive from Musk's team injects a new sense of chaos across beleaguered multiple agencies, including the National Weather

grant funds. There is no official figure available for the total firings or layoffs so far, but The

Associated Press has tallied hundreds of thousands of workers who are being affected. Many work outside of Washington. The cuts include thousands at the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense, Health and Human Services, the Interna

PTI WASHINGTON

Meloni's remarks came as she addressed the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington via video link from Rome.

Washington (PTI): Italian

Prime Minister Giorgia

Meloni has slammed the Left's

"double standards" in perceiv-

ing conservatives globally, say-

ing when leaders like herself,

UŠ President Donald Trump

and Prime Minister Narendra

Modi collaborate they are

while leftist leaders are praised

called a "threat to democracy"

During the address, Meloni praised Trump and said the Left is nervous about Trump's victory

"Their irritation has turned into hysteria, not only because conservatives are winning, but because conservatives are now collaborating globally.

"When Bill Clinton (former US president) and Tony Blair (former British prime minister) created the global leftist liberal network in the 90s, they were called statesmen

She said people vote for them as "we defend freedom, we love our nations, we want secure borders, we preserve businesses and citizens from the green leftist insanity and we defend family life." "We fight wokeism...and we stand for common sense," she said. People are not as naive as the

Left considers them, she said. "Our adversaries hope that President Trump will move away from us (Europe)," Meloni said. But, "knowing him as a strong and effective leader I bet that those who hope for divisions will be proven wrong," she said.

and the National Parks Service, among others.

AFGE President Everett Kelley quickly condemned the ultimatum as an example of Trump and Musk's "utter disdain for federal employees and the critical services they provide to the American people"

"It is cruel and disrespectful to hundreds of thousands of veterans who are wearing their second uniform in the civil service to be forced to justify their job duties to this out-of-touch, privileged, unelected billionaire who has never performed one single hour of honest public service in his life," Kelley said.

*Illegal alien criminals are being sent home. We're draining the swamp and restoring government by the people," he said. As of 2022, unauthorised immigrants represented 3.3 per cent of the total US population and 23 per cent of the foreign-born population, according to Pew Research

Centre. US President Donald Trump has moved to overhaul parts of the US immigration system since returning to office and promised "mass deportations' and arrests.

The Department of

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client Smt. Veena Aror owner of the HOUSE NO-44, ROAD NO-5-36 AREA 605Q YARDS DLF CITY PHASE-III,VILLAG NATHUPUR,TEHSIL AND DLF GURURGRAM an Smt.Veena Arora Have Not Originals 1. Sai deed executed by Sh. Sandeep Kumar and Sh Satish Kumar in favour of 1.Sh.Saurab Sharma, 2. Smt. Veena Arora, 3. Sh.Pawar Kumar Sharma.And It is informed that any dea with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding saic property shall be deemed as null and void. I any person having any claim,right in saic property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 8 days of this publication.

ADDITION TO A CONTROL OF A CONTROL A CONTROL OF A CONTROL

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that the State Environment Impact

Gurugram, Haryana in accordance

with the Environment (Protection

Act, 1986. General Public i

further informed that copy o

letter is available with SEIAA

Haryana on the website

http://environmentclearance.nic.in

This public notice is issued

in compliance to the Condition No. 10.1 of the Environmenta

Authorized Signatory

Place: Delh

Date: 24.02.2025

For Premium Infratech LLF

Clearance Letter

said Environmental Clear

Homeland Security posted on A group of Indians deported X that, as of February 3, its agents had arrested 8,768 peofrom the US recently arrived in

fied crackdown by the Trump

administration against illegal

Panama after President Jose Raul Three batches comprising a Mulino agreed that his country total of 332 Indians have would become a "bridge" country for deportees. already been sent back to India from the US amid an intensi-

> PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all that my client Mr.

Vipender Singh S/o Sh. Kartar Singh R/o House No. 238A, Vill-Khandewla ATHE PIONEER A Dist-Gurugram, Harvana-122504 nave disowned/debarred his son ASSIFIED Bhanu Pratap from all his movable & immovable properties and severed all relations with him due to his misconduct. Any person dealing CHANGE OF NAME with him shall be doing at his/her wn risk. PRAVEEN RASTOGI (Advocate)

I. Phoolwati legally mother of No. 8038393H Naik (GD) Kulwant R/o VPO-Barda, Police Station-Satnali, Tehsil-Mahendragarh, State-Haryana, have changed my

name and date of birth from PHOOLWATI (12 Dec 1972) to PHULPATI DEVI (21 March 1962), vide affidavit dated 23 February 2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE Sh.SURESH KUMAR R/o RZH-1,GALI NO 6 AGHU NAGAR DELHI. The documents ALLOTMENT LETTER POSSESSION LETTER NOC AND SITI POSSESSION ADDRESS Shop No.34,Block C4E/8 & 11 PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI DELHI - 110058 of the above have beer ost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in S. Crime Branch in vide S.O. No.430/2014 S. Crime Branch in vide S.O. No.430/2014 R No.2611476/2025 dated 23.02.2025. Iny person(s) claiming any right, interest, aving any objection or found in original ocuments, may write/contact with above amed person at above address/phone lo.9711274144 within 15 days from the ate of publication of this notice. The erson claiming any right, interest, bjections with respect to this property an personally inform or write to Dy. irector (COMM.) Estate or Director ommercial Estate Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delh Mobile :- 9899013918

PD(1572)C

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client Sh. Pawan Kumar owner of the UPPER GROUND FLOOR WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) AREA MEASURING

(WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS) AREA MEASURING 120 SQ, YDS, PROEPRTY BEARING NO.859/55 KHASRA NO.227, VILLAGE CHOWKRI MUBARA KABAD, LEKHU NAGAR, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-11 0353 and 5h. Pawan Kumar Have Not Originals 1.Sale Deed executed by Sh. Panna Lal Chaudhary, 2. Survivor Certificate of Sh. Ram Saroop Dabas, 3. Survivor Certificate of Sh. Sukhbir Singh, 4. Survivor Certificate of Sh. Mahavir Singh, A. Survivor Certificate of Sh. Mahavir Singh, A. Survivor Certificate of Sh. Dalbir Singh, 5. Survivor Certificate shahavir Singh, A. And It is informed that any said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any Claim, right in Assessment Authority (SEIAA) Haryana, Bays No.- 55-58, Paryatar Bhawan, Sector - 2, Panchkula vide their letter no. - SEAC/HR/2024/271 dated 20.02.2025 has accorded the "Environmental Clearance" having EC Identification No. EC24B3813HR5352100N to said property, shall be deemed as nun anu void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to be the same and apprise his claim to



AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Dell. Mobile :- 9899013918

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited (GMVN) CKNYK. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking), CIN U31101UR1976SGC0042 74/1- Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001, Ph: 0135246817, 2749308, E-mail: mis.c lo.2270/2-9/Out Source/2022-25 E Tender Notice

Tenders are invited by GMVN from reputed firm /eligible service providers to provide house keeping Services and other manpower services at all TRHS/Canteens and other units in GMVN. The Tender ees for the above is Rs. 10000.00 (inclusive of GST) and the las date for submission of tender application is 13-03-2025 till 1.00 P.M. Detailed terms & conditions for applying tender are given in the tender documents which can be downloaded from the website www.uktenders.gov in and gmvnonline.com.

Managing Director

No passengers, no planes, no benefits at Pak newest airport

PTI GWADAR

With no passengers and no planes, Pakistan's newest and most expensive airport is a bit of a mystery. Entirely financed by China to the tune of USD 240 million, it's anyone's guess when New Gwadar International Airport will open for business.

Located in the coastal city of Gwadar and completed in October 2024, the airport is a stark contrast to the impoverished, restive southwestern Balochistan province around it. For the past decade, China has poured money into Balochistan and Gwadar as part of a multibillion dollar project that connects its western Xinjiang province with the Arabian Sea. called the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or CPEC. Authorities have hailed it as transformational but there's scant evidence of change in Gwadar. The city isn't connected to the national grid — electricity comes from neighboring Iran or solar panels — and there isn't enough clean water. An airport with a 400,000 pas-

for the city's 90,000 people. "This airport is not for Pakistan or Gwadar," said Azeem Khalid, an international relations expert who specializes in Pakistan-China ties. "It is for China, so they can have secure access for their citizens to Gwadar and Balochistan."

Caught between militants and the military: CPEC has catalysed a decadeslong insurgency in resource-rich and strategicallocated Balochistan. lv Separatists, aggrieved by what they say is state exploitation at the expense of locals, are fighting for independence — targeting both Pakistani troops and Chinese workers in the province and elsewhere.

Members of Pakistan's ethnic Baloch minority say they face discrimination by the government and are denied opportunities available elsewhere in the country, charges the government denies.

Pakistan, keen to protect China's investments, has stepped up its military footprint in Gwadar to combat dissent. The city is a jumble of check-

points, barbed wire, troops, senger capacity isn't a priority

barricades, and watchtowers. Roads close at any given time several days a week, to permit the safe passage of Chinese workers and Pakistani VIPs. Intelligence officers monitor journalists visiting Gwadar. The city's fish market is deemed too sensitive for coverage. Many local residents are frazzled. "Nobody used to ask where we are going, what we are doing, and what is your name," said 76-year-old Gwadar native Khuda Bakhsh Hashim. "We used to enjoy allnight picnics in the mountains or rural areas.

'We are asked to prove our identity, who we are, where we have come from," he added. 'We are residents. Those who ask should identify themselves as to who they are

Hashim recalled memories, warm like the winter sunshine. of when Gwadar was part of Oman, not Pakistan, and was a stop for passenger ships heading to Mumbai. People didn't go to bed hungry and men found work easily, he said

Univ in Karachi faces flak for show-cause notice to students celebrating Holi

PTI KARACHI

 $A^{\text{leading private university}}_{\text{ty in Karachi city of}}$ Pakistan's Sindh province has been criticized for issuing a show-cause notice to students for celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi on its campus.

Lal Malhi, a former parliamentarian, posted on social media the notice issued to the students, most of them Hindus, bv Dawood University of Engineering and Technology.

The institute clarified it was an old case and dismissed reports that any FIRs had been registered against students.

"The students were issued notices for having an event on campus without seeking clearance from administration, which is a breach of varsity regulations," an official said

"The students have already responded to the notices," he added.

Lal Malhi, expressing concern

over the growing criminalisation of minority religious

practices in Pakistan, questioned: "Has the celebration of Holi now become a crime? Is celebrating Holi at a university considered an act against the State?" Last year, Hindu students

faced similar issues in some other provinces during the Holi festival. However, the matter was buried.

