

SUPREME COURT SLAMS PARASITES

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

"Rather than promoting them to be a part of the mainstream of the society by contributing to the development of the nation, are we not creating a class of parasites?" it asked. Justice Gavai went on to add, "Unfortunately, because of these freebies, which just on the anvil of elections, are declared, like 'Ladki Bahin' and other schemes, people

are not willing to work.

The top court was hearing a matter concerning the right to shelter of homeless persons in urban areas and said people got free rations and money without working. "We quite appreciate your concern for them but would it not be better to make them a part of the mainstream of society and permit them to contribute to the development of the nation?" the bench asked.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for one of the petitioners, said there was hardly anybody in the country who did not want to work, if they had work. The judge said, 'You must be having only one sided knowledge. I come from an agricultural family. Because of the freebies in Maharashtra, which they just announced prior to elections, agriculturists are not getting labourers." The court, however, said it did not want to debate.

Judges said everybody, including attorney general R Venkataramani, was on the same page that providing shelter to the homeless merited due attention. "But at the same time, should it not be balanced?" the bench asked. Venkataramani said the Centre was in the process of finalising the urban poverty alleviation mission, which would address various issues, including the provision of shelter for the urban homeless.

The bench asked him to verify from the Centre the time frame within which the scheme would be applicable and also place on record the aspects covered by it. "In the meantime, the attorney

general is also requested to take instructions as to whether till the implementation of the said scheme, the Union of India would continue with the National Urban Livelihoods Mission," it said.

The bench further asked the Centre to collate information from all states for the consideration of the issue on a pan-India basis.

One of the petitioners during the hearing said it was unfortunate that the cause of the homeless was not being addressed as it was last on the

priority. The bench was irked when he claimed the authorities showed compassion only for the rich, not the poor.

"Don't make a speech of Ramlila Maidan in this court," said Justice Gavai, "And don't make unnecessary allegations. Don't make a political speech here. We won't permit our courtrooms to be converted into a (place of) political battle."

The judge went on to add, "How do you say the compassion is shown only for the rich? Even for the government, how can you say this?

Painting a Painting a picture that the government did not do anything or show concern for the poor was not in a good taste, the court added.

Bhushan said as per a note placed before the bench, as on December 4, 2024, a total of 2,557 shelters was sanctioned by the States or Union Territories and 1,995 shelter homes were functional with a capacity of 1.16 lakh beds. He said a survey showed there were about 3 lakh

urban homeless in Delhi alone. Bhushan said as per the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, the total capacity of the shelters was 17,000 persons of which only 5,900 such facilities had beds. The DUSIB counsel said the board

had 197 shelter homes running in Delhi as on date with a total capacity of 17,000 persons. In the last four years, he said, the average maximum occupancy was 5,500 in all shelter homes.

MAGHI PURNIMA: 2 CRORE DIPS

More than two crore devotees took a dip in the Sangam till 6 pm on Wednesday on the occasion of Maghi Purnima. With the 'snan' on Maghi Purnima, another auspicious day for holy bath, the monthlong 'Kalpavas' will be ending and around 10 Lakh 'Kalpavasis' will start leaving the Maha Kumbh. The administration has requested them to follow traffic rules and use only authorised parking spaces. Overall since the start of the Maha Kumbh, over 47 crore people have taken a dip in the Sangam. The Maha Kumbh will conclude on February 26 with the final 'Amrit Snan' on the occasion of Mahashivratri. Meanwhile, Adityanath greeted everyone on the holy bathing festival while the UP government has also launched a safety drive for the pilgrims. Detailed story on page 5



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

Modi, Macron walk together coordinate closely on various

PTI PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday called for trade enhancing and investment ties between the two countries and committed to further deepening their engagement in the Indo-Pacific and various global forums and initiatives.

After their wide-ranging talks, the two leaders also underlined their commitment to concrete actions to ensure that the global AI sector can drive beneficial social, economic, and environmental outcomes in the public interest.

A joint statement issued after the meeting here said the talks covered a full spectrum of bilateral relations, as well as key global and regional issues.

The two leaders stressed an urgent need for reform in the United Nations Security Council and agreed to

cooperation in the strategic areas of defence, civil nuclear energy and space. They also discussed ways to strengthen collaboration in the fields of technology and innovation.

lobal issues, including the

French President Macron

reiterated France's firm

support for India's permanent membership of the UNSC.

The two leaders reaffirmed

their strong commitment to

India-France Strategic Partnership while noting that

it has steadily evolved into a

multifaceted relationship over

Prime Minister Modi flew

together from Paris to

Marseille in the French Presidential Aircraft last

evening and held discussions

here on the full spectrum of bilateral relations and key

delegation-level talks after

The two leaders reviewed

bv

global and regional issues.

This was followed

arrival in Marseille.

UNSC matters.

the past 25 years.

CBI arrests **DTC officials**

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested six officials of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) on charges of corruption and bribery. This is the first major crackdown by the national capital after the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) lost the recently concluded Assembly elections. Sources said, the arrests follow multiple complaints alleging widespread corruption in the department. The CBI launched a thorough surveillance operation to verify these claims before taking action. Upon investigation, authorities found prima facie evidence indicating corruption at various levels, leading to the arrests. The arrests are a part of a larger corruption case, which is being investigated by the CBI. The DTC has been in the eye of storm over allegations of corruption against its officials. The BJP had alleged a scam in the purchase of 1,000 low floor buses by DTC during the AAP Government in Delhi. The Chief Secretary of Delhi had then recommended the CBI to investigate the matter. The recommendation was approved by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena.

UPSC updates registration system online PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI

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

that some entries have been made "editable" in the onetime registration for filling up of the online application. "In view of the queries/difficulties raised by the candidates in filling up the online application form for the civil services examination, 2025, the Commission has decided the following changes in the one-time registration (OTR) for filling up of the one-time online application," it said.

three first-year students lodged a complaint, alleging that the lidates ragging had allowed to make any change(s) in the columns nursing relating to "Name (as per Class X)", "Date of Birth", functions "Father's Name", "Mother's Name", "Mobile Number" and "Email ID" in the OTR profile, the Commission said in the notice.



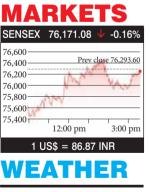
Sajjan Kumar convicted for Sikh riots murders

RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

Delhi's Rouse Avenue court on Wednesday convicted former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar in a case related to the killings of two men in Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984, during the anti-Sikh riots. The arguments on the quantum of sentence in the case will take place on February 18.

Congress leader, who is currently The serving a life sentence in another anti-Sikh riots case in Delhi Cantonment, was produced from Tihar jail before special judge Kaveri Baweja, who pronounced the conviction order. 'I am of the opinion that Prosecution has been able to prove its case against the Accused beyond reasonable doubt. Thus, Accused Sajjan Kumar S/o Ch.Raghunath Singh is hereby convicted for offences punishable under Sections 147/148/149 IPC and for offences punishable under Sections 302/308/323/395/397/427/ 436/440 read with Section 149 IPC," Special Judge Kaveri Baweja said in her 139 pages order on Wednesday. The order said. "I am of the considered opinion that the Prosecution has been able to bring home the guilt of the Accused. It has been established that the Accused was instigating the mob, which was armed with deadly weapons i.e. lathis and sarias etc. and that the mob being an 'unlawful assembly' within the meaning of Section 141 IPC used force and violence in prosecution of the common object of looting, committed the offence of rioting armed with deadly weapons. Further, the fact that the members of the 'unlawful







NEWS BRIEFS

Ram Janmabhoomi chief priest passes away

LUCKNOW: Acharya Satyendra Das, the chief priest of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi temple, breathed his last at SGPGI, Lucknow. He had been battling health complications after suffering a stroke earlier this month. Despite receiving intensive care, doctors were unable to save him.

His passing has cast a pall of sorrow over Ayodhya, where he had served as the chief priest since 1993. Over the decades, he became a symbol devotion, of witnessing the long and tumultuous journey from the Babri Masjid demolition to the consecration of Ram Lalla in the grand new temple.

Police re for nearly three months at the used was institute, which consumption. under

Kerala ragging turns serious

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $F^{\mathrm{ive\ third\ -year\ students\ have}}_{\mathrm{been\ arrested\ for\ allegedly}}$

ragging first-year students at the Government Nursing

College here, police said on

A case was registered after

KOTTAYAM (KERALA)

Wednesday.

Government Medical College. According to the complaint, the ragging began in November last year. The students reported that the incidents involved extreme brutality. They alleged that they were forced to stand naked and subjected to severe physical abuse using dumbbells, including tying them to their private parts. phone. Further allegations include Unable injuries inflicted using compasses and similar objects, followed by the application of lotion on the wounds. Additionally, they were forced to have cream applied to their

On December 13, a first-year the student endured extreme physical torture. That night, the accused allegedly entered his room, tied his hands and

> legs, and restrained him. They then poured lotion all over his body and inflicted injuries using a divider. They also forced another first-year student in the room to record the incident on a mobile

(20), Rahul Raj (22), Jeev (18), Rijil Jith (20), and Vivek (21). The complaint also states that

senior students regularly

extorted money from juniors

on Sundays to buy alcohol and frequently assaulted them.

On November 16, the accused

allegedly forced a first-year

student to transfer Rs 300 via

Google Pay and hand over Rs

500 in cash under threats.

that tl

alcohol

for

to endure the harassment any longer, three students finally lodged a complaint with the Kottayam Gandhinagar police. College authorities stated that

the affected students had not informed hostel officials, The accused students have teachers, or parents about the been suspended, college abuse

authorities said. The action Upon receiving the complaint, was taken following an inquiry the college promptly took conducted under the antiaction. Once the investigation ragging law, they added. The confirmed the allegations, the arrested students have been case was handed over to the identified as Samuel Johnson police, they added.

Assembly



Former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar at the Rouse Avenue Court, in New Delhi

assembly' were armed with iron rods, lathis, bricks etc. also proves that alleged offences were committed after having made preparations for committing such offences".

The case attracts a maximum punishment of death penalty and lifeterm imprisonment as the minimum sentence. Kumar was produced before the court from Tihar jail to pronounce the verdict. He was convicted for the murder of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh on November 1, 1984

Special judge Kaveri Baweja aside from saying that a mob took part in rioting and killed the victims, held, "It has further been established that Kumar, being a member of such unlawful assembly, is guilty of having committed the murder of Jaswant Singh and Tarundeep Singh, the husband and son

of the complainant, during the incident."

The conviction judgment said, "The complainant who witnessed the brutal killing of her husband and son can certainly not be expected to forget the face of the person who was instigating the mob to carry out the said killings and looting and her deposition in court fortifies her stand that it is accused who was not only present during the alleged incident but also instigating and leading the mob which resulted in commission of the aforesaid offences." The judge rejected Kumar's argument that the statement of the complainant couldn't be trusted as she named him belatedly and held at the time of the incident, she was not aware of the identity of the accused as she was admittedly new to the area and had never seen him earlier.

Mukesh Mahaling, the Opposition Chief Whip and oth-

In State Temp soars to 37 deg first time in season PNS BHUBANESWAR

The maximum temperature in the State went up to 37 degrees Celsius for the first time this season on Wednesday.

Jharsuguda recorded the maximum temperature at 37 degrees Celsius.

According to the weather office, 12 places in the State recorded maximum temperature above 30 degrees Celsius. Of them, 10 places registered the maximum temperature at 35 degrees or above.

Bhubaneswar and Cuttack recorded 34.8 degrees and 33.2 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Giving a somewhat relief, the Regional Office of the India Meteorological Department here forecasted that the night temperature across the State is very likely to gradually fall by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius during next four days. No large change thereafter over the districts, the IMD said. The IMD forecasted that in the next 24 hours, fog and mist in the morning and mainly clear sky later will prevail for Bhubaneswar and neighbourhood. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 33 degrees Celsius and 21 degrees, respectively.

State Assembly to go paperless

Budget Session starts today NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

faces, heads, and mouths.

In a move towards digital innovation, the Odisha Legislative Assembly is preparing to become paperless. Beginning with the Budget Session on Thursday (February 13), lawmakers will use tablets to carry out their legislative duties, replacing the traditional use of pa-

per documents. This initiative is designed to streamline the legislative process and



proposals through digital platforms.

Each of the 147 Assembly An all-party meeting was seats has been equipped with held on Wednesday ahead of a tablet to facilitate this tranthe session to foster coopsition. Legislators will now eration and ensure a smooth engage in question-and-anfunctioning of the Assembly. swer sessions and submit Speaker Surama Padhy led

the meeting, stressing the need for maintaining a peaceful atmosphere during the proceedings.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi attended the meeting along with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Dr ers. The Budget for the 2025-26 financial year is scheduled to be presented on March 17 with 28 working days scheduled for detailed and comprehensive discussions.

Earlier in the day, CM Majhi paid a courtesy visit to the Raj Bhavan for a meeting with Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati ahead of the Assembly's Budget Session. The Governor is slated to deliver the opening address in the Assembly highlighting the State's development and growth outlook.



HC stays govt's apartment registration notification

Appeal against order to be filed: Minister PNS CUTTACK

The Orissa High Court on Wednesday temporarily suspended a previous notification of the Odisha Government concerning the sale and purchase of apartments constructed before the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) came into being.

The notification, which was circulated by the Housing & Urban Development (H&UD)

Department on February 1, had granted permission for the registration of apartments built before the promulgation of the Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2017. "Odisha Apartment Owner-

ship Act, 2023 was enacted by repealing the Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 1982. The new Act did not have any additional compliance. While selling a flat, an occupancy certificate, a society registration certificate, and a declara-

tion are the minimum things required," petitioner Mohit Agrawal said when contacted.

"Recent notification of the Odisha Government on registration of apartments built prior to the creation of RERA mentioned that the new Act will not apply to these apartments. However, Odisha Apartment Ownership Act, 2023, clearly states that it is applicable to all apartments whenever they are constructed (be it before or after the for-

> mation of RERA)," Agrawal said. "In a sense, the State Government notification was wrong. We had cited how government officials tried to over

ride a previous legislation passed by the State Legislature, through an executive instruction. On that ground, the High Court accepted our petition for hearing and issued a stay order," he stated.

With the High Court's decision, the State Government is currently unable to proceed with actions based on this notification.

"We will go through the court order and then file our appeal," Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mahapatra said.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Bollywood producer Boney Kapoor and his son Arjun made a courtesy call on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi here on Wednesday. They invited Majhi as chief

guest to the Celebrity Cricket League (CCL)-2025 to be held at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on February 16.

Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, several other ministers and MLAs were present during the meeting.



The 11th edition of CCL that kick-started on February 8 in Bangalore would continue till March 2. Altogether eight

teams featuring Bollywood, Tollywood, Kollywood and other film fraternities are competing in the CCL-2025. A

total of 17 matches would be played across four legs in Bangalore, Delhi, Hyderabad, Cuttack and Surat.

The boy was staying with

one of his relatives in

Bhubaneswar. After he did not

answer calls, family members

traced his phone's last loca-

tion to the City Garden apart-

ment blocks at Raghunathpur.

took an Uber cab to Cuttack

as per logs found in his phone.

However, despite searching till

late in the night, he was unable

"We are clueless about how

to be located.

The relatives said Prateek

capital 02

VIMSAR 2nd year student alleges ragging

Probe committee formed PNS SAMBALPUR

A second-year student of the Veer Surendra Sai Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (VIMSAR) at Burla has brought serious allegations of ragging.

The student alleged that he was subjected to verbal abuse and physical harassment by senior students.

The matter came to the fore after he informed his mother, who reported the matter directly to Professor Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, the Dean of VIMSAR. In response, a committee has been constituted to scrutinise the allegations. Prof Mohanty assured that necessary actions would be pursued based on the committee's find-

ings.

"A mother of a second-year student had called us and alleged that her son was manhandled and abused using filthy language by a few students. A committee was soon formed to probe the matter. The committee is now probing to find the authenticity of the allegations. Necessary action will be taken after the find-

ings of the committee," said Prof Mohanty. Notably, the VIMSAR had

hit the headlines in March 2021 after the premier institute faced a significant ragging incident involving 18 MBBS students. The anti-ragging committee of the institution conducted an investigation, resulting in the students being fined a total of Rs 54,000 for their involvement in ragging junior students.



Governor Hari Babu inspires students

BHUBANESWAR PNS

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar celebrated its 17th Foundation Day on Wednesday with Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati as the chief guest. IIT Bhubaneswar Director Prof Shreepad Karmalkar briefly traced the birth of the institute and the history of its campus. He highlighted its new initiatives in the areas of teaching-learning, research, industry-academia collaboration, entrepreneurship development, creation of outstanding school teachers and corporate social responsibility. Governor Kambhampati

lauded the institute's significant progress and urged it to strive for global excellence. He that the IIT noted Bhubaneswar's multidisciplinary curriculum and focus on industryacademia collaboration have set it apart.

Urging students to lead with conviction, courage and compassion, the Governor encouraged them to pursue ambitious projects and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat. He emphasised that

PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

investigative

(FCC) in Delhi.

NEW DELHI: Experienced

and specialised conflict and

Bibhuti Pati's first Odia book

Jala Yuddha (Water War), was

officially launched at the For-

eign Correspondent Club

The publisher of the book

is Pakshighara. The book pro-

vides comprehensive coverage

of the ongoing water conflicts

surrounding the Yarlung

Tsangpo, Brahmaputra,

journalist

the institute must continue creating knowledge and building a culture of lifelong learning to prepare students for leadership roles in an evolving world. He concluded his speech with an inspiring message: "Let us create knowledge that will inform and transform the world and prepare students as technically grounded leadworld.

In Cuttack Plus Two student found dead under bridge Was missing from which his phone was switched off.

dent was recovered from the Katahjodi riverbank under the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Bridge in Cuttack on Wednesday. The deceased was identified as Prateek Das of Niladri Vihar in Bhubaneswar.

The minor boy was missing from Tuesday. His family members had launched a frantic search to trace him but in vain. Locals spotted his body under the bridge and informed police, following which he was identified.

The boy's relatives stated that he had left the house in the morning. Calls made to him also went unanswered until about 10:30 pm, after extreme step, and only his parents may be able to shed light on the matter," stated a relative with whom the boy was

Later, the Markat Nagar police reached the spot and began a probe into the matter.

DSBM holds talk on Union Budget

India's economic future analysed PNS BHUBANESWAR

The D.A.V. School of Business Management (DSBM) here organised a panel discussion on Union Budget 2025-26 taking the eminent persons from industry, corporate houses and academicians for an empirical analysis of the

budget. Presided over by Madan



rent economic scenario and Ravenshaw University, exlauded the government for its plained the real-time applicavisionary focus on key sectors. tions of the budgetary provi-Satwik Swain, secretary sions and underscored the negeneral, Odisha Assembly of

cessity of a comprehensive Small and Medium Enterunderstanding of their ecoprises (OASME), who critinomic impact. CMA Shiba Prasad Padhi, partner at SAPSJ & Associates, who offered a comparative analysis between the previous and the current budgets, articulated how these shifts are controlled to foster a robust economic ecosystem.

The session was a testament to the vital role that academic institutions play in shaping the career of future budding managers. The discussion was moderated by Dr DN Mishra, Principal of DSBM, who remarked that such forums are instrumental in enhancing practical skill sets of students, a vital requirement in today's dynamic business environment. The event was coordinated by Debabrata Sahoo, Faculty in Management.

ers who will change the

and why he came to Cuttack. We do not have any information about any issues he may be having or why he took the

issues have already started around the world and how water is a weapon without artillery.

Internationally acclaimed author Monika Kowaleczko Szumowska joined as the chief guest at the event. She gave a rare valuable insight stories, as to how water scarcity and river conflict jeopardize the lives of women and children. Veteran journalist and FCC president Venkat also spoke

on the occasion. Many prominent journa ists and documentary filmmakers including Anjali Bhusan, Apeksha Niranjana, PM Narayanaa, Aayanjit Sen, Adil Shah Nawaz Khan, Asis Ray, Srinjoy Chowdhury and KV Prasad attended the event.

Book 'Jala Yuddha' by scribe Pati launched in Delhi

staying.



Mohan Panda, President of DSBM, the session featured an impressive roster of panelists. Dr Sanjeev Mahapatra, secretary, Utkal Chambers of Commerce and Industries (UCCI), who set the tone with a detailed overview of India's cur-

cally analysed the budget's implications for MSMEs and the agricultural sector, emphasised both the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Prof Kishore Kumar Das, Head & Dean, Department of Commerce,

Siang, Sindh, Ihelum, Kali, and Ichhamati rivers. Pati's extensive travels along the international riverbanks and borders of India, Pakistan, China, Bangladesh, and Nepal inform the narrative, which also delves into the enigmatic river

the pollution affecting the Ganga and Yamuna rivers, presenting a stark warning about the potential threats to the Ganga's future.

