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FOR CHAMPIONS TROPHY

INDIA AND MODI RETURN WITH MUSCLE FROM THE USA

- Terrorist to be extradited
- Defence ties to be bolstered

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump announced after talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India will buy more oil, gas and military hardware, including F-35 fighter jets, from America to bring down trade deficit but asserted that Washington will not spare New Delhi from reciprocal tariffs.

At his Oval Office in the White House on Thursday (Friday India time), Trump warmly welcomed Modi with a long handshake and a bear hug while describing the prime minister as a "great friend" for a long time and a "terrific" man.

The US president, at a joint media briefing with the Indian prime minister following the talks, said both sides are looking at striking a major trade deal soon while calling import duties imposed by India on certain US products as "very unfair" and "strong".

"Whatever India charges, we will charge them," Trump said, adding "We are being reciprocal with India."

The Modi-Trump meeting took place hours after the US President announced a new reciprocal tariff policy for all the trading partners of the US in the latest in a series of such actions initiated by his administration.

In his remarks, Trump said he and PM Modi have

reached an agreement that could potentially make the US the "number one supplier" of oil and gas to India, suggesting it to be part of measures to bring down the US trade deficit with India that stands at around USD 45 billion.

The US president also said that both sides have decided to expand the overall defence partnership.

"Starting this year, we will be increasing military sales to India by many billions of dollars," Trump said.

"We are also paving the way to ultimately provide India with F-35 stealth fighters," he added. The F35 jets are known as the most lethal, survivable and connected fighter aircraft in the world. Trump also announced that India and the US will be working together like "never before" to confront the threat of radical Islamic terrorism across the world.

"I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the very evil people of the world," he said, referring to the extradition of 26/11 Mumbai attack plotter Tahawwur Rana to India.

Rana, currently detained at a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles, is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main conspirators of the terror attack.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with US President Donald Trump at the White House, in Washington, DC, USA

PTI

US CLEARS RANA'S EXTRADITION

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has announced that his administration has approved extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana to India and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis said the state government is prepared to lodge him in jail.

Addressing a joint press meet along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Washington on Thursday, Trump said,

"Today I am pleased to announce that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the plotters and very evil people of the world, and having to do with the horrific Mumbai terrorist attack, to face justice in India. So, he is going back to India to face justice."

"We're giving him back to India immediately" and more such extraditions could follow as we have quite a few requests (from New Delhi), the US president added. The extradition of Rana was cleared by the US Supreme Court in January as it rejected his review

petition in the case.

On his part, Modi thanked Trump for the decision. "I am thankful to the President that he has decided to hand over the culprit who committed the killings in India in 2008, to India now. Indian courts will now take appropriate action," he said.

Thanking Prime Minister Modi for his efforts to bring Rana for trial, Fadnis said here "We kept Kasab, what is the big deal here? We will keep him for sure, when asked about Maharashtra's preparedness once Rana is extradited.



A US military aircraft carrying 104 deported Indian immigrants upon its landing in Amritsar on February 5, 2025

PTI

More deportation flights to arrive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

A US plane carrying 119 illegal immigrants is likely to land at Amritsar airport on February 15, the second such batch of Indians deported by the Trump government as part of a crackdown it resolved to carry out when it was sworn in last month.

According to official sources, the plane is expected to land at the airport around 10 pm on Saturday.

Among the 119 illegal Indian immigrants, 67 hail from Punjab, 33 from Haryana, eight from Gujarat, three from Uttar Pradesh, two each from Goa, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and one each from Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

Another US plane carrying deportees is also expected to land on February 16.

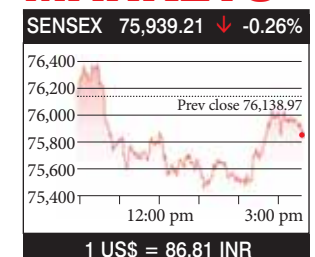
The development came days after a US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed at the Amritsar airport last week. Of them, 33 each were from Haryana and Gujarat and 30 from Punjab.

Most of the deportees hailing from Punjab had said they wanted to migrate to the US for a better life for their families. However, their dreams were shattered when they were caught at the US border and brought back in shackles.

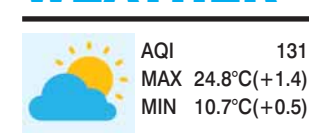
After Donald Trump assumed office as the US President, the country's law enforcement agencies have launched a crackdown against illegal immigrants.

Many people from Punjab and some other states, who entered the US through "donkey routes" — an illegal and risky pathway used by migrants to enter America or other illegal means by spending lakhs of rupees — are now facing deportation.

MARKETS



WEATHER



BJP to swear in government in Delhi next week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The swearing-in ceremony of the BJP government in Delhi is likely to take place on February 19 or 20. The legislative party meeting of the BJP is expected to be held a day before the grand swearing-in that marks the return of the saffron party in the national Capital after a gap of 27 years.

Preparations to form the BJP government are expected to gain momentum after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns to the Capital on Friday night following his trip to France and the United States of America. PM Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP President JP Nadda and other senior party leaders will finalise key decisions regarding the new government which includes a chief minister, a council of ministers and perhaps one or two deputy chief ministers.

According to sources, after the arrival of PM Modi, the central leadership will appoint observers who will hold discussions with newly elected MLAs to take a final decision before announcing the name for the chief minister. The BJP asserted that it will soon announce the name of Delhi chief minister and slammed AAP leader Atishi over her claims of power cuts in the city, saying she should observe 13 days of mourning over her party's "death".



MHA seeks sanction to prosecute Jain

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday sought the President of India's approval to prosecute former Delhi minister and AAP leader Satyendra Jain under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), 2023 in the alleged disproportionate assets case.

The agency alleged that Jain, with the help of his family members and associates, amassed disproportionate assets between February 14,

2015, and May 31, 2017, while serving as a minister in the Delhi government. Jain lost Shakur Basti seat to BJP's Karnail Singh by a margin of 20,998 votes. According to sources, the request is based on evidence provided by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which has found sufficient grounds for prosecution in the case. "On the basis of the material received from the Enforcement Directorate, sufficient evidence has been found to grant the sanction", sources said. The MHA's move comes after reviewing findings from the ED's investigation into alleged financial irregularities linked to Jain. The final decision now rests with the President.

Kerala ragging row turns political

KUMAR CHELLAPAN ■ KOCHI

Ragging of three freshers by third year students of Government Nursing College at Kottayam in Kerala is the fall out of the refusal of the former to part with hafta money demanded by the seniors to buy liquor and drugs, according to the cops investigating the case. Many parents expressed their reservation and apprehension over sending their wards to professional colleges in the state following the gruesome ragging incident at the Kottayam nursing college.

Lakshmana Perumal, father of one of the students, told media that the perpetrators of the crime belonged to the SFI, the student wing of the CPI(M) and enjoyed political patronage. "My son had told me about the cruelties perpetrated on him and others by the senior students for refusing to part with money to buy their daily quota of liquor and drugs," said Perumal while speaking to reporters.

All the five students held by the police on charges of ragging belonged to the SFI. The video of the cruel ragging that went viral shows that geometry divider was used by the seniors to engrave pictures on the rear side of the victims. According to a member of the investigation team, dumbbells were placed on the private parts of the victim students. While the victims were writing in pain and crying out loudly, the seniors poured some lotion into their mouths and were seen laughing out. Veena George, Kerala Minister for Health, told reporters that she could not watch the horrifying video. "The ideal punishment for them is to throw them out of the college once and for ever. Suspension is too small a punishment for the kind of crime they have done," said George. VD Satheshan, leader of opposition and the chief minister in waiting, asked the CPI(M) to disband the SFI. "This outfit is



Kerala police personnel escort students who were arrested for allegedly ragging first-year students at the Government Nursing College, in Kottayam on February 12, 2025

PTI

responsible for all type of cruelties and anti-social activities happening in campuses in the State," said Satheshan. Responses from the college principal and other senior teachers in the college sounded hollow and it was like passing the buck. While the principal said that an assistant warden has been appointed to be in the hostel 24X7, students said that they have not seen any such officials at any time. It has come to light that the cruel act of ragging took place on the first anniversary of the death of Sidharthan, a first year veterinary science student at the Government Veterinary College in Wayanad. Sidharthan, a tribal student, was found dead in his hostel room under mysterious conditions on 20th February 2024 following three day and night ragging by the SFI students. Though the 16 accused were arrested within weeks and were suspended from the college, judiciary in Kerala came to their help and allowed them to attend regular classes. But a division bench of the Kerala High Court quashed on 5th February the order of the single bench which had allowed the accused to attend regular classes.