Student wings of Islamist parties have been known to oppose any cultural liberal celebrations on campuses even by Muslim students deeming them against society's norms and un-Islamic. Viral videos of such celebrations and parties have caused conflict and violence on campuses between student

groups Hindus who mostly reside in the southern Sindh province have for long claimed they are not treated justly by authorities, with growing instances of forced conversion and marriage of young poor Hindu girls to Muslims.

money 10



Rural market at inflection point, offers opportunities: Marico CEO

PTI MUMBA

¬he "aspirational" rural market is at an "inflexion which point", offers significant opportunities and long-term potential to the FMCG companies with price point packs, said Marico M D

and CEO Saugata Gupta. The hinterland, with its large population base and rising disposable income offers 'headroom for growth' for FMCG as people there now aspire for the same brands of products as other markets Gupta told PTI.

Per capita income is on the rise, helped by the government's spending on infrastructure, and an increase in the minimum support price of crops, which has helped in a significant uplift in terms of quality of life for the rural class, he said. "So, I believe that this is an inflexion point," said Gupta adding "for the large FMCG players this is an opportunity to continue to invest in rural because if you really look at it. everybody is chasing that consumer same urban

markets "Affordability is driven by price point packs. Availability is driven by distribution

because sometimes otherwise there are counterfeits of your brand is not available" he said "Bharat is adding now aspirational, Bharat is ambitious and, therefore, we have to continuously best play the rural". Gupta further added that rural distribution is still a of competitive e for FMCG source

will

for advantage companies. There are still huge entry barriers which are not there in top eight cities through modern trade and, therefore, it makes significant sense to

whether it's D2C brands or continuously invest in rural international brands." infrastructure. Marico is present in the rural markets with price point

distribution and create moats for large FMCG companies,' packs and Gupta believes "if he added. In the December quarter, you invest ahead of the curve, rural markets have again it has far more long-term

potential and headroom for surpassed the urban market growth'. However, he also added that in terms of growth. This was the fourth consecutive quarter, in which the rural "affordability and availability" beat the urban market in always remain an important aspect for those terms of growth, though on a smaller base.

Marico, which is having a sequential volume growth, said urban consumption is relatively softer between the second and third quarters and is 'stable" now.

Historically rural demand has been rising twice the rate of urban areas, but on a lower base, driven by over 800 Million people whose purchase behaviour is mostly linked to farm output. Moreover, over the growing debate between General

Trade (Kirana stores) and Quick-Commerce, which has disrupted the market with its fast pace of growth, Gupta the traditional retai said channels will "coexist" with

the new age channels

rural

However, Gupta also added each channel plays a "certain role with a ceratin catchment area" as GT is stronger in the smaller towns and rural markets, while online sales which include e-Com and Q-Commerce, are driving premiumisation and diversification of Marico's portfolio

He highlighted the role of differentiated having offerings in the channels to stop overlap.

"Obviously, if you sell the same thing, there will be cannibalisation. The second thing which is important is you need to have a different portfolio and also need to have a minimum operating price operating each channel so that it does not lead to channel conflict," he said.

Gupta also added as a responsible FMCG player, "We should also ensure that we do not over discount in one channel so that the other channel suffers" and ensure that there is at least, to a large extent, exclusivity of packs to the extent possible.

Climate change may increase probability of Eight of top-10 most valued default in agriculture loan portfolio: BCG

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Rising temperature and growing threat of climate change may increase default risk in 30 per cent of agri and housing loans portfolio in the next five years, according to an analysis by BCG.

According to the report, the average global temperature already has increased approximately 1.2 degree Celsius versus pre-industrial levels leading to flooding in coastal areas and reduction in agriculture production. As a result, it said, there has been a drop in per capita

income of people impacted by rising extreme weather events. Almost half of the credit of scheduled commercial significantly banks is dependent on nature and its

ecosystem so any natural calamity impacts their bottomline. By 2030, as per estimates, 42 per cent India's districts are projected to experience temperature rise by up to 2 degree Celsius. So, 321 districts may be affected by temperature rise in the next

five years. However, climate change also provides an opportunity to banks to the tune of \$150 Billion annually to fund energy transition needs of the country as public funding is hugely inadequate to achieve the goal of net-zero by 2070.

"India is committing to sway away from coal and oil in favour of renewable energy. For India to make that difference/transition, an investment of \$150-200 Billion is required annually. On the contrary, the climate finance in India is somewhere between \$40-60 billion creating a gap of \$100-150 Billion," BCG MD and Partner; APAC and India Leader, Risk Practice Abhinav Bansal said.

This transition will create a landscape of opportunity however we are very far from the target and we could see it happening by 2030-40 and so forth given that it begins right now," he said.

Pioneers will make the most of it by holding the lion's share of the opportunity,

and "we could potentially witness a big scalp up for grabs from the banking context perspective," added.

Rising climate risks are already impacting the global economy and the business case for collective action is clear, the report titled 'the Cost of Inaction: A CEO Guide to N Climate Risk' said. Navigating Physical risks of climate change are becoming material for businesses, putting significant value at risk, it said, adding, transition risks for

businesses are also significant. To deal with the impact, BCG managing director and senior partner global leader risk and compliance practice Matteo Coppola said banks need to systematically work towards raising awareness about the issue and advising their clients to adopt green

technology. Besides, he said, blended finance should be accelerated so that adequate funds are made available to mitigate the risk.

firms erodes ₹1.65 Lakh Crore PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The combined market valuation of eight of the top-10 most valued firms eroded ₹1,65,784.9 Crore last week, with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) taking the biggest hit, in line with bearish trends in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark declined 628.15 points, or 0.82 per cent, while the Nifty went lower 133.35 points, or 0.58 per cent.

The market valuation of TCS tanked ₹53,185.89 Crore to ₹13,69,717.48 Crore.