The title Jala Yuddh aptly encapsulates the escalating

Saraswati and examines vari-

ous international treaties re-

lated to river disputes.

The work further and

book's inauguration, the author highlighted the alarming reality of emerging conflicts over water, emphasizing that these struggles represent a form of warfare. The author spoke about a chilling fact, how the unseen wars on water

tensions among individuals,

States, and nations over wa-

ter resources. During the

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE Kejriwal: Heavenly dream run to terrible nightmare

espite a number of unique pro-people schemes and two massive consecutive victories to rule Delhi, the Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had to bite dust in its run for a third term to rule the citystate in 2025. Evidently, in the last three years of the second stint, owing to arrogant overconfidence, bluster, indignantly aggressive talk by Kejriwal had vexed Delhites. Further, the people had begun to believe that the government had gone opaque and autocratic, which forced them to pound the AAP to dust

Quite at the beginning in 2013, Kejriwal had declared emphatically that his team members would keep standing up for integrity and live the life of a street-level common man. He as Chief Minister would occupy a small flat and use only his age-old WagonR car even for official purposes. He would avail no security cover as he was only an 'Aam Aadmi'. But by the middle of the second term earned through a massive mandate in 2000, he was



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

seen living like an arrogantly haughty Moghul in a palatial mansion done up at a whopping cost of 45 crore rupees, apart from the fleet of swanky imported luxury cars he was seen using merrily. All this enraged the thinking voters. Additionally, his promise of moving across the public without any security cover too turned out to be a false promise. The 'Aam' ingredients had developed into sophisticated 'Khaas' things that monarchs and business tycoons use with gay abandon. The people who had

voted for him out of love and reverence for his simple lifestyle and compassionate approach to solving ordinary citizens' problems, found him a fake leader who did not have any remorse for leading a luxurious life in full public glare. His cronies, when cornered, put up a lame excuse: that the Central Government authorities in charge of allotting and renovating houses had literally tossed him into the swanky house and dumped him into the luxury car fleet. He was helpless and undone. So, he chewed what was shovelled into his mouth. This theory was not bought by even the street beggar.

psephologist Renowned Yogendra Yadav, one of the founding members of AAP, expelled from the party in 2015 along with Prashant Bhushan, termed the party's loss a setback for all who dreamt of truly alternative politics. They say Kejriwal is largely responsible for AAP's Delhi debacle. A party hugely expected to be transparent, accountable and democratic, failed to deliver on all these ethical fronts. Further, Kejriwal quickly transformed the ruling outfit into a supremo-dominated, non-transparent and corrupt one which didn't even pursue a 'Lokpal' for which he had staged the enormously successful 'India against Corruption' campaign. Most paradoxically, he removed his own 'Lokpal' and never cared to have one installed ever.

After leaving an Income Tax officer job in 2000, Kejriwal became an RTI activist and lived in Delhi's slums to figure out the struggles faced by its residents until 2010. In 2011, he roped in activist Anna Hazare to fuel the anti-corruption movement, and all went too well with the masses. His indefinite hunger strike as part of the 'India against Corruption' movement alongside Hazare had witnessed nights spent sleeping in his blue Wagon R during a biting winter. His sole demand was for a'Jan Lokpal' Bill.

It is an undeniable fact that politics has become an extraordinarily expensive affair. It requires more black money than of white to fight elections today only because the legally permissible expenditure limits are laughably low. So, candidates have to organise black money for running their campaigns and bribing voters. The modern Indian society is abysmally low in morals and ethics when it comes to the poor and disadvantaged communities both in the rural and urban settings. Gone are the days when tainted ones were looked down upon as social pariahs.

Arvind Kejriwal may not be personally corrupt, or at any rate more corrupt than Narendra Modi in any which way. Nor does he lead a lifestyle which is anywhere comparable to that of Narendra Modi, whose super lavish and ultra luxurious lifestyle would make even the emperors of yore envious of him. Yet, Kejriwal had to suffer for having failed to maintain the high moral ground he harangued so vociferously

The system of Government of NCT of Delhi is reminiscent of the colonial Montagu-Chelmsford Re-

forms, also known as the Government of India Act of 1919, which introduced the diarchy system of governance in provinces. While the Governor of the province was all in all, a semblance of power was given to Indian Ministers who were elected and had to answer to the people but could not take any decision independent of the Governor. Kejriwal as CM of NCT of Delhi was exactly in the same helpless position. He was under complete control of PM Narendra Modi who literally paralysed the functioning of his government and tried to smash the AAP by overusing indiscriminately the LG, CBI, ED, DDA, MHA and more agencies. But then, the poor Chief Minister was answerable to the people of Delhi.

Even after so much skullduggery, the BJP won the Delhi Assembly elections with just a mere 2% bigger vote share than that of Arvind Kejriwal's.

Incidentally, out of the 156 lakh voters in Delhi, only 94.50 lakh voted in the elections, which translates to 60.54% voters. At the macro

level, AAP lost by 2% votes which equals to 1.89 lakh votes. Interestingly, there are nearly 50,000 families of Hindu priests- each on having at least 4 votes. Put together, that would be about 2 lakh votes, which is substantial. As spiritual leaders of the Hindu society, they have great influence over other Hindus. Had Kejriwal heeded to their appeal in 2022 for a survival honorarium, the two lakh votes would have made a difference. Hindu priests in Delhi reeling under acute distress chose the saffron fold and gave them easy victory. A majority of these 2 lakh votes would have gone to the AAP to offset the difference of 2% votes and tilted the electoral fortune in Kejriwal's favour.

People's perception about Kejriwal changed drastically maybe with BJP's machinations having worked wonders. They got convinced that Kejriwal was a dictatorial leader who made unacceptable policies to steal public money for personal pleasures and keep the unworthy party afloat.

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capital 03

2 killed as car rams into shop K'pada tehsil clerk held for raping widow

A speeding car crashed into a shop late on Tuesday night at Itamati in Nayagarh district claiming two lives in the process. One of the deceased was the car owner while the other

was a pedestrian. Sources said the Mahindra SUV lost control and crashed into an electronics shop. The impact was so severe that one of the concrete pillars of the shop structure was completely demolished and the car was mangled.

A truck driver, who had just parked his vehicle nearby, was walking down the road in front of the shop when the car

The car had two occupants. While one of them was the deceased car owner, the other was the vehicle's driver, who managed to escape the wreck and

The Itamati police reached the spot and launched an investigation into the accident. As per reports, the owner hailed from Sagarugan in Khordha district. It was suspected that the car driver was drunk.

The police were trying to contact the car owner's family as well as probing to ascertain the identity of the dead pedestrian

In Puri dist Two die, 1 hurt in bike mishap PNS PURI

flee the scene.

hree persons travelling by a motorcycle lost control and

sharp turns and poor lighting. collided with a roadside structure on Tuesday night near Bandhei Square on the mented the frequent occur-Konark-Kakatpur road in rence of such mishaps, urging Puri district. for improved lightning road The impact of the collision safety measures. Authorities

was so powerful that two of are investigating the incident the riders, from the Charichak to determine the cause of the area, died on the spot. crash and whether speed, The third passenger was weather conditions or vehicle

rushed to a hospital in

PNS 🔳 KENDRAPADA

Bhubaneswar in a critical con-

dition. The spot where the ac-

cident took place is notorious

for such road mishaps due to

Locals from Charichhak la-

malfunction played a role.

Police on Tuesday arrested a peon of Rajkanika Tehsil office for keeping physical relation with a 30-year-old widow, impregnating her and later, terminating her pregnancy slyly, informed police.

Rajkanika police station IIC Sanjay Kumar Mallick said the victim widow, identified as Sanjukta Behera, wife of late Rabinarayan Behera of Jarisahi under Rajkanika police station, lodged an FIR in this regard. Sanjukta alleged that she was evacuated to Jarisahi -based cyclone shelter

during cyclonic storm Dana.

G'mardan villagers rattled by fear of mining bid

alias Biswaranjan Das, working as a peon of Rajkanika Tehsil office, allegedly raped her at the cyclonic shelter. Later, the accused allegedly raped her several times and impregnated her .While she was two months' pregnant, Pupun allegedly took her to hospital and slyly provide her an abortion pill. As a result, her pregnancy was terminated.

A fellow villager, Pupun

Acting on the FIR, police registered a case and arrested Papun. He is going to be produced before a local court on Wednesday, added IIC Mallick

INBRIEF

DAV CSpur students excel in JEE Main

Bhubaneswar: As many as 105 students of the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur, Bhubaneswar, have been enlisted in the qualifiers list of NTA-conducted JEE Main (Session 1) results published recently. Notably, 12 students of the school scored 99 and above percentile, 22 scored more than 98 percentile, 34 secured above 97 percentile, 55 with more than 95 percentile, 105 scored more than 90 percentile. Sibasis Panda with 99.95 percentile, Sriman Bishnu P Satpathy with 99.87 percentile and Gaurav Maharana with 99.86 percentile bagged the first three positions in the school.

Kakatpur Xavier School fest held

Kakatpur: The annual festival of Xavier School in Kakatpur, Puri, was celebrated recently. While school managing committee president Sharmistha Biswal presided, principal Durga Charan Parida introduced the guests. Kakatpur Block Education Officer Dilip Kumar Jena was the chief guest on the occa-



sion and the guest of honor was Jyotrimaya Dalai. Himanshu Bhushan Tripathi participated as keynote speaker. Tripathi spoke about the key role of parents in building the future of students and keeping them away from the misuse of mobile phones. The students who excelled in various competitions were awarded. A cultural programme followed. All the teachers and students of the school were present

Man dies in road mishap in JSpur

Jagatsinghpur: A 41-year-old man died in a road mishap that occurred at Chandagada on Cuttack-Jagatsinghpur NH-55 on Monday. The deceased was identified as Pabitra Kumar Patra from Kendala village under Jagatinghpur block. Patra was returning from his workplace in Jagatsinghpur around 11 pm in his bike when a paddy-laden truck moving ahead suddenly used brake at the spot. As a consequence, Patra's bike collided behind the truck; he got severe head injuries and died on the spot.

Major Ports Football Championship

Paradip: The 46th All India Major Ports Football Championship commenced with 8 Major Ports at the Gopabandhu Stadium here being inaugurated by Advisor, Traffic, Paradip Port AK Bose. Teams will participate on league-cum-knockout basis. The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) along with the Major Ports Sports Control Board is organising the event which will conclude on February 16. The inaugural match was held between PPA and Vishakhapatnam Port Authority.

United Petro-Sadhav Shipping initiative in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: United Petro Group, Singapore, and Sadhav Shipping Ltd, Mumbai, have announced a major partnership to establish shipbuilding and comprehensive offshore facilities in Odisha. An MoU was signed during the Utkarsh Odisha, Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 on January 28 in Bhubaneswar, marking an important milestone for both organisations.

In Kendrapada Youth impregnates girl on marriage plea

Loots her money, iewelleries RAJESH BEHERA

oped close relationship with their family and often visited them to help them. However, both later fell in love. Banglu lured her on the plea of marriage and kept physical relationship with her several times. He also assured to get her a job.

At Bargarh Auditorium after late MLA's name unveiled



BARGARH PNS

In honour of former Bargarh MLA, former Bargarh Municipality Chairman and prominent leader late Jadumani Pradhan, a newly constructed auditorium was inaugurated in his name at the local Krusaka Bazaar here on Sunday. District Collector Aditya Goyal, Bargarh MLA Ashwini Sarangi, Attabira MLA Nihar Ranjan Mahanand, Bargarh Municipality Chairperson Kalpana Majhi, ADM Madhuchhanda Sahu, Superintending Engineer Arun Pandey, Bar Association president Bhismadev Saraf, MP representative Sureshwar Satpathy and late MLA Pradhan's wife Hemant Pradhan were present at the

inauguration ceremony. It is worth noting that the Hold meet 500-seat auditorium has been

PNS BALANGIR constructed by the Public The purchase of land just Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs 9,7 ,10 000 below the Gandhmardan hills from the Western Odisha Deby one of the associate comvelopment Council funds. The panies of Adani, ostensibly for auditorium has 88 seats in the compensatory afforestation, balcony, while the gallery has has further fuelled speculation 412 seats, 2 changing rooms, a of backdoor entry of Adani for VIP lounge, separate toilets mining. for men and women, and various modern facilities like office rooms, store rooms, pan-

1st death anniversary Sugnana Kumari paid rich tributes try rooms and waiting rooms. Cuttack girl's Sai Bhajan mesmerises Delhi audience

ganese



Khallikote

trict, was a member of the erst-

while Khallikote royal family.

She passed away at the age of

87 while undergoing treat-

ment at a hospital in Chennai

in 2024. Her demise was deeply

mourned across political and

social circles.

from

Apprehensive of secret

move in this regard, Chakamal

villagers of Salepali panchayat

in Patnagarh block held a

meeting here. According to the

report, several villages of

Patnagarh Block are going to

be affected by mining of man-

According to reports, as

ALAL PROPERTY



Salepali, Rahenmal, Karlamal,

Guhiramunda, Chakamal,

Phudkiupadha, Chuladarh,

Bilaisathi, Banjari and Batarla

etc are going to be affected if

mining takes place in the area.

Kalangapali,

Kalangapali,

Balipata,

Turlamal,

Chakamal,

Bichhilipali,

hush move for mining in our

area which is rich in bauxite.

We are determined to oppose

it tooth and nail. We urge the

district administration to

clarify on the matter," said Zilla

Adivasi Kalyan Singh joint sec-

The Balangir district Col-

retary Giriraj Singh Bhoi.

In a bizarre incident, a 65year-old woman was allegedly raped by a youth at Gahirabandh village under the Raibania police station in Baleswar district.

The accused identified as Niharsan Bihari (32) committed the offence while the vic-

In Baleswar Youth held for raping elderly woman

PNS BALESWAR

KENDRAPADA

 ${
m A}$ girl lodged an FIR alleging that a youth kept physical relation with her, impregnated

PNS CUTTACK

 $V_{isually-handicapped stu-}$ dent of Sailabala Autonomous Women's College, Cuttack, Asha Bahadur was highly praised at Delhi for singing "Sai Bhajan".

Her performance was live telecast in Delhi Doordarshan Channel and was highlighted by many Hindi daily newspapers.

She was invited by "Sai Ka Angan Aashram", Delhi in a largely attended function.

Dr Chandravanu Satpathy, chief of Sai Ka Angan, being highly impressed by her talent, and performance, said her

Earlier she had received many State level awards from former Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in the competition of

back

to be ready to perform

"Bhajan" at USA. He has also

assured her that he would talk

with the directors and produc-

ers of Hindi films to give her

Soumendra Priyadarsi

Mishra, head of Police Intelli-

gence Department had made

all arrangements for her travel

from Cuttack to Delhi and

opportunity for singing.

Surabhi, Cuttack. Apart from that she is recipient of many awards from various educational and social organizations including Lions Club and Police Employees Association.

She is the proud daughter of Kumal Bahadur and Chumki Bahadur and stays with her parents within the premises of advocate Satya Sahu Narayan at Madhusudan Nagar, Tulsipur, Cuttack



he first death anniversary of veteran politician and distinguished leader, late V Sugnana Kumari Deo, was observed with deep reverence. Known for her high moral values, simple lifestyle, and unwavering dedication to public service, she commanded immense respect and admiration. On this solemn occasion, tributes were paid to her at

Ganjam district BJD presi-Nirmal Jhar Palace in dent Dr Ramesh Chandra Khallikote, where many gath-Chyaupattnaik expressed his heartfelt condolences, stating, ered to honour her memory. Notably, V Sugnana Kumari "She was a highly respected

leader of BJD who made im-(BID) leader and 10-time MLA mense contributions to the and party. Her commitment to pub-Kabisuryanagar Assembly lic service was unparalleled." constituencies in Ganjam dis-

Marking the solemn occasion, senior BJD leaders Pradeep Amat, Praful Samal, Sanjay Das Burma, Snehangini Chhuria, Tukuni Sahu, Chandra Sekhar Sahu, Bhrugu Baxipatra, Biplab Patro, Manoj Mahapatra, Ranjita Sahu and all MLA BJD candidates from the district, Bhabani Sahu(BYJD) and Prasant Panda(BCJD) visited her residence in Khallikote to pay their respects.

tim was on her way to a relative's house. According to reports, the accused allegedly intercepted the victim on the way and dragged her behind the GP office. He assaulted her sexually and fled from the scene, leaving her in a critical condition.

Villagers after spotting the woman rushed her to the Hatigarh Community Health Centre (CHC). The Raibania police began an investigation after the son of the victim lodged an FIR.

Later, the police began an investigation based on the complaint and arrested the accused.

her and later terminated her pregnancy on the pretext of marriage and subsequently cheated her. He also took away Rs 18 lakh she had saved and her gold ornaments. Besides, she alleged that the accused made public her obscene photos and videos.

Rajkanika police station IIC Sanjay Kumar Malik said the 29-year-old victim girl of Ayatan village under Rajkanika police station lodged the FIR against Pravas Senapati(30) alias Banglu, a married person of Ganja village

The victim alleged that after her father died during Corona period, Banglu devel-

She also alleged that Banglu took away Rs 18 lakh that she had saved by opening a beauty parlour at her locality and 100 grams of gold ornaments, in order to purchase a plot at Bhubaneswar and to provide her a job. But he began betraying her

after he knew that the girl was pregnant and when she insisted him to marry her. He threatened to kill her unless she terminates her pregnancy. Rajkanika police registered a case under various sections of BNS and started investigation. But the accused was not

nabbed as he was at large, po-

Ji and Rahul Gandhi Ji. We are

lice added. 'We'll expose BJD, BJP and present Cong as only option'

hakta Charan Das, a Congress senior leader with nearly four decades in politics, has been appointed as the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president. A former MP and former Union Minister, he began his political journey during the Jay Prakash movement in the 1970s and has since championed Dalit, tribal, and farmer rights. Previously chairing the Congress Campaign Committee, he aims to revitalize the party through grassroots engagement and mass outreach. Das has a tete-a-tete with our representative RAJEEV RATHAN over a gamut of issues concerning his new assignment. Bhakta Da, congratula-

tions on your appointment as

the new president of the **Odisha Pradesh Congress** Committee (OPCC). What will be your immediate priorities for reviving Congress in the State? Ans: Thank you. My first

priority is to strengthen the party at the grassroots level. Congress has always been the voice of the people, and I will ensure that we reconnect with every household in Odisha. We will focus on mass outreach programmes, agitations against the failures of the current government, and reviving our organisational structure from the booth level.

Congress has been struggling in Odisha in recent years. What exactly would be your strategies to regain the lost ground?

Ans: The people of Odisha

The ruling party has failed in many aspects ,be it employment generation, price control, or farmer welfare. We will expose these failures and present Congress as the true pro-people party. My strategy will be to energize the youth, involve experienced leaders, and take our campaign to every district, with a special focus on rural and tribal regions

are looking for an alternative.

You have always been vocal about issues concerning Dalits , minorities and tribals. How will this reflect in your leadership?

Ans: My commitment to Dalit and tribal welfare is unwavering. I have worked extensively in undivided Kalahandi and other backward areas, fighting for the



rights of the marginalised. Under my leadership, Congress will advocate for their rights, push for policies that ensure their development, and stand by them against any form of injustice.

You have been a lawmaker at both the State and national levels. How does your experience shape your vision for **Odisha Congress?**

Ans: My journey in politics has given me a deep understanding of both State and national issues. I have seen governance closely—both as a Legislator and as a Minister. This experience will help me guide the party with a clear vision. We need a leadership that understands policy-making, people's aspirations, and ground realities. I am committed to using my experience to strengthen Congress in Odisha

Southern Odisha, especially Kalahandi, has been close to your heart. Will we see a special focus on the region?

Ans: Absolutely. Western and southern Odisha have always been neglected in terms of development. I will ensure that Congress becomes the voice of the people in the re-

gion. We will demand better infrastructure, healthcare, and education for these areas. Our campaign will focus on bringing real change to regions that have been overlooked by successive governments. Additionally, we will work on sustainable development models that prioritise agriculture, industry, and skill development for the youth.

The political landscape in Odisha had been largely dominated by BJD, while BJP managed to take the wind out of its sails by winning a spectacular majority only in 2024. What challenges do you see for Congress?