Panel to name next CEC on February 17

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar set to demit office on February 18, a three member selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet on Monday to finalise the name of the next chief election commissioner, sources said on Friday. The selection committee also comprises the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Home Minister Amit Shah. The Committee will recommend a name from among the candidates shortlisted by a search committee. The president will then appoint the next CEC based on the recommendation. Last month, the Union Law Ministry set up a search committee under Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal to shortlist names for the appointment of the next CEC. The process of appointing the CEC from a panel of five as per the Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Act, 2023, would be used for the first time, it was used to appoint ECs Gyanesh Kumar and Sandhu to fill the vacancies created by the

retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey and the resignation of Arun Goel last year. Prior to the enactment of the law, the CEC was usually appointed by elevating the senior-most EC. The selection process for the CEC would involve a panel of five names as per the Act. After Rajiv Kumar, Gyanesh Kumar is the senior-most election commissioner. His tenure is till January 26, 2029. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu is the other election commissioner.

According to the law, the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the president on the recommendation of a selection committee headed by the prime minister and comprising the Lok Sabha opposition leader and a Union Cabinet minister to be nominated by the prime minister. The sources said the same set of candidates could also be used to appoint a new EC. According to the law, the CEC and other ECs will be appointed from among persons who are holding or have held a post equivalent to the rank of secretary to the government of India and will be persons of integrity with knowledge of and experience in management and conduct of elections. In other words, serving and retired secretary-level officials can be appointed as the CEC and ECs.

Kejriwal under fire for renaming Delhi CM's official X account

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister's Office of Delhi on Friday wrote to the social media platform X to restore the "CMO Delhi" (@DelhiCMO) official handle allegedly renamed to "KejriwalAtWork" (@KejriwalAtWork) at the behest of the former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. "Since '@CMODelhi' became free after changing it to '@KejriwalAtWork', one user used this ID and opened a parody account. It also appears that previously '@CMODelhi' and now '@KejriwalAtWork' are showing an error - 'something went wrong' when tried to see a post from this account," the email sent to X said while adding that official accounts are not associated with individuals and pass on to successors.

This comes a day after the BJP, which won 48 seats in the recent Delhi Assembly polls, demanded Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's intervention in the renaming of the official 'CMO Delhi'. In an email to X on Friday, the CMO said as per established practice, official accounts are not associated with individuals and pass on to successors as and when change takes place. "It has come to our notice that on 'X' (previously Twitter), a 'Grey Tick' Government Handle with identity '@CMODelhi', has now been unauthorisedly changed to '@KejriwalAtWork'. The said account is having approximately 9,90,000 followers," it said. This will ensure that the official handle of the Chief Minister's Office is not misused in future and cannot be tampered with, the letter said,



asking the social media platform to deactivate any other account having '@cmodelhi' immediately. "In view of the above, it is requested to 'X' Platform to restore '@CMODelhi' and Password of the same may kindly be sent to the official email ID cmdelhi@nic.in,

which is the authorized official ID of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi. This, inter alia will ensure that the said Handle / ID is not misused in future and cannot be tampered with. Further, it is also requested that any 'X' Handle having '@cmodelhi' as its ID, must not be allowed on 'X'

without consent of this office. Also at present any other account having '@cmodelhi' must be deactivated immediately," CMO said. On Thursday, political controversy erupted on Thursday after the BJP claimed that Arvind Kejriwal renamed the official X handle of the Delhi Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to 'ArvindKejriwal at Work' (@KejriwalAtWork). In-charge of the BJP's National Information and Technology Department, Amit Malviya, also slammed Kejriwal. "After losing the Delhi elections, Arvind Kejriwal deactivated and renamed the official Twitter and YouTube accounts of the Chief Minister of Delhi. These digital assets, previously known as '@CMODelhi', have been rebranded as '@KejriwalAtWork,'" Malviya tweeted. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva accused AAP national

convenor of "stealing" the digital property of the Delhi government. "Arvind Kejriwal changed the account of Delhi CMO and made it his own account, this is a direct loot of government money. This is digital loot. We have demanded from LG that the IT department of Delhi government should immediately file an FIR, start an investigation and take strict action," said Sachdeva. Notably, the account was deleted later. The Delhi BJP chief also sought Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's help to seek a report from the Delhi government's IT and social media departments over the alleged renaming of the Delhi CMO's social media handles. The BJP has returned to power in Delhi, after 26 years, defeating the Aam Aadmi Party in February 5 Assembly polls. The party government is yet to be formed.



38th National Games a gamechanger for players

MANSI BHAMBRI ■ DEHRADUN

Experts opine that the Organisation of the 38th National Games was a valuable opportunity for the State's athletes to enhance their presence in the realm of sports. To ensure the successful execution of the National Games, authorities made significant improvements to the sports infrastructure throughout the state. Additionally, it has been observed that athletes from Uttarakhand have demonstrated remarkable performances in this event, securing numerous medals. In light of the successful organisation of the National Games, experts urged that the authorities should view this as a significant opportunity and strive to motivate the State's athletes by maintaining the current sports infrastructure not only for this event but also for future endeavours.

A retired sports coordinator from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) Dayal Singh Rawat expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the government and relevant officials in organising such a suc-

cessful event in the state. He emphasised that considerable sports infrastructure has been developed across the state to ensure the success of these national games. However, he noted that the authorities must recognise that the national games provide an excellent opportunity for both athletes and the state to enhance the sports landscape. To achieve favourable outcomes from the national games, it is crucial that the infrastructure developed during this period is maintained regularly. "This maintenance will ensure that athletes have access to suitable facilities for practice. Further, in light of the event's success, the authorities should now focus on establishing long-term training programmes for athletes and selecting qualified coaches within the state. Following the national games, it is essential for the authorities to remain proactive by setting objectives and organising regular tournaments for state players in order to prepare them for future national and international competitions.

The national games will provide valuable exposure for the athletes. "The successful organisation of the national games will not only boost the morale of current players but will also inspire the next generation of athletes in training. I would like to commend the authorities for procuring international equipment for the players during the national games. This equipment will prove to be immensely beneficial for athletes as they prepare for future competitions at the stadium which will also encourage them to play at the stadium."

The chief of kickboxing federation in Uttarakhand, Arvind Kotnala has commended the efforts of both the athletes and the authorities in organising the national games. He remarked that the national games have greatly inspired the athletes from the state. Further, providing free access to the public to witness the national games at the stadium will also encourage

Advocates question paperless land registry & UCC provisions

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Several advocates protested at the collectorate Sin Dehradun on Friday against the provisions of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) related to online marriage registration, online registration of wills and the paperless land registry system. The advocates raised slogans against the State government, claiming they will intensify the protest. They also refrained from work in the Registrar's office on Friday. The protesters expressed concerns about their role being removed from these legal processes and claimed that it will adversely affect their livelihood. The president of Dehradun Bar Association Rajeev Sharma stated that under the UCC, marriages are being registered online and wills are being considered valid through online video verification. He said that many advocates were involved in these processes but the shift to

employees associated with the registration process apart from the advocates. Payments for stamps and other fees will also be made online which will impact many people," he said. Sharma said that while some believe online land registration will reduce fraud, online scams are also occurring and can have serious consequences. Sharma claimed that the government is trying to replicate the registry process like Maharashtra but they should understand that Uttarakhand's geography is quite different. He also stated that the government is now relying more on common service centre operators and cyber cafes instead of advocates. Sharma warned that if the government does not consider their concerns, they will intensify their protest and will not allow work at the registrar's office or courts.

PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA ORDANCE FACTORY RAIPUR DEHRADUN

(Website: <https://dehradunof.kvs.ac.in>, Tele: 0135-2971615, 2971668)

INTERVIEW FOR KENDRIYA VIDYALAYAS (Walk-in-Interview)
Applications are invited to fill up the post of PGTs, TGTs, PRTs, Sports / Dance / Music / Art & Craft Coach, Doctor, Nurse, Computer Instructor, Yoga Instructor, Special Educator, Balvatika Teacher and Counsellor in PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya OFD, Raipur, Dehradun purely on Contractual basis for the session 2025-26.

Designation and Post	Date and time of Interview
Doctor, Nurse, Sports Coach, Yoga Instructor, Computer Instructor (Primary & Secondary), Dance Coach, Music Teacher, Art Teacher, Special Educator, Counsellor and Balvatika Teacher	04.03.2025 (09:00 am)
PGT (Political Science, History, Geography, Economics, Commerce), TGT (Social Science) and PRT	06.03.2025 (09:00 am)

Application form may be downloaded from Vidyalaya website (<https://dehradunof.kvs.ac.in>) from 18.02.2025 to 03.03.2025. Before applying for the posts, interested candidates to visit KVS HQ, New Delhi website (www.kvsangathan.nic.in) for eligibility, honorarium and other information. Please note the following points:-
1. No Travel allowance/Dearness allowance will be payable for the attending the interview.
2. All terms and conditions shall be applicable as per the directions of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for contractual appointment.
3. Applicants to bring duly filled Application Form, Bio-data form (with photograph) and all the relevant certificates (self attested) along with the original certificates (for verification).
4. The time of Registration will be from 09:00 am to 10:00 am on the scheduled dates of the interview.

PRINCIPAL

Documents being collected in alleged Defence Colony land fraud case

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

After registering an FIR against 16 former defence personnel in a land fraud case in Dehradun's Defence Colony, the police have started collecting relevant documents and interrogating those linked to the case. Since many documents date back nearly 40 years and were likely recorded manually, retrieving them in their original form is challenging, the superintendent of police (City) Pramod Kumar said. He informed that all accused, office-bearers of the Sainik Cooperative Housing Society Limited, are facing charges of fraud, criminal conspiracy and forgery over the illegal sale of open spaces in the colony. He informed that the case was registered following a complaint filed on February 9 by retired Colonel Ramesh Prasad. He alleged that the society was established in 1964 to provide housing for serving and retired military personnel. It reportedly had initially earmarked 680 plots with designated open spaces for parks, sports and community activities. However the officials allegedly manipulated records in 1986 and submitted a fraudulent plan to the Mussoorie Development Authority (MDDA) through which they reportedly added 46 illegal plots, increasing the number of plots to 726. It was also alleged that plots were unlawfully sold to non military individuals in violation of the society's regulations, with sales conducted below the official circle rates to yield financial gains for those involved. The approval date of the layout plan was allegedly altered to show an incorrect sanction year of 1988 instead of 1986. Over 100 plots, including land reserved for public use, were reportedly created and sold illegally over multiple administrative terms. Kumar said that the accused, including former chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, secretaries and administrators of the society, have been booked under relevant sections. He stated that the police have begun collecting relevant documents and interrogating those linked to the case. "Since many documents date back nearly 40 years and were likely recorded manually, retrieving them in their original form is chal-

lenging. However, we are making every effort to gather all necessary evidence for a thorough investigation," he added.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

In my army record my mother name mistakenly recorded as GAULI DEVI where as my mother correct name GODAMBARI DEVI as mentioned in all other documents. I Army 1476896K Rank EX TS/NK Name SAUKAR SINGH R/O GANESH PURAM MAJRI MAFI MOHKAMPUR DEHRADUN UTTARAKHAND. I have changed my mother correct name in my army service record vide UK IN-UK74190737239960X Affidavit 13.02.2025 before Dehradun.

I SHANI SALIM W/o Army No. 15673897F Hav Salim A, Presently residing at Village: PANMANA, P.O: CHAVARA, Tehsil: KARUNAGAPPALLY, Distt: KOLLAM, KERALA-691583 change my name from SHANI SALIM to SHANI S in the service records of my husband.

My name is mentioned as Snehlata Devi and date of birth 19.06.1993 in the military documents of my husband Hav Bhupender Singh Negi No. 4092555X, whereas my real name is Snehlata and correct Date of birth is 11.09.1992 for all future purpose, which is also mentioned in the Aadhar card. Snehlata w/o Bhupender Singh Negi R/o Uttarakhand Enclave shastri Park BURARI North Delhi PIN-110084

मेरे पिता के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम राजसी कुमारी दर्ज है, सही नाम राजसी सिंह आधार नं. 223300273206 D/o आर्मी नं. JC-342837A स्वदेदार ऑनरी लेफ्टिनेंट राज कुमार सिंह, मकान नं. A-66, दुर्गा कॉलोनी, पोस्ट रुड़की, तहसील रुड़की, जिला हरिद्वार (यू.के.)- 247667 है।

मैं, मुदित कुमार गुप्ता पुत्र श्री सुरेश कुमार गुप्ता 12 कांवेली रोड, देहरादून मेरा भूमि देहरादून के कार्यालय में बही सख्या-1 जिल्ड-2964 पृष्ठ-391/404 पर क्रमांक-7755 संशोधन पत्र दिनांक-06.10.2016 पर विधिवत दर्ज व पंजीकृत है जो कि कही खो गये है काफी खोज बिन करने पर भी नहीं मिले।

CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Corporate Office: Chola Crest, C54 & 55, Super B-4, Thiru Vi Ka Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600032.
Branch Office: 2nd Floor, JJ Tower, 59-Rajpur Road, Adjoining Ram Tirath Ashram, Opp. Sachivalaya Main Gate, Dehradun-248001.
Branch Office: 2nd Floor, Kharsa No 945, Railway Road, Jwalapur, Opp. Jwalapur Railway Station, Haridwar (U.K.) 249407.
Contact No: Mr. Varun Partap Vohra, Mob. No. 8477000713, 9056555002

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower / Co-Borrower/ Mortgagee (s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited the same shall be referred herein after as Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited. The Secured Assets will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis through E-Auction.
It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public E-Auction through website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com>

Account No. and Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower, Mortgagees	Date & Amount as per Demand Notice U/s 13(2)	Descriptions of the Property/ Properties	Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit & Bid Increment Amount (In Rs.)	E-Auction Date & Time, EMD Submission Last Date, Inspection Date
Loan No. XOHEHRA00002055623 Borrower & Co-Borrowers:- 1. SANJAY KUMAR S/O JYOTI PRASAD, 2. JITENDRA KUMAR S/O JYOTI PRASAD, 3. SUNITA GOSWAMI W/O SANJAY KUMAR, 4. LEELAWATI DEVI W/O PHOOL GIRI JYOTI PRASAD, R/O: House No. 441, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee, Haridwar 247667 ALSO AT: House No. 246, Chaw Mandi Roorkee, Haridwar Uttarakhand 247667 5. M/S JYOTI & SONS Through Its Partner (SANJAY KUMAR) # 551, Near Bhagwati Hospital Roorkee Haridwar 247667	15-01-2024, Rs. 34,66,587/- AS ON 09/01/2024 With Further Interest And Charges Thereon.	Property measuring 92.283 sq. meters registered as per sale deed bearing document number 11,813 dated 29/10/2007 situated in Chao Mandi, Roorkee Tehsil Roorkee, Distt. Haridwar	₹ 61,20,000/- ₹ 6,12,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/-	07-03-2025 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. 06-03-2025 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. As Per Appointment

THIS IS ALSO A STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) OF SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.
1. All interested participants/bidders are requested to visit the website <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://www.cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices>.
2. For details, help, procedure and online training on e-auction, prospective bidders may contact Mr. Muhammed Rahees - 812400030 / 6374845616, Email id: CholaAuctionAP@chola.murugappa.com. For Auction training alone, contact M/s. Procure247; Vasu Patel - 9510974587
3. For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://chola-lap.procure247.com/> & <https://cholamandalam.com/news/auction-notices> to take part in e-auction.
Authorised Officer
M/S Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Date: 15-02-2025, Place: Dehradun/Haridwar (U.K.)

उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत नियामक आयोग

'विद्युत नियामक भवन' निकट आई0एस0बी0टी0, पो0ऑ- माजरा, देहरादून
राज्य में प्रस्तावित विद्युत दरों पर जन सुनवाई
आयोग के समक्ष उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉरपोरेशन लि0 (UPCL), पावर ट्रांसमिशन कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लि0 (PTCL), यूजेवीएन लि0 (UJVN Ltd.) तथा एस0एल0डी0सी0 (SLDC) द्वारा वित्तीय वर्ष 2025-26 के लिए वायर ए0आर0आर0 (ARR), बहु वर्षीय टैरिफ (MYT) एवं व्यापार योजना (For the Vth Contract Period from FY 2025-26 to FY 2027-28) तथा वित्तीय वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए सहीकरण (Trueing up) एवं वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-25 के लिए वार्षिक निष्पादन समीक्षा (APR) पर उपभोक्ताओं व अन्य सम्बन्धित संस्थाओं, व्यक्तियों से सुझावों/गत्तों को जानने हेतु उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत नियामक आयोग द्वारा निम्न कार्यक्रम के अनुसार जन सुनवाई आयोजित की जा रही है:-

जन सुनवाई की तिथि	स्थान
18 फरवरी 2025 (प्रातः 11:00 बजे से 01:00 बजे तक)	लोहाघाट : ब्लॉक सभागार विकास खण्ड लोहाघाट, (चम्पावत)।
19 फरवरी 2025 (प्रातः 10:30 बजे से 01:30 बजे तक)	रुद्रपुर : राभागार, विकारा भवन, नैनीताल रोड़, रुद्रपुर (ऊधम सिंह नगर)।
25 फरवरी 2025 (प्रातः 11:00 बजे से 01:00 बजे तक)	गोपेश्वर : सभागार, जिला पंचायत परिसर, गोपेश्वर, (चमोली)।
28 फरवरी 2025 (प्रातः 10:30 बजे से 01:30 बजे तक)	देहरादून : सुनवाई कक्ष, उत्तराखण्ड विद्युत नियामक आयोग, विद्युत नियामक भवन, निकट ISBT, माजरा, देहरादून।

उपरोक्त टैरिफ दरों के प्रस्ताव के सम्बन्ध में, यदि कोई भी व्यक्ति या संस्था अपना मात आयोग के समक्ष प्रस्तुत करना चाहते हैं तो वे कृपया जन सुनवाई में उपस्थित होकर अपना मत गाननीय आयोग के समक्ष लिखित या मौखिक रूप से प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं।
उपरोक्त टैरिफ याचिका प्रस्तावों का अवलोकन आयोग की वैबसाइट www.uerc.gov.in पर किया जा सकता है।
राज्य

PAUL MERCHANTS FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned, that Gold ornaments pledged with the under mentioned branches of the company under respective loan numbers, which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed by the concerned customers so far in spite of repeated notices by the company, will be auctioned at the concerned branch offices of the company on Thursday 27th Feb, 2025 as per the following details:-
1. Saharanpur - Clock Tower Branch - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd. #2A/1095, Bheem Rao Ambekar Marg, Near Clock Tower, Main Chowk, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh-247001. Phone - 9875942895 Loan Number - 16321000005777, 163210000052525, 163210000052626, 16321000005365, 16321000005393, 16321000005408, 16321000004899, 16321000004978, 16321000005055, 16321000005649, 16321000005651, 16321000004951, 16321000004954, 16321000005055, 16321000005056, 16321000005057, 16321000005058, 16321000005059, 16321000005060, 16321000005061, 16321000005062, 16321000005203, 16321000005204, 16321000005205, 16321000005206, 16321000005207, 16321000005208, 16321000005209, 16321000005210, 16321000005211, 16321000005212, 16321000005213, 16321000005214, 16321000005215, 16321000005216, 16321000005217, 16321000005218, 16321000005219, 16321000005220, 16321000005221, 16321000005222, 16321000005223, 16321000005224, 16321000005225, 16321000005226, 16321000005227, 16321000005228, 16321000005229, 16321000005230, 16321000005231, 16321000005232, 16321000005233, 16321000005234, 16321000005235, 16321000005236, 16321000005237, 16321000005238, 16321000005239, 16321000005240, 16321000005241, 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India ready to host 2036 Olympics: Shah

PNS ■ HALDWANI/DEHRADUN

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that India is ready to host the Olympics 2036. He said this at the conclusion of the 38th National Games in Haldwani on Friday. Shah said that the next National Games will be held in Meghalaya.



Addressing the gathering, Shah Shah said that with the successful conduct of the 38th National Games, Devbhoomi (Uttarakhand) has now become a 'Khel Bhoomi' with the help of sports infrastructure developed in every district of the State. Due to the efforts of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Uttarakhand has moved upwards from 21st place to 7th place in terms of the country's sports infrastructure. Congratulating the athletes from Uttarakhand who won medals in the National Games, he stated that it is they who have truly made Dev Bhoomi a land of sports.

Shah appreciated the organising committee of 38th National Games and the sports federations, stating that it was due to their efforts that a small state like Uttarakhand was able to successfully organise these games. He mentioned that

around 16,000 athletes participated in approximately 435 competitions as part of National Games. He said that the true message of sports is the spirit of victory and not being disheartened by defeat. The next National Games is to be held in Meghalaya, where athletes will have another opportunity to win medals, he said.

Shah stated that eco-friendly practices were realised along with the eco-friendly games at the 38th National Games. He mentioned that national records were made in several sports, including weightlifting, shooting, and athletics, which has raised hopes of winning medals at international

competitions. He also said that during the next National Games, to be held in Meghalaya, some events will be organised in other northeastern states as well, so that the entire North East resonates with the National Games. He said that the organisation of sports competitions in small states like Uttarakhand and Meghalaya shows the dedication of these states towards sports.

Shah stated that due to the initiatives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, there has been a significant change in the sports environment in the country. PM Modi had started the 'Khelo Bharat' competition as the chief minister of Gujarat,

and since then, there has been substantial development in the sports sector. He mentioned that sports infrastructure has been developed in many districts of the country, athletes and coaches have been encouraged, and transparency has been introduced in the selection process, which has enhanced the reputation of Indian sports globally, Shah said.

The minister said that mountainous State like Uttarakhand has successfully organised such a large event, which indicates that every State in India is not only ready to play but also prepared to strengthen its sports infrastructure. He said that by utilising the TOPS (Target Olympic Podium Scheme), many of our athletes are preparing for great success in the Olympics, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. Shri Shah mentioned that India is ready to host the Olympics in 2036. "We have made our bid to host the Olympic Games, and we are confident that when the Olympics are held in India in 2036, the athletes participating in this sports mega event in Uttarakhand will win medals, thereby bringing glory to the tricolor and the national anthem," he said.

Successful National Games, a feather in Dhami's cap

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The successful organisation of the 38th National Games which concluded on Friday in Haldwani has brought laurels for the sports department of Uttarakhand and the State government. The organised holding of the grand sports event at nine places in different parts of the State has also highlighted the leadership skills of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami who was consistently motivating the administration and monitoring the preparations.

Dhami took things in his own hands after there was delay in the approval in the organisation of the event which created confusion on the dates of the National Games. He personally met the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha in New Delhi and got the green signal on the organisation of the Games on October 9 last year.

The State government had a time period of only three and half months to organise the event. Sensing this the CM himself plunged himself into the preparations and was on ground zero to monitor the activities himself.

The State administration had made plans to organise the National Games at nine centres which included towns such as Pithoragarh and Tehri where due to paucity of facilities, the organisation of games was a major challenge.

However the challenge of providing necessary facilities to the players, coaches, officers and the sports lovers was successfully met by the sports department and State administration.

The National Games were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 28 at Rajiv Gandhi sta-

dium and the valedictory ceremony was addressed by the union Home minister Amit Shah in Haldwani. CM Dhami regularly visited different centres to take stock of the preparations during the 18 days the Games were

underway. It not only kept the organisers on their toes but also boosted the morale of the players and those involved in the organisation of the games.