Bharti Airtel's market capitalisation (mcap) dropped ₹44,407.77 Crore ₹9,34,223.77 Crore. The valuation of ICICI Bank tumbled ₹18,235.45 Crore to ₹8.70.579.68 Crore and that of Hindustan Unilever plunged

₹17 962 62 Crore ₹5,26,684.38 Crore. Infosys faced an erosion of

₹17,086.61 Crore ₹7,53,700.15 Crore from its market valuation.

Bank of Maharashtra slashes India's coal imports remain interest rate on retail, car loan flat at 201 Million tonnes PTI NEW DELHI

PTI NEW DELHI

India's coal imports remained flat at 201.30 Million tonnes (MT) in the April-December period of the ongoing financial

The country's coal import was 201.52 MT in the year-ago period, according to the data compiled by mjunction services, a leading name in the e-auction space.

Coal import in December declined to 19.28 MT over MT 23.35 in the corresponding month of the said. previous fiscal year.

"Imports in December 2024 stood around 19.28 Million Tonnes as against 23.35 MT imported in December 2023," it said.

During April-December 2024, non-coking coal imports were at 128.85 MT, lower than

133.46 MT imported during the same period in the previous year. Coking coal imports were at 40.64 MT during April-December 2024, down from 42.81 MT reported for April-December 2023. "The high stock position in the domestic market, coupled with lower-than-expected

demand, has led to a drop in import volumes. We expect the demand scenario to remain unchanged in the coming weeks," mjunction MD and CEO Vinaya Varma

Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy recently said reducing coal imports and domestic increasing production is the focus of the government. The coal sector remains a

cornerstone of the country's energy security, playing an

important role in the nation's industrial and economic growth. With the fifth-largest geological coal reserves globally and as the secondlargest consumer, coa continues to be an indispensable energy source, contributing to 55 per cent of the national energy mix.

Approximately 74 per cent of power generation in the country relies on thermal power plants.

The cumulative domestic coal production in the April-December period of the current fiscal year reached 726.29 MT (provisional) compared to 684.45 MT during the corresponding period of 2023-24, registering rise of 6.11 per cent. This showcases the ministry's relentless efforts to meet the

rising energy demand.

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has cut interest rate by 25 basis points on retail loans, including

home and car loans in line with reduction in repo rate by RBI. After a gap of 5 years, RBI reduced the repo rate, the rate at which banks borrow from the central bank, by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent on February 7.

Following this, the benchmark rate for home loan has been reduced to 8.10 per cent, one of the lowest in the banking industry, BoM said in a statement on Sunday.

At the same time, it said, car loan came down to 8.45 per cent per annum. Similarly, education and other

loans linked with Repo Linked Lending Rate (RLLR) has also

been reduced by 25 basis

processing fees on home and car loans, it said, adding, this dual benefit of reduced interest rates and waiver of processing fees reflects the bank's commitment to offer best financing solutions to all its customers and help them fulfil their dreams.

Meanwhile, the Pune-based lender has received Reserve Bank of India's approval to set up an International Financial Centre Services (IFSC) Banking Unit at GIFT City. The branch will function as BoM's first international branch carrying out offshore

banking operations from India. This will help expand international banking business and also enable the bank to provide specialised banking services to its customers.

а pragmatic

noted Krishna

lower than what we've seen in previous years. This slowdown is largely due to global economic challenges, reduced discretionary spending, and shifting business priorities." Companies are being more conservative with their salary budgets, and many have even pushed their appraisal cycles beyond the usual April-June period, she said, which has made salary revisions less predictable in the current

scenario. Organisations are shifting to skills-based pay, leveraging Tier II hiring for cost efficiency. Instead of salary hikes, retention bonuses, implemented said

it between 5-8.5 per cent. The days of double-digit hikes seem behind us--at least for now. The industry is settling into a more pragmatic rhythm, with average hikes expected to hover between 5 per cent and 8.5 per cent. This aligns with the cautious

Reed and Willow CEO Janoo

Motiani also gave a similar

expected hike range, pegging

optimism seen across the sector. TCS has taken the lead, announcing hikes ranging from 4-8 per cent effective April 2025, setting the tone for the rest of the industry. However, Infosys, HCLTech, Wipro, and Tech Mahindra are holding off on final announcements, likely waiting to gauge market movements in Q2 before locking in their plans," she

However, concerns have been

raised about inadequate

verification of investors' risk

appetite, the onboarding of

numerous investors without

strong financial backing, and

potential conflicts with

To address these concerns,

Sebi previously proposed

under

placement

the

private

regulations

Companies Act, 2013.

Power engineers' body Handicraft, handloom exports from Kashmir SEBI mulls expanding pool of investors for angel funds at ₹2,567 Crore in over last two fiscal years calls for nationwide strike PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

ESOPs, and project-based being compensation strategies," Vij shared.

salary hikes in FY25: Experts PTI 📕 NEW DELHI 8.5 per cent range, which is Salary increments in India's \$250 Billion IT services sector are projected to be moderate in fiscal year 2025,

uncertainties,

average wage increase of 4-8.5 per cent, a notable step down from previous years, signalling shift towards more compensation

this year is quite cautious," increments in the 4 per cent to

strategies.

IT sector may see cautious

points. The bank has already waived as companies navigate a complex landscape of global economic

evolving skill demands, and the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), according to experts.

Industry experts predict an

The outlook for salary hikes noted Krishna Vij, VP, TeamLease Digital. "Industry players are looking at

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

ll India Power Engineers ☐ Federation (AIPEF) on Sunday gave a call for nationwide strike on June 26 to protest against privatisation in the power sector.

