



the pioneer

Established 1865

INSIDE

MONEY 10
NO CORRUPTION IN FOODGRAIN
PROCUREMENT: PRALHAD JOSHI
JUNKS OPPOSITION CHARGES

www.dailypioneer.com

BHUBANESWAR, WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹4

Modi attacks Rahul, Kejriwal ahead of polls EC dismisses Kejriwal's allegations of partiality



Prime Minister Narendra Modi replies to the Motion of Thanks to President's address in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In a scathing attack on Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said some people are openly speaking the language of urban naxals and asserted that those who "declare a war" against the Indian State can neither understand the Constitution nor about the country's unity. He also took a dig at Arvind Kejriwal and AAP a day before the Delhi Assembly polls, saying "some parties are like 'AAP-da' for the future of the youth". Modi asserted that while his government's schemes saved lot of money, it was not used to build 'Sheesh Mahal'.

around with Constitution in pockets, do they know how they forced Muslim women to live in hardship. We brought in the triple talaq law to give right to them," Modi said. "Today some people are openly speaking the language of urban naxals. The things that urban naxals say (are being said). These people who speak the language of urban naxals, who declare war against the Indian State, can neither understand the Constitution nor about the country's unity," Modi said. Though Modi did not name anyone, his remarks were an apparent reference to Rahul's comments last month that "we are now fighting the BJP, the RSS and the Indian State itself". In a veiled jibe at AAP convener Kejriwal, Modi said some leaders focus on jacuzzi and stylish showers while his government's focus of providing water to every household. He also said that "some parties are like AAP-da for the future of the youth" as they promise various kinds

PM to visit Kumbh today

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj on Wednesday and take a holy dip at the Sangam around 11 am, his office said. In line with his commitment to promote and preserve India's spiritual and cultural heritage, Modi has consistently taken proactive steps to enhance infrastructure and facilities at pilgrimage sites, said PMO. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was in Prayagraj and the Maha Kumbh Mela area on Tuesday ahead of the Prime Minister's visit.

a swipe at them for his reaction on the President's address, saying those who entertain themselves by getting photo sessions done in huts of the poor will find the talk about the poor in Parliament boring. Soon after the President delivered his address to a joint sitting of Parliament on January 31, Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were seen discussing the speech in the Parliament complex. During the discussion, Rahul Gandhi was heard asking Sonia Gandhi if the President's speech was "boring". "We did not give false slogans, but real development to people," Modi said. "Till five decades, slogans of 'garibi hatao' were heard and now 25 crore poor have come out of poverty," he said. He said till now poor people have got 4 crore house. "The one who has lived that kind of life knows what it means to have a house with a proper roof," Modi said.

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day before the Delhi Election Commission on Tuesday took cognizance of "repeated deliberate pressure tactics to malign ECI," saying it will not be swayed by "such insinuations". The Election Commission issued a statement on X platform, addressing the ongoing efforts to undermine its credibility. This comes after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal accused the Election Commission of biased and unprofessional behaviour in handling the election related issues. "The three-member Commission collectively noted repeated deliberate pressure tactics to malign ECI in the Delhi Elections, as if it is a single-member body and decided to have constitutional restraint, absorbing such outbursts with sagacity, stoically and not to be swayed by such insinuations," the Election Commission wrote on X, without naming AAP or Kejriwal. "Action on issues raised by political parties & candidates are taken in each instance by over 1.5 lakh officials in #DelhiAssemblyElection2025 who are functioning within an established legal framework, robust processes & SoPs ensuring fair play and non-partisan conduct," it added. The poll body also warned its poll machinery in Delhi that any partisan conduct disturbing a level playing field

will be held "unpardonable". The poll panel's fresh directions to its officials came after AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal approached the EC to raise concerns over alleged intimidation tactics being used in Delhi ahead of the Assembly elections scheduled on Wednesday. Kejriwal, along with Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, met the EC in the evening on Tuesday and raised concerns over alleged intimidation tactics being used in the national capital ahead of the assembly polls. Talking to the media after the meeting, Kejriwal, accompanied by party leader Raghav Chadha, accused the BJP and Delhi Police of engaging in "hooliganism" to create an atmosphere of fear among voters. "We told the EC how Delhi Police is being misused for violence and intimidation. Many people are scared, and it is possible that they may not come out to vote due to fear," he said. The former chief minister also alleged that attempts were being made to suppress voter turnout, particularly among slum dwellers. "There are reports that people's fingers are being marked with black ink in an attempt to disenfranchise them, and that money and threats are being used to influence voters. We raised these concerns with the EC," Kejriwal said. He thanked the EC for granting them a meeting despite the silence period and said that officials have assured them of a free and fair election. "The EC has assured us that they will take necessary steps to prevent any such wrongdoing." Earlier Delhi Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP of engaging in "hooliganism" and alleged the Election Commission and Delhi Police are shielding saffron party workers, while targeting AAP leaders and members. Atishi, who is contesting from the Kalkaji constituency, claimed at a press conference here that democracy in India was now in the hands of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and the country is watching "if it survives in the national capital".

FIR against Atishi for model code violation



Delhi Chief Minister Atishi at a press conference

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day before Delhi Assembly polls, police on Tuesday registered three FIRs regarding Model Code of Conduct (MCC) violations in Kalkaji -- one against Chief Minister Atishi, another against other AAP members, and a third against two BJP leaders. The AAP leader has been named in a disobedience case registered at Govindpuri police station under Section 223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Meanwhile, the stage is set for the high-stakes Assembly elections in Delhi, with over 1.56 crore voters eligible to cast their ballots from 7 am onwards on Wednesday. Voting will take place across 13,766 polling stations in all the 70 Assembly constituencies to decide the fates of 699 candidates in a contest that

could reshape the political landscape of the capital. Responding to Delhi Chief Minister Atishi's case, Police said AAP's Kalkaji candidate Atishi was accompanying AAP supporters who allegedly interfered with an officer's work at Fateh Singh Marg. Two AAP members were booked for assaulting a police constable on duty. This was preceded by a police case against two BJP leaders -- Manish Bidhuri, a relative of BJP's Kalkaji candidate Ramesh Bidhuri, and Ravi Dayama. Police lodged the FIR against the BJP leaders on a complaint by AAP. Atishi, in a post on X, said Manish was Ramesh Bidhuri's nephew and alleged he was seen "roaming around" in Kalkaji late Monday night though he was not even a voter from the area.

First in India after Harvard IIM Sambalpur to integrate AI in learning management



Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal and Breakout Learning CEO Ramit Varma

Union Budget's Rs 500-cr AI investments spur landmark pact

NALINI SAHU ■ SAMBALPUR

Following the Union Budget's announcement of a Rs 500-crore investment in AI Centres of Excellence, the IIM Sambalpur has partnered with the Breakout Learning Inc., USA, to introduce AI-driven digital case study solutions, revolutionising management education in India. This collaboration aims to position India as a global leader in technology-driven management learning. The IIM Sambalpur will integrate Breakout Learning's advanced AI-enabled case platform across its MBA, Executive MBA and PhD programmes, setting a new benchmark for digital learning. Students and faculty will gain exclusive access to premium case studies from globally-renowned institutions such as Harvard and Ivey, bringing international academic excellence into Indian classrooms. Beyond adoption, this part-

nership fosters innovation, enabling faculty and students to co-create cutting-edge management cases on Breakout Learning's platform. Intellectual property rights for AI-generated cases will be jointly held, ensuring faculty benefit from discounted access for teaching and research. IIM Sambalpur Director Prof Mahadeo Jaiswal highlighted the significance of this collaboration, calling it a "game-changer" for Indian management education. "Indian B-schools are yet to break into the global top 200. Faculty members are often preoccupied with teaching, leaving little time for research. AI integration will provide them with essential support, enhancing academic output and improving global rankings," he said. Breakout Learning CEO and Co-Founder Ramit Varma emphasised the need for engaging and discussion-based learning. "Traditional classrooms feel like factories, where students passively absorb information. Our AI-driven model encourages small-group discussions, stimulating critical thinking and idea generation. IIM Sambalpur is pioneering this transformative shift, making Indian management education globally competitive," he said. Breakout Learning will ensure seamless AI integration into IIM Sambalpur's curriculum, supported by dedicated technical assistance. Financial agreements, including access fees and case development royalties, will be structured separately for mutual benefit and sustainability.

US flight carrying 205 illegal Indians headed for Amritsar



A C-17 aircraft on a runway

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Amidst reports that a US military aircraft is bringing 205 illegal Indian migrants back to country, most likely Amritsar, US said on Tuesday it is rigorously tightening immigration laws. Its embassy also said, "These actions send a clear message: illegal migration is not worth the risk." Asked about the deportation flight bringing back a group of illegal migrants to India, a US embassy spokesperson here did not provide details, but asserted that Washington is removing illegal migrants. "I can't share any details on those inquires, but I can share, on the record, the United States is vigorously enforcing its border, tightening immigration laws, and removing illegal migrants," the official said. "These actions send a clear message: illegal migration is not worth the risk," he added. Incidentally, this action comes days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's likely visit to the US next week.

A C-17 aircraft carrying 205 Indian nationals departed from San Antonio, Texas around 3 am IST, sources said. The plane, headed to Punjab's Amritsar, is likely to stop at Ramstein, Germany, for refuelling, they said, adding each one was verified before being sent back. This deportation is likely the first of several planned flights, as more batches of illegal Indian immigrants are expected to be flown back in the coming weeks. The first round of deportation of illegal Indian nationals from the US comes around two weeks after Donald Trump became the US president for a second term. Trump has promised a strict policy approach in dealing with illegal immigrants residing in the US and already signed a number of immigration-related executive orders. Following his phone conversation with Prime Minister Modi on January 27, Trump said India "will do what is right" on the deportation of illegal migrants from the US.

MARKETS



WEATHER



SC censures Assam govt on detention centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

"Are you waiting for some muhurat", the Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Assam Government, which was censured for keeping 63 persons declared foreigners in detention centres indefinitely and not deporting them. Observing Assam was suppressing facts, a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said once the detainees were identified as foreigners, they ought to be deported immediately. "You have refused to start deportation saying their addresses are not known. Why should it be our concern? You deport to their foreign country. Are you waiting for some muhurat (auspicious time)?" the bench asked. The SC expressed surprise at Assam government's explanation that it was not sending nationality verification forms to the Ministry of External Affairs as detainees' addresses were unknown. "Once you declare a person foreigner, then you have to take the next logical step. You cannot detain them till eternity. Article 21 of the Constitution is there. There are many foreigner detention centres in Assam. How many have you deported?" the bench questioned the Assam government counsel. The top court directed the Assam Government to initiate the deportation process for 63 declared foreign nationals. Their nationality is known.

GRAP controls Delhi pollution, not stubble burning: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi-NCR's pollution during October-November is largely of local origin, with stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana contributing 14 per cent to the overall PM2.5 levels in 2022, a study has suggested. Researchers, led by those at Japan's Research Institute for Humanity and Nature under the 'Aakash Project', said that changes in the national capital's air quality could be related more with the stepping up or down of the 'GRAP' anti-pollution

measures. The study, published in the journal 'npj Climate and Atmospheric Science', analysed fine particulate matter (PM2.5) data, recorded during the September-November months of 2022 and 2023. For the study, 30 sensors were installed across Punjab, Haryana and Delhi-NCR. Stubble burning, a common practice for clearing land following rice harvest, is often blamed for the sharp and sustained rise in PM2.5 levels, seen in the national capital region during the October-

November months. However, the analysis showed that emissions over Punjab from burning stubbles "contributed only a meagre (nearly) 14 per cent to the overall PM2.5 over Delhi-NCR during October-November 2022". Further, PM2.5 levels remained stable in Delhi, even as stubble fires in Punjab and Haryana (as recorded by satellites) declined by at least 50 per cent during 2015-2023, the authors said. "This indicates that there exists only a very weak coupling between PM2.5



mass over Delhi-NCR and the (crop residue burning) over Punjab, highlighting the effectiveness of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in controlling air pollution in the region, the authors wrote. GRAP refers to the set of anti-pollution measures,

implemented in a staged manner in response to air quality levels. GRAP-4 is the most stringent, imposed when air quality index (AQI) crosses 450 and reaches 'severe plus' category. The researchers observed that PM2.5 levels varied in line with the stepping up or down of the GRAP stages. "The decrease of PM2.5 levels in Delhi-NCR was mainly attributed to GRAP IV when the major PM2.5 emissions from road traffic and construction activities, among other sources, were reduced. However, a rise in

PM2.5 load was recorded after the revocation of GRAP IV for 2022 and 2023," they wrote. "With the measurements at a network of about 30 sites covering Punjab, Haryana and Delhi NCR, we are able to separate the contributions of paddy straw burning to Delhi's PM2.5 variations on the basis of characteristic PM2.5 events and at week-monthly averages," said author Prabir Patra, the leader of Aakash Project and principal scientist at Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology.

State to launch comprehensive cancer registry

For systematic collection of data

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

On the occasion of World Cancer Day on February 4, the Odisha Government unveiled plans to establish an all-encompassing cancer registry. The significant endeavour aims at a systematic collection of cancer-related data, segmented into hospital-based and population-based categories to gain a comprehensive understanding of the disease across the State. Currently, hospital-based cancer registries are operational at prominent medical institutions including Acharya Harihar, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences

(AIIMS) Bhubaneswar and Apollo Bhubaneswar. These registries compile and scrutinise patient information to understand the patterns and characteristics of cancer cases treated at these facilities.

Now, in a decisive move, the government has resolved to set up a population-based cancer registry throughout Odisha. This initiative is set to offer detailed insights into cancer prevalence and the types of cancer affecting different regions within the State.

The registry will enable the identification of areas with high-incidence rates and explore underlying factors contributing to these trends. Moreover, the registry will assess the accessibility and effectiveness of existing

treatment services, equipping the government with data to make informed public health decisions.

The State Government has announced an ambitious cancer care programme encompassing 11 State-run hospitals with newly-established super-specialty cancer care services. Acknowledging the annual identification of nearly 55,000 new cancer cases in the State, the emphasis is placed on tackling oral, breast and cervical cancers, the most common types afflicting the populace.

Cancer screening services are being carried out at Ayushman Arogya Mandirs throughout Odisha, reinforcing the vital role of

early detection in significantly improving treatment outcomes. Early detection remains a cornerstone of effective cancer management.

In line with national health initiatives, the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) and the Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana are offering comprehensive cancer treatment facilities, ensuring access to medical care for patients diagnosed with the disease.

This strategic implementation underscores a commitment to reducing the cancer burden within the State by enhancing health infrastructure and ensuring equitable access to medical resources for all citizens.

In city Tension after minor girl run over by Mo Bus

Locals block road; traffic hit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Tension prevailed at Raghunathpur under the Nandankanan police station in Bhubaneswar after a Mo Bus crushed a 12-year-old girl to death on Tuesday morning.

Reports said the girl was going by her bicycle when the Mo Bus, approaching from behind her, hit and ran over her. The victim died on the spot.

Following the incident, locals detained three Mo Buses in protest while also blocking the Nandankanan-Patia road



which led to a massive traffic jam on the road.

“This is the fourth accident incident in one month involving Mo Bus in the area. However, this time, it is a little girl whose life has been taken by reckless driving. Our repeated written complaints

and appeals were never listened to; and see this is the result,” said a local resident.

The agitators also alleged that Mo Bus drivers often drive their vehicles at much higher speeds than the mandated 40 kilometers per hour. “Taking advantage of a wide

road, Mo Bus drivers often drive at speeds of 80 km an hour, but they fail to stop before key intersections owing to lack of speed breakers,” claimed another protesting local.

Later, police detained the bus driver and pacified the crowd. “A death has been confirmed, but whether the driver was speeding or there were any other causes behind the fatality will be ascertained after an investigation using the various installed CCTV cameras,” said police.

However, locals demanded accountability and immediate compensation for the deceased and refused to remove the blockade.

5-day State-level Jr Red Cross camp held

460 volunteers, counsellors join

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Under the guidance of honorary secretary, Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch Ganesh Chandra Patra, a State-level Junior Red Cross study-cum-training camp was inaugurated at Nilachal Polytechnic, Shikharhandi. The camp will continue till February 7.

As many as 460 volunteers and counsellors from 30 districts of the State have participated in the programme. The inaugural ceremony was presided over by honorary secretary Patra. Treasurer of State Red Cross Labanya Sabar, chairman, Child and Women



Development Society Maj Dr Kalpana Das, secretary, Nilachal Polytechnic, E Saroj Kumar Sahu, Project Director, OSACS Dr Santosh Kumar Swain, CSR Manager of Jindal Bhaktabandhu Das joined as guests of honour.

Youth Red Cross Officer Dr Ramesh Chandra Behera welcomed the guests and delivered the welcome

speech. Senior Resource person Muralidhar Parida coordinated the programme.

Junior Red Cross Officer of Odisha State Branch Laxman Swain proposed the vote of thanks and also highlighted the objectives of the programme.

During the five-day camp, the participants will be trained on various topics such as Red Cross history, blood donation,

climate change, first aid, road safety, disaster management, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, cyber security, fire safety and search and rescue.

Various competitions like essay, extempore speech, painting, rangoli, GK, first aid, group dance, group song, exhibition, ethnic wear etc. will be held during the programme and the best volunteers will be selected from the camp who will attain the national camp. All the employees of the Odisha State Branch and the employees of Nilachal Polytechnic helped to make the programme successful.

First aid kits were distributed by the Odisha AIDS Control Society to provide emergency services. Steel bottles were also distributed by Jindal Steel and Power Limited to make the camp plastic-free.

Pact to provide world-class edu resources

Signed by State, CK-12 Foundation

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government has signed an MoU with a not-for-profit education technology organisation to provide world-class educational resources to students, teachers and schools of the State.

The School and Mass Education Department of Odisha signed the pact with the CK-12 Foundation in the presence of Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja on Monday.

The CK-12 Foundation would facilitate free access to content and technology tools like artificial intelligence (AI) that would help students and teachers to enhance and experiment with different learning styles, resources and levels of competence, officials said.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahuja said AI is transforming governance by enhancing efficiency, decision-making and service delivery. AI-powered tools streamline administrative processes, automate routine tasks and analyse large datasets to provide data-driven insights for policy formulation and



implementation. By integrating AI, schools can foster a data-driven, student-centred environment that enhances overall learning outcomes, promotes efficiency and prepares students for future

technological advancements. It would also help in bridging educational gaps and provide teachers with resources to enhance their instruction, promoting equity in education across the State, the Chief Secretary said.

U Sammilani pays tributes to Madhubabu

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Members of the Utkal Sammilani Central Committee led by its general secretary Radhanath Prahara paid tributes to the statue of Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das at Raj Bhavan Square here on Tuesday on his 91st death anniversary.

Later, at a function, the speakers recalled the contributions and sacrifice of Madhubabu for the State. It was also opined that the disputes in Utkal Sammilani should be resolved and the government should take steps towards it.



In another function, at the Sammilani's central office, a memorial meeting was held to pay respect to Madhubabu. The meeting was presided

over by Utkal Sammilani State president Ananta Prasad Jena. General secretary and Mancheswar branch president Dillip

Dashsharma demanded the Bharat Ratna to be conferred on Madhubabu for his contributions for Odisha and the nation.

Ragging surfaces at residential school

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Allegations of ragging are no longer confined to universities and colleges as recent reports in Balangir district have highlighted disturbing incidents at the school level. The latest claims involve the Eklavya Model

Residential School situated in the Dumberbahal area under the Puntala police jurisdiction.

As per the allegations, a group of 15 students from Plus 2 targeted nine students of Classes-VII and VIII, subjecting them to both physical and mental harassment in a hostel on January 31.

The incident came to the fore when some victims confided their plights to their parents. Subsequently, the parents met president of the district tribal association Satyabhama Bhue and filed a complaint at the Puntala police station.

Getting information, District Social Welfare Officer

Alekha Biswal and other district officials rushed to school for an inquiry into the incident.

While the investigations into the allegations continue, neither police nor the school authorities have released any formal statements regarding the incident so far.

30-33-deg day temp to continue in Twin City

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as the people in the State are currently experiencing warmer days as well as relatively cooler conditions during the night and early morning hours, the weather office said the mercury is likely to hover between 30 and 33 degrees

Celsius in the twin cities of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar throughout this week.

The Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here on Tuesday predicted that there would be no major change in the minimum temperature (night temperature) during the next four to five days over the

districts of the State. As per the IMD's forecast, several parts of the State are also likely to experience dense fog during early morning hours. A Yellow warning has also been issued by the IMD for some districts for the next two to three days.

On Wednesday, dense fog is very likely to occur in the

districts of Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Khordha, Angul, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jajpur and Nayagarh, said the IMD.

On Thursday, dense fog is very likely to occur in the districts of Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada and Cuttack, said the weather office, issuing an Yellow warning.

Gandhi's nonviolent economy in Utkarsh Odisha



ABASH PARIDA

To achieve sustainable development, we must address the social, economic, and environmental challenges around us. However, development today is not inclusive; instead, it has become a competition. Modern economic systems, driven by consumerism, endless desires and the pursuit of a new global economic order, rely heavily on resource exploitation and even violence. The world is currently facing conflicts, wars and widespread unrest.

In such a situation, an economic system that

prioritises peace and cooperation is not just a choice but a necessity for us. Postmodern thinkers firmly believe in a long-term solution and recommend the Gandhian nonviolent economic system as a holy grail. Rooted in truth and nonviolence, Gandhian economics seeks to eliminate exploitation and the negative impacts of industrialisation and centralised mass production. By promoting a nonviolent economy, the whole world can move towards sustainable development and foster harmony among nations and communities. If implemented, this could help address global challenges such as poverty, inequality, class conflict and environmental degradation. This model promotes economic development rooted in human values such as respect, compassion, justice and

solidarity. Economists have different views on economic policies. While some emphasise sustainable and inclusive practices, a few modern economists highlight the collective role of nonviolence, education and diplomacy in achieving economic stability. Others advocate for social justice by reducing income inequality and integrating environmental sustainability into economic policies. Overall, a nonviolent economy is broad and diverse, offering an equitable economic system. In short, when civilised societies invest in education, research and cultural exchange, they create a nonviolent environment that fosters progress.

The concept of a nonviolent economy is highly relevant to Odisha's progress. Its application includes

community-based agriculture, tribal development, sustainable and responsible fish production, organic farming and eco-friendly tourism. Additionally, cooperatives that promote fair trade, peaceful economic practices and handicrafts are also key aspects of a nonviolent economy in Odisha. But there are certain hurdles before CM Majhi to achieve such noble ideal-type economy. Agriculture and industries that prioritise less on sustainability cannot ensure the long-term wellbeing of local communities and the environment. So, Odisha's agricultural development must be based on eco-friendly practices and social security to achieve sustainable growth. One of the key sectors in this model is to encourage millet farming, which is the foundation of food security for poor communities. The new

government in Odisha must extend a teeming support to tribal cooperatives and self-help groups to establish millet-based businesses as well as should create a mechanism in helping farmers to get better prices and market access. Further, the small farmers in Odisha face challenges due to fragmented land, which makes it difficult for them to earn a stable income. Strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and cooperative farms can help them gain access to technology, better markets as well as to avail fair prices. By strengthening tribal cooperatives and entrepreneurship programs, the government can help indigenous people become self-reliant. Similarly, the fishing industry, a crucial part of Odisha's economy, faces difficulties due to outdated technology, lack of cold

storage and poor market access. Providing modern fishing equipment, storage facilities and cooperative fish farming opportunities can improve their earnings and ensure sustainable fishing practices.

Last but not the least, in order to attract new investments and job opportunities, Odisha must improve its business environment by implementing digital-inclusive governance, tax benefits and rural industrial zones. In addition to these, expanding microfinance and interest-free loans in remote parts of Odisha will help marginalised communities start their own businesses and achieve financial independence.

Recently, Odisha, under the vision of PM Modi and the initiative taken by new CM Mohan Majhi has forecasted

the similar vision in Utkarsh Odisha Summit-2025. The promises and MoUs on huge investment in renewable energy, food processing, greenest steel plant not only make Odisha a global investment destination but an endorser of nonviolent economy also. Strategies for investment in textiles and apparel, women entrepreneurship, circular economy, healthcare, pharmacy and biotech and industrial infrastructure will surely boost the economy and employment in the State. The epicentre of nonviolent economy is tourism. This year's Utkarsh Odisha has attracted investments worth Rs 8,155 crore in MICE (meetings, incentives, conference and exhibitions), making Odisha a global tourism hub. The new Odisha Government has a clear vision for building a self-reliant, inclusive and eco-

friendly economy. To achieve this, the government should focus more on millets, fisheries, small industries and research. Continuous investment in renewable energy such as solar, wind and bio-energy will help Odisha become a leader in green energy. Research in farming, fisheries and climate change will bring new opportunities for innovation and economic development. By focusing on sustainability, fairness and ethical business practices, this model ensures growth without exploitation, creating a prosperous and just society where people and nature coexist harmoniously. Hope these practices and principles of Gandhi's nonviolent economy will be reflected in upcoming days.

(Dr Parida is an entrepreneur and an author. abash.parida@gmail.com / 8456879522 Bhubaneswar)

STA inks MoU to operate truck terminals

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
At the Make in Odisha Conclave Utkarsh Odisha, the State Transport Authority (STA) has signed an MoU with the National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) for the operation and maintenance of truck terminals in 18 districts of Odisha.

This initiative aims to significantly reduce road fatalities and provide world-class facilities for truck drivers and logistics operators.

Odisha currently records a six-per cent road fatality rate with these 18 districts contrib-



uting 14% of total fatalities due to accidents caused by collisions with parked vehicles. Recognising the urgent need to address this issue, the Government of Odisha, through its Commerce and Transport Department, has planned to establish truck terminals in 23 locations within these districts.

The initiative is one of the

flagship programmes under the State's commitment to improving road safety and infrastructure. The STA is supported by Palladium as the Project Management Unit (PMU) in implementing this transformative project.

The truck terminals would be fully equipped with modern amenities to cater to the needs of truck drivers and logistics personnel. Unlike other States where roadside hotels provide shelter and parking spaces for truckers, Odisha is setting a benchmark by establishing dedicated truck terminals with comprehensive facilities.

These terminals will feature

designated parking spots, dormitories, food malls, ATMs, fuel pumps, repair workshops and sanitation facilities, ensuring a safe and comfortable environment for truck drivers.

The initiative is also aligned with the government's mandate for the Automated Testing Stations (ATS), which many States in India are still in the process of implementing.

Odisha, however, has taken the lead in road safety by testing the fitness of vehicles ensuring that vehicles meet the highest safety, performance, and environmental responsibility standards.

Fire breaks out at CHC in N'rangpur

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR
A major fire broke out at the Pujuriguda Community Health Centre (CHC) in Umakote block of Nabarangpur district on Tuesday.

The blaze was triggered due to an electrical short circuit, but the authorities were yet to confirm it.

Fortunately, no injuries were reported in the fire mishap at the hospital.

The fire started in the oxygen cylinder storage area of the CHC. Witnesses described hearing a loud explosion, potentially the sound of a cylinder exploding.



Initial attempts by the hospital staffs to extinguish the fire proved ineffective, leading to a call for the fire brigade. Subsequently, a team of firefighters arrived promptly and managed to control the situation. As of now, the full extent of the damage caused by the fire was yet to be assessed.

Authorities have initiated an investigation to confirm the cause of the fire and evaluate the safety measures in place at the health centre to prevent similar incidents in the future.

In Kendrapada

Rs 1L looted from bike side-box in front of PS

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA
Two miscreants looted an elderly man of Rs 1 lakh in front of the Pattamundai police station in Kendrapada district on Tuesday.

The victim Kamalakanta, a resident of Panturi village under Pattamundai block, was going

home with the money after withdrawing it from a bank. Having stopped near the police station, Kamalakanta left the money along with a chequebook and important documents, in the vehicle's side-box before heading to a nearby shop.

Two persons on a black-coloured motorcycle suddenly

appeared at the scene, broke the vehicle's side-box and decamped with the money and some documents.

"Yesterday, I received the paddy procurement money through my bank account in DBT mode. I withdrew the money and was returning home when the theft occurred. I had gone to a nearby tailoring shop and saw the miscreants breaking open my motorcycle side-box. Immediately, I shouted for help, but they decamped with the money," said the victim.

The Pattamundai police have begun a probe after registering a case.

In Balangir

12 bombs recovered from train wagon



PNS ■ BALANGIR
Security officials recovered as many as 12 bombs from a railway goods wagon at the Kantabanji railway station in Balangir district on Tuesday, sparking major security concerns.

Sources reported that Government Railway Police (GRP) personnel found the cache of bombs during a routine inspection and subsequently seized them. However, the concerned authorities are yet to determine how the bombs ended up in the railway wagon.

Further, according to the station manager, the bombs were reportedly from the Ordnance Factory Badmal (OFBL) under the Saintala police station of the district.

Notably, the ordnance factory manufactures arms, ammunition, equipment, propellants, explosives and other items for defence forces. As such, the seizure of explosives has led to a security scare.

Shockingly, the Station Master returned back the bombs to the OFBL without notifying the police or concerned security personnel, as per sources.

Subsequently, questions lurk regarding the nature of the shipment, the manner of shipment and discovery and hasty return.

An investigation was underway to ascertain the source of the bombs as well as the entire sequence of events following its retrieval from the goods wagon.

Govt grants firefighters' house rent

Also hikes other allowances

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha Government on Tuesday granted house rent allowance (HRA) and hiked other allowances for Odisha Fire Services Department personnel.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) informed that the house rent allowance of Fire Services personnel has been accorded for the welfare of the fire fighters who provide prompt services to the people



in difficult situations. The government also increased the diet allowance to Rs 1,400 from existing Rs 900. Besides, the motorcycle allowance of firefighters was hiked from Rs 300 to Rs 1,050, mobility allowance to Rs 300 from Rs 150, and risk allowance to Rs 1,000 from existing Rs 400. The hike will

benefit around 6,000 Fire Services personnel.

PK Padhi, a Fire Services personnel, said, "We welcome the government's decision as we had been demanding for a revision in allowance since long."

According to Padhi, the demands of the Fire Services personnel had been ignored by the previous government. "The decision of the current government is certainly a welcome step as the longstanding demand of the personnel has now been fulfilled," Padhi added.

Chhatra Cong protests Bhagwat's B'pur visit

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR
The Ganjam District Chhatra Congress staged a massive protest on Monday against RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's visit, condemning his recent remarks on India's independence.

The demonstration, held outside the Ganjam Congress office, saw activists burning effigies of Bhagwat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Majhi.

Led by Ganjam District Chhatra Congress convenor



Rudra Khatua, the protest witnessed active participation from Brahmampur Youth Congress president Tatsat Subudhi, along with leaders Avinash Behera, Balam Sahu, Manas Ranjan Praharaj, Monaj Patra, and several others.

The agitation was triggered by the alleged undemocratic arrest of Odisha Pradesh Chhatra Congress president Udit Narayan Pradhan and other student leaders. They

were detained for waving black flags in Bhubaneswar to oppose Bhagwat's visit. Chhatra Congress leaders accused the BJP government of suppressing dissent and stifling democratic protests through forceful detentions.

The controversy erupted after Bhagwat's statement linking India's independence to the consecration of the Ram Mandir. Congress leaders slammed the remark as disrespectful to freedom fighters' sacrifices. The Chhatra Congress vowed to intensify its protests against what they called the "anti-democratic" actions of the BJP-RSS.

Industrialisation, mining

Hirakud reservoir wetlands under increasing threat

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA
The Hirakud reservoir wetlands are under increasing threat due to rapid industrialisation and extensive mining activities in the region. Unchecked pollution from thermal power plants and aluminium industries is contaminating the reservoir's water, raising serious concerns for aquatic life and local communities.

Flyash discharge from thermal power plants and fluoride pollution from aluminium industries have significantly degraded water quality. The presence of toxic elements not only endangers biodiversity but also poses health risks to nearby residents.

Spanning 746 sq km and recognized as a Ramsar site, the Hirakud reservoir is crucial for sustaining water-dependent flora and fauna. However, over the past four decades,



nearly one-third of India's wetlands, including those in Odisha, have suffered severe degradation. Industrial expansion in neighbouring Chhattisgarh and upper catchment areas has further worsened the situation, contributing to soil erosion and pollution from industrial waste, untreated drainage, sand mining, and unchecked tourism.

Deforestation around the reservoir has accelerated due to industrialisation. Over the past 33 years, 2,833 hectares of forest land near the reservoir have been lost to industrial and mining projects, with 1,365 hectares cleared in the last decade alone. Since 1989, 36 projects—including industries, mines, railway tracks, and power lines—have received Stage-2 forest clearance, exacerbating environmental damage.

The reservoir's tributaries, including the Ib, Bheden, Badkelo, Sankelo, Lilari, and Bagadia rivers, along with the Ahira canal, are drying up prematurely due to excessive

mining and deforestation. The situation is particularly alarming in Chhattisgarh and Sundargarh's Hemgiri area, where unchecked activities are further polluting water sources.

Environmental experts warn that if immediate conservation measures are not implemented, the region may face severe ecological consequences. Urgent intervention is needed to restore and protect the fragile ecosystem of the Hirakud wetlands.

6-day Brahmampur Mahotsav kicks off

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR
The Brahmampur Mahotsav and 14th National Odia Self Esteem Conference was inaugurated here on Sunday. On the occasion, eminent speakers expressed that the Brahmampur Mahotsav has a great role in keeping alive the art and culture of Ganjam district.

While Brahmampur Mayer Sanghamitra Dalai attended as chief guest, Chikiti MLA Manoranjan Dyanantra attended as chief speaker. Similarly, Mahotsav Committee president Susanta Sabata coordinated the function, in which Tehsildar Khirod Bihari



Bharat Nag, former Chairman, Cashew Corporation Subash Chandra Moharana, Additional SP Kailash Chandra Buruda, Tanushree Patra and Srikant Sabata attended as guests of honour.

In the six-day programme, along with various stalls from Odisha and other States, more than 70 cultural teams will exhibit their art. Besides these, every day workshops on topics related to Odisha's tourism, literature, culture, etc. will be organised.

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA
The Hirakud reservoir wetlands are under increasing threat due to rapid industrialisation and extensive mining activities in the region. Unchecked pollution from thermal power plants and aluminium industries is contaminating the reservoir's water, raising serious concerns for aquatic life and local communities.

Flyash discharge from thermal power plants and fluoride pollution from aluminium industries have significantly degraded water quality. The presence of toxic elements not only endangers biodiversity but also poses health risks to nearby residents.

Spanning 746 sq km and recognized as a Ramsar site, the Hirakud reservoir is crucial for sustaining water-dependent flora and fauna. However, over the past four decades,

In Kendrapada

Woman raped by 3 fellow villagers

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA
Three people on Sunday night allegedly gang-raped a 35-year-old woman after forcibly entering into her house and also attacked another fellow villager who went to rescue the victim.

Jamboo Marine Police station IIC Srikant Kumar Barik said the accused of Pitapata village allegedly barged into the house of the victim by breaking open the door and forcibly gang raped her on Sunday night after finding the victim alone at her house.

When the victim screamed and shouted for help, a fellow villager rushed to the victim's house for rescuing her, but he also faced the wrath of the accused persons.

The victim on Monday lodged an FIR at Jamboo Marine police station. Acting on the FIR, the police registered a case under various sections of BNS and started an inquiry.

Nobody has been arrested in the case and raids are on to nab the accused, stated SDPO Kendrapada, Debendra Mallick.

INBRIEF

Police ASI held taking bribe in Subarnapur
Cuttack: The Vigilance police on Tuesday caught Budu Bhoi, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police, Birmaharajpur police station in Subarnapur district, while taking a bribe of Rs 6,000. Bhoi had demanded the bribe from a person to release his motorcycle seized a month ago in an accident case. The person had been requesting Bhoi to release his bike. But Bhoi was demanding the bribe for it. Bhoi was arrested and forwarded to court.

Woman gets lifer for killing son in Ganjam
Brahmapur: The Ganjam District and Sessions Judge on Tuesday sentenced a woman to life imprisonment for the murder of her eight-year-old son by pushing him into the Bijipur pond in Brahmapur. The incident had occurred on October 26, 2023 when the accused intentionally pushed her son Rohit into the water. Following an investigation, the then Town police station IIC Suresh Tripathy submitted a charge-sheet in the court. The court found the accused guilty. Public Prosecutor Trilochan Parida, who handled the case, confirmed the conviction and sentencing.

RSS leader Mohapatra's bust unveiled in B'pur
Brahmapur: On the occasion of the 12th day death rituals of former regional Sangha Chhalak of RSS and founder of Nilakanteswara Saraswati Sisu Mandir Sibaram Mohapatra (Bada Bhaina), his statue was inaugurated at the Sub Registrar's office junction, here on Sunday. Brahmampur MLA K Anil Kumar inaugurated the statue and recalled his life journey. BJP district president Saroj Sabat, former BeDA chairman Sarat Patanaik, senior members of RSS, BJP workers, Gurujis and Gurumas of Saraswati Sisu Mandir, family members of Mohapatra and many intellectuals were present.

Lok Vikas Kendra at Nuagarh built by AM/NS India
Paradip: With an aim to empower women in its operational areas and to make them self-reliant, Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India), as part of its CSR initiative under Project "Nirman", has set up a Lok Vikas Kendra (LVK) at Nuagarh village, which was inaugurated by Sampad Chandra Swain, Minister of Industries, Skill Development and Technical Education, Odisha, and local MLA. The Lok Vikas Kendra aims to equip women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with vital vocational skills to enhance their livelihood opportunities. Training programmes will be imparted at the centre on mushroom cultivation, tailoring, terracotta, soft toy making, millet-based products, processed dry food, phenyl making and others.

Tatwa Technologies celebrates foundation day
Bhubaneswar: The Tatwa Technologies Limited celebrated its 23rd foundation day with an event at its corporate headquarters in Bhubaneswar. The programme was digitally streamed across all delivery centres nationwide, bringing together over 3,000 employees and associates. A highlight of the celebration was the launch of AI-First OmniAgent, a groundbreaking conversational AI product developed under its AI division TatwaOration.AI.

Kumarabasta wins State-level Sarala Cup
Kakatpur: The final match of the State level Maa Sarala Cup was played between Dhenkanal Cricket Club and Kumarabasta, Khurda at the local Narenda Stadium here on Sunday in which the Kumarabasta, Khurda emerged the winner. Dhenkanal team won the toss and invited Kumarabasta team to bat, which scored 181 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in the stipulated 20 overs. Abhishek Patnaik scored 50 runs in 30 balls for the team. In reply, Dhenkanal Cricket Club lost all wickets by scoring only 171 runs. Abhishek Patnaik was awarded the man of the match. The guests included Dr Debendra Tarai, Baidhar Mallick, educationist Saharljit Mohapatra, block Chairman Arati Nayak, Dibakar Chhatoi, Durjaya Mishra, actress Sasmita Panda, Anya Anupama, while dancing umpire Dokam Santosh conducted the game.

Binayak School holds annual fest

PNS ■ BRAHMAMPUR
The annual function of Binayak Acharya Memorial Municipal High School, situated at Aska Road here, was celebrated under the presidency of headmaster Bhagaban Nahak.

On the occasion, local Corporator Padmini Mishra attended as chief guest and social worker Amit Kumar Das attended as chief speaker.

Lanjia Samiti member and president of Ambagada Seba Samabaya Samiti Kahnu Charan Patra, former retired headmaster Mohammad Zahir Uddin, Arup Kumar Mohapatra, Pratap Sahu, CRC U. Bharati, Jayadev Pradhan and Ramadhin Sanskrit College Professor Prashant Kumar Mishra attended as guests of honour.

Successful students were awarded prizes by the guests. While the headmaster read out the annual report of the school, teachers Santanu Kumar Rana and P Surya Venkat managed the stage and teacher Biswa Mohini Sahu offered the vote of thanks.

Rajnath Singh accuses Rahul Gandhi of misattributing Army chief

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of making "false allegations" about the statement of the Army chief on the situation at the India-China border.

"The words attributed to the Army Chief by Shri Rahul Gandhi were never spoken by him at any time. It is a matter of deep regret that Shri Rahul Gandhi should indulge in irresponsible politics on matters of national interest," he said in a social media post.