Ans: The BJD had been in power for over two decades, but it failed to address fundamental issues like unemploy-

tion. The BJP, on the other hand, has been using divisive politics to gain traction, but it has not provided any substantial vision for Odisha's development. Congress is the only party with a clear developmental roadmap that prioritizes social justice, economic growth, and democratic values. Our challenge is to break the BJP-BJD nexus that has kept Odisha's true potential from being realized. We will expose their failures and

Ans: Congress has a clear

fighting for democracy, social justice, and economic stability. In Odisha, I will ensure that our fight aligns with the national vision while also addressing local concerns. We will work in coordination with the All India Congress Committee (AICC) to revive the party here. What message would you like to give to the people of

> **Odisha**? Ans: My message is simple that Congress is your party. We have always stood with the people and will continue to do so. I urge every Odia to join us in this movement for a better, more inclusive Odisha. Together, we can bring real change and build a State that provides equal opportunities for all.

present Congress as the only viable alternative. You have worked in Bihar

and other States for Congress. How do you see Odisha Con-

gress aligning with the national party's vision? national vision under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge ment, healthcare, and educa-



nation 04

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

 $N^{\rm o}$ child will be discrimi-nated against in education, the Supreme Court said on Wednesday while fixing for next week a plea seeking a direction to the Centre and the Delhi governments to grant Rohingya refugees in the city access to public schools and hospitals.

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

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



Photo: File photo the court

sought access to public schools The top court posted the matter for further hearing after 10 days. On January 31, the top court asked the NGO to apprise the court where the Rohingya

refugees have settled in the city and the facilities accessible to them. It also asked Gonsalves to file an affidavit indicating their places of settlement in Delhi Gonsalves said the NGO

and hospitals to Rohingya refugees as they were denied the access due to lack of Aadhaar cards.

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

 $M_{\rm Department\ of\ Social}^{\rm inistry\ of\ Ayush\ and}$

Justice and Empowerment

signed a MoU on Wednesday to

improve the well-being of senior

citizens and address the grow-

ing concern of substance abuse.

This strategic partnership seeks

to implement Ayush-based

interventions to promote geri-

atric healthcare and combat

substance abuse, Union Ayush

Minister Prataprao Jadhav said.

He said the Memorandum of

Understanding (MoU) is a pio-

neering step to develop coop-erative initiatives for health

promotion among senior citi-

zens and those affected by sub-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

mitted

Gonsalves said Rohingya refugees resided in Shaheen Bagh, Kalindi Kunj and Khajuri Khas areas of Delhi. "In Shaheen Bagh and Kalindi Kunj they are residing in slums

and in Khajuri Khas they are residing in rented accommodation," he had submitted. The top court had said it asked the questions to understand if they lived in camps, the nature

of relief would be different than the one mentioned in the

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

India, France to develope modern nuclear reactors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

"Prime Minister Modi and President Macron stressed that nuclear energy is an essential part of the energy mix for strengthening energy security and transitioning towards a low-carbon economy," according to the statement.

SMRs are compact nuclear fission reactors that can be manufactured in factories and then installed elsewhere. They typically have a smaller capacity than conventional nuclear reactors.

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



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

notably in relation to the Jaitapur Nuclear Power Project. They also renewed a memoran-

dum of understanding between India's Department of Atomic and France's Energy Commissariat a l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives of France, concerning cooperation with the Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP). Both the nations agreed to enhance collaboration in training and education for nuclear professionals. Later on Wednesday, Modi is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump, with nuclear power expected to be among the

topics of discussion. India aims to generate 100 gigawatts of nuclear energy by 2047 as part of its transition to clean energy. Earlier this month, the government announced plans to launch a Nuclear Energy Mission with a budget of Rs 20,000 crore to support research and development of SMRs. As part of the initiative, India plans to operationalise at least five indigenously developed SMRs by 2033. To enable private sector participation, the government is considering amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act.

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

tion, convergence and synergy

between the Ministry of Ayush

and DoSJE to foster innovative

initiatives for promoting the

health of senior citizens, reduc-

ing the demand for drugs,

addressing substance abuse and

aiding mental rehabilitation.

This will be achieved through

the generation of awareness

and capacity-building of service

providers using Ayush systems.

It also includes encouraging

research in the areas of geriatric

health, substance abuse and

mental health, with a focus on

exploring the therapeutic ben-

efits of traditional healthcare

practices and supporting addi-

tional activities for health pro-

motion tailored to both the geri-

atric population and individu-

als affected by substance abuse.

with salaries, arrears and

allowances of the officers of

The finance ministry noti-

fied the UPS on January 25 and it promises an assured

pension of 50 per cent of the average basic pay drawn over the last 12 months prior

government

district judiciary.

India to host first Global Ayush Ministry, social justice department sign MoU for senior citizens **Coalition for Social Justice** PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

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

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

for Social Justice Launched by ILO in 2023 the Coalition is a platform for governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international and regional organizations, financial institutions and development banks, enter-

India is spearheading the first 'Regional Dialogue' under the

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

bring together nearly 80 Coalition partners from the Asia Pacific region and beyond explore innovative to approaches, exchange best practices, and strengthen collaboration to advancing social justice in the region.

The event will also mark the 74th Foundation Day of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC), celebrating its unwavering commitment to ensuring dignified healthcare and economic security for India's workforce.

The ESIC Foundation Day is **D**rime Minister Narendra opportunity" to engage the new



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

This collaboration between the Ministry of Ayush and the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment (DoSJE)

represents a significant step towards addressing these chal-

ing with President Trump in both lion-strong Indian community in

restricted and delegation-level the US and the more than

formats, he said. A range of bilat- 3,50,000 students from India

"By leveraging the holistic approach of Ayush systems alongside social welfare initiatives, we aim to empower our senior citizens and those affected by substance abuse," the Minister stated.

While addressing the gathering, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment B L Verma, said, 'Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government has taken several steps to ensure the welfare of our senior citizens. The signing of the MoU with the Ministry of Ayush will benefit our senior citizens in a big

"The development of elderlyspecific training modules, treat-

ment protocols, yoga training programs, sharing of preventive and curative practices, etc, under the MoU will go a long way in enabling our senior citizens to lead a healthy life. By joining hands with the Ministry of Ayush, I am sure that together we can provide comprehensive services to the community," Verma said

By leveraging the strengths of Ayush systems, both ministries committed to working together on various initiatives, including awareness programmes, capacity-building for service providers and the establishment of geriatric health and deaddiction units under Ayush autonomous bodies.

Key objectives of the MoU include developing coopera-

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ ence how the Unified



national non-go ernmental organizations and academia committed to advancing social justice and engaging in collaborative efforts to achieve shared objec-

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

nze me vital contribution of the organization in fostering social justice through the extension of comprehensive social security benefits for workers and their families in the formal sec-

tor Discussions will focus on critical dimensions of social justice, including responsible business conduct and social protection, aligning with the Coalition's thematic priori-

working visit to the US starting Wednesday and hold a bilatera meeting with President Donald Trump, with New Delhi saying it will give further direction and momentum to this "important partnership".

NEW DELHI

stance abuse.

Modi, who is currently visiting France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron, would be among the first few world leaders to visit the United States following the January 20 inauguration after Trump's vic-

The prime minister's visit to the

November.

said.

mutual interest, senior officials

PM Modi embarks on two-day US visit

US at the invitation of President Trump shows the "importance of India-US partnership and is also reflective of the bipartisan support that this partnership enjoys in the US", Foreign Secretary said Vikram Misri said here in a briefing on February seven. Modi will also interact with business leaders and members of the Indian community in the US.

The visit will provide a "valuable

the table besides, besides discussions on regional and international situation. "There is an obvious convergence of interests between the two

tory in the US elections last Modi will hold a bilateral meet- India and the US. "The 5.4 mil-

countries in a number of areas -- trade, investment, technology, defence cooperation, counterterrorism, Indo-Pacific security, and of course, people-to-people relations," the Foreign Secretary said in the briefing.

The visit is also expected to boost people-to-people ties between

who are pursuing versities strengthen this bond immeasurably," Misri said.

The prime minister's visit to the United States will give further direction and momentum to this important partnership. We expect a joint statement to be adopted at the end of the visit and will share that in due course," the foreign secretary said.

This will be Modi's first visit since the inauguration of the second presidential term of Trump on January 20.

NEW DELHI Pension Scheme worked and then take a call on the issues

The Centre on Wednesday informed the Supreme at hand. The matter would be heard after 12 weeks. Court that it recently noti-The case raises concerns fied the Unified Pension over the disbursement of Scheme which might address pension to officers of the disthe concerns of judicial offitrict judiciary and retired high court judges. cers. The top court is dealing

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih heard the submission made by the Centre's counsel.

Attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta appeared for the Centre and apprised the bench about the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

to superannuation. UPS would be applicable to The matter relates to the applicability of the New Central employees who were covered under the National Pension Pension Scheme to the officers of the district judiciary. System and chose the option "It is the submission of the under the system, according attorney general as well as to a gazette notification the solicitor general that the issued by the finance min-Unified Pension Scheme may istry UPS or assured payout address concerns of all the would not be available in employees, including the judicial officers," observed case of removal or dismissal the bench. from service or resignation

The court therefore found it of the employee, as per the appropriate to defer the matnotification published on ter for some time to experi-January 25.

Supreme Court denies Indrani Mukerjea plea to travel abroad

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DELHI

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

I dentify the cause of your stress and express it to some-

one you can trust, Bollywood

actor Deepika Padukone has

told school students during an

interaction on PM's Parisha Pe

Charcha aired on Wednesday.

The actor shared insights on

mental health, stress manage-

ment and how to stay calm dur-

ing exams at a special session of

'Pariksha Pe Charcha', an annu-

al event in which the Prime

Minister Narendra Modi inter-

acts with students appearing for

In a shift from the traditional

board examinations.

DELHI



you will come back. Trial is at an sideration the fact that the trial advanced stage. Taking into con- is ongoing, we are not inclined to consider the request at this stage. We direct the trial court to expedite the hearing and conclude within a year," it said.

Indrani is also an Accused turned Approver in the INX Media bribery case. Former Finance Minister P Chidambaram and son Karti are accused in this case filed by CBI and ED. Indrani confessed before the court that she gave bribes to Karti linked firms to get saved from Income Tax and FDI violations. Opposing the permission, the CBI counsel

the trial had reached halfway with for 10 days over the next three the examination of 96 witnesses. The counsel for Mukerjea, a former media executive, submitted she was given bail by the top court and 92 witnesses still remained to be examined in the case. She said the trial court was vacant for the last four months and the proceedings could take a long time to conclude.

The travel restriction matter came up in the Supreme Court after a special court on July 19 allowed Mukerjea's plea to visit

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

> freely available superpower. You must go out for adequate

sunlight and fresh air. Always

patience is an important virtue and one can only do what's in their control. "So take a short break. Relax the mind. And then address it again. Sometimes, you just (need to) have a fresh take on whatever vou are studying.

Feeling stressed is quite natural. How we handle it is important. It's important to be patient - related to your exams, results or preparations... Sleep well, hydrate, exercise, and meditate," she added.

said it was a sensitive matter and Spain and the United Kingdom Deepika Padukone shares stress management tips with students on PM's PPC 2025

light. From there, my journey towards mental health awareness began. Depression, anxiety, stress could happen to anyone,

"Like Shri Narendra Modi ji has mentioned in his book 'Éxam Warriors' - 'express, never supthe PPC session which was tele-

illness, the "Pathaan" star said there was a time she was working continuously and one day in 2014 she just passed out. It was

her mother, who was then visiting her in Mumbai from Bengaluru, who realised that something wasn't ok.

They asked me if something happened, someone said anything to me, something hap-pened at work. And, I said, 'No. I don't know what it is. I'm just feeling completely helpless and hopeless. I just don't want to live anymore. I was lucky in that moment that my mother realised and she decided to call a psychologist," she recalled. When a student asked for tips

to care for one's mental health, Padukone shared three point-

"Sleep is very important. It is a

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

dents to learn to derive happi-

ness from their own strengths.

town hall format, Modi pre-"To manage stress, talk to your parents the night before exams. Identify the cause of your stress and express it to someone you can trust," she said during the interaction broadcast on Wednesday. Eminent personalities like

Boxer MC Mary Kom and spir-itual leader Sadhguru have also shared their experiences and knowledge with students on key aspects of life and learning in different episodes of Pariksha Pe Charcha this year.

Padukone, who revealed her depression diagnosis in 2015, said there was a time when discussion around mental health was not encouraged in India.

Photo: File photo

"Mental health used to be a as I started talking about this illstigma in our country. As soon ness, I started feeling so free,

anytime.

warriors - express, never sup-press'. When you're preparing for exams, you start feeling bet-ter. And you're able to live a happier, healthier life," she told students during the episode of the DBC coreiron which was tale

cast on Wednesday. Calling depression an "invisible"

reach out for help." The 39-year-old also said



nation 05

organization

aimed

supporting those who choose

to embrace Sanatan Dharma.

"We will provide financial aid

to converts, help them

establish businesses, and

ensure they are welcomed into

reactions among devotees,

with some expressing support,

society with dignity." His statements sparked mixed

Millions take holy dip in Prayagraj on Maghi Purnima

BISWAJEET BANERJEE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

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

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

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

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

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

Adding to the divine ambiance. authorities orchestrated a grand floral shower on the devotees. Thousands of marigold and rose petals rained down from atop buildings and helicopters, turning the ghats into a vibrant, fragrant spectacle. The sight left many in awe. "It felt like the heavens

themselves were blessing us," said 28-year-old Ramesh Tiwari, who had traveled from



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

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

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

According to officials, nearly one-third of India's population has participated in the ongoing Magh Mela's holy baths, a staggering testament to the event's significance. This is an unprecedented

turnout," said Uttar Pradesh DGP Prashant Kumar. "On peak weekends, crowds swell, sometimes causing traffic

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

slowdowns, but our teams announce his plans for a new work round the clock to keep everything under control. The sheer scale of faith on display here is beyond words.

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

while others preferred to focus on the spiritual essence of the The grand event was also gathering. The Magh Mela, often marked by spiritual declarations. Former Uttar spiritual Pradesh Shia Waqf Board considered a precursor to the Chairman Wasim Rizvi, now grand Maha Kumbh, has once again reaffirmed Prayagraj's known as Jitendra Narayan Singh Tyagi after his conversion to Hinduism, took role as the epicenter of Hindu spirituality. As Maghi Purnima draws to a a dip in the Sangam and expressed his joy.

close, the energy at the Sangam remains electric, with 'Sangam Snan is not just about bathing, it is about inner pilgrims continuing their prayers and taking one last dip transformation. It fills my soul with bliss," he said, standing before heading home-hearts on the ghats surrounded by his full, spirits uplifted, and faith supporters. He went on to renewed.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh hails Aero India 2025 as historic success **Operation** Chaturbhuj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

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

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

experience in three words, it is Yelahanka is a manifestation of energy and the energy and energy, energy and energy," he said. "Whatever we could see in enthusiasm could be seen not only among the participants

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

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

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

Rajnath Singh said, "Today we are standing at such a juncture where fighter jets, missile systems, naval vessels, or many such equipment and platforms, are not only protecting our borders but are

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

 $A^{\rm special\ security\ operation,}_{\rm Operation\ Chaturbhuj,}$ was launched to ensure the safety of devotees from across the country and abroad for the holy bath on Magh Purnima in Mahakumbh Nagar. This initiative was carried out under the directives of Chief

Minister reinforcing Adityanath, stringent security measures. Additionally, a dedicated team from the Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC) was crucial in

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

Police (SSP) Rajesh Dwivedi

emphasized that 24/7 aerial

to monitor devotees

being surveillance conducted via drones, while security arrangements at the ICCC have significantly enhanced crowd management.

He added, "Furthermore, the anti-drone system remains on high alert in Mahakumbh Nagar, actively preventing unauthorized aerial activity. On the auspicious occasion of Magh Purnima, stringent measures were in place to detect and neutralize suspicious drones, ensuring an incident-free and secure environment for devotees.

Panchjayat steps up against drug menace in Himachal Pradesh



Former cricketer Anil Kumble, wife take holy dip in Sangam

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR $F^{\text{ormer Indian cricketer and}}_{\text{coach Anil Kumble took the}}$ holy dip in Triveni Sangam on the auspicious occasion of

Magh Purnima in Prayagraj. Accompanied by his wife, Chaitna Ramtirtha, Kumble immersed himself in the revered waters, embracing the spiritual significance of the occasion. Later, he shared photos of the

event on social media platform X, captioning them with a single word: "Blessed."



Former Indian cricket captain Anil Kumble prays after taking holy dip at the

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE IMPHAL

A^{mid} a political crisis in Strife-torn Manipur, senior BJP leader Sambit Patra on Wednesday morning called on Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla at the Raj Bhavan here,

time summon the House or sources said. They held discussions for each House of the Legislature some time but the outcome of a state to meet at such time the meeting is not vet and place as he this six months shall known.

Obviously, it will lead to a big constitutional crisis.

There is no provision in Article 174 saying that this can be extended or be condoned beyond six months, he said.

Article 174 says that the

Governor shall from time to

intervene between its last

sitting in one session and the

date appointed for its first

After six months, it will lead

to a constitutional deadlock

and the President's Rule

under Article 356 is the only

Article 356 of the Constitution gives the President the power to

impose this rule on a state on

the advice of the Union

Chief Minister N Biren Singh

Council of Ministers.

option, Chowdhury said.

sitting in the next session.

not

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BILASPUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kumble expressed that the holy immersion had granted blessings of Prayagraj.

him spiritual merit and the Anil Kumble, known for his arrived in Prayagraj on

masterful spin bowling,

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday said aligning technologies with future warfare is not the sole solution to achieving victory in war. He emphasised the need to develop new concepts and doctrines to complement technological advancements. Making these assertions in a seminar on aligning technologies with future conflicts at Aero India here, the CDS said "Aligning technologies with future warfare is only part of the solution to achieving victory. You must evolve

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

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

battles are now extending underwater-almost to the seabed. In the airspace we are witnessing an expansion into near space." "We need to align technologies to fight in these increasingly complex domains, and that is where technology will

Speaking on how combat is evolving due to t e c h n o l o g i c a l advancements, General Chauhan said, "For generations warfare has been between human beings but today we are on the verge of redefining this. In the future combat may be

maritime domain, apart machines and later it could from surface warfare, be entirely between between autonomous machines.

He also highlighted that warfare is becoming multidomain, meaning that battles will be fought simultaneously across multiple domains.

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

Patra, the BJP's Northeast incharge, later headed for a hotel, where he is likely to meet party MLAs during the

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

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

If the situation remains so, the state is likely to be under President's rule, they said. Senior Supreme Court Arunabh Advocate Chowdhury told PTI, "In Manipur, the assembly is a live one... It is not under suspended animation or President's Rule.

It is mandatory to hold assembly sessions as per the Supreme Court order.

had on February 9 resigned from his post and Governor A K Bhalla accepted the same. He requested the CM to continue in office until alternative arrangements are made. The Governor has already declared the seventh session the 12th Manipur of

Legislative Assembly, which was set to commence on February 10, as null and void The last session of the assembly in the restive state concluded on August 12,

2024.

CM Mamata Banerjee slams BJP for Kumbh mess Abhijit Mukherjee quits TMC, joins Congress

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Ponsequent to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman's corruption diatribe on Bengal Government, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday mounted a blistering attack on the Centre and the BJP on a host of issues - including alleged fudging of voters' lists to win elections, mismanaging the Kumbh Mela as also suppressing facts post stampede deaths in Prayagraj and central deprivation of Bengal. "Tĥose of who talk corruption first look into their own acts ... they are

embodiment of Nirmala corruption...let Devi control their own Banerjee was speaking to the

corruptions...she stopped grants to us ... even

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

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

employees.

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

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

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

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

deaths...I was told how dead bodies were thrown in the rive ...we saw similar things happening during corona...thousands the of sandals lay strewn in places as testimony to the number deaths during of the 30 stampede. About pilgrims had died in the stampede on January 29 at Prayagraj. "There was no plan to

manage the crowd...everything was concentrated on VIP movement...whereas here in Ganga Sagar I do not visit the Mela during the main occasion so as not to create problem in crowd management...this was not so in Prayagraj," Banerjee said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA

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

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

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



Photo: File photo

to a personal reason, I do not want to disclose.

We carry forward orders, we do what responsibility we are given." Sarkar said that Mukherjee's rejoining the Congress would strengthen

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

between humans and

assist us," he added.

BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Yunus Govt in the crosshair

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

n angladesh is currently facing a period of political uncertainty and unrest as the government led by Muhammad Yunus finds itself increasingly at odds with the D country's powerful military establishment. The recent statements made by General Waker-uz-Zaman, the Chief of Army Staff, at the Dhaka International Marathon 2025, indicate a significant shift in the military's stance towards the civilian government. His emphasis on peace, stability and international cooperation-particularly with Indiasuggests growing dissatisfaction within the army ranks regarding the Yunus administration's policies and governance approach. The military in Bangladesh has historically played a crucial role in maintaining internal stability, often stepping in when political crises spiral out of control. With political tensions escalating under the Yunus government, the army appears to be distancing itself from the administration, signalling a potential realignment in the country's power dynamics. Several factors seem to be driving



the military's dissatisfaction with the Yunus government. This indicates the military's concerns over the deteriorating economic conditions and increasing social divisions under Yunus's leadership. Persistent political unrest could be damaging to foreign investments and economic growth, both of which are essential for national development.

The military appears to be worried about governance inefficiencies and security concerns, especially as political violence and mass protests become more frequent. The Yunus government's inability to control these disruptions may be viewed as a failure to ensure stability, a key concern for the army. Bangladesh's military

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



Mann ki baat: Leading the global revival of radio.



SANTHOSH MATHEW

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

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

In India, Mann Ki Baat is a testimony to the enduring power of radio. Launched in 2014, this monthly programme has transformed into one of the largest and most effective communication experiments in the world, reaching millions of listeners not just in India but globally.

With an unparalleled ability to engage audiences through storytelling, Modi's initiative underscores the relevance of radio in an era dominated by digital noise. At a time when many predicted the decline of traditional radio, Mann Ki Baat has revived and redefined its significance.

The programme's strength lies in its simplicity and relatability. Every episode delivers not just policy discussions but also inspirational stories of common citizens, grassroots innovations, cultural heritage and national achievements. The 118th episode was no different, weaving narratives that resonated with the spirit of nation-building, environmental consciousness, and collective responsibility. Beyond its national appeal, Mann Ki Baat has become an instrument of India's soft power diplomacy. The glob-

translated into multiple languages, including regional South Asian tongues, strengthening India's diplomatic and cultural ties with neighbouring nations. As India emerges as a global leader, leveraging radio as a tool for soft power projection enhances its image as a nation that values dialogue, shared heritage and cooperation. South Asia, a region bound by deep historical, cultural, and linguistic ties, finds an unexpected bridge in Mann Ki Baat.

The programme's themesself-reliance, community-driven initiatives, environmental sustainability and youth empowerment-are not just relevant to India but also resonate with India's neighbours. In an era where integration efforts in South Asia often face political roadblocks, the revival of radio as a medium of cultural and ideological exchange holds immense potential. India's radio diplomacy, through Mann Ki Baat, can become a catalyst for fostering deeper South Asian engagement, promoting shared developmental narratives, and creating common aspirations among regional populations. The T18th episode once again demonstrated how radio can be used as a participatory

letters and messages from listeners, and his emphasis on people-centric governance make Mann Ki Baat an inclusive space for dialogue. Unlike social media platforms that are often fragmented and dominated by echo chambers, radio, through this programme, emerges as a unifying force that connects the masses uninterruptedly and intimately. From the fishermen in Tamil Nadu to the farmers in Punjab, from students in Meghalaya to entrepreneurs in Gujarat, Mann Ki Baat speaks to every Indian, transcending linguistic, geographic, and socio-economic barriers. It harnesses the power of storytelling to amplify the voices of unsung heroes, small businesses, and cultural custodians. Radio has always been a tool of influence, but Mann Ki

Baat takes it a step further by combining traditional broadcasting with modern digital integration. The program is simultaneously aired on multiple platforms, including community radio stations, AIR (All India Radio), podcasts, and social media channels. This hybrid model ensures that the message reaches every

As the world looks for ways to reinvigorate traditional communication platforms, India's example showcases that radio is not just surviving but thriving in the digital age. Mann Ki Baat is leading this revival, proving that in the cacophony of digital noise, the human

voice still holds the power to unite and inspire. The writer is an Associate Professor Centre For South Asian Studies, Pondicherry Central University. Views are personal)



AS INDIA EMERGES AS A GLOBAL LEADER, LEVERAGING RADIO AS A TOOL FOR SOFT POWER PROJECTION

ENHANCES ITS IMAGE AS A NATION THAT VALUES DIALOGUE, SHARED HERITAGE AND al discussions revolve around the revival and impact of radio, Mann Ki Baat stands as a shining example of how the medium can be harnessed for nation-building and diplomacy. Countries across the world can draw lessons from India's use of radio as a tool for constructive engagement, leadership communication, and global outreach. In an era where polarization is rampant, radio's ability to create a sense of collective consciousness is more valuable than ever. India, with its vast diversity, has found in Mann Ki Baat a unifying voice that reflects the aspirations of its people. The power of voice, the magic of words, and the intimacy of audio storytelling are elements that make this programme not just a political initiative but a cultural phenomenon.

il Indian diaspora tunes in eagerly, fostering a sense of connection with the homeland. The broadcast's reach extends beyond medium. Modi's interactions national boundaries, often being with citizens, his references to

COOPERATION

RS II ()

demographic, from the rural farmer with a transistor radio to the urban professional tuning in via a smartphone app. On World Radio Day, as glob-

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

Breaking barriers: Building a future for women in science



DHARMAPALAN

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

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

Without the full participation of women, we lose access to a vast pool of talent, creativity, and innovative solutions that could address some of our biggest challenges. Many girls are discouraged from pursuing science from a young age due to stereotypes that frame these fields as "unsuitable" or "too difficult." The so-called "leaky pipeline" begins to take its toll as early



as high school, with fewer girls opting for science-related studies and careers. Even for those who break through these initial hurdles, the challenges persist in higher education and professional life. Women in research face a lack of mentorship, unequal access to funding and sys-temic biases in hiring and promotions

The numbers speak for themselves: UNESCO reports that only 35 per cent of STEM students globally are women, and their representation in leadership roles remains even lower. In India, the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) confirms that while the number of women pursuing science has grown, their presence in top research positions and leadership roles is still dismal. Despite these odds, many

defied the status quo and achieved remarkable success. Dr Indira Hinduja revolutionised reproductive medicine by developing India's first test-tube baby in 1986 and pioneering the gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT) technique. Dr Soumya Swaminathan's leadership as

Chief Scientist at the World Health Organization (WHO) played a crucial role in global health policy. Kalpana Kalahasti, a senior scientist at ISRO, was instrumental in India's triumphant Chandrayaan-3 mission and earned a spot in Nature's list of notable figures in 2023. These trailblazers not only pushed the boundaries of scientific knowledge but also broke societal barriers, paving the way for future generations of women in science. Does

this make any difference to the society? Society benefits from more inclusive and comprehensive solutions when women are at the forefront of scientific innovation. Areas like maternal health, gender-specific medicine and community health interventions often flourish because of

women scientists who under-Indian women scientists have stand these challenges first-

hand. Inclusion isn't just about fairness-it's about enriching science itself. So, how do we move forward? Building a future for women in science requires collective effort on multiple fronts.

We must dismantle the structural barriers hindering women's advancement, provide mentorship programmes and promote policies that ensure equal hiring, funding, and career progression opportunities. Educational institutions should actively encourage girls to pursue STEM fields, while workplaces must offer flexible work environments that allow women to balance personal and professional responsibilities.

It is time to tear down these barriers and build a future where every young girl who dreams of becoming a scientist can do so without limitations. When women are given equal opportunities to contribute to science, we all stand to gain-from groundbreaking discoveries to a more inclusive and prosperous world.

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

AI FOR PUBLIC GOOD

Madam - Artificial intelligence has become a truly global technology. The adoption of AI in healthcare, education, finance, labour and transportation is impacting society on a global scale while fundamental breakthroughs are being facilitated by research collabourations around the world. Its rapid deployment also creates major challenges in terms of the reliability of information, the protection of basic rights and accessibility. It is the international community's responsibility to maintain balance in our societies and to craft AI that respects universal values. The Paris AI Summit has been focused on several key themes related to opportunities, benefits and governance of AI.

LETT

Also, these themes include AI for public good, for global AI governance, for innovation and culture and for environmentally sustainable AI solutions. The aim of the summit is to strike a balance between technological advancement and the preservation of universal values. The Paris AI Summit is of significant importance for the future of AI due to its focus on global governance, accessibility and ethical development of AI. The AI Action Committee at Paris, co-chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, shed light on India and France's joint work in the five dedicated working groups to tackle key issues for tomorrow: Public interest AI, future of work, innovation and culture Trust in AI and global AI governance. The role of India in the Paris AI Summit is laudable.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

US TARIFFS ON ALUMINIUM, STEEL

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

Gandhi's insight on education

THE EDITOR



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

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

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

N Ŝadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

AFFORESTATION NEEDED TO SAVE FORESTS

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

education by emphasising the impor-tance of moral and ethical principles. He encouraged educators to teach values like truth, non-violence and respect for others. He felt that instilling these values in students would help them become responsible and compassionate individuals.

Gandhi described himself as a curious and eager learner during his student days. He valued education and believed that it was essential for personal growth. We have to apply Mahatma Gandhi's ideas on value education as a demand of time. Gandhi's unique and refined views about value education are not only important but are worth applying not only in India but also in the rest of the world.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

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

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

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com BHUBANESWAR | THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 13, 2025

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FIRSTCOLUMN ONE FAITH ONE WORLD

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Il of us have heard the famous phrase "United We Stand, Divided We Fall" during our school days through the simple story of an old farmer who, on his deathbed, taught the importance of unity to his disunited sons through a bundle of sticks. That story still holds an important place in our society and has even gained popularity because discord, disunity, strife and warfare have assumed unprecedented proportions in the modern world. Today, one of the most arduous challenges that face humanity is to establish harmony among people of different religions.

There is no doubt that political and religious leaders have time and again endeavoured to bring people onto a common platform and find ways and means to forge better understanding and acceptance of each faith. But despite their hard efforts, not much has changed. Hence, the greatest question of all at present is whether can the diverse religions and faiths ever be united. If so, then how? If we walk down history lane, we would find that one of the important reasons why the need for religious harmony originated is that the most



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

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

Gradually, cracks, factionalism, shallowness, delusion, deception and ritualistic adherence devoid of spiritual significance began to appear. Hence, instead of empowering spiritual values, religions perpetuated dogmas, disciplines, and barriers that segregate people on many lines. Many fall prey to the very evils they preach against, such as the lust for power, pleasure and money. There can be better understanding, tolerance, and acceptance of each faith, but there cannot be unity unless there is a single or common belief. So, what's the best way to reach a common solution acceptable to all faiths? According to divine knowledge imparted by the Supreme Almighty, everything in the eternal cycle of the human world drama goes through a change, which means that everything degrades from a perfect state to an imperfect, fragmented state. Be it human souls, nature, religions, or civilisations, almost everything passes through the sato (pure), rajo (mixed) and tamo (impure) stages as the time cycle spins from the Golden Age to the Iron Age. As of today, we are witnessing the tamo-pradhan (most degraded) stage of all aspects of human existence, and religions are no exception to this process of change. Hence, we can envisage a unified faith only in terms of the spirituality inherent in all faiths. It is said that God is Truth, and true religion embodies that truth. Hence, when humans embrace that truth in their hearts, there will be a unified world. So, let us all stand united with one unified faith to welcome the new world where truth, peace and harmony will prevail.

The MBA dilemma: Why degrees alone no longer guarantee success



analysis 07

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



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

The problem is not just limited to the United States. According to the International Labour Organisation's Global Employment Trends for Youth 2024, 13 per cent of the global youth labour force was unemployed in 2023a staggering figure representing nearly 65 million people. This unsettling trend makes traditional, generalist MBA degrees less appealing than targeted skill certifications. A recent Forbes report highlighted how some MBA graduates have succeeded by lowering their expectations and opting for less conventional roles. In an era where industries are shifting dynamically, the rigid, cookie-cutter MBA model is struggling to keep pace. The need for a 360-degree reimagination of this degree has never been more press-Degrees Alone Won't Cut It Anymore One fundamental truth is becoming evident: degrees alone no longer guarantee job or entrepreneurship security. The future belongs to professionals who continuously upskill and adapt to meet the ever-changing demands of the workforce. What used to be a clear, structured career trajectory for MBA graduates-typically leading to consulting, finance, or management roles-is now blurred. The stark reality is that a prestigious qualification, while valuable, no longer provides

WHAT USED TO BE A CLEAR. STRUCTURED CAREER TRAJECTORY FOR MBA GRADUATES-TYPICALLY

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

The changing job landscape demands a fundamental shift in how we perceive employment, education, and career success. Skill acquisition is about individuals learning new competencies and families being sensitised to alter-native career paths. It is about communities understanding the implications of an evolving job market. It is about cities and regions acknowledging and respecting those who possess the skills necessary to sustain a livelihood, irrespective of whether they hold an MBA or a B.Tech degree. The MBA has been a gateway to professional and financial success for decades. However, the economy's evolution demands a departure from this narrow thinking. In India and many other countries, social conditioning has led to an unspoken hierarchy of professions. White-collar corporate roles are celebrated, while vocational or blue-collar jobs are often overlooked. This mindset is outdated and damaging in a world where adaptability and skills matter more than mere academic credentials. A 360-Degree Skills Revolution What we need now is a complete rethinking of education and skill development. The traditional MBA

must evolve from a broad-spectrum business degree into a dynamic, skills-focused program that integrates emerging industry trends. A 360-degree approach should include everything from finance to marketing and HR.

MBA programmes must incorporate niche skills such as data analytics, digital transformation, sustainability management and entre-preneurship in beauty-wellness, the most emerging sector. Instead of theoretical coursework, there should be a stronger focus on apprenticeships, live projects and problem-solving in real-world business scenarios.

Understanding AI, automation, and emerging technologies should be a core part of the curriculum to prepare graduates for future-ready roles. Rather than treating entrepreneurship as an alternative, business schools should actively promote and equip students with the skills to start and sustain their ventures. Business schools must recoga chef, a salon owner or a renewable energy technician, they should be seen as pioneers, not failures. The Need for Institutional Change

Educational institutions must move beyond outdated frameworks and align themselves with industry demands. Business schools should foster adaptive thinking, preparing students for unconventional but lucrative career paths. The focus should be on problem-solving, digital proficiency, and entrepre-neurial agility rather than rigid academic theories.

Governments and industries should also contribute by incentivising skill-based education. Scholarships, subsidies, and awareness campaigns can help shift societal perspectives on what constitutes a respectable and rewarding career.

Conclusion: A Future Built on Skills Once a golden ticket to corporate success, the MBA faces an existential crisis. If it is to remain relevant, it must undergo radical transformation. A degree is no longer a guarantee; what truly matters is an individual's ability to adapt, innovate, and deliver value in an ever-changing world.

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

FINANCE, OR MANAGEMENT ROLES—IS NOW BLURRED

LEADING TO

CONSULTING

nise the gig economy's rise and train students to navigate freelance and contract-based work models. Beyond Livelihood—Dignity in Work

Redefining career success means placing equal value on all forms of work. Whether a person is an MBA graduate managing a corporate division, an AI consultant, a skilled tradesperson, or a self-employed barber, their ability to contribute meaningfully to society matters. The prestige of a job should be measured not by its title but by its impact and sustainability.

Parents, educators, and policy-makers have a role in fostering this change. We must instil in young minds that success is not confined to traditional white-collar professions. Regardless of their chosen field, a skilled individual should be celebrated just as much as a corporate executive. If an MBA graduate decides to become an artisan,

As a society, we need to support and encourage young professionals in their quest to discover their true potential-even in jobs that were once considered "odd." In reality, no job is odd; what matters is its necessity and impact. By embracing a 360-degree perspective on skills and careers, we can build a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready workforce. The time for change is now.

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

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

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

n today's rapidly advancing

healthcare landscape, Artificial Intelligence (AI) plays a transformative role, particularly in predictive healthcare. AI's ability to analyse vast datasets enables early disease detection, personalised treatment plans and improved patient outcomes. The global AI in healthcare market, valued at approximately \$15.4 billion in 2022, is projected to surge to \$187.95 billion by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 37 per cent. Yet, with this potential comes

a responsibility to ensure that AI is used responsibly, ethically, and equitably. Establishing a framework prioritises privacy, fairness, transparency and accountability is essential to protect patient rights and



cer and Alzheimer's.

GERALD JAIDEEP

maintain public trust. accuracy rate of over 87 per The Power of AI in Predictive cent, enabling early detection Healthcare AI's role in predictive healthcare is primarily and timely intervention. driven by machine learning and data analytics, empowering it to forecast diseases, assess risk factors, and recommend preventive measures. that align with those of human By examining patterns in com-

prehensive datasets, such as ness AI's potential responsibly, it's crucial to address the ethmedical histories, genetic profiles, lifestyle information and ical challenges it introduces. Safeguarding Data Privacy real-time health data, AI can predict the likelihood of conand Security ditions ranging from diabetes

The ethical use of AI in healthand cardiovascular diseases care hinges on the responsible to complex ailments like canmanagement of patient data. Predictive healthcare AI relies This shift from reactive to preheavily on sensitive informaventive care can ease the burtion, including medical, genetden on healthcare systems ic, and behavioural data. Yet, and improve patient quality of life. For example, AI-based the need for privacy is ever more pressing—72 per cent of Americans express significant diagnostics for diabetic retinopathy have shown an concerns about data privacy in AI applications, particularly in healthcare.

In 2022, nearly 50 million Similarly, IBM Watson's healthcare records were Oncology AI has achieved 90 exposed to data breaches in the per cent accuracy in cancer United States, underscoring treatment recommendations the need for strong data security protocols. To protect this oncologists. However, to harinformation, AI systems must



prioritise rigorous security measures such as encryption, anonymisation and regular audits

Patients should also provide informed consent, clearly explaining how their data will be used and stored. By centring data protection in AI development, healthcare can ensure patient confidentiality and fos-

continued adoption. Addressing Bias for Fair and Equitable Predictions

Al's reliance on historical data introduces the risk of bias, which can lead to predictions that disproportionately impact certain demographic groups. Research has shown that AI models trained on biased data result in 35 per cent more misdiagnoses for Black and Hispanic patients compared to white patients. In healthcare, such biases could exacerbate disparities for marginalised opulations.

Ensuring fairness requires AI systems trained on diverse, representative datasets, as well as continuous monitoring and adjustments to detect and correct biases. A study published in Nature Medicine found ter the trust necessary for AI's that AI systems trained on cent of healthcare providers

inclusive datasets significantly reduce diagnostic discrepancies, underscoring the importance of inclusivity in training data. Collaboration with healthcare professionals and ethicists is also vital to developing AI solutions that are equitable and serve all patients effectively.

Promoting Transparency and Explainability in AI Models The complexity of AI algorithms often results in "black box" decision-making, where the reasoning behind predic-tions is not fully understood by users or developers. In predictive healthcare, this lack of transparency can hinder trust and adoption among patients and healthcare providers alike. In a survey by the American Medical Association, 67 per

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

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

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



countries.

them?

producer Pindad and Turkiye's

FNSS jointly developed a new model of medium tank. In

2023, the two countries inked a plan of action for joint mil-itary exercises and defence

In addition to Indonesia, Turkiye has HLSCC coopera-

tion forums with 21 other countries, including Pakistan.

Turkiye and Indonesia plan to

sign agreements on trade,

investment, education and

technology during Erdogan's

Erdogan will head on to

Pakistan on Wednesday, where he and Prime Minister

Shehbaz Sharif will address

the Pakistan-Turkiye Business

and Investment Forum and

attend another HSLCC meet-

Investigators

file criminal

complaints

against Duterte

Manila (PTI): Philippine gov-ernment investigators filed criminal complaints, includ-ing sedition, against Vice President Sara Duterte on Wednesday over her public threat to have the president assassinated if she herself was killed in an escalating politi-

killed in an escalating politi-

Investigation Director Jaime

Bureau

cal storm.

National

visit.

ing.

industry cooperation.

Trump admn battles lawsuit Leaders of Indonesia, Turkiye hold talks on defence, economic ties to block USAID dismantling Trump readies matching

"It's time to be reciprocal," Trump told reporters earlier this week. "You'll be hearing that word

a lot. Reciprocal. If they charge us, we charge

The president had suggested that the order would come on Tuesday or Wednesday. But

when Tuesday passed without the tariffs being officially announced, Trump was asked if he would sign the order on Wednesday and Trump answered: "We'll see what happens"

As Trump has unleashed a series of tariffs after

being in power for less than a month, he has fully taken ownership of the path of the US

economy. It's a bet that his economic ideas can

eventually deliver meaningful results for vot-

hear arguments Wednesday

on a request from the employ-

ee groups to keep blocking the move to put thousands of

staffers on leave as well as broaden his order. They con-

tend the government has already violated the judge's

order, which also reinstated

USAID staffers already placed

on leave but declined to sus-

pend the administration's

freeze on foreign assistance. Trump and Musk's cost-cutting

DOGE have hit USAID partic-ularly hard as they look to shrink the size of the federal

government, accusing its work

of being wasteful and out of

line with Trump's agenda.In

the court case, a government

PTI WASHINGTON

The Trump administration will present an unforgiving argument for dismantling the US Agency for International Development to a federal judge Wednesday: USAID is rife with "insubordination" and must be shut down for the administration to decide what pieces of it to salvage. The argument, made in an affidavit by political appointee and deputy USAID administrator Pete Marocco, comes as the administration confronts a lawsuit by two groups representing federal employees.USAID staffers deny insubordination and call the accusation a pretext to break up the more than 60year-old agency, one of the world's biggest donors of humanitarian and development assistance.accounts of USAID staffers filed Tuesday in support of the lawsuit revealed new details of the destruction of the agency.