The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers decided to resort to a nationwide strike on June 26 to protest against the privatisation of electricity utilities and an AIPEF departments, statement said on Sunday. According to the statement, the NCCOEEE has decided that big conferences will be held in all the provinces of the country in the months of April and May

success The NCCOEEE will hold four big rallies in protest against the ongoing process or privatization in Uttar Pradesh. ongoing of In a resolution, NCCOEEE General Assembly criticised the privatisation of the profitmaking power department of Chandigarh, terming "extremely objectionable"

The proposal states that the transmission sector is being privatized extensively in the name of tariff-based competitive bidding and asset monetization. The curse of privatisation of

generation is being faced by common consumers in the form of very expensive electricity in the field of to make the nationwide strike a generation, it stated.

PTI SRINAGAR

Kashmir exported its famed handicraft and handloom products worth ₹2,567 Crore in over last two fiscal years, officials said on Sunday. This export figure is expected to touch ₹3,000 Crore by the end of this fiscal year (March 2025). "The world-famous handicraft

and handloom products worth ₹2,567 Crore have been exported from Kashmir valley in the last two financial years and the first three quarters of the current fiscal(2024-25)," an official said.

However, the exports in the current financial year have been hit by global conflicts. As per the figures available with

integrity

reflects

and

our

to

Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, while Kani and Sozni shawls exports stood at ₹1,105 Crore, handknotted carpet shipments were worth ₹728 Crore in the last three years.

The other products exported include crewel, papier mache, chain stitch and wood carving. The officials said the department would facilitate the export of hand-made Kashmir products for which a subsidy scheme is available, giving an incentive of 10 per cent of the total volume of handloom, handicraft export products to any country with maximum reimbursement up to ₹5 Crore in favour of the eligible exporters registered with the department.

Highlighting the government's strategy for the welfare of the artisan community in the valley, they said the department selected

has a well-established 'Design Studio' in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology and unique prototypes conceived by the School of Designs and Craft Development Institute. for distribution in the next

'The artisans can access these contemporary designs and financial year. packaging models to add value to their products in niche highend markets," an official said. For the welfare of the artisans. the department has several flagship schemes in operation including Credit Card Scheme, manpower and equipment at Mudra, Financial Assistance its premier Pashmina Testing Scheme for Cooperatives, and Quality Certification Karkhandar Scheme and Education Scholarship for the Centre (PTQCC) and IICT lab for carpets.

children of craftsmen.

100

Markets regulator Sebi is looking to expand the Under the National Wool Policy, the department has weaver definition of qualified beneficiaries for distribution of institutional buyers (QIB) free modified modern steel and remove the 200-investor cap, allowing angel funds to carpet looms in Kashmir at a total cost of ₹43.70 Lakh and access a broader pool of the department will pitch for accredited investors another 250 improvised looms This move will enable more

investors wealthy to participate, boosting funding Emphasising the department's for startups. It ensures that focus on testing and QR coding only financially strong of GI- registered craft products investors take on high-risk to weed out sale of counterfeit investments, helping Angel products, the officials said the Funds raise more capital and department has augmented support early-stage companies.

Angel Funds, a type of venture capital fund, mobilise money from investors to support startups. through angel funds.

that only Accredited Investors (AIs) should be allowed to invest in Angel Funds. Now, the regulator is seeking feedback on amending the definition of QIBs to include accredited investors, specifically for offering investment opportunities and allocating investments

Adani companies tax contribution reaches ₹58,104 Crore for FY 2023-24

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD

In line with its commitment to practising the highest standard of governance and commitment towards all its stakeholders, the Adani Group, a global leader in infrastructure development, has announced the release of its Tax Transparency Reports for the financial year 2023-24. For the financial year 2023-24, the Adani Group's total global tax and other contributions to the exchequer amounted to ₹58,104.4 Crore, showcasing a significant increase from the previous year's ₹46,610.2 Crore through its portfolio of listed entities, said Adani Group in a statement.

The details are covered in the independent reports published by seven of the group's listed entities-Adani Enterprises Limited, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, Adani Green Energy Limited, Adani Energy



Solutions Limited, Adani Power Limited, Adani Total sustainable growth," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of Gas Limited, and Ambuja the Adani Group. "As one of India's largest contributors to Cements Limited. The figure also includes the tax paid by the exchequer, we recognise three other listed that our responsibility goes companies-NDTV, ACC beyond compliance. and Sanghi Industries-that It is also about operating are held by the seven with companies. accountability. Every rupee is the "Transparency we contribute to our nation's foundation of trust, and finances commitment

is essential for

trust

transparency and good governance. By voluntarily sharing these reports with the public, we aim to foster greater stakeholder confidence and set new greater benchmarks for responsible corporate conduct."



CHANGE OF NAME

I, ATMARAM TARWANI S/O SADHURAM TARWANI R/O M.E.S Colony Hemu Kalani Ward Murwara Katni Madhya Pradesh-483504 changed my name to VIJAY KUMAR TARWANI.

PD(1570)A I, NEEL KAMAL SAHU S/O HARI PRASAD SAHU R/O 330 Premium Park-Colony Samane Saanwer-Road Indore Madhya Pradesh-452001 changed my name to SANJAYY KUUMAR MODI. PD(1571)A

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069 Vidisha Branch : 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha - 464001 (M.P.)