This reaction came after Rahul Gandhi, who is leader of opposition, in his speech on Monday in Lok Sabha during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's address, claimed that the Chinese have intruded on Indian land but Prime Minister Narendra Modi has denied it. The Army disagreed with the prime minister, he had said.

"The Prime Minister has denied that Chinese forces are inside our territory but for some rea-

son our army keeps talking to the Chinese about their entry into our territory and our chief of army staff has said that the Chinese are inside our territory," Rahul Gandhi had said.

On Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a social media post regarding certain remarks made in Parliament by Rahul Gandhi about the statement of the Chief of the Army Staff on the situation along the India-China border, officials statement said.

A statement by defence ministry about Rajnath's remarks said he stated that the Army Chief's observations pertained to the temporary disturbance of traditional patrolling patterns by both sides along the border. He further emphasised that these patrolling practices have now been restored to their traditional pattern following the recent disengagement efforts. These details were previously shared in Parliament.

The defence minister also clarified that the words attributed to the Army Chief in the parliamentary debate were never stated by him at any time. He



underscoring the importance of accuracy and responsible discourse on matters concerning national security.

Rajnath Singh reiterated that with respect to territorial issues, it is well documented that 38,000 sq. km of Indian territory in Aksai Chin has been under Chinese control since the 1962 conflict. Furthermore,

5,180 sq. km of territory was ceded by Pakistan to China in 1963. These historical facts remain an integral part of India's territorial discourse.

Meanwhile, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey on Tuesday wrote to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla for initiating breach of privilege proceedings against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "blat-

ant lies and vilification campaign" during his speech in the House.

With the Leader of Opposition's speech on Monday during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address drawing strong protests from the ruling BJP, Dubey submitted his notice to the Speaker and claimed that

the Congress leader is using his parliamentary privilege to spread canards without authenticating his charges.

The BJP MP said Rahul Gandhi's speech carried mainly claims, including that mobile phones were not made in India but only assembled here and China has captured the Indian territory. He had also alleged that India had sent Foreign Minister S Jaishankar to the US get an invite for Prime Minister Narendra Modi for US President Donald Trump's swearing-in ceremony.

In his letter, Dubey touched on the issues as well as the Congress leader's allegations related to his demand for caste census.

He alleged, "While raising these issues, Rahul Gandhi has not only shamelessly distorted the historical and substantive facts but also made an attempt to ridicule our country and lowering the prestige of our Republic." Dubey noted that Birla had asked Rahul Gandhi to authenticate his claims while noting that the Congress leader had not done it yet.

In a swipe at the Leader of Opposition, Dubey said, "This 'erudite' person has neither authenticated his gibberish canards nor apologised of using the pious forum of Parliament to defame our country and the elected government."

He accused Gandhi of blatantly misusing the Constitution's Article 105, which accords privileges to parliamentarians for their comments made inside the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Claiming that the privilege is subject to provisions of the Constitution and to the rules and standing orders regulating the procedure of Parliament, Dubey alleged that Rahul Gandhi was misusing Parliament on an "utterly false and imaginary notion" that he as an MP has an inherent privilege to speak whatever he likes on the floor of the House.

The Congress leader seemed to believe that even the presiding officer or the Leader of the House or the treasury benches have no authority to discipline his "delinquent" behaviour, he said.

He said, "The fact remains that the Article 105 does not give absolute powers and freedom to any public representative, especially of the ilk of Rahul Gandhi, of there would be anarchy in the House."

Dubey said it is an established legal position that MPs broadly enjoy various privileges are subject to various widely accepted "mores".

Urging the Speaker to initiate proceedings against Gandhi, he alleged that Parliament's records and proceedings are a testimony to his incessant irresponsible attitude as the "guardian of India Chapter of Foreign Tool-Kit" aimed at destabilizing the country. In his speech, Rahul Gandhi had claimed that the Modi's 'Make in India' initiative had failed.

"When we talk to the US, we wouldn't send our foreign minister to (get) our PM invited to his (US President's) coronation. We will not send our foreign minister 3-4 times (to say) please invite our prime minister," he said while levelling several charges against the government.



Prime Minister Modi congratulates new Belgium leader Bart De Wever

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated Barr De Wever on taking over as the new leader of Belgium. "Heartiest congratulations to Prime Minister @Bart_DeWever on assuming office.

I look forward to working together to further strengthen India-Belgium ties and enhance our collaboration on global matters. Wishing you a successful tenure ahead," Modi said in a social media post.

De Wever of the Flemish nationalist N-VA party succeeds Alexander De Croo, who had remained in office as a caretaker since the June elections last year.

Delhi court grants bail to accused in Landon High Commission attack



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has granted bail to a London resident in a case related to the alleged attack on the High Commission of India in London in March 2023.

According to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the incident on March 19, 2023 and an agitation organised on March 22, 2023, in which Indrapal Singh Gaba, a resident of Hounslow in west London, participated, were part of the same transaction.

However, principal district and sessions judge Vimal Kumar Yadav, in an order on January 29, said Gaba's role seemed to be confined to the incident on March 22, 2023.

Both the incidents were led and planned by the same set of people with a clear objective of influencing the crackdown on "Waris Punjab De" and its leader Amritpal Singh, the NIA said.

"The NIA is unable to establish

any link of the applicant with the incident of March 19, 2023. He was neither present at the spot nor associated with arranging anything for the demonstration and for that matter, nothing could be shown that he was part of the conspiracy to organise the demonstration on March 19, 2023 or for that matter on March 22, 2023," the order said.

The court said the allegations over the March 22, 2023 incident even if "taken true" still did not make a case for life imprisonment or death penalty.

"He is a young man with clean antecedents as nothing objectionable could be brought on record or shown...His complicity or involvement in any manner could not be shown in the incident of March 19, 2023," the judge said.

The court observed though "insult to national honour" was a serious allegation against him, Gaba wasn't accused of violence. It appeared the case's trial, which

hadn't commenced yet was likely to take "a very long time," added the court.

"In such circumstances, when there is no mechanism available with the human race to return time to anyone, how far then it would be appropriate to keep a person under custody under such allegations?" asked the court.

The NIA cited a photograph where Gaba is allegedly posing with an AK47 rifle and claimed "it reflected and was indicative of his tendencies".

The court dismissed the argument saying aside from the photo, which was found in the accused's cellphone's photo gallery, neither any such rifle was recovered, nor could it be said conclusively that it was an AK 47 rifle or a dummy.

"In this era of deepfake photoshop, etc., there can't be any certainty about what has been shown is correct.

More so, it is not very uncommon that people pose for photographs with all kinds of stuff," the judge said.

Gaba was detained by the Immigration Authorities at Attari border on December 9, 2023 while he was coming from London via Pakistan.

Later on, he was arrested on April 25, 2024 under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), Prevention of Insult of National Honour Act, and IPC.

India-EU ties more important than ever before amid: S Jaishankar

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said in a world that promises to be so volatile and uncertain, a stronger India-European Union (EU) relationship can be an "important stabilising factor", as he asserted that the relationship between the two sides is more important than ever before.

In his address at the inaugural session of the IIC-Bruegel annual seminar here, the minister, without naming any country, also said that "in our own continent, international law has been disregarded with significant consequences".

"Even on a question like democracy and military rule, different standards have been applied to our neighbours in the east and our neighbour in the west," he said.

The second IIC-Bruegel annual seminar is being held at the India International Centre (IIC) from February 4-5.

"The world is currently witnessing two major conflicts, these are often presented as matters of principle. We are told that the very future of the world order is at stake. Yet, the record shows how selectively and unevenly these principles have been applied," Jaishankar said.

In his address, he also touched upon the aspects of trade and digital technology, climate action, and their interplay with geopolitics.

He said today there is much talk about the world order unravelling. "The fact is that the consensus which underpinned it, has done so well before."

"There are North-South contradictions as much there is an East-West divide. In



fact, even these broad characterisations are no longer tenable in an era of sharper nationalism," the external affairs minister said.

Both economic and political logic of an earlier era needs refreshing, Jaishankar said. "Much of the architecture will undoubtedly continue because we are too deeply invested into it, but some of it, perhaps aspects that are critical and sensitive, will be more nationally driven," he added.

Jaishankar asserted, "We are truly entering a time of multipolarity and rebalancing, the sooner we come to terms with this reality, the better for all of us." He underlined that these are some of the questions that India and the European Union confront today.

"It is important that as we reflect on appropriate policies and responses, there is a quest for convergence as well as an honesty in conversations. We clearly have common interests and shared values,

there may be some differences on priorities and specifics, but what binds us is a sentiment much stronger," the minister said.

"At the end of the day, we are political democracies, pluralistic societies and market economies," he said.

The minister said as the two sides take stock of the changes underway, it is likely that "our meeting points will increase".

"Moreover, in a world that promises to be so volatile, so uncertain, a stronger India-EU relationship can be an important stabilising factor," Jaishankar said.

India is certainly cognisant of the greater strategic awakening of Europe in the last few years, that too can serve as a "driver of deeper engagement", he added.

"We already see that happening, for example, in defence and security and technology cooperation. The bottom line is that our India-EU relationship is more important than ever before," Jaishankar said.



India boasts robust system to combat future pandemics: Nadda

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has a very robust system to deal with future pandemics and public health emergencies, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda asserted in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

Replying to supplementary questions in the Rajya Sabha, Nadda highlighted the steps taken by the government in the last 10 years to strengthen India's health system, especially in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

India has proven under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that we have got a very robust system to address the issue of any pandemic that comes, the minister said.

Listing out India's capabilities, Nadda said the country has the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), which oversees and keeps surveillance. "It is the apex body which takes care of the diseases and the pathogens, and the other emerging virus mutation, which takes place," he added.

Under the NCDC, he said the

country has an integrated disease surveillance programme, a platform for disease surveillance.

"We have got the RRT, which is called the rapid response team, which is there in the states. And we have got very decentralised multidisciplinary teams for health control and containment. And also, we have got an integrated health information platform where advanced data with analysis and analytical data and data modelling tools are there," the minister said.

"We give real-time reporting for all the emerging pandemics or there are chances of having any pandemic."

The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has 150 labs, he said, adding that there are viral research diagnostic laboratories. India has a world-class National Institute of Virology in Pune.

"So, we have got a very robust system wherever any pandemic or any chances of the pandemic are there, these laboratories confirm what type of mutation is taking place, what change, what type of medicine or what type of treatment is to be given," Nadda said.

UN general Assembly President Philemon Yang begins four-day visit to India

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President of the UN General Assembly Philemon Yang is paying a four-day visit to India beginning Tuesday. Yang, who assumed the responsibility at the global body in September, previously served as the prime minister of Cameroon.

The President of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (PGA) is visiting India at the invitation of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, according



to an official readout. Under his presidency, the United Nations adopted 'A Pact for the Future' -- a vision document for realising "multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow". "During the

visit, the external affairs minister and the PGA will discuss key multilateral and regional issues of mutual interest," the readout said.

Yang will also pay a courtesy call on President Droupadi Murmu. Apart from New Delhi, Yang will be visiting Bengaluru.

"The PGA is scheduled to visit Infosys and the Indian Institute of Science, where he would have the opportunity to interact with experts on India's innovations in various fields such as sustainability, digital public infrastructures, etc," the readout said.

India seeks cooperation from Bangladesh to combat cross-border crimes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India has conveyed to Bangladesh that it expects a cooperative approach from the neighbouring country for combating cross-border crimes, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

India has also informed Bangladesh that it is observing all existing agreements in this regard, including for fencing along this front, the government said.

Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said in a written reply to Lok Sabha that the total length of the India-Bangladesh border is 4,096.7 km out of which 3,232.21 km has been "covered" with a fence.

The minister was asked if border fencing "impacted" bilateral relations between the two countries. "Construction of fencing is an important security measure for securing the border. Fencing helps to ensure a crime-free border by effec-

tively addressing the challenges of cross-border criminal activities, smuggling, movement of criminals and trafficking," Rai said.

It has been "conveyed" to the government of Bangladesh that with regard to security measures at the border, including for fencing, India observes all protocols and agreements between the two governments and between the Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), the minister said.

Parliamentary report flags delays in youth empowerment scheme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A parliamentary report has flagged delays in fund allocations, lack of targeted outreach, and insufficient government action on key recommendations for the youths on disaster preparedness, skilling, and hostel facilities for women.

The 360th report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports, presented in Parliament on Tuesday, reviewed the government's response to its earlier recommendations on the Rashtriya Yuva Sashaktikaran Karyakram (RYSK), a key youth empowerment scheme.

The committee expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of implementation and urged the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to take urgent corrective



steps.

The report flagged concerns over the lack of a structured approach to youth volunteerism in disaster response, citing a 2022 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assessment. It urged the government to

integrate Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, or NYKS, volunteers into mandatory disaster management committees at the village and district levels and establish Disaster Risk Reduction Teams in every district. While the Ministry reported that over 12,000

NYKS volunteers have been trained, the committee called for better coordination with disaster relief authorities to ensure effective deployment.

The committee also criticised delays in transforming NYKS centres into District Youth Resource Centres (DYRCs), which could serve as hubs for skill development, employment, and entrepreneurship.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs stated that it had forwarded the proposal to the Finance Ministry, but the committee urged stronger follow-ups to secure the required funding.

The report also noted a lack of collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Employment to turn NYKS into a gateway for youth employment. It also called for the creation of 'Girl Child NYKS Centres' to ensure greater participation of young women in skill training pro-

grammes and job placements.

The committee found gaps in representation from rural youth and students from tier-2 and tier-3 colleges in international exchange programmes. It recommended tracking the long-term impact of such initiatives and ensuring a more inclusive selection process to provide equal opportunities for marginalised students.

The report expressed serious concerns over the lack of youth hostels exclusively for women, particularly in state capitals, educational hubs, and cultural sites.

While the Ministry cited the construction of one hostel in Kota, Rajasthan, the committee deemed it inadequate and directed the government to seek additional funds in the 2025-26 Union Budget for dedicated women hostels with Wi-Fi, CCTV sur-

veillance, and round-the-clock security.

The committee also noted discrepancies in use of funds under the National Youth Leaders Programme (NYLP) and recommended more transparent budgeting and expenditure tracking.

It criticised the limited awareness and outreach of Scouts and Guides programmes, recommending an expansion of gender sensitisation, environmental protection, and digital literacy initiatives in rural schools.

While the government has acknowledged some recommendations, the committee's report indicates that several key youth empowerment measures remain under-implemented.

The committee urged the MYAS to act swiftly and report back on pending issues before the next parliamentary review.

Milkipur by-election: A prestige fight between BJP and SP

BISWAJEET BANERJEE AYODHYA

The upcoming Milkipur Assembly by-election in Uttar Pradesh has turned into a high-stakes battle between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Samajwadi Party (SP), with both parties treating it as a prestige contest.



The seat was vacated after SP's Awadhesh Prasad resigned as MLA upon winning the Lok Sabha election. Now, The BJP is determined to reclaim lost ground, setting up a direct contest between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's Hindutva-driven campaign and Akhilesh Yadav's caste-based PDA (Picchda-Dalit-Alpsankhyak) strategy.

MLAs Baba Gorakhnath and Ramu Priyadarshi. This reflects a calculated attempt to break into SP's strong Dalit voter base, which played a crucial role in its Faizabad victory.

BJP's outreach to Scheduled Castes and SP's ability to hold its vote bank together. Sensing the importance of the contest, CM Yogi Adityanath has led BJP's charge in Milkipur, making seven visits to the constituency and deploying seven ministers to supervise the campaign.

electoral manipulation, filing complaints with the Election Commission and demanding stricter polling oversight. The party claims that certain Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and presiding officers are biased towards BJP, an allegation the ruling party has dismissed as an admission of defeat.

reclaim its dominance in Ayodhya's political landscape. Losing Faizabad despite the Ram Mandir push was a wake-up call, and a victory in Milkipur would help the party reassert its strength, particularly among Scheduled Caste voters.

For Akhilesh Yadav, defending Milkipur is crucial to proving that his PDA strategy is still effective. A loss here could raise questions about SP's ability to hold onto its recent electoral gains, especially in the lead-up to the 2027 Uttar Pradesh assembly elections.

BJP's confidence is bolstered by its recent electoral track record-out of the nine bypolls held in Uttar Pradesh, the party has won seven, further tightening its grip on the state's politics.

Bhutanese King takes sacred dip at Sangam with CM Yogi



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Bhutanese King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, took a sacred dip at the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj on Tuesday.

He arrived in Lucknow on Monday to a warm welcome from the Chief Minister before heading to Prayagraj for the spiritual ritual.

After the holy dip at Sangam, King Wangchuck and CM Adityanath visited Akshay Vat and Bade Hanuman Temple for darshan. They also toured the Digital Mahakumbh Experience Center, witnessing the spiritual and digital essence of Mahakumbh 2025.

the largest spiritual events in the world, has drawn global attention, and the King's participation at the Triveni Sangam highlights the international significance of the sacred gathering.



TMC reading of budget is wrong: Railway Ministry

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Railway Ministry has roundly refuted the strong criticism made by the Trinamool Congress that the Union Budget has produced a "high sounding nothing" and that it is "full of deprivation for Bengal."

working on Amrit Bharat Station scheme with 101 stations. About 1290 km tracks have been added to the State he said. Also there were 10 Vande Bharat trains running in the State and that about 3,337 km tracks would be covered by Kavach system.

"The allocation which has been in Mamata Didi's time has been increased three times by (Prime Minister) Modi ji," Vaishnav said. Saying that the Railways has invested Rs 68,000 crores in Bengal Vaishnav urged the Bengal government to facilitate land acquisition for the completion of pending projects.

Another senior TMC leader and former State Finance Minister Dr Amit Mitra who is also the Financial Advisor of the Chief Minister asked, "what did this Budget do," adding, how, "social services has been reduced by 16 percent... The housing funds have reduced by 4.38 percent... More than 3 percent have been cut off in SC, ST development... And most importantly the allocation in food subsidy has been reduced by 5 percent."

Army, IITG sign MoU for research to replace traditional building materials with bamboo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI

The army and the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati (IITG) have signed an MoU for research, design and fabrication of "Epoxy bamboo-based composites" as replacement of traditional building materials used in the construction of bunkers in High Altitude Areas, a defence release said on Tuesday.



The signing of this MoU is a step towards innovation and collaboration, setting new standards for cooperation between government research, development institutions and military educational bodies to drive technological progress, Maj Gen Bawa said.

and addressing modern battlefield challenges, he said. Maj Gen Bawa also highlighted the collaborative role of academia, industry, researchers, and startups in fostering a whole-of-nation approach and expressed confidence that this partnership will contribute to groundbreaking achievements and support the nation's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

7000 people get letter of appointment from Bihar government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PATNA

The Nitish Kumar government in Bihar on Tuesday said it filled close to 7,000 posts in various departments, which had been lying vacant for years because of legal wrangles.



(anudeshak), to be posted in the Labour Department, got their letters of appointment at the same function. The Department of Water Resources, currently held by senior JD(U) leader Vijay Kumar Chaudhary, was the nodal authority for recruitment of all JEs.

challenged the process of recruitment in Patna High Court and Supreme Court," he said. "As the nodal department, we reviewed the roadblocks that came in the way of the chief minister's resolve to fill up vacant government posts. On the CM's advice, a proposal for resolving the impasse was submitted before the apex court which gave its nod for the recruitment process," the minister said.

for the highest number (2,338) of fresh appointees, followed by Planning and Development (1,273) Rural Works (759) and Road Construction (503). "Since 2005, when our leader took over as the chief minister, development has been the government's sole agenda. So much so that the opposition has realised that failure to admit that growth has taken place would be a political blunder and its leaders are now busy trying to claim their share of credit," he claimed.

The allusion was apparently to RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, who has had two short-lived tenures as the deputy chief minister, as a result of brief alliances between his party and the JD(U). Asked about Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Patna scheduled on Wednesday, the JD(U) leader said, "He often harms his own party... His refusal to accept that caste census was a brainchild of Nitish Kumar smacks of dishonesty."