That includes a sworn statement from a USAID staffer describing a specific leader in billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency teams allegedly directing USAID staffers on Monday in the immediate termination of about 200 USAID programs without proper authorisation or process. US District Judge Carl Nichols,

an appointee of President Donald Trump, dealt the administration a setback Friday in its dismantling of the agency, temporarily halting plans to pull all but a fraction of USAID staffers off the job worldwide.Nichols is due to



LOST & FOUND

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

I, Kumari Ankita Shekhawat D/o- IC-472785Y Sub Jaswant Singh, R/o- Vill & PO- Pardoli Badi, Teh & Dist- Sikar, Rajasthan- 332041, have changed my name from Kumari Ankita Shekhawat to Ankita Shekhawat, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1470)C I, Kumari Priyanka, D/o- JC-472136N Sub Hony Capt Mahender Singh, R/o- Vill-Unchi Bhandor, Post- Beri,

tariffs on trade partners Washington (**PTI**): President Donald Trump is taking additional action to upset the world trade ers, even if by Trump's own admission the import taxes could involve some financial pain system, with plans to sign an order as soon as Wednesday that would require that US tariffs in the form of inflation and economic disruptions. For all of Trump's talk, the impact will on imports match the tax rates charged by other likely depend on the details of the tariffs and

how other nations respond. A reciprocal tariffs order could amount to a substantial tax hike to be shouldered largely by US consumers and businesses as the Census Bureau reported that the country had total imports of USD 4.1 trillion last year. The tariffs could set off retaliatory measures by

trading partners that could roil growth around the globe and reset where the United States stands with allies and rivals alike. By signing the order, Trump would fulfil his long-standing pledge to raise taxes on most imported goods, a clear break with his recent White House predecessors who saw tariffs as either targeted tools to use strategically or barriers worth lowering

motion shows the administration pressing arguments by Vice President JD Vance and others questioning if courts have the authority to check Trump's power. "The Trump's power. "The President's powers in the realm of foreign affairs are generally vast and unreviewable," government lawyers argued. USAID staffers and supporters call the aid agency's humanitarian and development work abroad essential to national security. They argue each step of the administration's breakup of

USAID has been unnecessarily cruel to its thousands of workers and devastating for people around the world who are being cut off from clean water, life-saving medical care, education, training and more since Trump signed an execu-tive order on Jan. 20 freezing foreign assistance.

"This is a full-scale gutting of virtually all the personnel of an entire agency," Karla Gilbride, attorney for the employee asso-ciations, told the judge last week.The American Foreign

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

have often been stereotypically associated with this political fac-

The Office of the High

Commissioner for Human

Rights (OHCHR) Fact-Finding

Report: 'Human Rights

Violations and Abuses related to

PTI BOGOR Indonesia's state-run arms

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met his Indonesian counterpart Prabowo Subianto on Wednesday for talks aimed at strengthening economic and defence ties between the two

Muslim-majority nations. The two countries are holding their first High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council summit after agreeing to create the forum at a meeting in Bali in 2022.Erdogan's state visit to Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim-majority country and Southeast Asia's largest economy, was his second stop in a four-day visit that also includes Malaysia and Pakistan.

'This meeting is the highest

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

priorities," said Indonesian foreign ministry spokesperson Rolliansyah Soemirat ahead of the visit.

A Turkish statement said the discussions will be focused on current regional and global issues, particularly the war in Gaza.

On Monday, the Turkish leader met Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, and reiterated his opposition to a US proposal to relocate Palestinians from Gaza and said Israel should pay for the territory's reconstruction. We do not consider the pro

posal to exile the Palestinians from the lands they have lived regular bilateral forum in for thousands of years as

between the two countries where all matters of common interest will be discussed, including strategic issues and in Jakarta late Tuesday and was welcomed by Subianto at Halim Perdanakusuma International Airport in a light rain. Erdogan rode with Subianto in a motorcade to his hotel.

> Indonesia and Turkiye have built an increasingly close relationship in recent years, and the two leaders previous-ly met in Ankara last July when Subianto was still pres-ident-elect and defence minister. Subianto pledged to "elevate defense cooperation and other strategic fields for mutual benefit".

The two countries signed a defense cooperation agreement in 2010, under which

Santiago said at a news conference that the complaints of inciting to sedition and grave threats against Duterte were filed at the Department of Justice, which would decide whether to dismiss the com-plaints outright or elevate them to court. The vice president, a lawyer and daughter of former President Rodrigo Duterte, reacted briefly by saying that she had expected the move by the NBI. She has accused her political rivals of taking steps to prevent her from seeking the presidency when President Ferdinand Marcos Jr's term ends in 2028. The vice presi-

UN: Abuses against Hindus, Ahmadiyya muslims during protests clear, witnesses to some of the

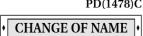
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on places of worship, especially temples and shrines, in Bangladesh.

PTI

were local supporters of the In terms of the period under Bangladesh Nationalist Party consideration in this report, (BNP), Jamaat-e-Islami, and between August 5 and 15, media However, there were also inter- and other local sources reportsuggesting systemic impunity, ventions from these political ed attacks on places of worship Hindu associated Ahmadiyya, Buddhist, and whirlwind political alliance, however, quickly frayed and Christian communities across deteriorated into a bitter feud several regions. According to information subin an Asian democracy that

dent's father himself, whose presidential term ended in 2022, is facing legal troubles. The International Criminal Court has been investigating the widespread killings under a brutal anti-drug crackdown he oversaw while in office as a possible crime against humanity.Sara Duterte ran as Marcos' vice presidential running mate



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

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

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

PD(1477)C Father of I, Basappa No.8038827X L/Nk Manjunath Nuchchundi, R/o-Vill & PO-Shivapur, Teh-Gokak, Dist-Belgaum, Karnataka- 591312, have changed my Name from to Basappa Basappa Nuchchundi, vide Affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1468)C

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

Teh & Dist- Mahendergarh, Haryana- 123029, have changed my name from Kumari Priyanka to Priyanka Rani, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1471)C I, Sapana Tanwar D/o- JC-472758P Sub Suresh, R/o- Vill & PO- Khudana, Dist-Mahendragarh, Haryana-123029, have changed my name from Sapana Tanwar to Sapna Tanwar, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1472)C

I, Rama Shankar Singh, Father of- JC-472158M Sub Rakesh Kumar Singh, R/o-Vill- Banakara, Post-Pashuhari, Teh- Belthara Road, Ballia, U.P.- 221715, have changed my name from Rama Shankar Singh to Ramashankar Singh, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

Dist-201201, have changed my name from Kunti Devi to Kanti, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

I, Mohani Devi, Mother of-JC-472136N Sub Hony Capt Mahender Singh, R/o- Vill-Unchi Bhandor, Post- Beri Teh & Dist- Mahendergarh, Haryana- 123029, have changed my name from Mohani Devi to Mohini Devi, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1475)C

I, Pramila Devi, Mother of-JC-472158M Sub Rakesh Kumar Singh, R/o- Vill-Banakara, Post- Pashuhari, Teh- Belthara Road, Ballia, U.P.- 221715, have changed my name from Pramila Devi to Parmila Devi, vide affidavit dated 12/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

report said.

Human rights abuses were inflicted on some members of Bangladeshi Hindu,

Ahmadiyya Muslim, and

indigenous communities during

anti-discrimination protests and

PTI UNITED NATIONS

"Bangladesh's former govern-ment, security and intelligence services, alongside violent elements associated with the Awami League party, systematically engaged in a range of serious human rights violations

during last year's student-led protests," the report by the UN Human Rights Office said. The report said that in the aftermath of the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government last year, "widespread attacks were reported against Hindu homes, businesses, and places of worship, especially in rural and historically tense areas such as

Thakurgaon, Lalmonirhat, and Dinajpur, as well as other places such as Sylhet, Khulna, and Rangpur". The report said this destruction

was especially prevalent in areas perceived to be sympathetic to the Awami League as Hindus

PD(1473)C I, Kunti Devi, Mother of- JC-472735N Sub Sanjeev Kumar, R/o- H. No.- 31, Vill & PO-Churiyala, Thana- Bhojpur, Ghaziabad, U.P.-

PD(1474)C

its aftermath last year, a UN the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh' also documents "troubling instances" of retaliatory killings and other serious revenge violence targeting Awami League officials and

tion.

supporters, police and media as the former government started to lose control of the country. Hindus, Ahmadiyya Muslims, and indigenous people from the Chittagong Hill Tracts were also subjected to human rights abuses. While some 100 arrests about attacks on distinct religious and indigenous groups have reportedly been made, the perpetrators of many other acts of revenge violence and attacks on such groups still enjoy impunity," the report said.

It added the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights interviewed Hindu business owners and homeowners in some of these areas who reported that their businesses, houses, land and

politic oten it said.

religious sites had been target-ed while shops owned by Hindus were also looted. "The

violence often involved proper-

ty destruction, arson, and phys-

ical threats, compounded by

insufficient police responses,

One interviewee said that Hindu funeral sites and temples were vandalized in Thakurgaon, and other witnesses described that after attacks on their property, approximately 3,000 4,000 Hindus from those villages fearing communal violence sought refuge near the

border with India. Affected families reported a pervasive sense of insecurity and heavy financial losses, with many losing essential items, livestock, and whole businesses, the report said.

The report further said that witnesses and victims' accounts provided to one source indicated that attacks were primarily carried out by individuals involved in "victory proces-sions" celebrating the Hasina government's collapse. "While the identity of the perpetrators in these attacks was not always

lence. After August 6, there were localised efforts by BNP, Jamaate-Islami, student groups, and social organisations to protect houses and places of worship of the Hindu community, the report said.

incidents testified the attackers

other organised groups."

parties condemning

BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Students against Discrimination leaders, and Interim Government Chief Advisor Mohammed Yunus all made public statements condemning the violence, it noted. Several allegations were reported of violent mobs coercing Hindu headmasters and teachers to resign.

The report added that "some local members and supporters of the BNP and Iamaat-e-Islami opposition parties bear responsibility for human rights abuses committed during revenge attacks, including against members of the Hindu community". The report noted there had been a longer record of attacks

mitted to OHCHR, three temples were attacked and set ablaze, along with the looting of approximately 20 houses, in Burashardubi, Hatibandha, and Lalmonirhat, reflecting significant levels of community unrest. There was also an arson attack in Meherpur on a temple of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), it said. Specific inci-dents reported to OHCHR also underlined the complexities surrounding these attacks. "For example, the Kali temple in Nandipara was attacked on August 7, but, upon investigation, it became clear the dam-

age stemmed not from religious

intolerance, but rather a local

said

has long been hamstrung by clashing political clans. Last week, the vice president was impeached by the House of Representatives on a range of accusations that included her threat to have Marcos, his wife and House Speaker Martin Romualdez killed if she herself were fatally attacked in an unspecified plot that she brought up in an online news conference in

November. The impeachment complaint, which was signed by majority of the more than 300 mem-bers of the House, which is dominated by Marcos' allies, also included allegations of largescale corruption and misuse of her office's confidential dispute over land ownership," it funds

Relatives of Israeli hostages terrified as Gaza ceasefire teeters

PTI TEL AVIV

A fter 16 months of excruciat-finally received word this week that her 24-year-old son, a hostage in Gaza, is still alive. She said she fainted upon hearing the brutal details of his captivity from freed hostages who had been held with him by Hamas since October 7, 2023. Bound by chains in an under-ground tunnel, Alon Ohel has subsisted on a piece of bread or less each day. "He hasn't seen sunlight in 493 days," she told reporters on Monday. As the fragile ceasefire between Israel and Hamas seems increasingly at risk of falling apart — Hamas says it will not free three hostages on Saturday as planned, and Israel says it's ready to resume the war if it doesn't — families of the hostages are struggling to main-PD(1476)C tain hope. They are pleading with

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu not to give up on the ceasefire framework, and to speed up the timeline of releases if possible. Their worries about the ceasefire collapsing have been exacerbated by President Donald Trump's demand that all of the hostages be freed by Saturday — and his insistence that Gaza be emptied of all Palestinians and redeveloped as a tourist enclave controlled by the United States. The emaciated state of three hostages released last Saturday has infuriated Israelis and terrified families of the remaining hostages, especially as more details come out about the conditions of their captivity. The situation is especially difficult for relatives of hostages who are not on the list of 33 hostages expected to be released in the ceasefire's first, six-week phase, which began on January Cohen's fiancée, Ziv Abud, 27, 19.The agreement requires Israel told reporters on Tuesday.

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

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

Germany extends border controls by six months

Berlin (PTI): Germany's outgo-ing government on Wednesday extended by six months the border checks it imposed on all its frontiars last fall as it its frontiers last fall as it attempts to cut the number of migrants arriving in the country, an issue that has become a top issue in the campaign for the February 23 election.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz said his government notified the European Union's executive commission of the extension to September 15. "With the border controls, we are pushing irregular migration down suc-cessfully. The figures prove this," he said.Germany turned back 47,000 people back at its borders, seeing one-third fewer asylum requests year-on-year and arresting 1,900 smugglers. The country was already controlling its borders with Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria and Switzerland before it

extended the checks last September to its remaining borders, with France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium and Denmark. The EU has a visa-free travel

area known as Schengen that allows citizens of most member states to travel easily across borders for work and pleasure. Switzerland also belongs to Schengen although it is not an

EU member. According to the EU, member states are allowed to temporarily reintroduce border controls in cases of a serious threat, like internal security.

But it also says border controls should be applied as a last resort in exceptional situations, and must be limited in time. German opposition leader Friedrich Merz, the front-runner in the election, wants to go further than the current government.



US Defence secy makes first visit to **NATO** with allies

PTI BRUSSELS

US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth on Wednesday made the first trip to NATO by biggest security organizaa member of the new Trump tion. Trump traumatized his administration, as the allies European partners during wait to learn how much mili- his first term in office by tary and financial support threatening not to defend Washington intends to provide any member that doesn't

to Ukraine's government. meet NATO guid Hegseth held talks with UK military spending. Defence Secretary John NATO is founded on the Healey, before a meeting of the principle that an attack on Ukraine Defence Contact any ally must be considered Group at NATO headquarters an attack on them all and met in Brussels. Hegseth's prede- with a collective response. cessor, former Defence Membership is considered Secretary Lloyd Austin, set to be the ultimate security up the forum for drumming guarantee, and it's one that up arms and ammunition for Ukraine is trying to secure.

Ukraine in 2022. Over nearly three years, defense spending will be dis-around 50 countries have col- cussed on Thursday. lectively provided Ukraine European allies have hiked more than USD 126 billion in their military budgets since weapons and military assis- Putin ordered his troops into tance. But the meeting this Ukraine, and 23 are estimatweek was convened by anoth- ed to have reached or exceeder country for the first time: ed last year the target of the United Kingdom. All pre- spending 2 per cent of gross vious gatherings of the forum were chaired by the United However, a third of members

States. No decision has been made on threshold, and Trump is who might chair the next almost certain to target them meeting, if one is called.

Hegseth wasn't expected to for NATO members to make any announcement on increase defense spending to new weapons for Ukraine. His trip comes less than two no member has reached so weeks before the third far - not even Poland, which anniversary of Russia's full- is the closest, spending more scale invasion of Ukraine on than 4 per cent and expect-February 24, 2022. Most US ed to approach 5% this year. allies fear that Russian President Vladimir Putin Germany on Tuesday, won't stop at Ukraine's borders Hegseth wouldn't commit to if he wins, and that Europe's having the US increase its biggest land war in decades defense spending to 5 per poses an existential threat to cent of GDP.

their security. US President Donald Trump that the US should spend has promised to quickly end more than it did under the the war. He's complained that Biden administration and it's costing American taxpayers too much money. He has per cent." suggested that Ukraine should He said any final decision pay for US support with access would be up to Trump, but to its rare earth minerals, added that "we live in fiscalenergy and other resources. ly constrained times" and Some US allies worry that a need to be responsible with hasty deal might be clinched taxpayer money. on terms that aren't favorable to Ukraine. On top of that, Trump appears to believe that European countries should take responsibility for Ukraine's security going for-

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Suraj (umar Jha who is purchasing the Second loor without roof rights towards front Middle/Northern Portion of built-up property bearing Plot No.10 and 11, area neasuring 560 sq.yds., approx., comprised in Khasra No.298/min, situated tit Mata Mohalla in the abadi of Lal Dora at Mata Mc

ward. Washington's 31 NATO

allies also want to hear what meet NATO guidelines for

Ukraine's security needs and domestic product.

still haven't reached that again. Recently, Trump called 5 per cent of GDP, a level that Speaking to reporters in

Hegseth said that he believes "should not go lower than 3

PUBLIC NOTICE Public is hereby informed that my client Ab

878/33A, Ward No. 6, Pil Khana, Mehraul South Delhi, Delhi-110030 has renounced disowned and severed all their relations with hi on Abdul Sahil on account of his misdee from all the self-acquired movable as well a immovable properties belonging to my client. Abdul Sahil will not stake for any claim of any

Hamid Slo Abdul Wahid R/o House No

nature whatsoever in the said properties of my client any person dealing with Abdul Sahil will do o at his own risks and perils. Ramesh Kumar Advocate, Off:- M-1, Malviya Nagar, N.D.-17

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE Since Mr. Anoop Singh S/o Azad Singh seeking a home loan from INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK for the oroperty La. House no 60, area measuring 239.2 sq. yds., Block-F, situated at Village Fazilpur Jharsa & Tikri, Vipul World, Sector-48, Tehsil Badshapur and District Surugram, Haryana; hereinafter referred to as 'said nonnetyt'. FOR IMMIDIATE SALE 300 SQ YDS, 12 MTR ROADE 2/12 DLF PHASE-1 GURGAON, Gurugram, Haryana; hereinafter referred to as "said property": That, the said property was transferred several times. That. Mr. Jagdish Chander (80%) and Yogesh Kumar(20%) was owner through Sale Deed 11905 dated 01.02.2022. Thereafter, they have transferred between themselves 1/3rd Share Each ie. Jagdish Chander(33.33%), Mr. Yogesh Kumar (33.33%) and Mr. Parvesh (33.33%) through transfer deed 1579 dated 03.05.2024. Finally, Mr. Parvesh(33.33%) has transferred his right to Mr. Jagdish Chander (16.665%), and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (16.665%). Therefore, Mr. Jagdish Chander (50%) and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (50%) became owner transfer deed dated 15515 dated 11.02.2025. Now, That, Mr. Jagdish Chander and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (40%) and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (50%) became owner transfer deed dated 15515 dated 11.02.2025. Now, That, Mr. Jagdish Chander and Mr. Yogesh Kumar (40%) Mr. Anoog Singhis purchasing the said property. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute, for the above intender date transaction PRASHANT WADHWA SHANT PROPERTIES

①-9891555575

PUBLIC NOTICE LOSS OF ID CARD

is to bring to the notice of the general public that one ID card of Raveena sued by ICICI Bank Ltd. Having ID Card No. 2511336 has been found missing Wr. Anoop Singh is purchasing the said property. If anybody is having any objection, claim, interest, dispute for the above intended sale transaction, net/shefthey may contact the undersigned with the objections/claims/details of dispute/s withor/their objections/claims/details of dispute/s withor/their seven (7) days from the date of this publication may come to our Delhi office, failing which, Mr. Anoop Singh will proceed to complete the sale ransaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in sepect of the said property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained and moved forth accordingly. and/or lost on 11-02-2025. Anyone, who find the said ID Card, is requested to return the said ID Card to The Manager Debt Services & Management Group, ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No. 7, Community Centre, S.D. Tower, Sector-8, Rohini, N Delhi-85. Therefore, all the customers of ICICI Bank

imited are hereby notified not to make any payment to any unauthorized persor iolding the said ID Card No. 2511336

orth accordingly. M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLP B-132, L.G.F, Malviya Nagar v Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991116006

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given to general public at large that my clent Axis Bank Limited, having one of its Branch at Ground Floor, Tower-I, Axis House, Sector-128, Noida, Uttar Pradesh intends to grant Loan facility to Sh. Pradeep Sharma against security of DDA's Janta Flat bearing No 60, in Block B, in Pocket-11, on Third Floor, in the layout plan of Housing Estate Jasola, situated at Jasola, New Delhi. hereinafter referred to as "Said Property". Smt Usha Rani Wio Sh. Darshan Singh acquired the Said Property from Smt. Sarita Chauhan Wio Sh. Neeraj Chauhan vide Sale Deel bearing Doc. No. 4429 on 26.03.2022, who died intestate on 17.08.2022 leaving behind her only son Sh. Gurvinder Singh Sodhi as per SMC No. 9066000163951 dated 26.09.2022 issued by office of the District Magistrate Kalkaji, who intends to sell the Said Property to Proposed Borrower. Any person(s)

Property to Proposed Borrower. Any person(s

has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to right, title or interest in the said

property/portion in any manner whatsoever, must

property/portion in any manner whatsoever, must immediately contact the undersigned in writing along with all supporting documents in respect of their caim(s)' objection(s). If no such claim is received with in a period of 7 days from the date of publication of this notice, then it will be presumed that no one has any paramount right, title, or interest in the Said Property and even if someone has any claim/objection, he/she/they have given un the same

Himanshu Ahuja (Advocate) Contact No.: 9810310373, 011-41830049

E-mail Address: alolegals@gmail.com

have given up the same.