Authorised Officer : Lokendra Rathore, Mob.: 9977783890

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

Whereas the Authorised Officer, Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) has taken the Possession u/s 13(4) of the Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest Act, 2002 (The SARFAESI Act, 2002) of the property ("The Secured Asset") given below The Authorised Officer has received offer of Sale from some interested party against the above mentioned Secured Asset under the SARFAESI Act for recovery of the Secured Debt. Now, the Authorised Officer is hereby giving the Notice to Sale of the above said property through Private Treaty in terms of rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. The Details of the Account are as follows

Loan Code No./ Branch	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Reserve Price (RP)	Total Outstanding Loan Amount	Description of the Secured Asset
(Loan Code No. 07600000854/ Vidisha Branch)	Tofan Singh (Borrower) Ramshri Ahirwar (Co-borrower)	15-11-2021 & ₹ 4,63,747/-	₹ 3.50.000/-	₹ 7,71,677/- as on date 20-01-2025	All that part & parcel of property bearing, Part of KH No.710 Ward No.15 Namdev Colony Harijan New Basti Near Pachma Road, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh - 464221 Boundaries: East : Land of Raj Bhai, West : Land of Phul Bai, North : Shaitan, South : Road

The Authorised officer will hold auction for sale of the Secured Asset on 'As is where is Basis', 'As is what is basis' and 'Whatever is there is basis'. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the said property. The Authorised Officer reserves the right to accept or reject the offer without assigning any reason whatsoever and sale will be subject to confirmation by Secured Creditor. On the acceptance of offer of proposed buyer, he/she is required to deposit 25% of accepted price inclusive adjustment of Earnest Money Balance immediately and the balance amount shall be paid by the purchaser within 15 (fifteen) days from date of acceptance of Offer by the Secured Creditor. The proposed buyer is to note that in case of failure of payment of balance amount by him/her within the time specified, the amount already deposited shall stand forfeited and property will be resold accordingly.

This is 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002 is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the above described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" and to the amount due to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd., in full before the date of sale, auction is liable to be stopped.

If the Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) has any buyer who is ready to purchase the mortgage property/secured asset at price above the given reserve price then Borrower(s), Co-borrower(s) must intimate to AHFL on or before 11-03-2025 AHFL shall give preference to him. If Borrower(s), co-borrower(s) fails to intimate on or before 11-03-2025 the AHFL will proceed sale of property at above given reserve price

The Date of Auction is fixed for 11-03-2025. Place : Madhya Pradesh.

Date : 24-02-2025

(Authorised Officer) For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

Aadhar

BHOPAL | MONDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2025

the ploneer



Future Beauty The majority of consumers are young adults who have beauty awareness are driving the beauty revolution

this year, says SHAHNAZ HUSAIN

he elevated awareness of consumers and technological advancement are rapidly shaping up trends in the beauty industry. These beauty trends are defining the way consumers are reacting and are adapting their skincare and beauty routine. With the advent of technology along with rising awareness of skincare, there are a lot of new inclinations that are paving way to a new era of beauty trends in 2025.

Holistic Skin Therapy Facials, massages and skin therapies are the prerequisite for enhancing beauty, however, a step further to it would be holistic skin therapy. Not only the consumers are inclined to choose aromatherapy inclusive skin therapies, but they are well aware of the rejuvenating benefits that come as an added advantage with it. A lymphatic drainage massage, crystal therapy with aromatic inclusions ucts to make their skin and acupressure combined with specialised massage oil suitable to individual needs.

Using organic products based facials, foot reflexology combined with treatment essential oils are now in trend. It is all about a holistic way of engaging the mind and body.

Healthy Skin Glow

Although the trend of using sheet masks and achieving glass skin is still prevalent, beauty chasers are more inclined to choose organic products. Consumers are demanding therapy based products with plant blends that will naturally help restore their beauty without causing side effects. Additionally, even if consumers choose makeup for glow, they are indulging in dewy plus matte finishes. With this dual combination, consumers today are choosing healthy satin like skin in contrast to over indulgence in beauty prod-

shine.

Sustainability Factor Whether it is the awareness about environmental consumption or awareness against the use of chemical products, it is all about picking environmentally friendly products. With the beginning of 2025, there is going to be an increase in cruelty-free formulations, and the focus is shifting on products and packaging that are eco-friendly. Natural ingredients that are ethically sourced and devoid of chemical adulteration just like Shahnaz Husain product line



Virtual Beauty Interaction

With the advent of technology and rise of AI, consumers are now inclined towards brands that are providing them with virtual beauty interaction. Using the virtual beauty experience with virtual try-on tools online whether it is makeup, lipsticks or even beauty consultation online for personalised experience, it is all on rise in 2025.

HEALTHY SKIN GLOW

<u> 11</u>

The term Healthy Skin Glow refers to a naturally radiant, well-nourished, and balanced complexion achieved through organic and therapeutic skincare products rather than excessive makeup or artificial enhancements. It emphasises satin-like skin, a combination of dewy and matte finishes, that reflects overal skin health

VIRAL BEAUTY INTERACTION LIKELY REFERS TO **INTERACTIVE DIGITAL BEAUTY EXPERIENCES THAT GAIN WIDESPREAD POPULARITY AND** ENGAGEMENT ONLINE



Oxygenation is fast catching up with the new generation this year. It is all about reversing the harmful exposure to environmental aggressors, ageing, poor lifestyle choices that lead to loss of skin vibrancy. Oxygen facials that enhance skin texture, help restore rejuvenation and youthful properties of the skin are the in thing these days. It is much like the Oxygen Plus skincare line I have invested in, it contains tiny Oxygen bombs that assimilate within the skin when the products are used, oxygen is directly transported to the pores and within the skin improving blood circulation, hydration, radiance and youthful look.

vivacity

The fact that it is accessible through the comfort of convenience for consumers, and it becomes easier to try different looks prior to choosing products makes it a more immersive and enjoyable experience. Additionally, the interactive nature of virtual trials fosters engagement.