Hindu Munnani holds massive protest in TN over Thiruparankundram hill issue

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MADURAI

The Hindu Munnani members staged a massive protest at Palanganatham here on Tuesday evening, barely hours after the Madras High Court gave its nod for the agitation at the new venue against the incident of a group of persons consuming non-vegetarian food at Thiruparankundram hill.



devotees defeats detention" on the occasion. Hindu Munnani state president Kadeshwara Subramaniam and scores of activists were arrested as they proceeded to Thiruparankundram to stage the protest against a group of people who consumed non-vegetarian food on the sacred hill. BJP leader Subramanian Swamy in a letter warned Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin about the dare consequences of supporting the people who trying to create mosque at the holy site. Many DMK Ministers

supported the mosque creation, said Swamy. BJP senior H Raja said the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court granted permission for the Hindu Munnani's protest. The court also directed the police to release all Hindu Munnani and BJP members either detained or kept under house arrest. The court had permitted the agitation to be staged between 5 and 6 pm at Palanganathan and not Thiruparankundram as originally sought by the protesters. BJP state chief K Annamalai

accused the ruling DMK of imposing the prohibitory order in Madurai to prevent the protest aimed to protect the sanctity of the temple and condemning the organisations that were against Hindus. In a post on social media platform X, he said the DMK government was conducting itself in a discriminatory manner in the events related to the Thiruparankundram Arulmigu Subrahmanya Swamy Temple Hill. He said the BJP leaders kept under house arrest should be released immediately. "There is a limit to everything. Are there separate rules for a DMK minister and the public? The DMK government should immediately stop supporting unnecessary activities that continue to harass the people," Annamalai said in the post.

prohibitory orders clamped by the Madurai district administration. About eight activists from the Hindu Munnani, which had announced an agitation have been detained by the police. Police said eight Hindu Munnani members have been detained as a precautionary measure. Condemning the arrest and also the administration's decision, Raja said when national agencies were involved in arresting terrorists hiding in Tamil Nadu, the state police resorted to arresting members of Hindu organisations that wanted to stage a peaceful protest on the Thiruparankundram hill. "This situation will change one day," he said. Terming the ban order as "suppression of democratic rights and feelings of devotees," Kadeshwara Subramaniam who came to Madurai with a "Vel" (spear) in his hand, said his organisation would not hesitate to launch a freedom struggle for Hindus from Madurai soil.

Revenue officials go on mass leave for a day in Haryana

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

The Naib Tehsildar and Tehsildar were gone on strike after alleged allegations of corruption in the Revenue Department and a case registered against a woman Tehsildar of Faridabad. The Tehsildars have accused that a female Tehsildar named Neha Saran in Faridabad was falsely implicated in a case. However, sources said that after revenue officials went on mass leave, sub-divisional magistrates (SDMs) registered deeds. Due to this, other revenue-related works, including the registry, remained stalled in all the tehsils of the district on Tuesday. People had to face a lot of trouble due to the strike. The Tehsildars alleged that a conspiracy was being hatched to defame them forcibly. Without any investigation



and evidence, they are being shown involved in corruption, which is not only wrong but also an attempt to harm their reputation. A member of the Haryana Revenue Officer Association said that if the government does not pay attention to their demands, the mass strike will continue. This will have a direct impact on the functioning of the tehsils and the common people will have to face problems. It may be noted that the government has included the names of 47 Tehsildars and

370 Patwaris in a list across the state regarding the alleged corruption in the Revenue Department. Apart from this, the names of 404 Tehsildars and 152 Patwaris have also been included in the list. Tehsildars say that despite putting the names on the list, the government has not taken any concrete action so far, due to which anger is increasing among revenue officers and employees. In support of the Tehsildars' strike, Patwaris also expressed their displeasure. They say that whatever allegations are being made regarding corruption, they should be investigated impartially. It is not right to blame all the employees without any basis. On average, more than 60 per cent of registrations take place in the 9 tehsils of Gurugram district on normal days, from which the government gets huge revenue.

Delhi decides

A 'do-or-die' for AAP, a prestige battle for the BJP and a fight for survival for Congress—Delhi heads to the polls today

In a battle of promises, power and prestige, Delhi votes today. The stage is set for the 2025 Delhi Assembly elections, with voters heading to the polls today and results expected on February 8. With 1.56 crore voters across 70 constituencies, the political atmosphere in the national capital is charged, reflective of the high stakes involved. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), led by Arvind Kejriwal, aims for a third consecutive term while the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Congress vie to reclaim relevance and power in the capital. The month-long campaign was intense, marked by fiery rhetoric and personal jabs. The BJP leaders accused AAP of corruption, branding their governance as 'AAP-da' (disaster). In return, Kejriwal took aim at the BJP accusing them of law and order failures and even alleging that the BJP-led Haryana government "mixed poison" in the Yamuna, framing it as a 'genocide' attempt. The Congress, meanwhile, targeted both AAP and BJP with accusations of corruption and inefficiency. This election, like many others, saw a flurry of promises aimed at wooing voters with tangible benefits. AAP pledged monthly payments to temple priests, free bus rides, and extensive schemes for youth and students. Both BJP and Congress promised subsidised cooking gas cylinders and financial support for women and unemployed youth. The BJP additionally promised Rs 21,000 for expecting mothers, while Congress offered Rs 8,500 per month to unemployed youth.



Security for the elections is tight, with over 30,000 police personnel and 220 paramilitary companies deployed across the city. Nearly 3,000 polling booths have been marked as sensitive. While assembly elections are a state matter, the fact that this election is taking place in Delhi, the nation's capital with a cosmopolitan character, gives it national significance. A win for AAP could solidify Kejriwal's model of governance and offer a template for other states and bolster its claim in other states, while a victory for BJP might signal a resurgence of the party in urban governance, reinforcing Modi's narrative of efficient governance. For Congress, a good showing could be the much-needed revival signal after a series of setbacks. As the voters cast their ballots, the outcome of these elections will not just shape Delhi's immediate future but could also influence the national political discourse. The Delhi elections, while significant, are not an ideal model for other states to replicate. The city's unique status as the national capital, with a mix of local and national issues influencing voter behaviour, creates an electoral landscape unlike any other. Additionally, the campaign narratives in Delhi tend to be dominated by high-pitched rhetoric and personality-driven politics rather than substantive policy debates. This makes the Delhi election an exception rather than a benchmark, highlighting the need for states to focus on governance models that prioritise long-term development over short-term electoral gains.

PICTALK



Labourers plant paddy saplings in a field, in Nadia

The digital age and the decline of meaningful connections

In a time when relationships are often reduced to fleeting digital interactions, staying connected through phone calls filled with warmth and laughter shows genuine care

There is a remarkable trait I have observed in my 92-year-old mother-in-law, a habit that sets her apart in an age where relationships are often reduced to fleeting digital exchanges. She remembers former colleagues, distant relatives, neighbours who once lived next door. And more than just remembering them, she stays in touch. At an age when many resign themselves to solitude, she picks up the phone and calls people from decades ago. Not just text messages, voice notes, or hurried "Hope you're well" followed by silence. She calls, she converses, she cares. It is a simple act, yet in today's world, it feels almost extraordinary. Her phone conversations are not perfunctory check-ins; they are rich tapestries of shared history, laughter, and updates on each other's lives. And the warmth with which she is received at the other end of the line is a testament to the bonds she has nurtured over the years. She is remembered because she remembers. She is loved because she has loved. It makes me wonder: What



are we losing in this hyper-connected yet increasingly impersonal world? Relationships today are often sustained by a string of forwarded messages, impersonal likes on social media, and hastily typed responses to keep up appearances. In the race for efficiency, we have sacrificed depth. Consider this: How many times have we opted to send a WhatsApp message instead of calling, simply because it's quicker? How often do we reply with an emoji rather than words that could convey something deeper? I suspect relationships have become more superficial, and perhaps we are to blame. It is easier to type a quick "Happy birthday!" than to call and hear the person's voice. It is more convenient to react to a post than to ask, "How have you really been?"

And yet, watching my mother-in-law, I realise that relationships, like wealth, require investment. The bonds we forge and sustain over time are the greatest savings we make in life. They are the human equivalent of a well-kept treasure-present when we need warmth, support, and belonging. One of the reasons we don't stay in touch is because we assume people are busy. They probably don't have time to talk. Or worse, we convince ourselves that if they really cared, they would call us too. And so, we let months slip into years, waiting for the other person to make the first move. But my mother-in-law doesn't wait. She doesn't hesitate to pick up the phone, regardless of how long it has been. And what's more, people respond to her with the same warmth and eagerness. It reminds me that relationships are not about keeping score; they are about keeping the connection alive. A strong social network isn't just about having company for celebrations; it is also about having shoulders to lean on in times of need. It is

about knowing that when life throws its uncertainties at us, there will be familiar voices to comfort us, guide us, and remind us that we are not alone. And yet, many people find themselves growing lonelier with age, not because they lack family or friends, but because they did not nurture those bonds. What would it take for us to revive the lost art of staying in touch? It doesn't take grand gestures. It doesn't require hours of free time. Sometimes, all it takes is a simple phone call. A heartfelt message. A conversation that goes beyond the surface. So here's a small invitation: Think of someone you haven't spoken to in a while—perhaps an old schoolmate, a former colleague, or a distant cousin. Instead of sending a message, call them. Ask about their life. Listen to their stories. Share something about yours. It may feel unfamiliar at first, but you may be surprised at how quickly the warmth returns.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and children's writing coach. She has published six books. Views are personal)



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Imbuing warrior ethos through strength

In Narendra Modi's cabinet, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh enjoys the optics of seniority, but not necessarily the authority that should come with it



ASHOK K MEHTA

In Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is *de jure* numero uno. He sits next to him at meetings and in Parliament and like most another minister, regularly invokes Modi's greatness and vision. The optics of seniority are excellent. So is his pedigree. He is a Thakur, dyed-in-the-wool Sanghi and twice President of BJP. His political graph starts as Education Minister to UP, CM Kalyan Singh. As Education Minister in 1992, his signal achievement was ending a regional malaise — copying in exams, sometimes with a knife dug into the desk.



Like infiltrators across LoC, invigilators feared to cross the red line. He had an ordinance passed making copying a non-bailable offence — the onus of proving oneself innocent was on the accused. Fourteen and 15-year-olds were sent to jail on charges of copying. The pass percentage in the UP high school board examination for Class X in 1991 was 58.03. In 1992, after the anti-copying law was put in place, it slipped to 14.7. He lost the 1993 assembly elections.

A great believer in astrology Singh was ambitious and usually took his cue from RSS leadership. He rose to become chief minister of UP, the second Thakur to do so. As president of BJP, he was asked to inform seven times MP, former Finance, Defence and Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh that he was no longer a member of the BJP (expelled). Jaswant had written the offending book - Jinnah - India Partition and Independence.

Following a stint as Home Minister, he became defence minister after Modi had shuffled around Arun Jaitley, Nirmala Sitharaman and Manohar Parrikar as defence minister. Last month at the Republic Day NCC rally he revealed he was in NCC and a physics teacher. His fondness for Dabang — strength and power — is well known but his association with the redoubtable Raja Bhaiyya of Kunda, famous for rearing crocodiles in his pond — is less known.

In the Westminister Parliamentary system cabinet ministers are selected by the PM and have to

be elected either directly or indirectly. But they are not grilled for confirmation as ministers by select committees as in the US presidential system. Otherwise, few would clear the viva, especially for the Defence Minister. Last week former Fox News commentator, Pete Hegseth former Army National Guard who was President Trump's most endangered cabinet choice went through hell before the Senate Armed Services Committee for his confirmation. Poor Pete! he was facing multiple allegations of abuse including sex and alcohol. He pledged to never drink alcohol if confirmed. Professionally he was well prepared, answering accurate questions on military equipment like the size of a 9mm bullet and the number of rounds in a carbine magazine. He told his examiners he would restore 'warrior ethos' in the armed services. Americans have much to worry about as the Chinese are catching up in technology, military and economic prowess. Singh has no similar worries. India has abandoned any catch-up with China, its main enemy. It hopes to make up the deterrent and capability gap through diplomacy as was evident from the meagre defence allocations (1.9 per cent of GDP) in last week's budget. After inflation and foreign exchange fluctuations, mod-



THE ARMED FORCES ARE EXPECTED TO EMPLOY FORCE MULTIPLIERS LIKE INVOKING CHANAKYA, IMBIBING ANCIENT MILITARY CRAFT AND BECOMING CONTEMPORARY THROUGH THE FUSION OF PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

ernisation funds have decreased. In a tweet, Singh described the budget as 'wonderful' and congratulated Sitharaman for fulfilling the resolve of PM Modi for Viksit Bharat. No defence minister, service chief or CDS has ever put his job on the line, asking for additional funds. Recently a French CDS did so. He had to resign when the Euro 1bn extra that he demanded was not provided. Later, President Macron reinstated him along with Euro 1bn.

For the last few years, Sitharaman has ceased mentioning defence allocation in budget presentations. The armed forces are expected to employ force multipliers like invoking Chanakya, imbibing ancient military craft and becoming contemporary through the fusion of past, present and future, as reflected by the new painting on this theme that replaced the once-in-1000-year surrender ceremony painting in the Army Chief's annex. For all his virtues — injecting Hindutva in a hitherto secular armed force, venerating weapons with religious symbols and motivating triservice warriors by pledging *mooch tod jawab*, Singh has ceded his area of responsibility to PMO and NSA. Former Defence Minister AK Antony in contrast was the Rock of Gibraltar, never letting the NSA or even the PM bypass him. So little reform got done. Singh is an affable team play-

er guided occasionally by a Defence Advisor, a retired Lt General. Recently at a function of the Directorate of Civilian Personnel of Naval Head Quarters, he eulogised the 'civilian in armed forces': "you are civilian before you join service; in some ways, you're civilian even while you serve; and civilian even after you have retired. Your families are also civilians". No mention of veterans! I envy Singh for his immaculately starched white kurta and flowing dhoti which reminds me of my era of razor-sharp starched olive greens.

Last month, Singh went to Madhya Pradesh accompanied by Army Chief Gen Dwidivedi. At Ujjain they prayed at the Maha Kaal temple, Dwidivedi kitted like Singh. Later Singh visited military institutions in Mhow. At the Army War College, he began reading his speech: "COAS, Gen Umeshji Dwidivedi; Commandant Armed...pause...kawn sa hai...?" someone prompted "War". Pause...someone repeated "War". "Yeah. War College, Lt Gen JS Shahi..." Singh might infuse warrior ethos in the armed forces but as an aspiring politician, will remain the bridesmaid, never the bride.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CANCER CASES RISING RAPIDLY

Madam — Cancer is a major health issue in Southeast Asia with high rates of incidence and mortality. WHO has reported that more than 2.3 million people are diagnosed with cancer each year. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be an 85 per cent increase in the number of new cancer cases and deaths in the WHO's South East Asia region. It is unfortunate. Among the new cases, breast, cervix, and lung cancer were the most frequently reported. Economic transitions, lifestyle changes, and rising obesity prevalence are increasing cancer risk in this region with existing risk factors such as tobacco and indoor-outdoor pollution. Although cancer is a life-threatening disease, it can be prevented and treated if detected early. Screening programmes such as breast self-examination and mammography substantially increase breast cancer survival. Options such as breast-conserving surgery and breast reconstruction surgery should be more available in the SEA region. Cervical cancer is the second most frequent cancer in the SEA region, caused by high-risk human papillomavirus (HPV), and can be prevented by vaccination. Tobacco is another major cause of cancer and preventable deaths worldwide. More actions are to be taken as tobacco and smoking are still the cause of many deaths in the region. Equal attention should be paid to less prevalent types of cancer. Governments need to include cancer treatment in national insurance as done in countries like Indonesia, not restricted to surgeries but allowing lifelong treatment. There is an urgent need for continued efforts from clinicians, researchers, and policymakers to collaborate and find the most effective strategies to serve cancer patients in the best way possible.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

Retired judges to boost efficiency



The reappointment of retired judges offers several advantages. Their vast experience and familiarity with legal procedures can enhance efficiency, especially in handling complex matters. Time-bound assignments ensure focus on specific case clusters, improving disposal rates without overburdening the regular bench. Additionally, this reduces the dependency on fresh judicial appoint-

ments, which often face administrative delays. However, concerns remain regarding the potential impact on judicial independence, as government approval could raise questions about executive interference. Transparency in the selection process, clear tenure guidelines and defined performance metrics are essential to mitigate these risks. Moreover, the absence of a concrete framework for lower courts highlights a critical gap. Given that the bulk of pending cases lie at the subordinate level, swift policy formulation for these courts is imperative. This initiative reflects the judiciary's proactive stance in judicial reforms, recognising that traditional measures are inadequate for the scale of India's legal backlog.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

PROMOTE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Madam — India's need and its policy related to power are yet to come close to each other. The allocation of Rs 20,000 crore is

a mere token of its gesture, and it falls short of the fund it requires to generate 100 GW of power. In fact, this is the same case with other segments of renewable energy also. It needs a lot of political will to do away with the fossil fuels, as the investments and commercial interest of the private players are huge. It needs a lot of social commitment towards the future generations to clear the climate challenges and pass on a safe earth to live in. All over the world, the power of profit is predominating over the safety of the people to live on this secured earth. Recurrent costs in nuclear energy are less, and it makes it the most economical one. But the amount of safety measures to be taken up discourages many countries from thinking of this segment. More than fear of falling lives, the fear of falling profits to the private players in the field seems to be dragging the government from going ahead at a speed it requires. There is a dire need to extend substantial subsidies and promote renewable energies, including nuclear ones.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

EGGS ESSENTIAL FOR NUTRITION

Madam — According to the data, around 35-40 per cent of children in rural areas in Maharashtra are underweight, and the highest rate of malnutrition is found in North Maharashtra. Lack of access to nutritious food is one of the major factors behind malnutrition. With this backdrop, it is surprising to learn why the state government dropped eggs from the mid-day meals. Egg is a major source of protein and its substitute, pulses, are costlier than eggs, so eggs should remain a core part of mid-day meals, and if any student does not want to eat it, he can skip it. Earlier states like Madhya Pradesh and Goa also made such decisions, while it should be noted that a few states in Southern India have added the number of eggs given to children to ensure protein requirements are met. Such drastic decisions could prove detrimental to the families living below the poverty line.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN
**A DARK CLOUD BEFORE
THE GOLDEN DAWN**

Are we past the point of no return, or is there still hope for a new dawn?



RAJYOGI BRAHM KUMAR NIKUNJJI

None of us would deny the fact that the whole world is in chaos today. The human race is in more pain and suffering than ever before. The root cause of this is, because three key powers i.e., religion, politics and science that run the world have miserably failed to function by their essential characteristics to look after the wellbeing of people at large. These powers have deviated from their normal course, lost their essential traits and degraded to the lowest level, which is quite visible from the sorry state of affairs across the world.

The power of religion which was meant to show human beings the righteous path which is necessary to maintain social harmony has today become a perpetrator of conflict. It's evident from the facts that religion has failed to uphold moral values in society which can be seen in the form of ever-increasing molestation and sexual assault cases at homes, workplaces, public places and even at schools and colleges that are considered temples of learning.

The historic Nirbhaya case is still very fresh in the minds of people who were shattered to see the height of barbarism to which a human can



go. Today the power of politics is also in a state of crisis. No government anywhere in the world can claim that they are free from corruption. Laws that are made for the benefit of the common public are turning out to be mere eyewash. People in power go scot-free despite breaking several laws, whereas a common man keeps paying penalties on various occasions for not abiding by the law.

On one side governments talk of clean fuels & make pollution checks mandatory, and on the other side, they continue to add a greater number of vehicles to roads each year to please the automotive sector. So, instead of reducing vehicular traffic by introducing greater modes of public transport, the government is making more and more cars accessible to the public at cheap rates. Is this right? Science, the third key power that runs the world, emerged as a result of man's search for a better life. It harnessed natural resources to channel them into means useful for human consumption. However, today the scenario is such that the energy tapped from nature has gone out of human control.