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

payment. For ICICI Bank Limiter Date: 11.02.2025 ----Sd----Place : Delhi

TOPKHANA BAZAR, STREET NO.4, AMBALA CANTT, HARYANA 133001 allottee/owner LIG FLAT NO.50, SECOND FLOOR, BLOCK-D-J, POCKET-4, SECTOR-34, ROHINI, DELHI, have applied for certified copies conveyance deed in DDA. The original documents i.e. POSSESSION LETTER, NOC FOR WATER AND ELECTRICITY CONVECTION of the above said flat have been Dot.An LR NO.2579346/2025 dated 12/02/20 25 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. CTRICTY CONVECTION of the above solid flat have been Branch, Delhi Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ Contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.8860292988 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The Address/Phone No. 8860292988 within 15days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objection with respect to this property, can personally inform or write to Deputy Director (Housing) or Director(Housing).Delhi Development Authority, Vikas Sadan, New Delhi-110023. Q **PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY** E-TENDER CALL NOTICE No. EM/MCHP/Tender-01/25/53 Date: 10/02/2025 Name of the Work "Design, Fabrication Supply, Erection and Commissioning of one no. of Stacker 4000 TPH Capacity". Estimated cost Rs.55,10,00,000/-. Last date & time of

PUBLIC NOTICE

b be known to all, SURESH CHANDER SAHL /O LATE SH. OM PARKASH SAHU & SMT UMAN RANI SAHU W/O SH.SURESH HANDER SAHU both R/O HOUSE NO.332 OPKHANA BAZAR,STREET NO.4,AMBAL/

submission of bid: 12.03.2025 up-to 17:15 Hrs. Refer our website for details https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocurec/app. PPA/PR/62/2024-2025 Executive Engineer (M 11/02/2025 MCHP, PPA

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

We have offered possession of your allotted unit in February 2021, basis which we have shared final demand notice of unit C1-1405 on 09.04.2022, 02.06.2022, 16.08.2022, 07.10.2022, 17.08.2024, 24.082024 & 26.08.2024 you failed to make the payment as per final demand notice. Hence we have cancelled your allotted unit via cancellation intimation letter dated 02.12.2024. Neither got any response from your end nor we have received any payment so far which tantamount to your tacit acceptance that you are no more interested in taking possession of the said flat.

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

For M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED

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

Extract of Standalone Unaudited Results for the Quarter Ended 31/12/2024

		nauartoa	ricounto				-
		-					(Rs in lakhs)
			Quarter ended		Nine mon	ths ended	Year Ended
		3 months	Preceeding	Corresponding	Year to date	Year to date	Previous
	Particulars	ended	3 months	3 months	figures	figures Year	year
		(31.12.2024)	ended	ended in the	for current	to for the	ended
			(30.09.2024)	previous year	period ended	previous	(31.03.2024)
				(31.12.2023)	(31.12.2024)	year ended	
						(31.12.2023)	
1.	Total income from operations (net)	5707.87	2827.13	4889.55	9922.14	9029.26	10214.36
2.	Net Profit / (Loss)for the period before						
	Tax and Exceptional items	(338.34)	(191.42)	173.71	(582.85)	3.47	18.51
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before						
	tax and after Exceptional items	(338.34)	(191.42)	173.71	(582.85)	3.47	18.51
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after						
	tax and Exceptional items	(496.07)	(99.13)	172.70	(626.79)	13.88	95.97
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the						
	period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for						
	the period (after tax) and Other						
	Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(496.07)	(99.13)	172.70	(626.79)	13.88	79.80
6.	Equity Share Capital						
	(Face value Rs 10 each)	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98	1025.98
7.	Other equity	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Earnings per share for discontinued &						
	continuing operations (of Rs. 10/-each):						
	(a) Basic	(4.84)	(0.97)	1.68	(6.11)	0.14	0.94
	(b) Diluted	(4.84)	(0.97)	1.68	(6.11)	0.14	0.94
No	les:		-		-		

1. The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on February 12, 2025

2. The standalone results have been prepared in accordance with the Companies (Indian Accounting Standards) Rules, 2015 (Ind AS) prescribed under Section 133 of the Companies Act, 2013 and other recognised accounting practices and policies to the extent applicable

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Dharamvin Singh Bhati and Abhishek Bhati claims be owner and in possession of Prop No 208. Block-B. Sec-46. Noida, U.P. hereinafter called the said property) by virtue of Transfer Deed Cum Gift Deed dated 03.02.2025 executed by Rajesh Bhati through GPA holder (His Brother Dharamvir Šingh Bhati reg vide Doc. No 682 R/w Transfer Deed dated 14.09.2007 reg. vide Doc. No. 2893, and Said Dharamvir Singh Bhati and Abhishek Bhati has agreed to create a mortgage in favour of our clients Standard Chartered Bank ITO Branch, any person/s having claim against the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable registered or otherwise), gift, trust nheritance, lien or otherwise howsoeve are hereby intimated to notify the same in vriting to us with supporting documentar evidence at the address mentioned below within **10 days** from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan and subsequen creation of mortgage in respect thereof. Vishal Diwan (Advocate

For Diwan and Company LLP House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D-19 Place : Sikandrabad (U.P.) Mobile No. 9818399999 Date : 12th Feb, 2025

FEDDERS ELECTRIC AND ENGINEERING LIMITED Reg. Off: 6 and 6/1 UPSIDC Industrial Area, Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr, UP-203205 CIN: L29299UP1957PLC021118 Email: imcapita19830@gmail.com MGINEERING website: https://imcapitals.com/fedders-electric-engineering/								
	STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STAND FOR THE THIRD QUARTER END		CEMBER 202					
			Standalone					
	1	Quarter Ended	Nine Months Ended	Quarter Ended				
	Particulars	31.12.2024	31.12.2024	31.12.2023				
	/	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)				
1	Total Income from operations	93.72	337.27	191.54				
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax	3.57	31.28	41.01				
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	3.97	31.08	41.01				
4	Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year[Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the year (after tax)and Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)(after tax)]	2.33	30.21	41.05				
5	Equity paidup share capital	30.00	30.00	30.00				
6	Earnings per share (Not annualised) :							
_	Diluted (₹)	1.32	10.36	13.67				
	Basic (₹)	1.32	10.36	13.67				
th Fi	he above results were reviewed and recomm ne Board of Directors at their respective m inancial results for the Third quarter ende eviewed by the Statutory Auditors of the Comp	eetings held o d 31st Decem	on 11th Februa	ry, 2025. The				

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

 Index.//intragnats.com/reduets-erectific-engineering.
 For and on behalf of the Board of Directors of Fedders Electric and Engineering Limited -sd-VISHAL SINGHAL (Managing Director) DIN: 03518795 VISHAL SINGHAL (Managing Director) DIN: 03518795

SANEH INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS LIMITED Regd.Office: Delton House 4801 Bharat Ram Road 24 Daryaganj New Delhi -110002 CIN: L74899DL1980PL060079, Phone No. 011-45795859 , Website: https://saneh.in/, E-mail: sanehItd@gr

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

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

Place : Delhi

ate : February 11, 2025

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



For and on behalf of the Board Sd/ Vivek Gupta Director (DIN NO.: 00035916)

ReNew Fazilka Solar Power Private Limited

CIN No. : U40108HR2015PTC055470 Regd. Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Corporate Office : ReNew Hub, Commercial Block-1, Zone-6, Golf Course Road, DLF City Phase-V, Gurugram 122009, Haryana, India Phone No. : 124 489 6670/80 Statement of Standalone Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2024 (Amounts in INR millions, except share and per share data, unless of

Particulars		0 · · · ·	0 · · · ·	0 11		N/
	Quarter ended 31 December 2024	Quarter ended 30 September 2024	Quarter ended 31 December 2023	9 months ended 31 December 2024	9 months ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 March 202
	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	Audited
Total Income from Operations	40	35	40	126	122	238
Net Profit for the year (before Tax,						400
Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	46	41	32	144	129	182
Net Profit for the year before tax (after	10				400	400
Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	46	41	32	144	129	182
Net Profit for the year after tax (after	0.5		0.0	10-		40.4
Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	35	30	23	107	96	134
Total Comprehensive Income for the year						
[Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period						
(after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income	25	0.0	0.0	407		104
(after tax)] Paid up Equity Shara Capital	35	30	23	107	96	134
Paid up Equity Share Capital	21	21	21	21	21	21
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	6,601	6,567	6,431	6,601	6,431	6,494
Secuirties premium	6,063	6,063	6,063	6,063	6,063	6,063
Net worth	6,642	6,608	6,497	6,642	6,497	6,534
Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	2,898	3,114	3,259	2,898	3,259	3,259
Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Debt Equity Ratio	0.43	0.47	0.50	0.43	0.50	0.49
Earnings Per Share* (face value of						
per sahre INR 10) (for continuing and						
discontinued operations)						
1. Basic:	8.69	7.42	5.67	26.33	23.46	32.89
2. Diluted:	8.69	7.42	5.67	26.33	23.46	32.89
Capital Redemption Reserve	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Debenture Redemption Reserve	116	95	33	116	33	53
Debt Service Coverage Ratio*	2.04	2.12	1.57	2.15	3.88	3.05
Interest Service Coverage Ratio*	1.71	1.55	1.49	1.70	2.02	1.92
Current Ratio	5.73	4.59	4.51	5.73	4.51	4.11
Long Term Debt to Working Capital	0.69	0.70	0.73	0.69	0.73	0.73
Current Liability Ratio	0.22	0.27	0.27	0.22	0.27	0.30
Total Debts to Total Assets Ratio	0.25	0.24	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.24
Debtors Turnover Ratio*	0.32	0.27	1.06	1.00	1.44	1.90
Inventory Turnover Ratio	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Operating margin (%)	60%	61%	69%	62%	70%	47%
				02/0	10/0	
Net profit margin (%)		Q E 0/	570/	0 5 0/	700/	56 %
not annualized <u>Notes :</u> 1. Ratios have been computed as - Net worth: Issued subscribed and paid u	up capital +					
Notes: 1. Ratios have been computed as - Net worth: Issued subscribed and paid u - Reserves and Surplus includes General and Profit and loss account balance. - Debt Equity Ratio = Total Debt (Long-ter - Earning per share = Profit after tax / We - Debt Service Coverage Ratio = (Net Profit Interest payment + Long Term Debt Prities - Interest Service Coverage Ratio = Profit - Current Ratio = Current Assets / Current - Long Term Debt to Working Capital = N - borrowings/ (Current Assets - Current L	follows: up capital + reserve, De rm borrowing eighted avera- ofit after taxe ncipal repay before inter t Liabilities ion- Current iabilities exc	instrument er sbenture rede age + Short-te age number s + non-casi ments) est, tax, dep borrowing in luding currer	ntirely equity emption rese rm borrowing of equity sha h operating of reciation / To cluding curre	in nature + rrve, Securiti gs) / Shareh ares expenses + i otal Interest I ent maturitie:	reserves and ies premium older's Equity interest + tax Expense s of Non-curr	d surplus. account (expense) ;
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at Mata Mohalla in the abadi of Lal Dora Village Gadaipur, Village Gadaipur, Near Allahabad Bank, Tehsil hauz Khas Kishan Kaushik & Mr. Tilak Raj Bhatia GPA Holder of Mrs. Krishna Kalra & Mr. Yatin Kalra and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. That, Mrs. Krishna Kalra and Mr. Yatin Kalra became owners vide Sale Deed dated 07-11-2022 (Document No.9961) executed by Mr. became owners vide Sale Deed dated 07-11-2022 (Document No.9961) executed by Amrik Singh, Mr. Vishwa Bandhu Sachdeva, Mr. Hafj Ahmed. Further, Mrs. Krishna Kalra and Mr. Yatin Kalra executed Regd. GPA Dated 05-09-2024 in favour of Mr. Ram Kishan Kaushik and Mr. Tilak Raj Bhatia. So to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentionec below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LF Lucem Legal LLI and Floor, Opp. SBI Ban icumbrance's, lien etc or 2,Noida,UP-201301Contact#0120-426937

Provide Ragar, R.D.-17 PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Veena Sharma is the owner as well as one of the shareholder in Girafte Advertising and Marketing Private Limited is in process to avail the credit facility against her Plot Beering No. 8A, area measuring 380 sa, varis i.e. 317.718 surits, out of Khasra No. 301, in the revenue estate of vilage Prahad Garhi, Telsial and District Ghaziabad, U.P. Yavaling Ioan from AU Small Finance Bank), having acquired the same vide Sale Deed dated 288/2024 bote no. 11231 executed by Gurpreet Singh Bala All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, edge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are herefy requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 07 days from the date hereof, ralling whole, the claim or claims; fir any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gurgt (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb, U.P., Mob. 9810063351

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. 1.51 APPENDIX IV [See rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) Nhereas, The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29,Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 25-09-2024 calling up er Sh. Atul Tyagi Sio. Sh. Naresh Tyagi, 739, LIG Flats, Pkt-II, Hastsal, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059, also at Sh. Atul Tyagi Sio. Sh.Naresh Tyagi, B-18A, Rama Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 and calling upon the Mortgagor & Surety Smt. Preeti Tyagi Wio. Sh. Naresh Tyagi, Rio. 739, LIG Flats, Pkt-II, Hastsal, Uttam Nagar,New Delhi-110059 also at Smt. Preeti Tyagi Wio. Sh. Naresh Tyagi B-18A, Rama Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 caling upon the suret Sh. Mayur Tyagi Sio. Sh. Naresh Tyagi Rio. 739, LIG Flats, Pkt.-II, Hastsal, Uttam Nagar New Delhi-110059, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 45.75.718/- (Rupees For

Five Lakins Seventy Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighteen Only), together with further interest penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date or the notice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice. The above mentioned borrower, mortgagor & sureties having failed to repay the amo hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor, sureties and the public in general that the Bank has take Symbolic Possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets &

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of The Security Interest (Enforceme Rules, 2002, on this 06th day of February' 2025.

The borrower, mortgagor & sureties in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the montpaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge o "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.",for an amount of Rs. 45,75,718- together with further terest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time om the date of notice till the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank is salizing the said amount.

The borrower, mortgagor & sureties attention is also been invited towards provisions of Sub-Section (8) of Section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below mentioned mortgage

The property under consideration is an Entire Built Up property area measuring 125 sq. yds.	All that part and parcel of the BUILT UP ENTIRE PROPERTY BEARING NO.B-18-A, AREA MEASURING 125 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 571, SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE NAWADA AND THE COLONY KNOWN AS RAMA PARK, IN BLOCK-B, UTTAM NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110039, WITH THE FREE HOLD RIGHTS OF THE LAND UNDER THE SAID PROPERTY. Failing Under the Registration of Sub-Registraril. Janakouri. New Delhi.
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DELHI

DATED : 06-02-2025

AUTHORISED OFFICER

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE

PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.

Place: New Delhi

Date: February 12, 2025

3. 4.	extern applicable. The company is engaged in the blankets busine: Accounting Standards on Segment Reporting (Ind The blankets business is seasonal in nature and acc Previous year/ quarter figures have been regroupe	AS 108). Hence se ordingly financial re	gment reporting is r sults for the quarter	not applicable to are not represent	the company. ative of the whole year
	ce : Village Amhera (Amroha) e : 12th February 2025		For Prakasi	h Woollen & Sy	y Order of The Board nthetic Mills Limited Vijay Kumar Gupta Fime Director & CFC DIN: 00335325
(ORIENTAL NAGPUR BE Regd. Off.: Unit No 307A, 3rd flor Hospitality Dist. Delhi Aer E-mail: onbhlinvestors.relations@orientalinf FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AN	or, Worldmark 2 A rocity, New Delhi - ratrust.com; CIN	Asset Area No 8, 110037. I: U45400DL2010F ENDED DECEMBE	PLC203649	П
SI. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2024 (Un-audited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 (Un-audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2024 (Audited)	
1	Total income from operations (net)	1,019.67	952.42	3,918.30	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	469.78	497.03	2,020.75	
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	469.78	497.03	2,020.75	
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional items)	436.37	495.83	1,973.07	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	436.79	495.87	1,973.09	
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	181.35	181.35	181.35	
7	Reserves (excluding (excluding Debenture Redemption Reserve)	8,541.15	7,692.75	8,269.23	
8	Securities Premium	3,443.66	3,443.66	3,443.66	
9	Net Worth	10,099.19	9,479.21	9,942.89	
10	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	17,830.28	20,098.18	18,969.53	
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	
12	Debt Equity Ratio	1.77:1	2.12:1	2.13:1	
13	Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)				
	1. Basic:	24.09	27.34	108.80	
	2. Diluted:	24.09	27.34	108.80	
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-	
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	1,376.70	1,605.12	1,491.82	
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.03:1	1.10:1	1.14:1	
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.06:1	2.01:1	2.00:1	
Not	tes:				
a)	The above is an extract of the detailed forma Stock Exchange under Regulations 52 of Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full form on the websites of the National Stock E www.nagpurbetulhighway.in).	the SEBI (Listin nat of the un-audit xchange (NSE)	g Obligations an ed financial results and the listed e	d Disclosure s are available ntity (http://	
,	For the other line items referred to in Regul Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Exchange and are available on the websites listed entity (http://www.nagpurbetulhighway.	pertinent disclosur of the National S in).	es have been mad Stock Exchange (e to the Stock NSE) and the	
·	These un-audited financial results have been the Board of Directors of the Company at its r The financial results of the company have bee	neeting held on Fe	ebruary 12, 2025.		
~)	standard prescribed under Section 133 of the	Companies Act, 2		-	
			Nagpur Betul Hig		

Rajesh Yadav

DIN: 08397240

Directo



New tax bill introduces Tax Year, omits Assessment Year

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

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

The bill comprises 536 sections 23 chapters and 16 schedules in just 622 pages. It does not bring in any new taxes, but only simplifies the language of the existing Income Tax Act, 1961. The six-decade old legislation has 298 sections and 14 schedules. It had 880 pages when the Act was introduced. The new bill seeks to replace the Income Tax Act, 1961 which has become too voluminous due to the amendments made over the last 60 years. The new

effect from April 1, 2026. The new bill has omitted redundant sections, like those relating to Fringe Benefit Tax. The bill is free from

law is expected to come into



'explanations or provisos', thereby making it easier to read and comprehend. Also, the word 'notwithstanding', which was used excessively in the Income Tax Act, 1961, has been done

with the term 'irrespective'.

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

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

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

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

Reasons of the new I-T bill said that the Income-tax Act passed in 1961 has been subjected to numerous amendments since its passage 60 years ago. these

"As a result of amendments the basic structure of the Income-tax Act has been overburdened and language has become complex, increasing cost of compliance for taxpayers and hampering efficiency of direct-tax administration," it said. Tax administrators, practitioners and taxpayers had also raised concerns about the complicated provisions and structure of the Income Tax act.

Trump readies matching tariffs on trade partners

and economic disruptions. For all of Trump's talk, the impact will likely depend on the details of the tariffs and

how other nations respond.