U'khand secures 103 medals in 38th National Games

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand secured a total of 103 medals at the 38th National Games held in the State from January 28 to February 14. Officials stated that Uttarakhand's performance this year was remarkable compared to past years. The athletes achieved commendable results across various sports, winning a total of 103 medals including 24 gold, 35 silver and 44 bronze. At the 38th National Games, Uttarakhand showcased its sporting talent, making a significant impact nationwide. The State, which finished 25th in the 37th National Games in Goa, leaped to seventh place this year. The officials said that this achievement is not only a result of the hard work and dedication of the athletes but also a testament to the efforts made by the state government to develop sports in Uttarakhand. The State government has significantly enhanced sports facilities by constructing modern, international-level infrastructure, organising high-level training camps, and improving coaching systems. Providing a wide range of facilities to athletes has contributed to Uttarakhand's exceptional performance in various sports, capturing the attention of the entire nation. The state's athletes have achieved individual milestones and excelled in team sports as well. Uttarakhand demonstrated its strength in football, handball, netball, and kabaddi, proving its potential in both individual and team events, they added.

Mahara acts tough on leaders airing dissent in public

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Taking cognisance of recent utterances and voices of dissent aired by some leaders of the State, the Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) president Karan Mahara has directed the party leaders to refrain from giving such statements. In a letter directed to all senior leaders of the State and members of district, Mahanagar and block committees, Mahara said he has observed that instead of putting their suggestions in the party forum some senior leaders of the party are engaged in making comments and giving statements in electronic, print and social media platforms. He added that this is denting the image of the party and its future prospects. He suggested that all the senior leaders including party functionaries and members of the ancillary organisations of the party should keep

their opinion in party forums only. Mahara warned that strict disciplinary action will be taken against those who will continue to engage in such activities. The letter of the state party president assumes significance in the wake of voices of dissent raised by party leaders after the recent elections of the urban local bodies in the State. In a public meeting the Kichha MLA Tilak Raj Behed minced no words to express his anger on the state leadership of the party for the election loss in some local bodies. Similarly former PCC president Pritam Singh created a flutter when he requested the central leadership of the party to take a decision on the State leadership of the party soon.

Uttarakhand sets up SHSRC to improve health services

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand government has decided to set up the State Health Systems Resource Centre (SHSRC) for improving the quality of health services in the State. The Health minister Dhan Singh Rawat said the SHSRC has been set up on the lines of the central government for bringing innovation, transparency, improving quality and strengthening the distribution system. He claimed that apart from making the health services more accessible, the centre will develop a system of training, skill development, reporting and feedback in the State health services. Rawat added that the SHSRC will prepare a protocol for prevention of infectious diseases from time to time which will help in improving the quality of the health services. The centre will also assess the challenges of district and block level and prepare an extensive report every month and make suggestions to the government. The minister expressed confidence that the SHSRC will play a key role in effective implementation of health schemes, immunization, encouraging institutional deliveries, reducing infant mortality and TB eradication programme. Rawat has directed the senior officers of health and family welfare department, medical education department and mission director National Health Mission to coordinate with the SHSRC so that the targets of health services are achieved and better services are provided to the general public.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE
Registered Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400051
Corporate Office: ICICI HFC Tower, JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East, Mumbai- 400059
Branch Office: First Floor, Kharsa no. 110/1 & 110/2 Mauza Kanwoli, R.D Tower, GMS Road, Pargana Central Doon, Dehradun- 248001.

Whereas
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notices upon the borrowers mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

As the borrower failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of ICICI Home Finance Company Limited.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Loan Account Number	Description of property/ Date of Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Salma Anjum (Borrower), Rahis Ahmad (Co-Borrower), LHICD0000154397	370 Residential House Of Kharsa No 370 Part Of Plot Number 01 Mauza Bharuwala Grant Cantt Area Parana Centraldoon Teh And Distt Dehradun 1 Dehradun Uttarakhand 248007. Bounded By- North: Land Of Mr. Govindlal 22.6 Ft. South: 18 Ft Road/ 22.6 Ft. East: Land Of Mr. Deepak/ 35.10 Ft. West: Land Of Others/ 35.10 Ft./ Date Of Possession: -10-Feb-25	12-11-2024 Rs. 21,43,291.74/-	Central Dehradun

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/ guarantor(s) are hereby given a 30 day notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.
Date: February 15, 2025, Place: Dehradun Authorized Officer, ICICI Home Finance Company Limited

Indian Bank Zonal Office: First Floor- 1, Gandhi Road, Near Ghanta Ghar, Dehradun. Uttarakhand- 248001 Branch: Roorkee

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)
Notice is hereby given under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 8 & 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a Demand Notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned hereinafter, calling upon them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrowers/ guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers / guarantors/mortgagors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Sec.13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrowers/ guarantors/ mortgagors in particular and public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealing with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank Erstwhile Allahabad Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against the account herein below: The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of subsection (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S. No.	Name of the Branch/Borrower/Guarantor	Description of Immovable Property	Demand Notice Date	Date of Possession	Outstanding Due Amount
1.	Branch: Roorkee Borrower: Mr. Rajesh Sachdeva Mr. Sanjay Sachdeva & Mrs. Chanchal Sachdeva S/D/O Kichairati Lal Sachdeva	Mortgage Assets: Plot No. 3, Situated at west Amber Talab, Tehsil Roorkee District Haridwar having Area 100.11 sq. mtrs. In the name of Mr. Kherati Lal Sachdeva S/o Bodoj Raj. The said property is Bounded as under: East: property of Others, 31'-0", West: Property of others 34'-9", North: Road 31'-0" wide, South: Property of Others 34'-9".	05.08.2024	14.02.2025	Rs. 36,70,512.53 and interest, thereon

Date: 14.02.2025 Place: Roorkee Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

GRIHUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE LTD)
REGISTERED OFFICE: 6TH FLOOR, B BUILDING, GANGA TRUENO, LOHEGAON, PUNE, MAHARASHTRA 411014
BRANCH OFF UNIT-2ND FLOOR, SGAD COMPLEX, NAINITAL ROAD, RUDRAPUR, UTTARAKHAND -263153

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE SALE OF SECURED IMMOVABLE ASSET UNDER SARFAESI ACT
E-auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the "Act") read with Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties are being offered to Grihumb Housing Finance Limited (formerly known as Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited) as the name Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited changed to Grihumb Housing Finance Limited with effect from 17 Nov 2023 (Previously known as Magma Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Public Unlisted Company) (hereinafter referred to as the "Secured Creditor" as per the Act), the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Secured Creditor in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) of the Act read with Rules 8 and 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rule pursuant to notice under section 13(2) of the Act.

The Secured Assets will be sold on "Asiswheris", "Asiswhatis" and "Whatevertheris" basis on 18/03/2025 through E-Auction. It is hereby informed to General public that we are going to conduct public through E-Auction platform provided at the website: <https://www.bankerauctions.com>

For detailed T&Cs of sale, please refer to link provided in GHFL's Secured Creditor's website i.e. www.grihumhousing.com

PROPOSAL NO. CUSTOMER NAME (A)	DEMAND NOTICE DATE AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT (B)	NATURE OF POSSESSION (C)	DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (D)	RESERVE PRICE (E)	EMD (10% OF RP) (F)	EMD SUBMISSION DATE (G)	INCREMENTAL BID (H)	PROPERTY INSPECTION DATE/TIME (I)	DATE AND TIME OF AUCTION (J)	KNOWN ENCUMBRANCES/COURT CASES IF ANY (K)
LOAN NO. H10055710000 0005016122 HARSHDEEP SINGH RAJDEEP SINGH KULWINDER KAUR	Notice date: 07/11/2024 Total Dues: Rs.696413/- (Rupees Six Lakh Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred Thirteen Only) payable as on 07/11/2024 along with interest @14.75% p.a. till the realization.	Physical	All That Piece And Parcel Of The Kharsa No. 962 A Min, Measuring Area 22.50x50.5 Feet Or 1136.25 Sqft. Or 126.25 Sqyd. LE 105.59 Sqm. Of Situated At Village Saunera, Tehsil Kichha, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand), Particularly Mentioned In Sale Deed Executed. Bounded As Per Agreement Of Sale Agreement Of Sale On Dated 06.05.2023:-East: Land Of Vendors West: Land Of Rajvinder Kaur North: Property Of Harsh Khurana South: 30 Feet Wide Road	Rs. 646243/- (Rupees Six Lakh Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four and Thirty Paise Only)	Rs. 64624.3/- (Rupees Sixty Four Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Four and Thirty Paise Only)	17-03-2025 Before 5 PM	10,000/-	11-03-2025 (11 AM 4 PM)	18-03-2025 (11 AM 2 PM)	NIL

The intending bidders/purchasers are advised to visit Secured Creditor Branch and the auction properties, and make his own enquiry and ascertain additional charges, encumbrances and any third-party interests and satisfy himself/herself in all aspects thereto before submitting the bids. All statutory dues like property taxes, electricity/water dues and any other dues, if any, attached to the property to be ascertained and paid by the successful bidder.