The use of science in violating the laws of nature has become the root cause of environmental imbalance leading to a rise in natural calamities which is evident by the recent report by the UN Panel on Climate Change making it crystal clear that large-scale global warming has triggered the melting of polar ice caps which is the biggest danger facing humankind. Modern scientific advancement that was meant to help humans live a better life has led to a proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, endangering global peace and harmony. So, in short, we can say that three powers governing the world have gone haywire & they are steering us to mass destruction. But, what's more surprising is that despite ample knowledge of this phenomenon, nobody seems inclined to save the situation. Hence it won't be exaggerating to say that we have surely come to the point of no return, because with scarcity of non-renewable natural resources, spread of diseases, population explosion, social chaos and nuclear threat accompanied by natural disasters, the world scenario looks utterly scary. Under such darkness, the common man is bound to look UP to seek Almighty Supreme's help as the last resort to safety. Just imagine, when the world reaches its highest peak of unrest, it will be a sight that only a few of us would be able to bear because the kind of destruction that the world has prepared for is bound to shake the conscience of the most stone-hearted and guilty. Perhaps this impending destruction and clearing of human conscience is like a silver lining in the dark cloud which is perhaps the only way to the golden morning that we human souls have been endlessly waiting for. Remember !! Many hidden truths are often unobserved, not invisible.

(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist; views are personal)

A fierce three-way battle for the capital's throne

With a closely contested fight and shifting voter sentiments, the Delhi election results could send ripples across the national political landscape


 RAMAKANT
CHAUDHARY

Chilly Delhi, though, the blitzkrieg of a high-octane election campaign, not bordering on the sort of "AAP-da" while going at hammer and tongs of Tu-Tu-Mai-Mai storm during a prime-time TV news show, for claiming Delhi Ki Kursi, has heated the political cauldron. A strong 1.55 crore voters of Delhi are basking in the sunshine of campaign songs for the Delhi Assembly Elections 2025: "Bahane Nahi Badlav Chahiye..." rendered by BJP against the AAP's Bhojpuri-laced tagline "Babua Phir Se CM Hoyihe... Delhi Ke Badal Dihe Surat, Suhawan, Khubsurat Ho, A Rajaji..." From all perspectives, who will win the ballot battle?

Will AAP score a hat-trick? Or will the resurgent Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), relying on Prime Minister Narendra Modi as its face, hit Mauka (anti-incumbency) Pe Chauka? Or will the Grand Old Party deliver the googly of "Har Jarurat Hogi Puri, Dilli Mein Congress Hai Jaruri," an effort to regain its lost electoral ground in the triangular contest? The fate of Delhi will be sealed on February 5 when people exercise their franchise. And the D-day, February 8, when the results will be announced, will blow the conch of the new beginning of the 70-member eighth Vidhan Sabha.

The Phalodi Satta Bazar, which earlier showed AAP crossing the majority mark of 36, has revised its estimates. The Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP—whose mainstay of incorruptibility is being challenged by the Congress and BJP, which have levelled allegations against its top brass leaders—could clock a significantly reduced tally this time around.

According to the latest revised estimates, the BJP—which looks bullish after its recent victories in Maharashtra and Haryana—may bag around 31 seats, a good 5 seats short of the majority mark. A projection of a wafer-thin margin of victory between the AAP-BJP fierce slugfest has made party workers and strategists somersault to pump up their tally amidst the Delhi election campaign hitting its last leg.

To woo voters, manifestos, guarantees, and welfare schemes appear to be tearing apart the atmosphere of the city-state. The Delhi Assembly Elections 2025 appear to be a big freebie face-off. Mahila Samman Yojana, Sanjeevani Yojana, Sankal Patra, Ayushman Bharat Scheme, Yuva Udaan Yojana, Pyari Didi Yojana, et al—innocent voters find themselves in an Alice-in-Wonderland.

BJP Resurgence
Winning the Delhi assembly poll has become an Achilles' heel for the PM Modi-led BJP while the saffron juggernaut swept Delhi's seven seats in the Lok Sabha Elections in 2014, 2019 and 2024. Having last won the Delhi election in 1993, the BJP wants to turn the tide this time by dismantling the proverbial equation of Modi for PM and Kejriwal for CM. Riding on the cusp of being the only party among the three in 2020 to have recorded an increased vote share, the BJP is leaving no stone unturned to repeat this achievement in 2025 as well. For the BJP, the road to victory runs through North and Northwest Delhi. In the



HAVING LAST WON THE DELHI ELECTION IN 1993, THE BJP WANTS TO TURN THE TIDE THIS TIME BY DISMANTLING THE PROVERBIAL EQUATION OF MODI FOR PM AND KEJRIWAL FOR CM

Wazirpur constituency, Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over keys to more than 1,650 flats to slum residents, creating a significant connection with local voters. Key areas like Chandni Chowk, Northwest Delhi, and Northeast Delhi have become pivotal grounds for the BJP's potential resurgence. The BJP should prioritize the 38 constituencies where it secured over 40% of the vote share in 2020. Out of these, the party narrowly lost 17 seats to AAP by less than five percentage points but managed to win eight. These represent easier opportunities to gain ground. For the remaining 21 seats, the BJP will aim to capitalize on anti-incumbency sentiments against AAP to sway voters in its favour.

AAP Strategy
AAP of 2025, which might dominate the elections as the C-Voter survey suggests, looks different from its 2020 avatar. The Lok Sabha Elections 2024 speaks volumes that APP, despite an alliance with Congress, drew nought in all seven parliamentary seats of Delhi. Kejriwal's AAP looks lacking in sympathy as experts opine. Besieged with corruption charges and stern anti-incumbency, AAP has meticulously evolved strategies to launch popular welfare schemes to outweigh the allegations. The party leaders are burning the midnight oil to retain floating voters who keep changing allegiance during the Lok Sabha polls and assembly elections. Kejriwal's poll manoeuvre is trying hard to win the hearts of Dalit and Muslim voters. AAP has

viscerally attracted voters from the Purvanchal community—a key demographic in Delhi hailing from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand that account for around 40 per cent of the electorate and holds a significant sway on 27 seats—by connecting the community on the ground level as the party, according to media grapevine, has held around 600 meetings in this context.

Congress Revival
With nothing to lose, Congress, which went from dominating Delhi's electoral landscape from 1998 to 2013 to not having a single MLA since, has entered the poll fray late yet remains determined to lock horns with AAP and dislodge the Kejriwal-led establishment from power, avenging the campaign that cost the UPA government heavily over a decade ago. The results of the 2022 Delhi Municipal polls, in which Congress won five wards in the Northeast district areas that were hit by the riots, buttress the perception that the minority community is disillusioned with AAP.

This electoral scenario could reinforce the poll fortune of the BJP, especially the vote bank of Muslims—21.6 lakh in the national capital—who have Congress in their heart and AAP in mind. The Muslim voters could play a key role in six assembly seats: Babarpur (35 per cent), Okhla (43 per cent), Seelampur (50 per cent), Matia Mahal (48 per cent), Mustafabad (36 per cent), and Ballimaran (38 per cent). In that sense, if Muslims—accounting for 12.86 per cent of Delhi's pop-

ulation—are divided between Congress and AAP, BJP will have the upper hand. The Delhi Elections 2025 is deemed the cynosure of all states' eyes. The domino effect of its results, which will be declared on February 8, could rattle the poll pitch in Bihar, West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Kerala, where assembly polls are slated to take place in 2025-26. If BJP wins, it will boost the image of the National Democratic Alliance, positioning BJP on top to record a hat-trick after winning Maharashtra and Haryana. On the other side, the victory of AAP will zoom out the political credibility of Arvind Kejriwal as a principal challenger to PM Modi. Also, if it loses the poll battle, the ramifications of which will give a jolt to Punjab, where AAP is in power. Trying to make the high-decibel contest triangular, Congress has put a concentrated campaign in the boroughs dominated by Dalits and minorities. If the grand old party succeeds in regaining the space it had in 2013—after being relegated to the third position behind BJP and AAP, bagging only eight seats—Congress will muster the courage to reach the position it held in 2008 when it secured 43 seats with around 40 per cent of the votes. So far in the campaign, there is no Kejriwal wave, nor is BJP having tailwinds. In the BJP vs AAP battle, only February 8 will decide who will get the reins of the Delhi Sultanate.

(The writer is a senior journalist and currently working with PRP Group as Content Head; views are personal)

Budget 2025: Bold reforms and innovations to put startups in growth trajectory

Key measures, including an expanded Credit Guarantee Scheme, higher Mudra loan limits, position India as a powerhouse for entrepreneurship and self-reliance

The Union Budget 2025 has laid a strong foundation for a transformative leap in India's startup and MSME ecosystem. At a time when entrepreneurship is fueling economic growth and job creation, the government has introduced a series of strategic measures aimed at fostering financial inclusion, innovation, and global competitiveness.



POOJA SINGH

A key highlight of this budget is the enhanced access to capital. The expansion of the Credit Guarantee Scheme will enable MSMEs and startups to secure funding without collateral, addressing a significant challenge for emerging businesses. Additionally, the substantial increase in the Mudra loan limit will allow early-stage entrepreneurs to scale their

ventures without financial constraints. Simplified tax structures, reduced corporate tax rates, and streamlined GST compliance will further ease cash flow issues, enabling businesses to reinvest in growth. Beyond financial incentives, the budget embraces a futuristic vision by

integrating infrastructure development with digital transformation. The allocation for plug-and-play industrial parks and logistics hubs will provide businesses with ready-to-use infrastructure, significantly reducing setup costs and expediting time-to-market.

The establishment of e-commerce export hubs will open new global opportunities, particularly benefiting sectors such as manufacturing, agritech, and handicrafts. Furthermore, a renewed focus on AI-driven automation and deep-tech innovation ensures that Indian startups remain competitive on a global scale. A crucial aspect of this budget is its emphasis on regulatory simplification and skill development. By easing compliance

norms, streamlining FDI regulations, and encouraging private sector collaboration in skilling initiatives, the government is fostering an environment where startups can concentrate on scaling rather than navigating bureaucratic complexities. These measures position India as a dynamic startup hub, reinforcing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Ankit Kumar, CEO of Skye Air, lauded the government's initiatives, stating, "The Union Budget 2025 strengthens India's startup and MSME ecosystem with a Rs 10,000 crore fund, ensuring better access to capital and innovation support. Simplified tax structures and compliance reforms will further ease operations, fostering growth and scalability. By integrating dig-



ital infrastructure with financial incentives, the budget paves the way for startups and MSMEs to expand, innovate, and compete globally." The budget also provides a significant boost to innovation and research. The extension of the period of incorporation for startups by five years is expected to

encourage entrepreneurship. Additionally, the allocation of Rs 20,000 crore to support private-sector-driven research and infrastructure expansion at IITs will create a fertile ground for technological advancements.

The introduction of the Credit Guarantee Startup Scheme (CGSS) and the Customised Credit Card for Micro Enterprises (ME-Card) will improve access to credit for startups and MSMEs, fueling growth and development. Ashish Gupta, CEO of Fretbox, remarked, "The Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme for MSMEs (MCGS-MSME) will facilitate collateral-free loans, giving a major boost to the manufacturing sector. These initiatives will empower the next generation

of entrepreneurs, researchers, and innovators, and we look forward to seeing the tangible results of these efforts." By enhancing geospatial data capabilities, this initiative will equip businesses with better insights for logistics, infrastructure, and resource management. Saurabh Rai, CEO of Arahas Technologies, highlighted its impact: "Leveraging AI and advanced computing, startups can drive innovation in sectors like agritech, smart mobility, and climate tech. The mission's open data-sharing framework will reduce dependency on foreign sources, fostering self-reliance and accelerating growth." The budget also prioritizes boosting exports and manufacturing. Dr. Mahesh Gupta, CMD of Kent RO, praised the

initiatives, saying, "By facilitating easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and tackling non-tariff measures, the government is addressing critical pain points for exporters. The customized credit cards for MSMEs, fund of funds for startups, and expanded fund-of-funds will undoubtedly improve capital access and stimulate growth. Enhancing investment and turnover limits for MSMEs will also provide a much-needed boost to their operational efficiency." Overall, the Union Budget 2025 signals a bold commitment to making India a global leader in entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation.

(The author is a senior technical writer at Ksolves, views are personal)

EU leaders scramble to avoid US friction, tariff war

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

After three years spent trying to deter Russia from destroying Ukraine, European Union leaders grappled on Monday with how to respond to a major ally who appears determined to start a trade war or even seize part of their territory. It would “be a cruel paradox if, during the time of this direct Russian threat and Chinese expansion,” the EU and the United States might end up in a “conflict among allies,” said Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, whose country currently holds the EU’s rotating presidency. Since taking office last month, US President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on EU imports and refused to rule out military force to take control of Greenland, an autonomous territory of NATO ally Denmark. Trump has also mystified

Europeans by showing little sign of how he intends to end the war in Ukraine within six months as promised, let alone in a day, as he boasted while campaigning last year. “We have to do everything to avoid this totally unnecessary and stupid tariff war or trade war,” the Polish prime minister told reporters in Brussels, where EU leaders met for talks on boosting and improving military spending and ramping up Europe’s defense industry. Tusk said Trump’s threats amount to “a serious test” of European unity, and “in a very strange context, because it’s the first time where we have such a problem among allies.” French President Emmanuel Macron said the EU is “a power that stands its ground” and that if hit with tariffs, the 27-nation bloc “would have to make itself respected.” He said Trump’s threats are “pushing Europeans to be more united, more active in addressing their collective security challenges.” Trump slapped tariffs on European steel and aluminum during his first term, and EU leaders have already been in contact with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau since Canada imposed retaliatory duties on US goods in response to a 25 per cent tariff levied by Trump. The US president later on Monday agreed to a 30-day pause on his tariff threat as America’s two largest trading partners took steps to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen underlined that ties between the bloc and the United States are part of “our most consequential relationship. It is fundamental to promoting peace, security and prosperity.” But she warned that “there are clearly new challenges and growing uncertainty” and the

EU stands ready to defend itself. “When targeted unfairly or arbitrarily, the European Union will respond firmly,” von der Leyen told reporters after the meeting. Meanwhile, Denmark’s prime minister again insisted on Monday that Greenland isn’t for sale and called for a robust response from the EU should U.S. Trump press ahead with his threat to take control of the island. “I will never support the idea of fighting allies. But of course, if the US puts tough terms on Europe, we need a collective and robust response,” Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told reporters. Last month, Trump left open the possibility that the American military might be used to secure Greenland, as well as the Panama Canal. “We need Greenland for national security purposes,” he said. Frederiksen said she has “great support” from her EU partners



Britain’s Prime Minister Keir Starmer, left, speaks with European Council President Antonio Costa as he arrives for an EU summit at the Egmont Palace in Brussels, Monday.

AP/PTI

Trump and Netanyahu hold talks

US Prez warns ‘no guarantees’ Gaza peace will hold

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu are set to meet Tuesday as the Israeli prime minister faces competing pressure from his right-wing coalition to end a temporary truce against Hamas militants in Gaza and from war-weary Israelis who want the remaining hostages home and the 15-month conflict to end. Trump is guarded about the long-term prospects for the truce, even as he takes credit for pressuring Hamas and Israel into the hostage and ceasefire agreement that went into effect the day before he returned to office last month. “I have no guarantees that the peace is going to hold,” Trump told reporters Monday. The leaders’ talks are expected to touch on a long-sought Israel-Saudi Arabia normalization deal and concerns about Iran’s nuclear program, but hammering out the second phase of the hostage deal will be at the top of the agenda.

Netanyahu’s arrival in Washington for the first foreign leader visit of Trump’s second term comes as the prime minister’s popular support is lagging. Netanyahu is in the middle of week-long testimony in an ongoing corruption trial that centres on allegations he exchanged favours with media moguls and wealthy associates. He has decried the accusations and said he is the victim of a “witch hunt.” Being seen with Trump, who is popular in Israel, could help distract the public from the trial and boost Netanyahu’s standing. It’s Netanyahu’s first travel outside Israel since the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants in November for him, his former defense minister and Hamas’ military chief, accusing them of crimes against humanity during the war in Gaza. The US does not recognise the ICC’s authority over its citizens or territory. Netanyahu and Trump’s Mideast envoy Steve Witkoff on Monday began the daunting

work of brokering the next phase of a ceasefire agreement. But Netanyahu is under intense pressure from hard-right members of his governing coalition to abandon the ceasefire and resume fighting in Gaza to eliminate Hamas. Bezalel Smotrich, one of Netanyahu’s key partners, vows to topple the government if the war isn’t relaunched, a step that could lead to early elections. Hamas, which has reasserted control over Gaza since the ceasefire began last month, has said it will not release hostages in the second phase without an end to the war and Israeli forces’ full withdrawal. Netanyahu, meanwhile, maintains that Israel is committed to victory over Hamas and the return of all hostages captured in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war. Mira Resnick, a former deputy assistant secretary of state for Israeli and Palestinian affairs, said Trump may “have little patience for political woes of Netanyahu if it gets in the way

China hits back with tariffs on US goods, probes Google

PTI ■ BEIJING

China countered President Donald Trump’s tariffs on Chinese products with tariffs of its own on multiple US imports Tuesday as well as announcing an antitrust investigation into Google and other trade measures. US tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico also were to go into effect Tuesday, though Trump agreed to a 30-day pause on his threats against Mexico and Canada as they acted to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. Trump planned to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days. This isn’t the first round of tit-for-tat actions between the two countries. China and the US had engaged in a trade war in 2018 when Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods and China responded in kind. This time, analysts said, China is much better prepared to counter. “They have a much more developed export control regime. We depend on them for a lot of critical minerals: gallium, germanium, graphite, a host of others. So ... they could put some significant harm on our economy,” said Philip Luck, a former State Department official and director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on Monday at a forum. The slew of measures announced Tuesday cut across different sectors of the economy, from energy to individual US companies. China said it would implement a 15 per cent tariff on coal and liquefied natural gas products as well as a 10 per cent tariff on crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-engine cars imported from the US. The tariffs would take effect next Monday. “The US’s unilateral tariff increase seriously violates the rules of the World Trade Organisation,” the State Council Tariff Commission said in a statement. “It is not only unhelpful in solving its own problems, but also damages normal economic and trade cooperation between China and the US.” China is the world’s largest importer of liquefied natural gas, with its top suppliers being Australia, Qatar and Malaysia. The US, which is the biggest exporter of LNG globally, does

not significantly export LNG to China.

In 2023, the US exported 173,247 million cubic feet of LNG to China, representing about 2.3 per cent of total natural gas export volumes, according to data released by the US Energy Information Administration.

Further export controls on critical minerals. In addition to the tariffs, China announced export controls on several elements critical to the production of modern high-tech products. They include tungsten, tellurium, bismuth, molybdenum and indium, many of which are designated as critical minerals by the US Geological Survey, meaning they are essential to US economic or national security that have supply chains vulnerable to disruption.

The export controls are in addition to ones China placed in December on key elements such as gallium used in manufacturing.

6 hurt in West Bank; attack assailant killed

Jerusalem (PTI): At least six people were injured in a shooting attack at a checkpoint in the Israeli-occupied West Bank early Tuesday morning, according to the Israeli military and area hospitals. The Israeli military said an attacker fired at soldiers at a checkpoint in the village of Tayasis, which is in the northern West Bank. In a tense exchange, soldiers returned fire and the attacker was killed, the military added. Israeli hospitals said they had received a total of six people injured in the shooting attack. Israeli media reported the injured are soldiers and at least two of them were critically injured. Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group praised the attack but neither claimed responsibility for it. Israel has carried out an extensive operation in nearby Jenin over the past weeks to clamp down on what Israel said is militant activity in the city, as soldiers and armored bulldozers have caused widespread damage and destroyed scores of homes.