A reciprocal tariffs order could amount to a substantial

tax hike to be should ered largely by US consumers and

businesses as the Census Bureau reported that the country had total imports of

\$4.1 Trillion last year. The

tariffs could set off retaliatory

measures by trading partners

that could roil growth around

the globe and reset where the

United States stands with

By signing the order, Trump would fulfil his long-standing

pledge to raise taxes on most

imported goods, a clear break

with his recent White House

predecessors who saw tariffs

as either targeted tools to use

strategically or barriers worth

Trump has broken with that

precedent by saying he wants to return the United States to

allies and rivals alike.

lowering.

PTI NEW DELHI

BSE

PTI WASHINGTON

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

Trump said earlier this week. "You'll be hearing that word a lot. Reciprocal. If they charge us, we charge them. The president had suggested

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

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

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

even if by Trump's own admission the import taxes the 1890s when taxes on imports were government's could involve some financial dominant pain in the form of inflation source of revenues.

> But should job gains never materialise and should inflation stay high, it's an easy line of attack for Democratic lawmakers and candidates that Trump helped the ultrawealthy at the expense of the middle class.

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

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

Equity investors' wealth erode by ₹18 Lakh Crore Retail inflation slows to five-month low Samsung to upskill teachers

ABHI SINGHAL NEW DELHI

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

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

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

The program will provide teachers with training through workshops, online courses, and programs, certification ensuring they stay ahead in an evolving educational landscape. Samsung's Galaxy Empowered



fellow

teachers, industry

through exclusive events and

free insurance, and time-

Empowered, Samsung

а

daily lessons Teachers will learn to use

and a F

gainers.

interactive apps, digital platforms, and gamification techniques to make learning more engaging for students. The program also focuses on hands-on training, giving educators access to mentorship opportunities and specialised curriculum support. The initiative is structured around three main components: technology upskilling, handson training, and networking opportunities. Educators will have access to flexible online courses, in-person bootcamps,

PTI NEW DELHI

Continuing the downward trend, retail inflation fell to a five-month low of 4.31 per cent in January, mainly due to a decline in the prices of vegetables, eggs, and pulses. The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation was 5.22 per cent in December and 5.1 per cent in January 2024. The previous low inflation was in August 2024 at 3.65 per cent. The CPI has been on a decline since October. The inflation in the food basket

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

experts, and thought leaders There is a decline of 91 basis points in headline inflation of January 2025 in comparison to panel discussions. Participants December 2024 and it is the in the program will also receive lowest year-on-year inflation after August 2024, the National special benefits, including discounts on Samsung devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops. Additional perks Statistics Office (NSO) data showed. According to the data, the top five items showing the include extended warranties, highest year on year inflation were coconut oil (54.2 per cent), limited offers on consumer potato (49.61 per cent), coconut electronics. Through Galaxy (38.71 per cent), garlic (30.65 is per cent), peas (30.17 per cent). significant On the other hand, the key contribution to the education sector, ensuring that teachers items having the lowest year on year inflation in January were have the necessary tools and

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

2025. It was 4.64 per cent in January compared to 5.76 per cent in the preceding month. The food inflation in the rural sector was 6.31 per cent in comparison to 8.65 per cent in December 2024 Similarly, urban inflation

witnessed a sharp decline from 4.58 per cent in December 2024 to 3.87 per cent in January. Food inflation decreased from 7.9 per cent in December to 5.53 per cent in January 2025. Housing inflation rate was marginally higher in January 2.76 per cent over December. 'The significant decline in

headline inflation and food inflation during the month of lanuary mair

11.27 per cent), brinjal (-9.94 of vegetables, eggs, pulses and per cent), LPG (excluding products, cereals and products, education, clothing and health, NSO said.

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

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

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

Infosys were the biggest

Investors suffered an erosion of ₹18 Lakh Crore in six days of market fall, where the Larsen and Toubro, UltraTech Cement, Kotak Mahindra benchmark Sensex tanked three per cent, amid continuous foreign fund outflows and trade war

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

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

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

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

pack. Mahindra and Mahindra, ITC, Power Grid, Reliance Industries IndusInd Oswal Financial Bank, Adani Ports, Titan and said.

laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel,

Bank and Tata Motors were among the gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,486.41 Crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data. "Markets were extremely choppy and gyrated sharply in intra-day trade. After crashing over 900 points in early trade, markets recouped lost ground in late trade but select profitin late trade but select profit-taking in IT, banking and auto stocks saw benchmarks end

marginally lower," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, said. The BSE smallcap gauge declined 0.49 per cent and

midcap index went lower by 0.45 per cent.

"Equity markets displayed resilience today, with Nifty rebounding nearly 250 points from the day's low to close at

23,045, down just 26 points (-0.1 per cent)," Siddhartha Khemka, head, research, From the 30-share Sensex wealth management at Motilal

v of resources know ge to prep student by integrating technology into addition, they can connect with for a technology-driven future.

making

30.92 per cent), dry chilies (- attributed to decline in inflation

Sensex, Nifty fall for sixth day dragged by FII outflows Rupee falls eight paise against USD SEBI slaps ₹2.83 Crore notice to ex-TV anchor

PTI MUMBAI

 $S_{
m for\ the\ sixth\ straight\ day\ on}$ Wednesday with Sensex falling by 122 points on unabated foreign fund outflows and trade war worries.

The 30-share BSE Sensex, which had tanked more than 900 points intra-day, closed at 76,171.08, down by 122.52 points or 0.16 per cent following a recovery in financial stocks in the last hour. During the day, the benchmark tanked 905.21 points or 1.18 per cent to sink below the 76,000-level to hit a low of 75.388.39.

The NSE Nifty dipped 26.55 points or 0.12 per cent to 23,045.25, marking its sixth straight day of losses. Intra-day, it tumbled 273.45 points or 1.18 per cent to 22,798.35, falling recovery from the sharp intraday declines, however, below the crucial 23,000-mark. overall sentiment remained Since February 4, the BSE weak due to elevated broader bellwether gauge has slumped market valuations and muted 2,412.73 points or 3.07 per cent, Q3 earnings growth. Concerns while the Nifty tanked 694 over excessive valuations are expected to sustain the ongoing points or 2.92 per cent. From the 30-share Sensex pack, Mahindra and Mahindra, ITC, Grid. Reliance Power Industries, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, Titan and Infosys were the biggest laggards. Bajaj Finserv, Tata Steel, Larsen and Toubro, UltraTech Cement,

consolidation phase," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. Additionally, regarding the impact of metal tariffs added to market caution, Nair said. The upcoming release of US Kotak Mahindra Bank and Tata CPI inflation data will provide further market direction," he Motors were among the

added. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,486.41 Crore on Tuesday, ended in the positive territory. according to exchange data. "The Indian market saw a slight European markets were trading higher.

PTI MUMBAI

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

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

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

industrial output data to be released by the government.

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

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

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

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

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

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

The demand notices came after these entities failed to pay the

penalties imposed on them by the SEBI in June last year. The markets regulator warned that assets, including bank accounts of Pandya and other entities, will be attached if they failed to make the payment within 15 days of the notices issued on February 7.

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

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

host of various shows at CNBC Awaaz till August 2021, while

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

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

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

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

uncertainty

PTI NEW DELHI

Tnvestors' confidence in equity Imutual funds remains strong with the segment attracting ₹39,688 Crore in January, driven by sharp inflow in small cap and flexi-cap schemes, even as market volatilities continued. However, this was 3.56 per cent lower than the net inflow of ₹41,156 Crore registered in December. The latest fund infusion by investors also marks the 47th consecutive month of inflows into the segment, according to data released by Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) on Wednesday. inflows Moreover, into systematic investment plans (SIP) came at ₹26,400 Crore, a tad lower from December's ₹26,459 Crore. The SIP assets under management stood at ₹13.2 Lakh Crore, which is

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

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

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



(AUM) for equity-oriented mutual funds dropped by 4 per cent in January to ₹29.46 Lakh Further, volatility in the Indian equity markets, combined with geopolitical uncertainties and Crore from ₹30.57 Lakh Crore anticipation of the Union in December.

Budget, led to a decline in Within the equity schemes, equity mutual fund AUM, sectoral or thematic category Jatinder Pal Singh, CEO, ITI attracted investors with the highest net inflow at ₹9,016 Crore, which is way lower than ₹15,331 Crore inflow in December.

The midcap category saw inflows of ₹5,148 Crore in January 2025, while the smallcap category witnessed infusion of ₹5,721 Crore, the data showed. The small and midcap schemes of mutual funds continued to attract investors with inflows highlighting their preference

for these segments largely driven by the high returns that they have generated over the last few years, Srivastava said. The large schemes, which are

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

Crore. Apart from equities, debt funds in the previous month.

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

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

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

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

2021



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

GAUTAM SOLAR AIMS FOR 5 GW BY 2025

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

CPA AUSTRALIA, ASSOCHAM HOST GLOBAL SUMMIT on Sustainable growth in India

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



Bhaker finishes second in 25m pistol at National selection trials

PTI NEW DELHI

ouble Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker finished second in women's 25m pistol in her return to competitive shooting after Paris Olympics as Rhythm Sangwan emerged winner in the event on day five of the Rifle/Pistol National Selection Trials (Group A) here on Wednesday.

Paris Olympics bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale and Arya Rajesh Borse also won the men's 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) T1 and the women's 10m air rifle T2 events at Dr Karni Singh Shooting range (DKSSR) here. Haryana's Rhythm beat Bhaker -who won a bronze each in the women's individual and mixed team events in the Paris Olympics -- for the top spot after a couple of shootoffs from the final group that had four other Olympians in the fray.

Swapnil was next, a class apart in the men's 3P T1 final, while Borse registered a memorable triumph in a high-quality high scoring women's air rifle T2 final, falling just one short of the world record score achieved at the same venue.

Rhythm wins via shoot-off Manu has been relentless in her first competition after the Paris Games, topping the women's 25m pistol trials for a second straight time, her tied with 37 hits after the 10-series of



294 in the second rapid-fire qualifying round in the morning giving her a total of 591. Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar, among the most consistent shooters in recent times in the event, was second with 588.

Also making the final eight cut were four other Olympians -- Rahi Sarnobat (588, 3rd), Esha Singh (586, 4th), Heena Sidhu (580, 5th) and Sangwan (578, 7th), setting up a thrilling decider.

In the end, Rhythm and Manu were

five shots each, and both the shooters needed two shoot-offs to be separated, the former prevailing 4-3 in the second after both had tied 4-4

in the first. Simranpreet finished third.

Swapnil, a class apart Swapnil qualified for the men's 3P T1

final with a smooth 592 out of 600, which gave him third spot on the leaderboard. Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav topped with a sublime 596, while another top 3P shooter Akhil Sheoran was

second with 593

In the final, however, Swapnil led after the first five shots of the first kneeling position right till the end, pulling away expertly after every stage of the gruelling event. He ended with a 465.1, 2.6 ahead of Akhil, who was second. Veteran Chain Singh finished third.

Arya triumphs in women's air rifle Maharashtra's Arya, another shooter in rousing form, won the women's 10m air rifle T2 trial after an intense final

Newly-crowned national champion Ananya Naidu set the tone with a scorching 53.1 after the first fiveshot stage and continued to lead the field till the 20th shot of the 24-shot final

Two-time Olympian Elavenil Valarivan gave her company for most part of the contest with Arya at sixth after 10 shots

Then from the 11th to the 21st shot, Arya shot nothing below 10.4, ending the string with a perfect 10.9 to take the lead, as Mehuli Ghosh climbed up to beat Elavenil to the podium

As both Arya and Ananya went into the final two shots on the same score (231.9), the former nailed a couple of 10.8s to finish with 253.5. Ananya also finished with two high 10s to her credit but fell 0.5 short in the end calculations.

Saint-Etienne fans banned from French league game

PTI PARIS

Saint-Etienne supporters bave been banned by French authorities from traveling to Marseille for this weekend's Ligue 1 game between the two clubs with the biggest fan bases in France.

In an order published Wednesday, France's interior ministry said there is a "real and serious risk of confrontation" between the rival fans.

Second-placed Marseille takes on struggling Saint-Etienne at the Stade Velodrome on Saturday.

While Marseille vs. Paris Saint-Germain remains the biggest match in French soccer, and is known as "Le Classique," Saint-Etienne and Marseille have a special rivalry of their own. They were the two most decorated clubs in French football before PSG started its dominance after Oatari investors took over in 2011.

Saint-Etienne — which has 10 league titles to its name, one more than Marseille dominated French football during the 1960s and '70s. Mediterranean club Marseille



became one of Saint-Etienne's strongest rivals after regaining a spot in the topflight in 1966. Marseille, still the only French club to win the Champions League (in 1993), finished runner-up behind "Les Verts" in 1970 and won its first title in 23 years ahead of Saint-

Etienne in 1971. Although their rivalry softened eventually with Saint-Etienne's sporting decline, both clubs still enjoy the support of a national fan base and their matchups are always intense.

Off the field, relations between Marseille and Saint-Etienne fans have been marked by animosity for decades.

Justifying its decision to ban away fans at the Velodrome,

the interior ministry said "this strong antagonism has on several occasions led to serious clashes requiring the intervention of the police, some of whose members have been injured, and to the throwing of missiles and the lighting of fireworks."

In March 2024, Saint-Etienne fans ambushed Marseille fans on a motorway and threw stones at their bus convoy. In response, Marseille supporters got off their bus to attack a Saint-Etienne supporter who had reportedly announced

their arrival. Marseille is second in the French league, 10 points behind runaway leader PSG. After 21 matches, Saint-Etienne is languishing in 16th place in the 18-team league.



Algerian boxer Imane Khelif says she has 'never stayed down'

PTI PARIS

Algeria boxer Imane Khelif, who found herself in the middle of a bitter divide about gender in sports during the Paris Olympics, has denounced "false and offensive from accusations the Boxing International Association. I have been more times than I can count. But I have never stayed down, Khelif said late Tuesday on her Instagram account. The IBA said this week it will file criminal complaints against the International Olympic Committee in the U.S., France and Switzerland. The Swissbased IOC allowing female boxers Khelif and Lin Yu-ting to compete and win gold medals in Paris last year "may serve as grounds for criminal prosecution," the IBA claimed. Khelif responded by saying she "will take all necessary legal steps to ensure that my rights and the principles of fair competition are upheld." "Those responsible of these actions must be held accountable, and we will pursue all available legal avenues to ensure that justice prevails," she added. The Russian-led IBA has been banished from the Olympics but it cited an executive order on transgender athletes by United States President Donald Trump to justify the criminal complaints.

Jamshedpur FC look to prevail over NorthEast United in ISL

PTI JAMSHEDPUR

Tamshedpur FC will look to bounce back from their away loss to Bengaluru FC and remain in contention for the top-2 place finish when they host NorthEast United in their Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Thursday.

Jamshedpur have 34 points from 19 games on the back of 11 wins and a draw to be at the third spot in the standings. Their aim will be to stay in contention for the second spot which FC Goa occupy currently with 36 points.

The top-2 finishers do have to compete in the single-leg eliminator since they directly qualify for the semi-finals. NorthEast United, on the other hand, are at sixth spot with 29 points and they have competition from Odisha FC (26), Kerala Blasters FC (24), and Punjab FC (24) who are them

previous five matches.

thumping 5-0 victory against the Red Miners in Guwahati. Another triumph would make Jamshedpur FC the seventh opponent against whom the visitors complete a league double in the competition.

Jamshedpur, however, have not faced losses Highlanders have drawn their five home fixtures four games on the road, and thrice and won once in their against NorthEast United, the last time they registered

drawing thrice in the process. Notably, the Highlanders are the only side against whom Jamshedpur have kept multiple home clean sheets (three) in the competition. Jamshedpur FC have been on an encouraging run at home in the current campaign, emerging victorious in eight of their 10 games.

Highlanders The unh n in pro

such a longer stretch was for five encounters between October-December 2018. Jamshedpur FC head coach

Khalid Jamil is not reading too much into the reverse fixture. "In our last match against

them, we didn't get a good result. We need to approach this match positively and work hard," he said. NorthEast United FC head

coach Juan Pedro Benali has a straightforward mindset ahead of the coming match, which is to earn three points. Jamshedpur FC are a very dangerous team. Any mistake against them can lead to a goal. We need to win as many points as possible and qualify for the playoffs," Benali said in the pre-match press conference. The two sides have played each other 15 times in the ISL, with Jamshedpur FC winning six games and NorthEast United FC are NorthEast emerging victorious thrice Six matches have produced draws

Kerala enters Ranji Trophy semifinals

PTI PUNE

Kerala produced a doughty batting effort to hang on to a draw against Jammu and Kashmir, and progressed to the Ranji Trophy semifinals on the back of a slender 1-run first innings lead here on Wednesday.

Player of the match Salman Nizar (44 not out, 162 balls, Mohammed 8x4) and Azharuddeen (67 not out, 118b, 9x4 2x6) saw off nearly 43 overs during their unbroken 115-run alliance for the seventh wicket as Kerala made 295 for six in their second innings.

Their partnership was enough for Kerala, overnight 100 for two, to see off the final day's proceedings, and set up a semi-final meeting with former champions Gujarat from February 17. This will only be Kerala's second appearance in the

Ranii Trop

champions Vidarbha by an innings and 11 runs at Wavanad last time.

'We believed in ourselves and took it (partnership) through the blocks of 10 runs each. J&K bowlers were also made our task tough. It was a similar approach we had adopted in the first innings," said Nizar during

the presentation ceremony. The left-handed batter had also made a vital unbeaten 112 in Kerala's first innings and stitched an 81-run alliance with Basil Thampi to give Kerala a crucial 1-run lead.

"We tried our best, but unfortunately we could not go all the way in this match. Credit to Kerala batters. But we are proud of the way fought till here, and hopefully, we can achieve more," said J and K skipper Paras Dogra after the match. Jammu and Kashmir leftarm spinner Abid Mushtaq also r an onwarning by on field umpires for chucking.

Earlier this season, the Highlanders had claimed a

birth and ident female at as women, complied with all the for the Olympic rules Both tournament. also

competed in Tokyo in 2021 and did not win medals. Knelit and Lin were disqualified from the 2023 world championships run by the IBA, which said they failed eligibility tests.

Khelif said the IBA has "again

made baseless accusations that

are false and offensive, using

them to further their agenda.

This is a matter that concerns

not just me but the broader

principles of fairness and due

The IOC has consistently said

the boxers from Algeria and

Taiwan, who were assigned

process in sport."

"The two female athletes mentioned by IBA are not transgender athletes," the IOC reiterated on Monday. Khelif advanced through the Olympic Games amid international scrutiny and uninformed speculation about her sex. Despite being born and raised as a woman, she found herself at the center of Western debates about gender, sex and

sports after failing unspecified eligibility tests for women's competition from the IBA in

"I have seen adversity before," Khelif said. "I have fought through every setback, every false accusation, every attempt to erase me. And I have won. Each obstacle has only strengthened my resolve.

2023.

after the 2018-19 season. They had lost to eventual

w last four round

Sri Lanka beat Australia by 49 runs

PTI COLOMBO

Asalanka scored a career-best 127 to help Sri Lanka beat Australia by 49 runs in the opener of a two-match One-Day International cricket series

here on Wednesday. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 214 in 46 overs after Asalanka won the toss and elected to bat first at Colombo's R Premadasa Stadium. Asalanka played a captain's innings and carried his team with his fourth ODI hundred in his 72nd game. In reply, Australia were bowled

out for 165 runs in 33.5 overs. Fast bowler Spencer Johnson (2-44) quickly provided Australia with its first breakthrough, having opener Pathum Nissanka caught behind in the first over of the match. Opening partner



Avishka Fernando fell in the next over when he was caught by Australia captain Steve Smith off fast bowler Aaron Hardie, who took 2-13 in six overs.

Kusal Mendis (19), Kamindu Mendis (5) and Janith Liyanage (11) fell in quick succession to leave the hosts precariously placed on 55 runs

for five wickets. But Asalanka and Dunith Wellalage's 67-run partnership off 68 deliveries for the sixth wicket provided Sri Lanka with a base for a competitive total. Wellalage made a useful 30 off 34, including a six and two boundaries, before being caught by Smith off spinner

Matthew Short.

Sri Lanka looked in trouble again at 135-8 after losing two more quick wickets, but No. 10 batter Eshan Malinga came to Asalanka's assistance by keeping his captain company in a 79-run ninth wicket stand in which he contributed just one run.

Asalanka hit 127 off 126 deliveries, including five sixes and 14 fours.

Fast medium Sean Abbott took 3-61.