The interested bidders are required to register themselves with the portal and obtain login ID and Password well in advance, which is mandatory for e-bidding, from auction service provider i.e. India PVT LTD. Address: Plot No-88 3rd floor Gurgaon Haryana-122003. Helpline Number- 7291981124.25.26 Support Email Id: Support@bankerauctions.com. Contact Person Vinod Chauhan, Email id- delhi@cindia.com Contact No- 9813887931. Please note that Prospective bidders may avail online training on e-auction from them only. The intending purchaser/bidder is required to submit amount of the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) by way of NEFT/RTGS/DD in the account of "Grihumb Housing Finance Ltd", Bank-ICICI BANK LTD. Account No-000651000460 and IFSC Code: ICIC0000006, 20, R. N. Mukherjee Road-Kolkata-700001 drawn on any nationalized or scheduled Bank on or before 17/03/2025 and register their name at <https://www.bankerauctions.com> and get user ID and password free of cost and get training on e-Auction from the service provider. After their Registration on the website, the intending purchaser/bidder is required to get the copies of the following documents uploaded, e-mail and sent self-attested hard copy at Address: 2nd Floor, SGAD Complex, Nainital Road, Rudrapur, Uttarakhand -263153 Mobile no. +91 9657440373 e-mail ID rohan.savala@grihumbhousing.com For further details on terms and conditions please visit <https://www.bankerauctions.com> and www.grihumhousing.com to take part in e-auction.

This notice should also be considered as 30 days' notice to Borrower/Co-Borrower/Mortgagor(s)/Guarantor(s) under Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule-2002
PLACE: UDHAM SINGH NAGAR
DATE: 15.02.2025
Authorized Officer Grihumb Housing Finance Limited (Formerly Known as Poonawalla Housing Finance Ltd)

एसजेवीएन SJVN
Generating a brighter, More Sustainable World

Extract of the Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months ended 31st December, 2024

(Rs. In Lakh)

S. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated						
		Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Year ended	Quarter ended	Nine Months ended	Year ended				
		31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)			
1.	Total Income from Operations	62,502	53,655	2,45,126	2,07,191	2,53,359	67,099	54,331	2,56,761	2,09,646	2,57,937
2.	Profit before exceptional items and tax	17,923	19,315	1,24,051	1,12,873	1,09,523	19,462	19,945	1,25,817	1,13,685	1,10,440
3.	Profit before tax	17,923	16,816	1,24,051	1,10,374	1,17,408	19,462	17,446	1,25,817	1,11,186	1,18,325
4.	Net Profit after tax for the period	13,925	13,534	93,946	84,689	90,840	14,875	13,897	94,574	85,036	91,144
5.	Total Comprehensive Income after tax	13,811	13,488	93,604	84,542	90,389	14,761	13,851	94,233	84,889	90,689
6.	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value of share ₹10/- each)	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980	3,92,980
7.	Other Equity excluding Revaluation Reserve	10,78,108	10,49,394	10,78,108	10,49,394	10,10,048	10,83,601	10,53,498	10,83,601	10,53,498	10,14,105
8.	Net Worth	14,71,088	14,42,374	14,71,088	14,42,374	14,03,028	14,76,581	14,46,478	14,76,581	14,46,478	14,07,085
9.	Paid up Debt Capital	10,43,430	8,34,964	10,43,430	8,34,964	9,66,534	25,38,064	17,66,255	25,38,064	17,66,255	20,35,072
10.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (before net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)										
	- Basic & Diluted	0.37	0.32	2.44	2.14	2.34	0.39	0.33	2.46	2.15	2.34
11.	Earnings Per Share for continuing operations (after net movement in regulatory deferral account balance) (of ₹10/- each) (not annualised) (in ₹)										
	- Basic & Diluted	0.35	0.34	2.39	2.15	2.31	0.38	0.35	2.41	2.16	2.32
12.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.71	0.58	0.71	0.58	0.69	1.72	1.22	1.72	1.22	1.45
13.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	1.62	2.07	2.58	3.01	2.30	1.72	2.27	2.56	3.17	2.33
14.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	2.95	3.71	4.73	5.53	4.72	3.02	4.55	4.47	6.11	4.77
15.	Capital Redemption Reserve	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00	20,683.00

एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)
"A Navratna CPSE"
CIN : L40101HP1988GOI008409

Regd. Office : SJVN Corporate Office Complex, Shanam, Shimla-171006, HP (INDIA)
Liaison Office : Office Block, Tower-1, 6th Floor, NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar, New Delhi-110023
Tel. : 0177-2660075 Fax : 0177-2660071
Email : investor.relations@sjvn.nic.in
Place: New Delhi Dated : 13th February, 2025

Note : 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/Nine Months Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results of the Company are available on the investor section of our website <https://www.sjvn.nic.in> and under Corporate Section of BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at <https://www.bseindia.com> & <https://www.nseindia.com>.
2. The Board of Directors has declared interim dividend of ₹1.15 per share (on face value of ₹10/- each) for the financial year 2024-25 in its meeting held on 13.02.2025.

For and on behalf of Board of Directors of SJVN Limited sd/-
(Rajendra Prasad Goyal)
Director (Finance)
DIN:08645380

Scan QR Code to view Unaudited Financial Results for Quarter Ended 31.12.2024

Man nabbed in Rajasthan for duping Haridwar woman of Rs 1.43 crore

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) arrested a man Kailash Saini (32) from Jaipur, Rajasthan, on charges of duping a Haridwar woman of over Rs 1.43 crore through an online investment scam.

used regularly contacted the victim through WhatsApp calls and instructed her to invest money through a trading portal. A fake website was used to show profits and the victim was told that withdrawal requests will be processed within 15 minutes.

been filed against them on the National Cyber Crime Portal. Bhullar said that the STF examined digital and technical evidence to track the accused and raids were conducted in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Following an analysis of bank records, mobile numbers and online service providers, the team located Saini on Jaipur Highway.

ECHS polyclinic inaugurated at Vikasnagar

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The General Officer Commanding, Uttarakhand Sub Area, Major General R Prem Raj inaugurated the newly constructed ECHS Polyclinic building at non military station Vikasnagar (Fatehpur, Herbertpur) on Friday.

ans, Veer Naris and their dependents in Uttarakhand and this milestone reaffirms the Indian Army's resolve to reach out to its Veterans in all parts of the country."

The GOC mentioned that there are 22 Polyclinics under Uttarakhand Sub Area and also shared his vision of reaching out to most remote areas of the region to ensure delivery of facilities to the last beneficiary.

He emphasized that ECHS is a contributory scheme, therefore each member must come forward to optimize its reach. He urged Veterans to join Sparsch Seva Scheme which is a pilot project of Indian Armed forces to

provide help to veterans and serve the community together. GOC also highlighted the need for robust vigilance mechanisms and use of digital technology to weed out corruption and malpractices. He reaffirmed the resolve of reaching to forward areas of Uttarakhand for delivery of medical treatment to our

war heroes. "The newly constructed ECHS Polyclinic building features state of art facilities. In addition to a dedicated Dental Chair with modern RVG computer based X-Ray, it also provides for laboratory, emergency room, physiotherapy equipment, well stocked pharmacy and will have two Medical Offi-

cers. The Polyclinic will serve approximately 7,300 ECHS beneficiaries including those from remote region like Shillai and Poanta Sahib in Himachal Pradesh and Tiuni, Chakrata, Langha, Selaqui and Vikasnagar in Uttarakhand," a communique from the Army said.