Rubio to push Trump’s migration plans amid USAID turmoil

PTI ■ SAN SALVADOR

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was visiting El Salvador on Monday to press a friendly government to do more to meet Trump administration demands for a major crackdown on immigration amid turmoil in Washington over the status of the government’s main foreign development agency. Rubio arrived in San Salvador shortly after watching a U.S.-funded deportation flight with 43 migrants leave from Panama for Colombia. That came a day after Rubio delivered a warning to Panama that unless the government moved immediately to reduce or eliminate China’s presence at the Panama Canal, the US would act to do so. Migration, though, was the main issue of the day as it will be for the next stops on his five-nation Central American tour of Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic after Panama and El Salvador. President Donald Trump’s administration prioritizes

‘El Salvador to accept US deportees of any nationality and violent American criminals’

San Salvador (PTI): US Secretary of State Marco Rubio says El Salvador’s president has offered to accept deportees from the US of any nationality as well as violent American criminals now imprisoned in the United States. President Nayib Bukele “has agreed to the most unprecedented, extraordinary, extraordinary migratory agreement anywhere in the world,” Rubio said. “He’s also offered to do the same for dangerous criminals currently in custody and serving their sentence in the United States even though they’re US citizens or legal residents.” US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was visiting El Salvador on Monday to press a friendly government to do more to meet Trump administration demands for a major crackdown on immigration amid turmoil in Washington over the status of the government’s main foreign development agency. Rubio arrived in San Salvador shortly after watching a US-funded deportation flight with 43 migrants leave from Panama for Colombia. That came a day after Rubio delivered a warning to Panama that unless the government moved immediately to reduce or eliminate China’s presence at the Panama Canal, the US would act to do so. Migration, though, was the

main issue of the day as it will be for the next stops on his five-nation Central American tour of Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic after Panama and El Salvador. President Donald Trump’s administration prioritizes stopping people from making the journey to the United States and has worked with regional countries to boost immigration enforcement on their borders as well as to accept deportees from the United States. One idea being floated is to negotiate a so-called “safe third country” agreement with El Salvador that would allow for non-Salvadorian migrants in the US to be deported to El Salvador. Officials have suggested this might be an option for Venezuelan gang members convicted of crimes in the United States should Venezuela refuse to accept them. When asked about such an agreement, Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele said they were finalizing one and it would be announced by Rubio. Bukele said it was a broad agreement “that does not have precedent in the history of the relationship, not just of the United States with El Salvador but rather I think in Latin America.” Human rights activists have warned, however, that El Salvador lacks a consistent policy for the treatment of asylum seekers and refugees and that such an agreement might not be limited to violent criminals. Manuel Flores, the secretary general of the leftist opposition party Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, criticized any such plan, saying it would signal that the region is Washington’s “backyard to dump the garbage.”



Red Cross personnel load bodies of victims of the fighting between Congolese government forces and M23 rebels in a truck in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, Monday as the U.N. health agency said 900 died in the fight.

Georgia’s Russia-style crackdown jails dozens

PTI ■ TBILISI

Jailed journalist Mzia Amaghlobeli gets weaker every day as her hunger strike has reached three weeks in Rustavi, a town near the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, her lawyer says. Now the 49-year-old is having difficulty walking the short distance from her cell to the room where they usually meet, and human rights officials, colleagues and family fear for her life. Amaghlobeli was arrested January 12 during an anti-government protest in the coastal city of Batumi, one of over 40 people in custody on criminal charges from a series of demonstrations that have hit the South Caucasus nation of 3.7 million in recent months. The political turmoil follows a parliamentary election that was won by the ruling Georgian Dream party, although its opponents allege the vote was rigged. Its outcome pushed Georgia further into Russia’s orbit of influence. Georgia aspired to join the European Union, but the party suspended accession talks with the bloc after the election. As it sought to cement its grip on power, Georgian Dream has cracked down on freedom of assembly and expression in what the opposition says is similar to President Vladimir Putin’s actions in neighbouring Russia, its former imperial ruler. Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze defended the actions of his government, accusing the protesters of seeking “to inflict harm on the state” and trying to stage a revolution akin to the uprising in

Ukraine in 2014 that ousted a pro-Kremlin leader. Georgian Dream last year adopted a series of laws similar to ones in Russia imposing restrictions on rights groups and media outlets and severely curtailing LGBTQ+ rights. Those laws, condemned by the EU, also drew protests. Amaghlobeli, founder of two prominent independent media outlets in Georgia, faces charges of assaulting a police officer, with a possible prison sentence of up to seven years. Many of those detained by police have reported being abused physically and verbally by police or while in detention. International human rights groups are sounding the alarm. “All of that paints a picture of an aggressive campaign to halt these demonstrations of which the large majority are reported to have been peaceful,” Alice Jill Edwards, the UN special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, told The Associated Press. A video released by the media showed Amaghlobeli slapping Batumi’s police chief in the protest. Witnesses and her lawyers say police physically and verbally abused her beforehand, and the slap was her reaction to it. The abuse continued while in custody, when the police chief “spat in Mzia’s face and denied her access to drinking water or using the toilet,” her lawyer, Juba Sikharulidze, told AP. Authorities were investigating the accusations, the lawyer said. The Interior Ministry has not responded to an AP request for comment. Kobakhidze has said authorities would investigate any excessive use of force, but in Amaghlobeli’s case, her actions came “in front of cameras.” Amaghlobeli, who founded the independent media sites Batumelebi and Netgazeti, began a hunger strike in protest, and now Georgian and Western rights advocates say her life is in danger. Michael O’Flaherty, the Council of Europe’s commissioner for human rights, told Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty that Amaghlobeli’s situation “requires urgent action.” This is not just a matter of freedom and imprisonment – this is a matter of life and death. And I very much hope that the authorities will act with the necessary speed in this extremely difficult situation,” O’Flaherty was quoted by the outlet as saying.

'Sri Lanka must unite to achieve economic freedom'

PTI ■ COLOMBO President Anura Kumara Dissanayake on Tuesday said that Sri Lanka must work in unison to achieve economic freedom rather than yield to vulnerabilities within the global economic system.



Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake, center, hoists the Sri Lankan national flag during the country's 77th Independence Day ceremony in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Tuesday.

Pak to send registered Afghan refugees back to their country

Islamabad (PTI): The Pakistan government has devised a plan to move registered Afghan refugees out of Islamabad and Rawalpindi and gradually repatriate them back to their country.

US, Philippine aircraft patrol disputed shoal region guarded by China

Manila (PTI): US and Philippine fighter aircraft staged a joint patrol and training Tuesday over a disputed South China Sea shoal where Chinese fighter jets fired flares last year to drive away a Philippine aircraft, Philippine officials said.

Force said. In August last year, two Chinese air force aircraft flew close then fired flares in the path of a Philippine air force plane on routine patrol over the Scarborough Shoal in actions that were strongly condemned and protested by the Philippine government, military officials said.

Public Notice

Be it known to all that I, ASHOK MEHTA S/O LATE SHREE CHAND MEHTA R/O FLAT NO. K-1, LITARA CHS LTD. PLOT NO. K-3, TARA APPTS, ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI-19, am the mutatee/legal owner of FLAT NO. K-11, TARA CHS LTD. PLOT NO. K-3, TARA APPTS, ALAKNANDA, NEW DELHI-19, which is allotted by the DDA. I have lost the Original Allotment-Cum-Demand letter of the above Flat FR/NER to this effect has lodged in P. S. Crime Branch, Delhi vide LR No. 2556956/2025, Dated 04-02-2025.

Public Notice

Public at large is hereby informed that Mr. Dev Raj Mehta died intestate on 12-01-2020 and leaving behind the only legal heirs namely: 1. Mrs. Santosh Mehta (wife) 2. Mr. Munesh Mehta (son) 3. Mr. Bhupesh Mehta (son)

Russian attacks near Ukraine's nuclear sites raise preparedness concerns

PTI ■ KYIV Moscow's renewed attacks on Ukraine's electricity infrastructure this winter have heightened scrutiny over the Ukrainian Energy Ministry's failure to protect the country's most critical energy facilities near nuclear power sites.

routing from nuclear power plants are a vital component of Ukraine's nuclear energy infrastructure — powering homes, schools, hospitals, and other critical civilian infrastructure. Given Ukraine's heavy reliance on nuclear energy, military attacks on these switchyards would be devastating, severely impacting civilian life and undermining the resilience of the energy grid," said Marcy R. Fowler, head of the office for research and analysis at Open Nuclear Network, a programme of the US-based NGO PAX sapiens that focuses on reducing nuclear risk.

Public Notice

This is to inform the general public that Smt. Kamlesh is the owner Plot no. C-17 (old), new Plot No. C-306 out of Kharsa no. 1007, area measuring 186.5 sq. yds., situated at Jarakpuri Hadobast village Paswandi, margana, Lohi, Jhansi & Dist. Ghazabad, U.P. through Sale Deed dated 18.10.2006 as coc. No. 11496 executed by Mr. Subhash Chand Ujjain in favour of Mr. Gurneal Chand Bhatnagar in respect of said plot. Later, Mr. Gurneal Chand Bhatnagar died on 15.10.2017. His death. Gf Doc dated 30.01.2025 as coc. No. 1287 was executed by his legal heirs i.e. Mr. Kamal & Mr. Kulvir Singh in favour of Smt. Kamlesh in respect of their share in the said property.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Tuesday, 11th February, 2025, inter-alia, to consider and approve the Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter ended on 31st December, 2024. The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website www.bubical900.com

Man charged with stabbing Salman Rushdie will soon go on trial

PTI ■ MAYVILLE In 2022, Salman Rushdie was about to deliver a lecture before a live audience in western New York when a man ran towards him and plunged a knife into the author's hand as he raised it in self-defence. "After that there are many blows, to my neck, to my chest, to my eye, everywhere," Rushdie recalled in a memoir that followed. "I feel my legs give way, and I fall." In the coming weeks, Rushdie is expected to return to the same New York coun-

ty to recount the experience as one of the first witnesses in the trial of the man charged with wielding the knife that day, Hadi Matar. Jury selection is scheduled to begin Tuesday. Matar, 27, of Fairview, New Jersey, has pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder and assault. Under different circumstances, Rushdie's book, which details his account of that day and his recovery, might offer important evidence in the Aug. 12, 2022, attack that left the 77-year-old blind in his right eye and his hand permanently damaged.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Krishnamma, Mother of No.15825871Y Hav Suresh Gorsupati, R/o- Garida (Vill & Post), Gurla (Md), Dist- Vizianagaram, A.P- 535217, have changed my name from Krishnamma to Gorsupati Krishnamma, vide affidavit dated 04/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1386)C

I, Thavudu, Father of No.15825871Y Hav Suresh Gorsupati, R/o- Garida (Vill & Post), Gurla (Md), Dist- Vizianagaram, A.P- 535217, have changed my name from Thavudu to Gorsupati Thoudu, vide affidavit dated 04/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1387)C

I, Vaghela Avantikaben Manubhai W/o- No.16027819K Rfn Zala Vijaykumar Rameshbhai, R/o- At Post-Badarakha, Ahmedabad, Gujarat- 387810, have changed my name from Vaghela Avantikaben Manubhai to Zala Avantikaben Vijaykumar, vide affidavit dated 04/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1388)C

I, No.15417353W Hav Teke Rajendra Kashinath, R/o- Vill & Po- Wari, Teh- Kopergaon, Dist- Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra- 413708, have changed my daughter's name from Swra to Swara Rajendra Teke, vide affidavit dated 03/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1389)C

I, Manisha Ramesh Kalwate, W/o- No.4287142N Hav Kumare Prafull Sukhadev, R/o- Narendra Nagar, Near Ramkrushn Convent Balapur Road, Akola, Maharashtra- 444002, have changed my name from Manisha Ramesh Kalwate to Manisha Praful Kumare, vide affidavit dated 04/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1390)C

I, Varsha, W/o, Suraj Halvadiya, R/o, A- 239, Near Gujarat Mata Mandir, Jahangirpuri Delhi-33 have changed my name to Varsha Halvadiya for all purposes. PD(1392)C

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences

00/12/357/2023/41364 Dated CHD - 2/4/2025

Indira Gandhi University Meerpur, Rewari

1312/11/43/2025/32289/C/27/7

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice WORKS DEPARTMENT Bid Identification No.CCE-NHC(KJR) - 01/2024-25. e-mail : senhkeonjhar@gmail.com / eenhbaripada@yahoo.in Letter No. 131 dt. 29.01.2025

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Indira Gandhi University Meerpur, Rewari (A State University Established under Haryana Act No. 29 of 2013) Recognized u/s 12 (B) & 2(f) of UGC Act, 1956

No corruption in foodgrain procurement: Pralhad Joshi junks Opposition charges

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Pralhad Joshi on Tuesday claimed there was no corruption in the procurement of foodgrains and farmers were paid 100 per cent directly into their bank accounts.

Responding to supplementary questions on alleged corruption through middlemen in the procurement process, the minister in the Rajya Sabha rejected charges that there was any corruption in the system anymore.

During the Question Hour, He also took a swipe at Congress MP Digvijaya Singh on alleged corruption and said he would be probably talking about the



corruption during the UPA tenure.

RLM MP Upendra Kushwaha from Bihar also raised the issue of corruption in the

procurement process through middlemen who exploited farmers. He also claimed that there was third-party entry of people in procurement and farmers

were not getting the money meant for them and were being usurped by middlemen. Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge also

raised the issue of alleged corruption, saying those procuring foodgrains are daily wagers and act as mediators between procurement agencies and the government and that is why there is corruption.

"We transfer money directly to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). We send the money directly to farmers' accounts within 48 hours," the minister said adding that the Centre pays states or central agencies which directly pay to farmers in their accounts. "Earlier it used to happen that only 15 paise out of a rupee sent by the Centre actually reached the beneficiary. This does not happen any more...We are paying directly into the accounts of farmers there is no corruption.

China imposes tariffs on US goods, launches investigation into Google

PTI ■ BEIJING

China countered President Donald Trump's tariffs on Chinese products with tariffs of its own on multiple US imports Tuesday as well as announcing an antitrust investigation into Google and other trade measures.

US tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico also were to go into effect Tuesday, though Trump agreed to a 30-day pause on his threats against Mexico and Canada as they acted to appease his concerns about border security and drug trafficking. Trump planned to talk with Chinese President Xi Jinping in the next few days.



This isn't the first round of tit-for-tat actions between the two countries. China and the US had engaged in a trade war in 2018 when Trump raised tariffs on Chinese goods and China responded in kind. This time, analysts said, China is much better prepared to counter. "They have a much more developed export control regime. We depend on them for a lot of critical minerals: gallium, germanium, graphite, a host of others. So ... they could put some

significant harm on our economy," said Philip Luck, a former State Department official and director at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on Monday at a forum. The slew of measures announced Tuesday cut across different sectors of the economy, from energy to individual US companies.

Hindenburg's Nate Anderson defends Adani report, closure not due to threats

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Activist short-seller Nathan Anderson, known for his high-profile campaigns against the likes of Adani Group, said the decision to shut his firm, Hindenburg Research was not because of any legal or any other threat, but due to workload. And that he stands by all its reports including the one against Adani Group.

Anderson said that Hindenburg's January 2023 report accusing Adani Group of "the largest con in corporate history" was a result of following "red flags" raised against the conglomerate in media reports. Adani Group had repeatedly denied all allegations in the report.

He termed as "goofy conspiracy" the attempts by some to link Hindenburg with alleged anti-India groups like OCCRP and George Soros, saying his outlet never commented on them as it followed the policy of not feeding into "silly conspiracy theories".

Anderson, who came to be known for meticulously detailed reports against companies he alleged were committing fraud, last month announced shutting down his forensic research firm nearly eight years after he founded it. Asked why he chose to shut down Hindenburg when he could have stepped back and passed on the reins of the company to someone else, he said there is "no way to separate me from the brand."

"Hindenburg is basically synonymous with me," he said. "If it was a software application or a bicycle factory you can sell the application or the factory. But when it's research driven by me, you can't really just hand that off, and so I would not actually be 'done'. But I am happy to support the team if they want to launch a new brand, which I expect they will."

Anderson, who first shot to fame with a report against electric truck company Nikola and had gone after the companies of major financial figures, including Carl Icahn's Icahn Enterprises LP, had last month blamed the "intensity and focus" of the job for the decision to wind up. He had spent much of the last eight years either in fights or preparing for the next fight. Many times during this period, he was often trailed and attempts were made to infiltrate his system.

"As to why I retired - it is all in the letter (released on January 16 that announced shutting

down of Hindenburg) - it is not based on any threat, health issue, personal issue or otherwise," he said. Conspiracy theories like being on the verge of an investigation by the US Department of Justice and, or US SEC to "concoct a counter-narrative about my retirement is a great example of why I am happy to instead be enjoying more time with family, friends and good music," he said.

Hindenburg has said it is not under investigation by the US SEC over anonymous reports linking its founder to a hedge fund for preparing reports targeting companies. Asked if he stood by Hindenburg's reports, particularly against the Adani group, Anderson said, "We 100 per cent stand by all of our research findings."

Hindenburg had alleged that Adani Group had used a web of companies in tax havens to inflate its revenue and manipulate stock prices, even as debt piled up. The conglomerate vehemently denied all claims but the damning report at one point sheared over USD 150 billion off its value, losses it eventually recouped in over a year's time. This, as it slashed debt, pared share pledges and won new investors. The issue was agitated before the Supreme Court which did not find any need for a probe other than the one markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) had initiated into certain issues prior to the Hindenburg report.

On some seeing the Hindenburg report as against India and India's growth story, Anderson said, "We have always believed in India's potential and view market transparency and strong corporate governance as key factors that can fuel India's growth story." He did not elaborate. "We initially saw media articles outlining red flags, took a closer look, and just kept following the evidence," he said on why the Adani group was chosen.

On allegations of being in cohorts with OCCRP and George Soros, he said, "Of course not, but we have a policy of not feeding into silly conspiracy theories. When the main response to 100 plus pages of evidence (presented in the report against Adani Group) is a goofy conspiracy, we view it as a sign that we were right on the mark."

Asked about the response of regulatory bodies in India to Hindenburg reports, he said,

"We view our role as researching and writing about issues in need of transparency. The rest is out of our hands." He dismissed allegations of sharing reports with hedge funds, saying, "We have always maintained full editorial control over all of our research."

"As we and many other US-based short sellers have discussed in public interviews for years, our model involves investing our own capital and sometimes also bringing on a balance sheet partner. This is one of the most common business models in our industry, it is fully compliant with all applicable laws, and we disclose this in our reports," he added.

The 40-year-old son of a university professor and a nurse, Nathan (Nate) Anderson on January 15 issued a personal note that Hindenburg Research was being wound up after it "finished the pipeline of ideas we were working on."

The Connecticut man, who worked for 10 months as an ambulance medic in Israel, and studied international business, finance, and accounting, believed he could make money by exposing corporate corruption. Hindenburg, founded in 2017, placed bets against the companies it was researching. And it made money when stock prices of its targets tumbled on disclosure of fraud and other abuses that it unearthed through deep forensic financial research.

It however made surprisingly little money -- just over USD 4 million -- from the report on billionaire Gautam Adani's sprawling business empire in January 2023.

That figure was disclosed for the first time by Hindenburg on its website last year, along with details of a letter it said it had received from India's markets regulator, SEBI. Anderson appears to be wanting to move on, having achieved what he and his colleagues wanted. "We shook some empires that we felt needed shaking," he wrote in a personal memo last month. But, this did take a toll on him. "It has come at the cost of missing a lot of the rest of the world and the people I care about," he had written. "It wasn't always obvious to me, but I now view all of this as a love story."

Hindenburg's research has led to fraud charges and indictments against dozens of individuals but has also resulted in expensive legal battles.

SEBI grants IPO approval to SMPP, Aditya Infotech and six others

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as eight firms including defence equipment manufacturer SMPP, Aditya Infotech, Brigade Hotel and PVC blend-based building material maker Kumar Arch Tech have received market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI) go ahead to raise funds through Initial Public Offerings (IPOs).

Other companies that have received SEBI's approval include Solarworld Energy Solutions, Indogulf Cropsciences, Globe Civil Projects, and Prostarm Info Systems, an update with the markets regulator showed on Tuesday. Together, these firms aim to raise more than ₹7,800 Crore, merchant bankers said.

So far in 2025, six companies floated their maiden public issues. This came after the primary market witnessed a remarkable year when 91 IPOs were launched collectively raising ₹1.6 Lakh Crore. Going by the update on Tuesday, SEBI received preliminary IPO documents from eight firms between October and November, and issued its observations during January 28-31.

In SEBI's parlance, obtaining the observations means its go ahead to float the public issue.