Sri Lanka fast bowler Asitha Fernando struck in the first over of Australia's chase by trapping Short lbw with no score on the board. In his second over he had Jake Fraser-McGurk caught and bowled. Cooper Connolly and Smith, too, were dismissed quickly to leave Australia at 31-



Torrent Group becomes majority stakeholder in Gujarat Titans

PTI AHMEDABAD

Healthcare major Torrent Group became the majority shareholder of majority Gujarat Titans after acquiring 67 percent (2/3rd) stake from current owners CVC, the IPL franchise announced on Wednesday.

The transaction is subject to customary closing conditions and approvals, including from the BCCI.

'Torrent Group has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire majority stake of 67% in the renowned Indian (IPL) Premier League Titans franchise, Gujarat (Irelia Sports India Private Limited) from Irelia Company Pte Ltd ("Irelia") currently fully owned by funds managed or advised by CVC," the press release the press release stated.

"As part of the deal, Irelia will retain a substantial minority stake of 33% in the franchise, it further stated.

The CVC in 2021 had bought the Gujarat franchise for INR 5625 crore and incidentally Torrent was one of the bidders.

Sachin, Pooja and Sawan win gold in National Games

round

September last year.

the Games.

Fatehbad district of Haryana,

Pooja cleared 1.84m to defend

PTI DEHRADUN

avelin thrower Sachin Yadav of Uttar Pradesh, 18-year-old high jumper Pooja Singh of Haryana and long distance runner Sawan Barwal of Himachal Pradesh rewrote National Games records and won gold medals on the concluding day of athletics competition here on Wednesday.

In the absence of the likes of Neeraj Chopra and Kishore Jena, 25-year-old Yadav sent his spear to a Games-record distance of 84.39m in his fifth attempt to win the gold and establish himself as one of the top javelin throwers in the country.

He bettered the earlier Games record of 82.23m set by home the bronze with 79.33m. Pooja, who has a personal best Rajinder Singh in the 2015 It was Yadav's fourth 80m-plus of 1.85m -- a national U20

throw, having joined the elite club in 2023 with a 80.27m edition 'My goal was to achieve the World Athletics automatic during the Federation Cup. In qualification mark (85.50m) June, he won the title in the but missed it," Yadav said at the Indian Grand Prix 3 with a throw of 82.69m, which was his post-event interaction. 'I'm close to my goal and earlier personal best before should be able to achieve Wednesday's record-breaking 85.50m in the next effort. He threw 80.04m during the competition." Yadav's 84.39m now ranks as National Open Championships qualification

the fifth career-best throw by an Indian after Chopra (89.94m), Jena (87.54m), Shivpal Singh (86.23m) and Davinder Singh Kang Davinder (84.57m). Uttar Pradesh swept the medals

with Rohit Yadav -- another member of 80m club -winning the silver with a performance of 80.47m while state-mate Vikash Sharma took

record -- which she had produced last year, used to train on makeshift high jump pit made up of sacks of hay when she started the sport.

She won a silver medal at the Asian U20 Championships in 2023, a gold in the Asian U18 Championships the same year and finished sixth at the Hangzhou Asian Games last in vear

Gobika K of Tamil Nadu won Daughter of a mason from the silver after clearing 1.79m while Abhinaya Shetty (1.77m) of Karnataka took home the bronze.

the women's high jump gold she had won in the 2023 Barwal won the men's 5000m edition, bettering the earlier in a time of 13 minute and Games record of 1.83m set by 45.93 seconds, bettering the Swapna Barman of West earlier Games record of Bengal in the 2022 edition of 13:50.05s set by G Lakshmanan of Services in the 2015 edition. Pooja, who has a personal best It was his second gold and second Games record in this

edition. He had clinched the men's 10,000m title on Saturday with a Games record time of 28:49.93s, bettering the earlier mark of 28:54.29s set by Gulveer Singh in the 2022 edition in Gujarat.

The 26-year-old Barwal was a bronze medal winner at the 2023 Asian Half Marathon race. He also won the 2024 Delhi Half Marathon title among the Indians.

Gagan Singh of Haryana was second with a time of 14:00.04s while Sunil Dawar of Madhya Pradesh finished third with 14:01.33s.

In the women's 400m hurdles, Tamil Nadu's Vithya Ramraj pocketed her third successive National Games gold, adding to her top of podium finish in the 2022 and 2023 editions of the Games.

Ramraj, who jointly holds the national record of 55.42 seconds along with the legendary PT Usha, clocked 58.11 seconds to win the gold. The 26-year-old Ramraj, a member of the Indian 4x400m relay team that took part in the 2024 Paris Olympics, joined women's 100m hurdler Jyothi Yarraji and men's 110m hurdler Tejas Shirse in winning gold in three successive Games

It was, however, a below-par performance from Ramraj as her timing was more than one second off the mark from her Games record of 56.67 seconds she had set in the 2022 edition. Tamil Nadu finished 1-2 as Shreevarthani SK took home the silver with a time of 59.86 seconds, while Maharashtra's Neha Dhabale (1:00.52) secured the bronze.

share but also got back 89 percent of the amount originally invested in buying the team. Speaking on the occasion, Jinal Mehta, Director, Torrent Group, said, "With the acquisition of a majority stake in the Gujarat Titans, we are excited to have the opportunity to elevate our fan experience and unlock new growth avenues in the years

to come." Siddharth Patel, Managing Partner at CVC, commented:"We are excited to announce this deal, which marks the beginning of a new chapter in India's most

> "Our participation in Indian Cricket started strongly, the Gujarat franchise, winning the IPL title in our first season and emerging as runners up in our second season."

The current valuation of GT

popular sporting event and our team Gujarat Titans. securing

is believed to be INR 7500

crore and as per IPL sources,

Torrent has paid something to the tune of Rs 5025 crore to

The deal is a win-win

situation for both as CVC has

not only retained one-third

acquire two-third stake.

sports 12



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

PTI 📕 AHMEDABAD

robust batting show led by the Shubman Gill's attractive century heralded India's 142-run hammering of England in the third and final ODI as the hosts completed a dominant 3-0 clean sweep to culminate for preparations the Champions Trophy, here on Wednesday. India ticked all the

remaining boxes with vice-captain Gill (112) following up his twin fifties earlier in the series with a seventh ODI ton of his career while middle-order mainstays Virat Kohli (52) and Shreyas Iyer (78) pushed India to a formidable 356 in the first half.

Indian bowlers then took over the mantle to complete the England demolition job, bundling out the visitors for a mere 214 in 34.2 overs to complete a comprehensive victory — their second largest in ODIs in terms of runs against a familiar opponent.

There was no change in the script for English, who came crashing down against spin after a sparkling start against

pace, which was provided by the pair of Ben Duckett (34) and Phil Salt (24) in tow. The slowness of the surface aided Indian bowlers as strike-making became difficult as the match progressed.

Duckett took charge of Duckett took charge of England's response early on but played one shot too many. After smacking Arshdeep Singh (2/33) for four consecutive boundaries around the park in the fifth over, he again went after the left-arm seamer but was deceived by the 'pace off' knuckle ball.

The mishit was collected cleanly by India skipper Rohit Sharma at mid-off and Arshdeep soon bounced out Salt, albeit off a slower one which the batter hit meekly to Axar Patel for a simple

grab. Tom Banton gave a good example of himself playing his first ODI against India, hitting a couple of attractive reverse sweeps against spinners but he could not push on beyond a 41-ball 38 reverse with four fours and two sixes

Joe Root perished for just 24 when an inside edge off Axar (2/22) crashed into his



stumps and Harshit Rana (2/31) hastened the end of England's resistance by getting the rid of Harry Brook (19) and Jos Buttler (6) in quick succession. From 84/2 after 10 overs,

tightened the screws with regular strikes and the lacked visitors also gumption on a pitch which remained true in its nature. Earlier, Gill led the way with England's resolve petered a fluent 112 while Kohli and

out as Indian bowlers Iyer also cashed in on ideal (14x4s, 3x6s) which also conditions in their last outing before the Champions Trophy, helping India set a 357-run target. Gill anchored India's innings en route to his seventh ODI ton -112 off 104 balls

took his average past 60 in the format — while putting on two century stands with Kohli and Iyer to consolidate for India.

The India vice-captain Gill also achieved the unique feat

of scoring a century each century, there were elements across the international formats at the same venue. Gill, meanwhile, has also scored an IPL hundred here at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

Attacking the fast bowlers and spinners alike, Gill's knock was replete with rich strokes particularly down the ground. The opener displayed immaculate footwork at the crease early on to take the attack to the opposition and remained resolute to score off spin, until he was cleaned up by

Adil Rashid (4/64). On his part, Kohli took his time to find the rhythm and when he did, the batting mainstay looked hitting his strides.

Kohli made the most of a juicy overpitched delivery from Mark Wood which he drove through the covers for his first four, then got on top of the ball from Saqib Mahmood to swat it for another boundary through mid-wicket and punished the England pacer for being wayward as he cut him for his third four.

While his stroke play was compelling in the run-a-ball fifty for his 73rd half-

three of struggle against legspinner Rashid. Rashid continued to have Gill,

wood over Kohli as soon after he raised his bat for fifty, the England spinner had him caught behind with a loopy leg-break that took an outside edge before settling in the wicketkeeper's gloves. This was the fifth time Rashid has dismissed Kohli in ODIs.

Kohli was stranded 37 runs short of becoming only the third batter ever to make 14,000 ODI runs, missing a personal landmark like his teammate Rohit Sharma earlier in the innings. It is expected to be completed during Champions Trophy.

Coming off a terrific century in second ODI, Rohit (1) could not even get a start as a delivery from Wood which was angled in, straightened enough to take the outside edge and Phil Salt collected a sharp catch.

Iyer only had himself to blame for missing out on a triple-digit score after he was caught behind on a delivery fired down the leg stump by Rashid, one that he needlessly chased and edged.



Strac withdraws, Smith to lead **Australia in Champions Trophy**

PTI SYDNEY

frontline pace attack at the Champions Trophy (CT) after fast bowler Mitchell Starc withdrew from the tournament citing personal reasons

The ODI World Cup holders have been forced to make several changes to their 15member provisional squad due to injuries to captain Pat Cummins, pacer Josh Hazlewood, and all-rounder Mitchell Marsh along with Marcus Stoinis' surprise retirement. "We understand and respect Mitch's decision," Chair of men's selectors George Bailey said on Wednesday. "Mitch is deeply respected for commitment his to international cricket and the priority he places performing for Australia." on Starc, who appeared to be in discomfort due to a left ankle issue during the latter stages of

to make their mark on the tournament," Bailey said. Smith, who is leading the side on the tour of Sri Lanka, will

not be commenting on his The development comes as a

major blow for Australia, who will be without the three Cummins. pacers pacers – Cummus, Hazlewood and Starc – who played a crucial role in their 2023 ODI World Cup victory. "His loss is, of course, a blow for the Champions Trophy campaign, but it provides an opportunity for someone else

Ghazanfar ruled out of both **Champions Trophy and IPL**

PTI 📕 KABUL

Teenage Afghanistan off-spinner AM Ghazanfar has been ruled out of both the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) and the IPL due to a lower back fracture that will keep him on the sidelines for at least four months, the country's cricket board announced on Wednesday. Left-arm spinner Nangeyalia Kharote, originally named as a reserve, has replaced the 18-vear-old in the main

for

of four months, remaining under treatment during this period," it added.

The IPL is scheduled to take place from March 21 to May 25 and Ghazanfar was to make his maiden appearance at the event after being bought by Mumbai Indians. The ACB also informed that off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman will continue to miss ODI action "until he has fully recovered," despite playing for Paarl Royals in January

PTI AHMEDABAD India and England cricket teams took the field for the third and final ODI here on

Wednesday wearing green armbands to support the BCCI's initiative of "Donate Save Organs, Lives' campaign. The BCCI informed this in a statement shortly after the commencement of the match here at the Narendra Modi

Stadium. "Both teams are wearing green arm bands to support BCCI's initiative 'Donate Organs, Save Lives'. The initiative is spearheaded by ICC Chairman Mr Jay Shah," the BCCI release stated. . The initiative was announced by ICC chairman and former BCCI secretary Shah on Monday.

Shah wrote on X, "On the occasion of the 3rd ODI between India and England in Ahmedabad on February 12th, we are proud to launch an awareness initiative -

Donate Organs



India, England teams support BCCI's

Other Indian organs." cricketers to support the initiative were batters Shreyas Iyer and KL Rahul.

"One donor can save up to eight lives. Pledge today and hit a six for humanity," Iyer said. Rahul added, "Play the ultimate winning shot. Your decicion to donate your decision to donate your organs can be the match winning moment in someone's life. Be a hero off the field too."

2 Letter No.						
O-1457 Government of Odis	ha "	e" procurement Notice				
Bid Identification No. TEND	ER (DNLINE SNPR- 16 OF 2024-25				
Name of the work	:	Building Works as per DTCN available in the website.				
		www.tendersodisha.gov.in				
Total No. of Work	:	01 (One)Nos.				
Approximate Estimated Cost	:	61.72lakh				
Period of Completion	:	9 (Nine) Calendar months				
Period and time of availability of bid document in the portal for bidding	;					
Date and time of opening of Tender	:	25.02.2025 at 11.00AM (Technical Bid) &				
		(Financial Bid will be intimated later on)				
Name and address of the officer inviting bid	:	S.E.R.W.Division. Sonepur				
(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice						
(2) inviting tenders, available in website www.tender	sodis	hagov.in				
(3) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the	web	site: www.tenderodisha.gov.in				
		Executive Engineer,				
PR-25054/11/0018/2425		Rural Works Division, Sonepur				

decision.

the final Test in Galle last week, will also miss the upcoming ODI series in Sri Lanka starting Wednesday. "His well-documented ability to play through pain and adversity, as well as forgoing opportunities in other parts of his career to put his country first, should be applauded,"

Bailey added. Cricket Australia said Starc has requested privacy and will

in the captain the team absence of Cummins and Marsh during the tournament, which will be played across Pakistan and the

UAE. 'The squad has changed significantly over the past month due to untimely injuries and the retirement of Marcus

remarked. Pacers Spencer Johnson, Nathan Ellis, Sean Abbott, and Ben Dwarshuis have been named in Australia's final 15man squad for the Champions Trophy.

been able to call on players who have had international exposure and success over the past 12 months," Bailey said. "A strong core of some our most experienced players will provide a strong foundation in our attempt to win this edition

squad Trophy, which will be held in Pakistan and the UAE from February 19. The 20-year-old Kharote is a

left-arm spinner and has played seven ODIs and six T20 Internationals since making his debut last year. Ghazanfar sustained the Stoinis," Bailey injury during Afghanistan's tour of Zimbabwe late last

year, sidelining him for "at least four months". "AM Ghazanfar has been ruled out of the ICC Champions Trophy due to a fracture in the L4 vertebra

'The upside is that we have (located in the lower back), specifically in the left pars interarticularis," Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) posted on 'X'. "He sustained the injury during Afghanistan's recent tour of Zimbabwe and will

of the Champions Trophy. be sidelined for a minimum

20 through Champions and early February. Mujeeb, who was not

included in the provisional squad for Champions squad for Champions Trophy, last played an ODI during the 2023 World Cup. Afghanistan will begin their Champions Trophy campaign against South Africa on February 21 in Karachi, followed matches against England and Australia.

Afghanistan squad for Champions Trophy

Hashmatullah Shahidi (capt), Ibrahim Zadran, Ikram Alikhil (wk) Rahmanullah Gurbaz (wk), Sediqullah Atal, Rahmat Shah (vice-capt), Azmatullah Omarzai, Gulbadin Naib, Mohammad Nabi, Rashid Khan, Fareeh Ahmad, Farooqi, Fazalhag Nangeyalia Kharote, Naveed Zadran, Noor Ahmad.

the

Sport has the power to inspire, unite, and create lasting impact beyond the field. Through this initiative, we urge everyone to take a step towards giving the greatest gift of all — the gift of life.

"One pledge, one decision, can save multiple lives. Let's come together and make a difference!" he added. bv

The initiative was supported by several Indian players, including Virat Kohli and vice-captain Shubman Gill. "Score the ultimate century. Your organs can help others live beyond your lifetime. Register as a donor and make every life count," Kohli said in a video shared by the BCCI. Gill added, "Be the captain of life. Just like a captain leads the team to victory, you can lead someone to life by pledging to donate your

Shikhar Dhawan among four event ambassadors for Champ Trophy

PTI DUBAI

 $F_{\rm Shikhar \ Dhawan \ was \ on}^{\rm ormer \ India}$ Wednesday named as one of the four event ambassadors for the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) to be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9.

Besides Dhawan, the ICC has also named Pakistan's 2017 Champions Trophy winning captain Sarfaraz Ahmed, former Australia all-rounder Shane Watson, and New Zealand's legendary fast bowler, Tim Southee as event ambassadors.

The quartet will write guest columns and will also attend matches, sharing their thoughts on the event, where the world's best eight teams will compete for the top honour. "It is such a special feeling to be part of a

release.



where it's all on the line, and Champions Trophy, and to be given the opportunity to enjoy that is what makes it such a the upcoming edition as an thrilling spectacle. It's a Ambassador is an honour," tournament full of passion, pride, and determination, and Dhawan said in an ICC that's what makes it such a "It's the ultimate competition thrilling and emotional

journey for everyone involved

As India's highest run-scorer in the Champions Trophy, with an outstanding 701 runs across two editions, Dhawan has long been one of the most iconic players in the history of the competition. He also holds the distinction

of being the only player to win two consecutive Golden Bats (for the highest run-getter) in the tournament.

His remarkable achievements include being named the Player of the Tournament in the 2013 edition, as well as holding the record for the most centuries in Champions Trophy history.

Some of my most cherished cricketing memories come from playing in the Champions Trophy. In the coming weeks, we will see the world's best teams pouring

their heart and soul into every match, with everything they have worked for on the line," said Dhawan.

Sarfaraz was elated that Pakistan has got the opportunity to host the tournament. India will play has their share of matches in Dubai. "I will never forget how special it felt to don the white jackets and lift the trophy aloft as Pakistan captain back in 2017...I am delighted to see the competition return to the cricket calendar and see my country given the opportunity to host such a special event," he said. Southee and Watson echoed

the sentiment with the latter saying, "With the top eight teams going head-to-head for the iconic white jackets, we are sure to see some extraordinary do-or-die cricket across three thrilling weeks."

			A, C I ROCCREMENT NOTICE
Q		WORKS I	DEPARTMENT
в	3-926		E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
	EOI Iden	tification	<u>No. CE-Roads-I-02/2024-25</u>
1.	The Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Oc	lisha (the "A	uthority") on behalf of the Works Department, Government of
	Odisha (the "Government") invite	s Expression	of Interest (EOI) from eligible consulting firms as mentioned
	below:		
2.	Nature of work	:	Authority's Engineer Services
3.	No. of work	:	1No.
4.	Available of bid document	:	From 10.00 A.M. of 15.02.2025 to 5.30 P.M of
	in the website		06.03.2025
5.	Date of opening of Bid	:	Dt. 07.03.2025 at 11.30 A.M.
6.	The Bidders have to participate	in ONLINE	bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website:
	https://tenderodisha.gov.in . Any	addendum /	corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the
	said website.		
	PR-34181/11/0008/2425		Chief Engineer (Roads-I), Odisha

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE



NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. BHEP/50/2024-25 DATED 04.02.2025

The Unit Head, Balimeta Hydro Electric Project, Balimeta, Dist- Malkangini invites percentage rate bids in double cover system i.e. Cover-I (Technical Bid) & Cover II (Price bid) for the work through e-procurement from

01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01 01	on of			Contractor	documents in Rs.	Completion
ast date & time of su he date & Time of o urther details can	attached at Valve including air works,	16,73,073.00	17,000.00	'D' &'C' class Civil Contractors registered with the state Govt./Central Govt./MES/ Railways	6,000/- + GST @ 18% = 7,080/-	120 days
	be seen from t		(Only Technical bid)	v.in Uni	t Head, , Balimela
0-1456	RUR	AL WORKS D	PERINTEN DIVISION, S REMENT N	DING ENGINE SUNDARGARH E.Mail - rw_sund	argarh@yahoo.co.in	
1. Name of t	he Work	:- Buildir	ng Works			
2. Total No. of works		:- 07 nos	s Building			
3. Estimated	cost	:- From	Rs.16.81 La	khs to Rs.33.99	Lakhs	
4. Class of c	ontractor	:- 'B','C'	& 'D'			

- :- 03 & 06 calendar months
- :- Single Cover
- Other details

6.

Period of completion

Type of Tender

Procurement Office Bid Identification No Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From Online-SESNG-30 17.02.2025 27.02.2025 Superintending Engineer. Rural Works Division, 06.00 P.M of 2024-25 11.00 A.M Sundargarh. Further details can be seen from the website <u>www.tendersorissa.gov.in</u> Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Sundargar