U'khand's first land info computer kiosk on in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun district administration has set up Uttarakhand's first dedicated computer kiosk near the land registry office through which citizens will be able to access land related information via the e-registration website. The kiosk aims to prevent land fraud and raise awareness among the public, the Dehradun district magistrate Savin Bansal said.

tration will also install banners in government offices to inform citizens about key points to consider before land registration in order to increase public awareness. He stated that a major cause of land fraud is the lack of prior knowledge about registry and land records among the public. There is a need to close this information gap by ensuring that land buyers and sellers verify the required documents such as land records and identity proofs, before completing transactions. This kiosk is expected to bridge the gap and raise awareness among maximum people, the DM said. He also added that the kiosk will be inaugurated soon.

ADITYA BIRLA FINANCE LIMITED. Registered Office: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat - 362 266. Corporate Office: 12th Floor, R Teck Park, Nirton Complex, Nr. Hub Mall, Goregaon (E), Mumbai-400 063, MH. POSSESSION NOTICE (SEE RULE 8 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002)

PAUL MERCHANTS FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED. Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned, that Gold ornaments pledged with the under mentioned branches of the company under respective loan numbers, which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed by the concerned customers so far in spite of repeated notices by the company, will be auctioned at the concerned branch offices of the company on Thursday 27th Feb, 2025 as per the following details:

Acharyakulam felicitates JEE achievers

PNS ■ HARIDWAR

A felicitation ceremony was organised at Haridwar-based residential school Acharyakulam for the students who had done remarkably well in the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE). Addressing the successful students, Swami Ramdev said that those who are grateful to god,

parents can do, developing in them an unshakable confidence in themselves. Notably, out of a total 28 students who had sat in the examination, the percentage of marks of nine is between 95 and 99.59.



parents and teachers must succeed in every exam they appear in. The spirit of hard work being inculcated in the students here is a guarantee for their success, he added.

Percentage of 12 students is above 90 while no one is below 80 per cent, said senior Acharyakulam functionaries.

Among them, Aryaman secured 99.59 per cent. Apart from him, Alok, Shubham, Swapnil, Anagah, Jayant, Pratibha, Mahiya and Yuvraj secured over 95 per cent while Sukrit, Kanishka and Gautam secured over 90 per cent.

Among others present on the occasion were the vice-chairperson of Acharyakulam, Ritambhara Shastri and the principal Swati Munshi besides the executive chairman of Bharatiya Shiksha Board, N P Singh.

Govt kept people in dark about facilities given to Kumar: Congress

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The chief spokesperson of Uttarakhand Congress Garima Dasuani has said that the Uttarakhand High Court's observations in the case involving the Khanpur MLA Umesh Kumar and former MLA Pranav Singh 'Champion' reflect that the State government has kept the people of the State in dark about the facilities provided to the Khanpur MLA. She said HC comment is like fresh air and raises questions as to why 'Y' plus security was given to the MLA and why a large bungalow of the irrigation department was allotted to MLA Kumar.

erment preferred to keep quiet on the actions of two rowdy leaders in Khanpur. She added that it is very mystifying that the ruling party MLA was sent to jail and the independent MLA was granted bail on similar offences. Dasuani said that it appears that Kumar knows something about the politicians due to which proper action is not being taken against him. She also expressed surprise at the fact that Kumar, who is out on bail, was allowed to go on a foreign trip. The Congress leader said that the speaker Ritu Khanduri is sitting over a disqualification plea filed under the anti-defection law under Khanpur MLA Umesh Kumar.

Dasuani said that it is unfortunate that the State gov-

PAUL MERCHANTS FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED. Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned, that Gold ornaments pledged with the under mentioned branches of the company under respective loan numbers, which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed by the concerned customers so far in spite of repeated notices by the company, will be auctioned at the concerned branch offices of the company on Thursday 27th Feb, 2025 as per the following details:

GRIHUUM HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS POONAWALLA HOUSING FINANCE) LIMITED. DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT 2002. You the below mentioned Borrowers/ Co-borrowers /Guarantors have availed Home loans/Loans against Property facility (ies) by mortgaging your Immovable properties/ies from Grihuum Housing Finance Limited (formerly known as Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited as the name Poonawalla Housing Finance Limited changed to Grihuum Housing Finance Limited with effect from 17 Nov 2023 (Previously known as Magma Housing Finance Limited and originally incorporated with name of GE Money Housing Finance Public Unlimited Company) herein after referred as Secured Creditor".

SALE PROCLAMATION Officer Of The Recovery Officer- II Debts Recovery Tribunal Dehradun. At 2nd Floor, Paras Tower Mazra Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171. E-Auction Sale Notice 26.03.2025

PROCLAMATION OF SALE UNDER RULES 38, 52 (2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT 1993. PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK VERSUS Mohd. Kaleem & ORS. CD. 1: Mohd. Kaleem S/o Sh. Mohd Aslam, R/o House No. 58, Dadupur, Salempur, Haridwar-249402 Uttarakhand. CD. 2: Mohd. Aslam S/o Sh. Zafar Ahmed, R/o House No. 58, Dadupur, Salempur, Haridwar-249402 Uttarakhand. CD. 3: Updesh Chaudhary S/o Late Sh. Raj Singh, R/o EH-8 Type-3, Sector-6, BHEL, Ranipur, Haridwar-249402 Uttarakhand. CD. 4: Smt. Khushheeda Begum R/o House No. 58, Dadupur, Salempur, Haridwar-249402 Uttarakhand.

Maha Kumbh 2025 to boost UP's economy by ₹3 Lakh Crore: CM Yogi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has projected that the ongoing Maha Kumbh 2025 in Prayagraj will provide a massive ₹3 lakh crore boost to the state's economy. He emphasized that the grand religious gathering is not just a symbol of faith but also a significant driver of economic growth.

Addressing a gathering, CM Yogi highlighted that so far, nearly 50 crore devotees have participated in the sacred dip at the Maha Kumbh, showcasing Uttar Pradesh's efficient management and infrastructural capabilities. He asserted that the event has provided a long-awaited recognition to religious sentiments that had been suppressed for centuries.

CM Yogi responded to concerns about government expenditure on the event, stating that ₹1,500 crore had been invested in infrastructure and logistical arrangements, ensuring a seamless experience for pilgrims. He underscored that



An aerial view of devotees gathered to take a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical Saraswati rivers, during Maha Kumbh festival in Prayagraj.

this investment has led to a transformative revival of Prayagraj, generating significant returns through increased tourism and commercial activity. The Chief Minister also lauded the comprehensive transportation arrangements that have facilitated the movement of millions of

devotees. He noted that 40 regular flights are operating to and from Prayagraj, connecting the city to major destinations across the country. Additionally, the Indian Railways has introduced hundreds of special trains, while improved road networks have played a crucial

role in accommodating the massive influx of pilgrims. The Union Road Transport Minister, Nitin Gadkari's approval of several road projects has further strengthened Prayagraj's connectivity. Highlighting the administration's efficiency, CM Yogi cited the smooth

execution of the Mauni Amavasya Snan, which witnessed an unprecedented 8 crore devotees taking a dip in the holy Sangam without any major disruptions. He attributed this success to the well-coordinated efforts of the 'double-engine government', referring to the BJP-led state and central governments working in tandem.

For the first time in history, devotees at Maha Kumbh 2025 are being granted unrestricted access to sacred sites such as Akshayvat, Patalpuri, and Saraswati Koop, which had previously remained off-limits or restricted. CM Yogi acknowledged the Ministry of Defence's cooperation in leasing the land for the event over the past eight years, ensuring a smooth organization of the festival.

"The Maha Kumbh 2025 continues to be a historic event, intertwining faith, culture, and economic growth, cementing Uttar Pradesh's status as a hub of spiritual and economic transformation," Yogi said.

Traffic chaos returns to Prayagraj as devotees struggle to reach Sangam

BISWAJEET BANERJEE/HARI OM ■ PRAYAGRAJ

After three days of respite, Prayagraj was once again gripped by severe traffic congestion on Friday, as long snarls stretched from Balsan and A.N. Jha Marg to the New Yamuna Bridge and Naini Central Jail. By noon, the traffic on Mirzapur Road extended for nearly five kilometers, with vehicles crawling at a snail's pace. The situation was worse on the New Yamuna Bridge, where crossing the 1.5 km stretch took more than two hours.