-The author is a pioneer in Ayurveda and a beauty expert.

The Truth About

Healthy Habits, Radiant Skin

Hair Transplants

- air transplant procedures have gained immense popularity in recent years, offering a permanent solution to hair loss. But, as with all medical procedures, there are advantages and disadvantages to it. While most people have been successful in achieving the results, some others will be worried about cost, efficiency, and possible dangers. It is important to know the advantages and disadvantages before making a decision and going for a hair transplant procedure.

Pros of Hair Transplant

• Permanent and Natural: Looking Results: In contrast to temporary options like wigs or hair fibres, a hair transplant is a permanent solution to baldness. Hair transplantation is the sole procedure that provides natural hair growth. Because we use the patient's own follicles, the outcome blends perfectly with the hair that already exists

• Low Maintenance: After the transplanted hair begins to grow, it needs the same maintenance as normal hair like frequent washing, trimming, and styling. No costly upkeep or repeated treatments are necessary.

Cons of Hair Transplant

• High Cost: A hair transplant is an expensive procedure, especially for severe baldness. The cost is based on the number of grafts that need to be done and the expertise of the surgeon. Though it is a long-term investment, the initial cost can be substantial for most patients.

Time-Consuming Process: The whole hair transplant process, right from consultation to complete results, takes a couple of months. New hair starts growing after

A successful transplant depends on the availability of healthy donor hair. If a patient has extensive baldness and a limited donor area, achieving full coverage may be challenging.

> three to four months, and full results are observed in 9-12 months. Patients have to be patient during the entire process. The author suggests that although hair transplantation is the best treatment option for balding, it can't be offered as a fit-all solution to all patients. Each patient's balding pattern, scalp state, and expectations need to be thoroughly evaluated beforehand. She advises, "a very detailed consultation is important to determine if a patient is an ideal candidate. Done with the proper technique, hair transplantation can prove to be a life-altering remedy, transforming individuals not only in regaining their hair but even confidence.

> > - Inputs by Dr Shweta Mishra, Facial Cosmetic and Aesthetic surgeon

he foundation of healthy skin lies in maintaining overall health and is not just limited to skincare. Modern dermatology promotes holistic well being, considering quality sleep, stress management, healthy gut and good lifestyle to be as crucial as topical application of products for achieving healthy and glowing skin.

The Skin-Sleep Connection

It is rightly termed 'beauty sleep' as sleep is quintessential when it comes to achieving a glowing skin. During sleep, the body's repair mode gets activated and damaged cells of the skin regenerate into newer cells. Also when the body is in a sleep state, levels of growth hormones are on a

rise which assists in collagen synthesis and thus promoting cellular turnover. In the absence of quality sleep, the body's cells undergo free radical damage which predisposes the skin to signs of premature aging such as fine lines and wrinkles.

Cortisol levels rise which break down collagen, disrupting the skin's protective barrier. Various scientific researchers have displayed a direct correlation between lack of sleep and higher incidence of fine lines, hyperpigmented skin patches etc.

Gut-Skin Axis

The microbiome of the gut directly influences skin's health as there is a connection between the two. When the healthy gut microbiome gets disrupted and dysbiosis occurs, it gives rise to skin inflammation and predisposes the skin to various conditions namely acne, rosacea, eczema etc. An unhealthy gut triggers the body's immune responses and affects the skin's health too. Hence, for a healthy skin, nutrients required include probiotics, prebiotics, omega-3 fats, polyphenols, antioxidants etc.

- By Dr Ameesha Mahajan, Cosmetic Dermatologist

CONNECTION BETWEEN STRESS AND SKIN AGING

The condition of chronic stress raises the levels of cortisol which directly impairs the production of collagen and skin begins to display signs of premature aging. Stress also makes the skin look dull and dehydrated and triggers inflammatory skin concerns such as acne, rosacea, eczema, psoriasis etc. Hence, stress management plays a crucial role in maintenance of skin health. For this, practice mindfulness meditation, yoga, . deep breathing exercises etc.

The new-age skincare trend not only focuses on topical application but also on holistic wellness. This includes good quality sleep, stress management, wholesome diet, good lifestyle etc. For achieving a healthy and radiant skin, maintenance of overall health plays a significant part.





THE PIONEER | BHOPAL | MONDAY | FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Responsible Tourism @Uttarakhand



12

PM Modi's nine appeals for a sustainable and vibrant Uttarakhand

On the occasion of Uttarakhand Foundation Day on November 9, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an inspiring address, underscoring the cultural, environmental, and social obligations of both locals and visitors. Emphasising the auspiciousness of the number nine, he made nine earnest appeals-five for the people of Uttarakhand and four for its tourists Pushkar Singh Dhami Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

U'KHAND GOVT TO ACT ON PM MODI'S VISION



CM Pushkar Singh Dhami has committed to align Uttarakhand's policies with PM Narendra Modi's nine appeals for the state, as announced on

Uttarakhand Foundation Day

a 'basic mantra of development'. CM Dhami emphasised the government's dedication to maintaining the state's legacy, promoting environmental protection, and improving tourism sustainability.