Meanwhile, auto component maker Viney Corporation withdrew its draft IPO papers on January 27 without giving a reason. The preliminary documents were filed in October. As for SMPP Ltd, its ₹4,000-Crore IPO includes a fresh issue of equity shares worth up to ₹580 Crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of shares worth up to ₹3,420 Crore by promoter Shiv Chand Kansal, according to the draft papers. At present, Kansal holds a 50 per cent stake in the company. Proceeds from the fresh issue will be utilised primarily for capital expenditure of ₹437.04 Crore, which includes constructing buildings, land

development, and procuring plant and machinery for a planned ammunition manufacturing facility through an investment in a subsidiary. The remaining amount will be allocated for general corporate purposes. Aditya Infotech's proposed IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of equity shares worth ₹500 Crore and an OFS of shares valued ₹800 Crore by promoters, as per the draft papers. Proceeds from the fresh to the tune of ₹375 Crore have been earmarked for payment of debt and besides a portion will be used for general corporate purposes. Brigade Hotel Ventures is

looking to raise ₹900 Crore through a fresh issue of equity shares.

Proceeds from the issue to the tune of ₹481 Crore will go towards payment of debt, ₹412 Crore will be allocated to the company and ₹69 Crore to its material subsidiary, SRP Prosperita Hotel Ventures Ltd. Additionally, ₹107.52 Crore will be used to purchase an undivided share of land from the promoter, BEL, and the remaining funds will support acquisitions, other strategic initiatives, and general corporate purposes.

Kumar Arch Tech's IPO is a mix of fresh issuance of shares worth ₹240 Crore, and an OFS of ₹500 Crore by promoters.

Centre frames schemes to empower exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government is framing schemes for MSME exporters to provide credit at easy terms, promote alternate financing instrument through strengthening factoring services for them, and offer assistance to deal with non-tariff measures imposed by other countries, an official said on Tuesday.

The commerce, MSME and finance ministries are working on these schemes, Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) Santosh Kumar Sarangi said. These schemes are being formulated under the export promotion mission, announced in the Union Budget for 2025-26. The schemes are expected to be rolled out in about four-five months, he said.

The government on February 1 announced the setting up of an Export Promotion Mission with an outlay of ₹2,250 Crore to promote the country's outbound shipments. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said through the mission, the government will facilitate exporters to get easy access to credit, and cross-border factoring support.

Stock markets surge as Trump postpones tariffs on neighbors

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark stock indices - Sensex and Nifty - rebounded nearly two per cent on Tuesday in line with a recovery in Asian peers after US President Donald Trump delayed tariffs on Mexico and Canada for a month.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,397.07 points or 1.81 per cent to settle at a month's high of 78,583.81. During the day, it surged 1,471.85 points or 1.90 per cent to 78,658.59. The NSE Nifty soared 378.20 points or 1.62 per cent to 23,739.25, a level not seen since January 3. From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Larsen and Toubro rallied nearly five per cent. Adani Ports, IndusInd Bank, Tata Motors, Reliance Industries, UltraTech Cement and Asian Paints were also among the major gainers. ITC Hotels, Zomato, Nestle and Maruti were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended significantly higher.

European markets were trading mostly lower. US markets ended in the negative territory on Monday.

"Yesterday, the Indian market struggled to absorb the optimism generated by the good Union Budget due to heightened geopolitical risks stemming from 'Trump tariff war'. However, India could outperform in a weak global market, and as a rebound has been triggered in the global sentiment, it has fuelled a sharp surge in domestic equities," Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dropped 1.05 per cent to USD 75.16 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,958.37 Crore on Monday, according to exchange data. The BSE bellwether index Sensex declined 319.22 points or 0.41 per cent to settle at 77,186.74 on Monday, snapping its five-day rally. The Nifty declined 121.10 points or 0.52 per cent to 23,361.05.

Rupee recovers three paise against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee recovered three paise from its all-time low level to close at 87.08 (provisional) against US dollar on Tuesday, as the American currency index retreated from its elevated level after President Donald Trump agreed to pause tariffs on Mexico and Canada.

Forex traders said the US dollar index, which had surged past 109.88 level, retreated to 108 level after Trump announced the temporary pause on tariffs for 30 days.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.98 and touched an intraday low of 87.13 against the American currency during the session. The local unit finally settled at 87.08 (provisional), higher by 3 paise over its previous close.

On Monday, the rupee plunged 49 paise to close at an all-time low of 87.11 against the US dollar.

"We expect the rupee to trade with negative bias over

uncertainty over US trade tariffs. Escalation of the tariff war by China may dent global risk sentiments wherein the US dollar may strengthen and investors would look out for safe haven. However, any central bank intervention may support the rupee," Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said.

Investors may remain cautious ahead of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) monetary policy meeting this week, Choudhary added.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI will begin its three-day meeting on February 5. The MPC will announce its policy decisions on February 7. Trump on Monday held off on his tariff threats against Mexico and Canada for 30 days after they pledged to boost border enforcement. Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the value of Indian rupee is market-determined, and there has been no devaluation, which is a feature of a fixed exchange

rate regime. The rupee has been falling in recent weeks, and on Monday touched an all-time intraday low of 87.29 against the American currency.

Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Monday said there is no concern over the rupee value and the RBI is managing the volatility of the local currency. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.48 per cent lower at 108.47. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 1.18 per cent to USD 75.06 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex closed 1,397.07 points, or 1.81 per cent, higher at 78,583.81 points, while the Nifty settled up 378.20 points, or 1.62 per cent, at 23,739.25 points. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹3,958.37 Crore in the capital markets on a net basis on Monday, according to exchange data.

Shein India to keep data local, partner with Reliance Retail for sales

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The new Shein India application, which went live last Friday, has products which are manufactured, marketed and sold only by Nextgen Fast Fashion, a fully owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd.

Nextgen manufactures these products on the Shein India platform through a wide network of Indian manufacturers, in which most of which are Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), according to an industry insider.

Shein has re-entered the Indian market almost five years after its ban through the country's leading retailer Reliance Retail. The new Shein Platform is built and hosted in India and its ownership and control will always remain with Reliance Retail, he said.

Shein India Fast Fashion App from Reliance Retail currently has over 10,000 downloads on Google's Play Store and is ranked among the top 10 among peers on Apple's store. There is no equity ownership of Shein in the Indian company and application Shein India has been developed by Reliance

Retail and is hosted in the country.

The newly launched platforms have no links with the now in-operational Shein app and the former website (Shein.in) which were previously managed and operated directly by Shein, he said. Further, the platform will be hosted on infrastructure in India and all platform data will remain in India. Shein will not have any access to, or rights, over such data, the industry insiders informed.

Reliance Retail is now working with Shein to develop a completely localised model for

digitising the supply chain of Indian MSMEs and factories, creating jobs and enhancing the competitiveness of the Indian textile sector globally.

Moreover, Nextgen is also scaling up the network of Indian manufacturers so that India can become a supply source for Shein's global operations in future. This will also help to create substantial export opportunities for Indian MSME garment manufacturers, he said. Shein was one of the apps that was banned by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in June 2020 after

the escalation of tensions with China.

Almost three years after getting banned in India, Shein signed a partnership in 2023 with Reliance Retail, led by Isha Ambani, the daughter of billionaire Mukesh Ambani. Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), through its subsidiary Reliance Retail Ltd (RRL), had entered into a technology agreement with Roadget Business Pte Ltd, which owns Shein, to develop an indigenous e-commerce retail platform. In December last year, the government informed the Lok Sabha that the sale of branded

products from Shein was not banned, though its app was blocked. This platform is intended to create a network of local manufacturers and suppliers who will manufacture products under the brand Shein and sell them domestically and globally. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal had said in a written reply.

The Ministry of Textiles consulted with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), which in turn consulted the Ministry of Home Affairs, and conveyed no objection to the proposal of RRVL, he added.

IN BRIEF

POWERGRID POSTS PAT OF ₹3,862 CRORE FOR Q3 FY25 ON CONSOLIDATED BASIS

NEW DELHI: Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a 'Maharatna' CPSE has announced unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December 2024. The company has reported PAT and total income of ₹3,862 Crore and ₹11,743 Crore respectively on consolidated basis during Q3FY25.

VICE CHANCELLOR PROF KARAMJEET SINGH LAUNCHES BOOK ON THEORIES OF PERSONALITY

AMRITSAR: Vice Chancellor Prof Karamjeet Singh graced the launch of Dr Balbinder Singh's book on theories of personality at Guru Nanak Dev University. The event marked a significant moment for the university and in the field of psychology, as it aimed to make complex psychological concepts more accessible to the Punjabi-speaking community.

Man City, PSG and Aston Villa go big in the winter window

PTI ■ LONDON

Manchester City and Aston Villa made big moves just before the midseason transfer window closed. Four-time defending Premier League champion City secured a late deal for Porto midfielder Nico Gonzalez on Monday for a reported \$61.8 million, while three-time Champions League winner Marco Asensio joined Villa on loan to the end of the season. Uncertainty over Bayern Munich forward Mathys Tel finally ended when he completed a loan move to Tottenham with the option of a permanent deal in the summer. Paris Saint-Germain was one of the most active clubs during the window by signing Khvicha Kvaratskhelia from Napoli, and releasing several players. The Columbus Crew completed the permanent transfer of MLS All-Star forward Juan Camilo "Cucho" Hernandez to Real Betis for an undisclosed fee. Man City goes big to salvage

season City usually makes its moves in the offseason. But in a bid to rescue a campaign that unraveled at the end of last year and was derailed again in a 5-1 loss at Arsenal, City spent big in January on five new signings. Gonzalez took its outlay past \$200 million. City signed Egypt forward Omar Marmoush for \$73 million and defenders Abdou Diallo and defenders Abdou Diallo and defenders Abdou Diallo from Lens and Vitor Reis for a combined \$77 million. Christian McAfarlane, an 18-year-old left back, joined from sister club New York City FC while captain Kyle Walker left for AC Milan. Gonzalez's arrival finally gives City a defensive midfielder in the mold of Rodri — the Ballon d'Or holder who was ruled out for the season in September because of an ACL injury. The Premier League title seems well beyond City, which is 15 points behind leader Liverpool, and a Champions League bid has been made extra difficult after being drawn against holder Real Madrid in the playoffs. But City manager



Pep Guardiola will hope the new additions can return the club to the Champions League next season. But the Kvaratskhelia deal for a reported fee of around \$72 million represents another marquee signing. The Georgia forward isn't at the level of Messi and Neymar but he has long been among the most sought-after

players in Europe with thrilling, match-winning qualities. PSG offloaded striker Randal Kolo Muani — a \$101 million signing last season — to Juventus on loan, and central defender Milan Skriniar to Fenerbahce, and Asensio. Villa's Champions League push

Through to the Champions League last 16, Aston Villa boosted its attacking options in the form of Marcus Rashford and Asensio. Rashford was one of the big stories of the window after falling out of favor at Manchester United. Despite being linked with clubs across Europe, as well as Saudi Arabia, he secured a loan to Villa for the rest of the season. If Unai Emery can get the best out of the former England international, he could prove to be an inspired signing in terms of Villa's Champions League campaign and push for a top four finish. Meanwhile, in former Real Madrid midfielder Asensio, Villa has a player with Champions League-winning knowhow.

Barcelona and PSG superstar was a standout signing as the Saudi league launched a recruitment drive to lure the world's top players. But injury meant Neymar was reduced to seven games for Al-Hilal following his 2023 move for a reported \$98 million and his departure brought an underwhelming end to his time there. Previously, Jordan Henderson left Al-Ettifaq after just six months to join Ajax, and Portuguese forward Jota spent a year at Al-Ittihad before leaving for French team Rennes. Jota rejoined Celtic during this window. The big signing for the league during this window was Jhon Duran, the Colombia striker who joined Ronaldo's Al-Nassr from Villa for a reported 64 million pounds (\$80 million). Perhaps bigger is to come in the future, with Liverpool's Mohamed Salah out of contract at the end of the season and repeatedly linked with a move. Relief for Barcelona Rather than bringing in new players, Barcelona's biggest

challenge was registering two it already owned. Dani Olmo and Pau Victor were registered only after the government sports authority intervened. The Spanish league and the federation had denied Barcelona's request to re-register the duo because it missed the end-of-year deadline to comply with salary cap rules. Barcelona accused the league of making unrealistic requests for extra documentation and said payment for VIP seating at the new Camp Nou stadium became available only on Jan. 3. That payment allowed the club to comply with the league's financial fair play rules. Major moves in women's soccer The deals are getting bigger in women's soccer. U.S. Defender Naomi Girma became the first million-dollar player in the women's game when she moved from the San Diego Wave to Chelsea, which also spent big to bring England midfielder Keira Walsh back to the Women's Super League from Barcelona.

Rising shuttler Anmol Kharb continued her impressive run, defeating top seed Anupama Upadhyaya in straight games in the women's singles final to claim the gold medal at the 38th National Games here on Tuesday. The 18-year-old from Haryana, a member of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the Asia Team Championships, showcased her skill and determination by outclassing world number 43 Anupama 21-16, 22-20 to secure the top prize. The gold medal marked another milestone in Anmol's rising career, following her runner-up finish at the Guwahati Masters Super 100 tournament last December and her victories at the Belgian and Polish Internationals last year. In other events, Satish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath battled hard to overcome Deep Rambhiya and Akshaya Warang 21-16, 21-8 in the mixed doubles final and win the gold medal. In men's doubles, Nithin HV and Prakash Raj S defeated Vaibhav and Ashith Surya 21-16, 21-14 in a one-sided final to take home the coveted gold. Later in the day, top seed Sathish Kumar Karunakaran will face Suryaksh Rawat in the men's singles final. Star shuttler and home state favourite Lakshya Sen, ranked world number 10, withdrew from the competition at the last moment on Monday.



Carlsen accuses FIDE chief of coercion, broken promises

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

World number one Magnus Carlsen has demanded that International Chess Federation President Arkady Dvorkovich resign for "coercion of players, misuse of power and broken promises" after talks to thrash out an agreement between the world body and the Freestyle Tour co-founded by him collapsed. The 34-year-old Norwegian superstar was reacting to FIDE's statement on Monday in which it declared that efforts to work out a consensus with the Freestyle Chess Tour, co-founded by Carlsen and German entrepreneur Jan Henric Buettner, had failed over the use of the term world championship. FIDE also asked players wanting to participate in the Tour's events to sign a waiver to remain eligible for the official World Championship cycle. The Freestyle Tour reacted by lambasting FIDE but at the same time, agreed to postpone the use of term world championship for its grand finale this year. The decision means that players will not be required to sign a FIDE waiver anymore. Sharing a few personal messages from Dvorkovich, Carlsen said the Russian had promised to leave players out

of this tug of war in a text to his father before the world rapid and blitz championship in New York last month. "...To convince me to play the Rapid & Blitz in New York, you wrote Dec 19th to my 'Just want to pass a message to you and Magnus that whatever happens between FIDE and Freestyle in terms of recognition, players will NOT be affected in any way. They can decide on their own and FIDE will not take any negative action,'" Carlsen revealed. "You added later that day: 'I will step down if my word will be undermined by the Council.' By forcing players to sign an unacceptable waiver you have reneged on your promise. Will you resign?" Carlsen asked. Neither FIDE nor Dvorkovich did not immediately respond to Carlsen's sharp statement. The first leg of the five-round Freestyle Tour, featuring classical games, starts February 6 in Germany. Tournaments will then be planned in Paris (April), New York (July), New Delhi (September) and Cape Town (December). Reigning world champion D Gukesh is among the players listed to compete in the Tour's events. "Freestyle remains committed to protecting players from FIDE's

questionable tactics. To ensure that no player is forced into a difficult position, we have decided -- effective immediately, as of February 3 -- to postpone the decision to award the title of 'World Champion' to the winner of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour for an additional 10 months," Buettner said in an open letter to FIDE president. "This decision ensures that no player is forced to choose between signing the unlawful letter FIDE is coercing them into or facing its threatened consequences. The current cycle is officially titled 'The Grand Slam Tour,'" he added. This was after FIDE said no agreement was reached with the Tour despite several concessions from its side. "The Freestyle Chess Tour has chosen not to acknowledge FIDE's existing authority over the World Championship title and has opted to remain a privately organised tournament, primarily featuring hand-picked elite players, rather than an open and transparent qualification process," the FIDE stated. The FIDE said that the waiver "does not impose new requirements on the players but provides them with a one-off exception from their existing contractual obligations."

David Beckham wins gold in National Games

PTI ■ RUDRAPUR

Andaman and Nicobar Islands cyclist David Beckham Elkatochoongo, whose last name saved him from denying entry in the United Kingdom for the 2022 Commonwealth Games, on Tuesday won gold in the men's elite sprint event at the National Games here. The 21-year-old Elkatochoongo clocked a time of 10.691 seconds in two laps to win the gold while Laitonjam Ronaldo Singh (10.724 seconds) of Manipur and another Andaman and Nicobar Islands cyclist Esow Alben (10.826 seconds) took the silver and bronze respectively. It was a tough fight among the three best cyclists of the country competing at the brand new Shivalik Velodrome here, with Elkatochoongo emerging on top ultimately. When Elkatochoongo landed in the UK for the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games, the British immigration officers were



stumped when he told them his name. They asked him if David Beckham was his real name. After double checking of his passport, he was allowed entry by the immigration officers. Elkatochoongo's name was given by his father who was a 'street footballer' and a fan of charismatic English football great and former captain David Beckham. Elkatochoongo's first love was also football but later shifted to cycling which is quite popular in Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has produced the likes of

Deborah Herold, the first Indian cyclist to win a medal in Asian Senior Championships and world number four at one time. Elkatochoongo was the best Indian cyclist at the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, reaching to the quarterfinals. His and 22-year-old Ronaldo's presence in the Indian cycling team for the Hangzhou Asian Games created a lot of buzz in the foreign media because of their names. Ronaldo was given his name by his father as he was born during the 2002 World Cup which Brazil won with

Ronaldinho playing a big role in the triumph. Ronaldo is a sprint silver medalist at the 2022 Asian Championships. Esow Alben was the first Indian cyclist to win an individual medal at the global level, a silver in keirin event at the 2018 junior track world championships. He won a silver in sprint and a bronze in keirin in the 2019 edition also. Esow and Ronaldo were also part of the quartet that won the team sprint gold in the 2019 junior track world championships. In other events of the day, Karnataka's Keerthi Rangaswamy won the gold medal in the women elite scratch 10km race. Assam's Chayanika Gogoi clinched the silver medal, while Meenakshi from Haryana bagged the bronze. In the men's elite scratch race (15km), Services Sahil Kumar won the gold medal. Kerala's Adwait Sankar and Krishna Nayakodi, also of Services, clinched the silver and bronze medals respectively.

Anmol Kharb wins gold in National Games



Rising shuttler Anmol Kharb continued her impressive run, defeating top seed Anupama Upadhyaya in straight games in the women's singles final to claim the gold medal at the 38th National Games here on Tuesday. The 18-year-old from Haryana, a member of the gold medal-winning Indian team at the Asia Team Championships, showcased her skill and determination by outclassing world number 43 Anupama 21-16, 22-20 to secure the top prize. The gold medal marked another milestone in Anmol's rising career, following her runner-up finish at the Guwahati Masters Super 100 tournament last December and her victories at the Belgian and Polish Internationals last year. In other events, Satish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath battled hard to overcome Deep Rambhiya and Akshaya Warang 21-16, 21-8 in the mixed doubles final and win the gold medal. In men's doubles, Nithin HV and Prakash Raj S defeated Vaibhav and Ashith Surya 21-16, 21-14 in a one-sided final to take home the coveted gold. Later in the day, top seed Sathish Kumar Karunakaran will face Suryaksh Rawat in the men's singles final. Star shuttler and home state favourite Lakshya Sen, ranked world number 10, withdrew from the competition at the last moment on Monday.