To maintain regional dialects like Garhwali, Kumaoni, and Jaunsari, the state government is incentivising regional films and observing folk festivals such as loas and Harela with greater enthusiasm. Migrants are motivated to strengthen ties with their roots via endeavours like the Pravasi Uttarakhandi Sammelan, Traditional Tibari houses are being promoted as homestays to conserve legacy and strengthen rural livelihoods

In response to PM Modi's environmental appeals, CM Dhami highlighted the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, which strives to improve green cover. Measures to clean rivers and streams

will also be amplified. For visitors, the government is tackling single-use plastics with endeavours like QR-coded waste management in pilgrimage paths. Women self-help groups are being supported to boost local products, aligning with the 'Vocal for

Local' appeal. CM Dhami reiterated the significance of adhering to traffic regulations and respecting the sanctity of the Dhams, assuring a harmonious blend of tradition, tourism, and sustainability.

Narendra Modi Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an address on Uttarakhand Foundation Day highlighting the cultural, environmental, and social obligations of both locals and visitors

APPEALS TO THE PEOPLE OF UTTARAKHAND & TOURISTS

Conserve local dialects Teach and preserve dialects like Garhwali, Kumaoni,

and Jaunsari to maintain Uttarakhand's essence

Stay connected to villages

Bolster association with roots by visiting and spending time in villages, especially post-retirement

Support local products

Spend at least five per cent of travel expenses on local goods, promoting the 'Vocal for Local' endeavour

Plant trees under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign Support the environment by planting trees for climate

stability

Maintain Tibari houses

Convert old houses into homestays, maintaining heritage and generating livelihoods

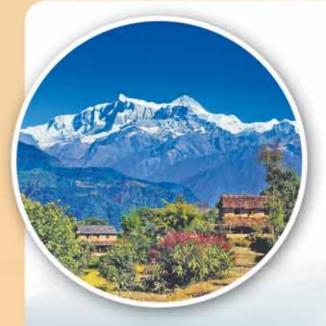
Obey traffic rules

Assure safety by adhering to traffic norms in the hilly areas Ensure water cleanliness Protect rivers and streams, speeding up drives for water conservation

Avoid single-use plastics Prioritise cleanliness and eradicate single-use plastic in the Himalayas

Respect pilgrimage decorum Honour the sanctity of

Honour the sanctity of holy sites and follow local traditions



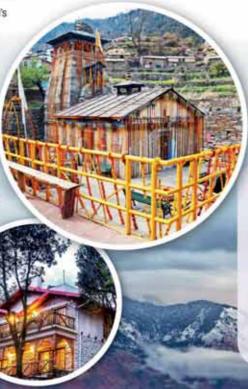
Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023-30

The Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2023-30 foresees sustainable and inclusive development, combining contemporary tourism with the conservation of natural and cultural legacy. With incentives like capital subsidy, interest subvention, and training, the policy facilitates investments in hospitality, adventure parks, and eco-friendly services. The focus is on environmental sustainability, aligning with the state's unique Himalayan ecology. The government has also introduced targeted endeavours to empower local entrepreneurs, requiring investors to utilise at least 70% of local youth. Further, the policy boosts border tourism, yoga and wellness centers, and hidden gems via infrastructure improvements, including ropeways and eco-friendly transport. This roadmap assures Uttarakhand remains a spiritual sanctuary and a pinnacle for eco-conscious tourism. Promoting cultural and spiritual tourism, uplifting economy in Uttarakhand

Following PM Modi's vision, and under the leadership of CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, Uttarakhand has embarked on creating better experiences for tourists

Homestays in Uttarakhand

Homestays are remaking Uttarakhand's lodging landscape, empowering local communities, and encouraging sustainable tourism. The state's three-pronged strategy includes infrastructure support, skill training, and a dedicated booking portal, Uttarastays.com, facilitating homestay owners to connect with global travellers. These lodgings are incorporated with wellness centers offering Avurvedic remedies, improving visitor experiences. The government's emphasis on rural areas not only bridges the accommodation void, but also lessens migration by generating local employment. Homestays conserve heritage while creating resilient tourism standards, making them the backbone of Uttarakhand's ty sector



Adventure tourism in Uttarakhand

Adventure tourism is gaining momentum in Uttarakhand, with destinations like Tehri Lake evolving into global hubs for paragliding and water sports. The government has removed rafting fees on rivers beyond the Ganga, extending opportunities for adventure enthusiasts. Events like the International Paragliding Acrobatic Festival and the National Rafting Championship have brought international acclaim. Further, Uttarakhand introduced gyrocopter flights and other water sports at locations like Udham Singh Nagar, attracting thrill-seekers. With these initiatives, Uttarakhand was recognised as the 'Best Adventure Tourism State' in 2023, showcasing its dedication to becoming India's premier adventure destination.

Tehri emerging as a premier wedding destination

Ensconced in the scenic landscapes of Uttarakhand, Tehri is gaining acclaim as a premier wedding destination, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Wed in Uttarakhand'. With the peaceful Tehri Lake as its centerpiece, the area offers a remarkable combination of natural magnificence and contemporary conveniences. A standout endeavour is the development of a tent city near Tehri Lake under a Public-Private Partnership model. These luxury setups furnish an intimate setting for weddings, encircled by the serenity of nature. Further, the government intends to launch a helicopter service to Triyuginarayan Temple, the mythological site of Lord Shiva and Parvati's marriage, making it a spiritual haven for couples. Nearby villages are being converted into homestay husb, delivering a combination of traditional hospitality and contemporary comforts for wedding guests. Infrastructure projects like the four-lane ring road enhance accessibility, assuring seamless travel to this captivating destination. Tehri's evolution not only showcases Uttarakhand's potential for destination weddings, but also promotes local culture and economy.

Text: Taresh Dutta

ExploreUttarakhand