Punjab FC look to upset Mohun Bagan Super Giant

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Punjab FC will look to carry forward their winning momentum when they take on league leaders Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the India Super League match here on Wednesday. The Shers, currently ninth in the league table with 23 points from 17 matches, will be aiming to put up a strong fight against Mohun Bagan, who sit comfortably at the top with 43 points from 19 matches. A positive result in this game would provide a significant boost to Punjab's playoff ambitions as they look to close the gap on the teams above them. Speaking ahead of the game, Punjab FC head coach Panagiotis Dilmeris emphasised on the importance of maintaining focus and taking the fight to the league leaders. "Every match is important for us from this point on. We will have to play every match like a final and any point we can take is really important. Tomorrow's match will be crucial like the others. We have to be focused during the entirety of the game and stick to our game plan," said



Dilmeris. The Shers will take confidence from their thrilling 3-2 victory over Bengaluru FC, in which Luka Majcen's injury-time winner secured all three points for the former. The Slovenian striker remains Punjab FC's talisman upfront, with seven goals and three assists this season. Filip Mrzljak, who also found the net in the previous match, has been a vital presence in midfield alongside Ezequiel Pulga Vidal, both of whom have played crucial roles in creating and converting chances. New signing Petros Giakoumakis

impressed on his first start and will be eager to build on that performance. However, the Shers will miss the services of Asmir Suljic, who is suspended after accumulating four yellow cards. Defensively, Ivan Novoselec, who played a crucial role in Punjab FC's last-minute winner against Bengaluru, will need to marshal the backline effectively alongside Nikhil Prabhu, Tekcham Abhishek Singh and Suresh Meitei. The youngsters have racked up 48, 36 and 29 interceptions respectively placing them in the top five of the league statistics. Mohun Bagan enter this match in formidable form, unbeaten in their last five matches, including a dominant 4-0 win over Mohammedan SC in their most recent outing. Under the guidance of José Francisco Molina, the Kolkata-based side boasts of the best home record in the league, with eight wins and one draw. Their attack, led by Dimitri Petratos and Jamie Maclaren, has been lethal, scoring 36 goals this season, while their defense has been equally resolute, keeping 11 clean sheets.

One series does not define the form of whole team: Gill

PTI ■ NAGPUR

India's vice-captain Shubman Gill on Tuesday defended their performance in the Test rubber loss in Australia, saying that one poor series does not define a team and that it is unfair to criticise a side after a rare bad outing. India suffered a 1-3 defeat in the five-match series in Australia, bringing to an end their decade-long dominance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Key players such as Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, and Gill himself are now set to return for the three-match ODI series against England before heading to Dubai for the all-important ICC Champions Trophy. "One series does not define

the form of the whole team. There are a lot of players who, in the past, have performed consistently in a lot of series and tournaments," Gill told reporters here ahead of the first ODI against England. "Definitely, we did not play as per our expectations in the Australian series, but still we played some good cricket. We were unfortunate not to have (Jasprit) Bumrah on the last day and we would have won the match and the series would have been a draw and this talk wouldn't have happened. "One match and one day doesn't define us, we won there twice before and earlier won a World Cup and then reached the final of a World Cup, so we should keep all those things in

mind." Before the reverse in Australia, India were also whitewashed 3-0 by New Zealand at home, unprecedented in the country's cricket history. Rohit's batting in ODIs has been game changing The spotlight is firmly on senior players Rohit and Kohli, who have struggled with the bat in recent times. However, Gill was quick to highlight the skipper's sensational form in white-ball cricket, which played a pivotal role in India reaching the 2023 ODI World Cup final. Even in the Sri Lanka series, Rohit scored two half centuries. "The way Rohit bhai has been batting in the ODIs in the past one year and a half, it's been really game-changing for us. "Taking the momentum



right through from the start and taking the game away form ball one and it makes the job of the non-striker and the batsmen coming in a bit easier and I think it has helped our team a lot." Chopping and changing team will create insecure environment

Karun Nair produced a solid performance in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, averaging 389.50 in the tournament, but was overlooked for the Champions Trophy. However, Gill stressed the importance of continuity to ensure a secure team environment rather than

making frequent changes based on domestic performances. "Karun had a great Vijay Hazare Trophy, but that doesn't mean the current players should be dropped. They have also performed well to reach this stage. "We have lost only one game in the World Cups. The players in the squad have contributed significantly, and while it's unfortunate for those excelling in domestic cricket who weren't picked, constant chopping and changing will affect players' confidence. Without continuity, we can never build a strong team." Gill has been made a part of the leadership group, and on taking up the additional responsibility of being a vice-captain, he said "I take it as a challenge to lead my

way, firstly with my performance and then definitely in the field if Rohit bhai would want my opinions. It's my duty to let him know what my thoughts are." No toxic competition between Yashasvi, Abhishek and me With Yashasvi Jaiswal and Abhishek churning out top performances, Gill is in a scramble for a spot at the top of the order, but the 25-year-old asserted that there is no "toxic competition" between the three. "Abhishek is a childhood friend of mine. Jaiswal is also a friend, I don't think there is any toxic competition between us. Obviously if you are playing for the country, you want to perform in every match, and not think that 'I wish this

guy doesn't perform.' "You are playing for the country and for the team and whosoever performs you congratulate them," Gill said. England are a good side, this series is important The three ODIs against England are the last bit of preparation the Indian team gets before the Champions Trophy, starting February 19. The 0-2 series loss to Sri Lanka in August was the last time India played ODIs last year. "We are playing against a good side and three ODIs and we are not taking this as a practice for Champions Trophy as it is a very important series for us and we are looking to dominate and win this series like any other series."

Varun Chakravarthi added to Indian ODI squad

PTI ■ NAGPUR

In-form mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthi has been included in the Indian ODI squad after his heroics in the just-concluded T20I series against England as the team management wants the KKR mystery spinner to "keep up the momentum".

There is a fair chance that Chakravarthi might just replace one of the four specialist spinners in the Champions Trophy (CT) squad. It could be one among Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar, who could be axed to accommodate Chakravarthi before the final squad is announced. A lot will depend on how he fares in the ODIs.

Chakravarthi, who got 14 wickets in five T20Is against England and was adjudged the 'Player of The Series', has not been picked for the three ODIs against England and the Champions Trophy later this month.

Chakravarthi was seen training and bowling in the nets on Tuesday. "Yes, Varun Chakravarthi is part of the squad," India vice-captain Shubman Gill confirmed in a media interaction after the team's training. It is understood that head coach Gautam Gambhir wants Chakravarthi to remain in rhythm and bowl to the likes of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and Rishabh Pant. With the deadline for squad changes



for the Champions Trophy set for February 12, he remains a strong candidate for selection. However, it is unlikely that he will be added to the CT squad without playing a single ODI.

India have got three finger spinners - two left-armers (Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel) and one right-arm off-spinner in Washington Sundar.

Kuldeep Yadav, who is returning to the Indian team after undergoing a sports hernia surgery in October 2024, is the lone wrist spinner in the squad.

"As of now, the team management wanted Varun to bowl in ODI squad nets ahead of England series. Varun doesn't play red-ball cricket," a senior BCCI source said on

conditions of anonymity.

"With domestic white ball season already concluded, he does not have any assignments till start of IPL end March. He is in good rhythm and they want him to continue that," he added.

When asked if there is a possibility of him being selected for the ODI series and subsequent Champions

Trophy based on current form, the source replied. "The selectors have already picked four spinners and you only have three ODI games.

"But if team management wants Varun, it will certainly have to speak to the chairman of selection committee. Whether they intend to or not, is still not known."

The Men in Blue don't have a second wrist spinner and Chakravarthi's strong form could work in his favour.

When he last played on the flatter tracks in Dubai during the 2021 T20 World Cup, Chakravarthi struggled to make an impact.

However, he has significantly improved since then, focusing more on over-spin to refine his variations. The English team has not read him well and in Champions Trophy, one of the opposition is Bangladesh, which was bamboozled by him in October during the T20I series. He could also be an unknown entity for most of the New Zealand and Pakistan teams.

Additionally, he has performed consistently on batting-friendly surfaces in the recent T20I series against England, finishing as the leading wicket-taker at an impressive average of 9.85. India are set to play all their league matches in Dubai.

Chakravarthi picked up 18 wickets for Tamil Nadu in the National One Day Championship.



Dimuth Karunaratne to retire from cricket

PTI ■ GALLE

(Angelo Mathews) and Chandimal (Dinesh Chandimal)," he said.

Former Sri Lanka captain Dimuth Karunaratne is set to retire from international cricket after playing his 100th Test, which will be the second and final match against Australia starting here on Thursday.

The 36-year-old, one of the most prolific batters for Sri Lanka, has scored 7,172 runs at an average of just under 40, with 16 centuries and 34 half-centuries in 99 Tests over nearly 14 years. He has also featured in 50 ODIs, scoring 1,316 runs with one century and 11 fifties.

"It is difficult for a Test player to keep himself motivated to play four Tests for a year and maintain his form," Karunaratne, who made his Test debut in 2012, was quoted as saying by 'Daily FT'.

"In the last two-three years after the WTC (World Test Championship) was introduced, we have been having very little bilateral series. My current form is another reason; completing my 100 Tests, the end of the WTC cycle (2023-25), I thought is the right time to retire."

Karunaratne plans to relocate to Australia with his family next month. Having made his first-class debut for Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) in 2008, he will play his final match for them against NCC in the SLC Major Club Three-Day Tournament from February 14-16.

"I have some personal plans of my own. I've decided to retire after speaking to other senior players like Angie

"But as Sri Lanka are playing less Test matches for a year, getting to 10,000 runs seems far away. Appearing in 100 Tests I feel is an achievement," he added. He would look back at his career as a satisfied man due to his sheer longevity.

"Several players play Test cricket but only a handful are able to go and play 100 Tests. To become a member of that exclusive club I am very happy. To become Sri Lanka's seventh cricketer to play in 100 Tests is also a happy moment," he signed off.



I wanted to lead MI Cape Town: Rashid

PTI ■ GQEBERHA

Rashid Khan said he wanted to lead MI Cape Town in the same manner as he led Afghanistan during the T20 World Cup and credited his improved leadership this season to his familiarity with the team, which helped secure a spot in the SA20 playoffs.

After two forgettable seasons, MI Cape Town now sits at the top of the points table with 30 points from nine matches ahead of the playoffs.

The 26-year-old led Afghanistan to a historic victory over Australia in the Super Eight stage of the T20 World Cup 2024, following which the team made it to the semifinals.

"I wanted to lead MI Cape Town the way I led Afghanistan in the T20 World Cup. Coach Robbie Peterson also encouraged me in this direction," Rashid, who captained MI Cape Town in the first season but missed out last season due to injury, said in a media interaction ahead of the first qualifier against Paarl Royals.

"I think this year I knew the players quite well and spent more time with them so I had the knowledge about which bowler to use at what point of time.

"The most important thing was to have clear communication with the players. To have what is happening in the mind of the captain and to know what is going through in their minds. I think I could have done better in the first year but you just

keep learning."

Rashid noted that every player has taken responsibility and risen to the occasion, marking a major shift from the previous seasons.

"In the last couple of years, we played good cricket, but it was just about that we haven't finished well. You know, we haven't hit those points where it was a matter of going to the result," he said.

"I feel like this year we just have done that well. It's an overall team effort. Whoever got the opportunity, they have contributed for the team. Even if it's like he goes for one ball or two balls to hit there, he did it for the team."

Praising the contribution from the bowlers, Rashid said: "Everyone has been contributing with the ball as well. So, I feel like this year, this is a massive difference. The biggest thing is we're enjoying ourselves. You know, we're having fun and we're not much thinking about what the result will be."

Rashid emphasised the importance of having a leadership group in the team.

"It's very important for a captain to have a leadership group around as you always need support. Especially while coming from overseas and leading the team was not an easy job for me as a captain," he said.

"But to have that leadership is something that stood for us this year. Everyone knows their role and responsibilities which made my job easier.

Shillong to become new ISL venue

PTI ■ SHILLONG

A new venue will be added to the Indian Super League (ISL) when Shillong hosts NorthEast United FC's 'home' match against Mumbai City FC on Friday at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The football loving fans of Meghalaya have been waiting for this ISL's debut match with much anticipation.

The Guwahati-based Highlanders will also host Bengaluru FC and East Bengal at the same venue here on February 21 and March 8, respectively, as the fans look forward to witness Indian football's biggest stars, including Sunil Chhetri, Lallianzuala Chhangte and Naorem Mahesh Singh in action.

NorthEast United CEO Mandar Tamhane on Tuesday shed light on how



the club's move to Shillong came about.

"When we played the semi-final of the Durand Cup against Shillong Lajong here, it was an eye opener for me even though I've been involved in Indian football for over 25 years," Tamhane said.

"The online tickets were sold out in 12 minutes and there were 5km long queues for physical tickets. Fan parks in different districts were also jam-packed.

"We are a club representing eight states and we always wanted to bring football to parts of the Northeast. Seeing the response we got for the Durand Cup, reaffirmed our decision to come to Shillong this season itself," he was quoted as saying by the official ISL website.

He said the Meghalaya

government extended their support to the move.

NorthEast United forward Redeem Tlang, who hails from Shillong, has been one of the ISL's notable domestic talents. With over 100 ISL appearances under his belt and having played a key role in NorthEast United's historic Durand Cup victory in 2024, Tlang is thrilled about the league's arrival in his home city.

"It's a very special moment for me personally and also for the people of Meghalaya to experience ISL matches in Shillong," he said.

"ISL is the top league in the country and to have it come to your home is an incredible feeling. People all over Meghalaya love football. Football is like a religion in Shillong. It's the first game that you play when you grow up here," said Tlang who began his football journey with Shillong Lajong.

Ashwin expresses concern over Sanju Samson's lack of form

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India spinner R Ashwin has expressed concern at T20 batting star Sanju Samson's lack of form, saying his mind will start "playing tricks" with him if he does not find a way out of the current rut.

The 30-year-old Samson, who will be out of action for a month due to a fracture in his right index finger, endured a terrible series against England's express pace and short balls. He managed a mere 51 runs in the five-match contest that India won 4-1.

"...If Sanju keeps getting dismissed like this, as a batter, the mind will be playing tricks,"



Ashwin said.

"(It will force you to think) the bowler is bowling a certain way and I am getting dismissed like this, is the bowler bowling well or do I have a shortcoming? Will I be able to adapt? Once so many questions arises, then it becomes difficult," he explained.

Ashwin also advised out-of-form skipper Suryakumar Yadav to change his approach to come out of the form slump that he is also enduring right now. Suryakumar could only manage 28 runs in the just-concluded series against England.

"I can understand it happening

in one or two games, but it is quite surprising," Ashwin said on his Hindi YouTube channel.

"...When you know you are being attacked in a certain way, there should be a different approach to that ball or just avoid it and force the bowler to bowl at your strengths."

"Suryakumar Yadav is a very experienced guy. He has a lot of ability. One can say he brought about a change of guard in

Indian batting, showing the way. But the time has come for him to take some time out and change his approach," he added.

Ashwin said Samson, who has blown hot and cold throughout his run in international cricket, should take responsive actions to ensure that doubts don't creep into his subconscious mind.

"But Ashwin cited legendary Sachin Tendulkar's advice during last week's BCCI Naman Awards that players should use their subconscious mind too.

"Sachin Tendulkar also said during the (BCCI) awards function that (you must) do so many repetitions that you allow the subconscious mind to take over," he said.

"But if so much confusion comes over on the subconscious mind, then batting becomes a different ball game altogether."

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
JAGATSINGHPUR (R&B) DIVISION, JAGATSINGHPUR
E-Mail: s.e.jagatsinghpur@odisha.gov.in

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
(e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE)

Bid Identification No. S.E. JSP(R&B)-10 of 2024-25

TENDER CALL NOTICE

- The Superintending Engineer, Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division, Jagatsinghpur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in **Single cover system** in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractor for Building works as mentioned below.
- No. of Work :- 06Nos.
- Nature of work :- Road works
- Class of Contractor :- "B" "C" & "D"
- Tender Paper Cost :- Rs.4000 & Rs 6000/- (Online)
- Available of bid documents in the website :- From 07/02/2025 to 5PM of 14/02/2025
- Date of Opening of Bid :- 11AM of 15/02/2025
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum/ corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

(Er Ashish Nayak)
Superintending Engineer,
Jagatsinghpur (R&B) Division
OIPR-340931100132425

PANCHAYAT SAMITI OFFICE, PARJANG, DIST-DHENKANAL
E-mail ID:- ori-parajang@nic.in, Tel No:- 06768-261121

Tender Call Notice
Bid Identification No. BDO, Parjang -03/2024-25

The Block Development Officer, Parjang on behalf of Governor of Odisha inviting percentage rate from eligible contractors for construction of building work detail in the table below.

1. Nature of work	: Building Works
2. Number of Work	: 01(One) nos.
3. Tender Cost & EMD	: As mentioned in DTCN
4. Class of contractor	: As mentioned in DTCN
5. Available Bid document in the District Website	: From 06.02.2025 10.00 AM to 20.02.2025 up to 5.00PM
6. Last date/Time of receipt of the original bid documents	: 21-02-2025 5.00 PM (only Regd. Post/Speed Post)
7. Date of Opening of Bid	: 24-02-2025 11.30 AM
8. Name & Address of the Office: Office of the Block Development Officer, Parjang	

9. Further details can be seen from the Dhenkanal Portal www.dhenkanal.nic.in
Any addendum/ Corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.
Block Development Officer
Parjang
OIPR-19416/11/0003/2425

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, ANANDAPUR
E-Mail: cerw_anandapur@yahoo.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
On line-I (ACE/RW/AND)/2024-25

Annual Maintenance Plan of Rural Roads under Administrative Expenditure
No. _____ /24. // Date: 03.02.2025 //

Additional Chief Engineer, Rural Works Division, Anandapur on behalf of Government of Odisha invites **PERCENTAGE RATE** tender for Annual Maintenance Plan of Rural Roads through e-Procurement as per annexure. The bid should be submitted on-line in the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in by eligible class of contractors having legal competency & expertise, registered with the state Government & contractors of equivalent grades /class registered with central Govt/ MES/ Railways for execution of only Civil works. The bidders should have necessary Portal Enrollment (with his own Digital Signature Certificate). The registered bidders of outside Odisha can also participate in this process, after necessary Portal Enrollment, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Government before award of the work.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender in. Dio the S. E. R.W. Division, Anandapur
		From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Additional Chief Engineer, R.W. Division, Anandapur	NCB-On line 11/ACE/RW/AND/2024-25	04.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	11.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	10.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	12.02.2025 at 11.30 A.M.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
R.W. Division, Anandapur
OIPR-OIPR-26068/11/0014/2425

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION MOHANA
E-Mail: rwdmohana@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Identification No. Online Tender 18/MOHANA/2024-25

- Name of the work :- Road works
- Total No. Work :- 05 (Five) Nos.
- Estimated Cost :- 4.20 Lakhs to 13.44 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor :- As per Annexure
- Period of Completion :- As per Annexure
- Other Details:-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	No. of Works	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender
			From	To		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Mohana	Online Tender 18/MOHANA/2024-25	05 (Five) Nos.	04.02.2025 upto 11.00 A.M	13.02.2025 upto 5.00 PM	11.02.2025 upto 5.00 PM	14.02.2025 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the Website www.tenderodisha.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
R.W. Division, Mohana
OIPR-OIPR-25148/11/0027/2425

ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, L.I. DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR
E-Mail: eoelcdivn.bbsr@gmail.com, Tel. 0674-2391847
e-Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 240 /2024-25 Dt. 01.02.2025

The Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, hubaneswar on behalf of ODISHA LIFT IRRIGATION CORPORATION LIMITED, BHUBANESWAR invites percentage Rate bids in online mode for installation & Energisation of Lift Irrigation Projects in Puri district under BKVY (RIDF-XXX) 2024-25 in TURNKEY BASIS as mentioned below from the reputed Contractors/ Firms having valid HT license issued by E.L.B.O, Odisha & Civil license as mentioned below.

- Nature of work :- Execution of work for installation & Energisation of 02 Nos L. I. Projects in different blocks of Puri district.
- No. of packages :- 1 Nos.
- Estimated cost :- Varies from Rs. 55.34/-
- Period of completion :- 90 days .
- Date & time of availability of bid documents in the portal :- 05.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M.
- Last date & time for receipt of bids in the portal :- 14.02.2025.. up to 5.00 P.M.
- Date & time of seeking clarification :- 05.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M. to 13.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
- Opening date & time (Technical Bid) :- 15.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
- Name & address of the officer inviting Bid :- Executive Engineer, Lift Irrigation Division, Bhubaneswar

The details of tender are available in the Government tender web site i.e. www.tendersorissa.gov.in and other related documents are available in the DTCN for bidding. Any Addendum/ corrigendum/ Cancellation of tender will be available in the said website.

Executive Engineer
L.I. Division, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32155/11/0008/2425