Despite expectations that the crowd would ease after Maghi Purnima, the influx of visitors has continued to rise, pushing the city's roads into a state of paralysis. The Civil Lines route leading to the fairground witnessed multiple choke points, while major congestion was also reported in Jhansi, Naini, and Phaphama. Parking spaces were running out, leaving vehicles stranded for hours and devotees exhausted.

"I reached Naini station at 6 AM, but even after six hours, I have not been able to reach Sangam. The time taken from Rewa to Prayagraj was less than the time it is taking to get from Naini to the fairground,"



Devotees return from the ongoing Maha Kumbh

said Vikram Prasad, a pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh.

The problem began early in the day, with vehicles piling up on Mirzapur Road in Naini from 10 AM. Both lanes remained gridlocked, forcing commuters to inch forward at a frustratingly slow pace. The main entry routes into the fair from the city, particularly near the Harshvardhan intersection and Alopibagh Chungi Bridge, saw a massive build-up of vehicles. The congestion has significantly delayed travel to Sangam, with some pilgrims taking several hours to cover short distances. Despite a heavy deployment of traffic police, the overwhelming number of vehicles left them struggling to manage the flow. Officers

on duty could be seen directing traffic, but their efforts were often rendered ineffective due to the sheer volume of vehicles.

Devotees from Bihar, West Bengal, and Maharashtra have been particularly affected, spending hours trapped in the gridlock. "We had planned to offer prayers early, but we have been stuck in this jam for hours now. There is no proper arrangement to manage such a huge crowd," said Ramesh Gupta, a devotee from Patna. Traffic jam in nearby districts The return flow of pilgrims from Maha Kumbh has led to massive congestion in several districts of Awadh, including Ayodhya, Amethi, Sultanpur, Ambedkar Nagar, and Barabanki.

Mizoram announces village council elections for March 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AIZAWL

The Mizoram state election commission (SEC) on Friday announced elections to 88 village councils (VCs) within Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai district.

State election commissioner H. Lalthlangliana told a news conference here that the elections will be held on March 12 and counting of votes will take place as soon as polling is over.

The last date for filing nominations is February 19, while contestants can withdraw their names latest by February 24. Scrutiny of papers will be held on February 21, he added. The last date for formation of the executive body is March 17 and the election process is scheduled to be completed by March 18. According to the election commissioner, of the 516 seats, 88 are reserved for women. A total of 37,883 voters,

including 18,721 women electors, are eligible to exercise their franchise.

Meanwhile, in the elections to village councils in nine districts or non-scheduled areas and local councils (LCs) within two urban local bodies held on Wednesday, the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) emerged victorious securing a majority in 267 out of the total 544 VCs and 54 out of 110 LCs.

Opposition party Mizo National Front (MNF) secured a majority in 122 VCs and 27 LCs, while Congress won in 43 VCs and 14 LCs. BJP secured a majority in one VC, and there were seven VCs and two LCs where only independent candidates were elected. There was no clear majority in 104 VCs and 13 LCs, according to the SEC. More than 75 per cent of over 4.3 voters cast their votes in the VC polls, while 64.72 voting percentage was recorded in the LC polls.

Kinnar Akhada Mahamandaleshwar, three followers injured in knife attack

BISWAJEET BANERJEE/HARI OM ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a shocking incident ahead of the Maha Kumbh 2025, Kinnar Akhada's Mahamandaleshwar Kalyani Nand Giri and three of her followers were injured in a brutal knife attack late on February 14 in Prayagraj. The assault took place near Sangam Lower Marg when unidentified assailants stopped their vehicle under the pretext of seeking blessings.

According to police sources, Kalyani Nand Giri and her followers were returning from the Kinnar Akhada to her residence in Sadiyapur in a Fortuner SUV when a group of individuals signaled them to stop. As the spiritual leader stepped out of her vehicle, the attackers suddenly drew knives and launched an assault. Upon receiving information, the police rushed to the spot and transported the injured to



Photo: File photo

a hospital. Officials have confirmed an ongoing investigation, though the motive behind the attack remains unclear. "We are examining CCTV footage from the Sector 16 area, which suggests that around six individuals were involved in the attack. No suspects have been identified yet, and we are exploring all possible

angles, including internal conflicts within the Kinnar Akhada," a senior police officer said. The attack has raised serious security concerns, especially with the Maha Kumbh 2025 drawing massive crowds to Prayagraj. Authorities have assured increased patrolling and surveillance to prevent further incidents.

Himachal Government allocates ₹1800 Crore to upgrade obsolete medical equipment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ SHIMLA

The Himachal government has allocated approximately ₹1800 crore to replace obsolete medical machinery and equipment, some of which have been in use for 30 to 40 years in government hospitals, an official statement said on Friday.

Studies indicate that late diagnosis can increase medical costs by 30-50 per cent for a patient. Considering the challenges faced by patients due to old medical equipment, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has directed the replacement of outdated machines, according to the statement. According to health department data, 9.5 lakh patients travel outside Himachal Pradesh annually for treatment, resulting in an economic loss of ₹1350 crore to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Focusing on four key points,

the health department has prepared a project report to offer world-class healthcare services in government health institutions.

Robotic surgery will be introduced in all medical colleges, along with state-of-the-art radiology and laboratory equipment, a spokesperson for the state government said. Each medical college will be equipped with 3-Tesla MRI machines, 256-slice high-end CT scan machines, PET scan machines, and other advanced diagnostic tools to ensure the timely detection of diseases and accurate treatment of patients. Additionally, modular operation theatres will be set up in these institutions, he said. A 150-bed Cancer Care Centre will be established in Hamirpur, offering advanced treatment facilities such as radiation therapy and nuclear medicine, he added.

Eight arrested for duping citizens posing as Axis Bank representative

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

A loan racket was busted with the arrest of 08 individuals, including six women, police said on Friday.

The suspects ran a "call centre" in Delhi's Badarpur area that allegedly targeted citizens by posing as a representative of Axis Bank and duped amount in the name of file charge, DD and other charges, police said. Regarding this, the Gurugram received a complaint on February 4 for fraud of Rs 18,000 and a case was registered under the relevant sections at Cyber Police station Manesar, Gurugram. During investigation, a police team of the Gurugram police with the help of police technology, busted the call center that committed the fraud/cheating in the above case and arrested 08 accused from Badarpur, Delhi on Thursday.

The accused were identified as Raju Mandal of Uttar Pradesh, Rohit Kumar resident of New Delhi, Rozi of Orayya Uttar Pradesh, Ruby of Faridabad, Seema Sinha of Faridabad 6, Gyanati of Okhla, Delhi, Mantasha of Badarpur, Delhi and 8. Sayraa of Faridabad.

Police investigation revealed that the accused used to commit fraud by calling people and duped money in the form of various types of charges in the name of getting loans. The accused used to get salary for this fraud and also commission from the defrauded amount. The accused were committing fraud since May 2024, police said.

Manipur under President's rule: BJP central leadership's next move under scrutiny

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ IMPHAL

All eyes are now on the BJP central leadership over its next step in strife-torn Manipur, a day after President's rule was imposed in the northeastern state and the assembly put under suspended animation. Security has been beefed up across the state following the Centre's announcement of President's rule, officials said. President's rule was imposed in Manipur and the assembly put under suspended animation on Thursday evening, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post that led



Security personnel conduct a search operation in the fringe and vulnerable areas of hill and valley districts of Manipur

to political uncertainty in the state. The decision came as the BJP failed to build a consensus

on a chief ministerial candidate, despite having several rounds of discussions between its northeast in-charge Sambit Patra and legislators. Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far. The Manipur assembly has a tenure till 2027. Officials said on Friday that security forces were on high alert in state capital Imphal, particularly around the Raj Bhavan and the CM secretariat. "The Manipur Police increased deployment of personnel in Imphal area, especially in front of Kangla Gate, Sanjenthong, Moirangkhom,

Keisampat and Konung Mamang," an officer said. "The precautionary measures were put in place to prevent any unwanted activities by miscreants who want to take advantage of the prevailing political situation," another official said. Talking to reporters soon after the announcement of President's rule, Manipur BJP president A Sharda had said on Thursday that the assembly has been put under suspended animation in accordance with the constitutional process, and asserted that the House had not been dissolved yet. She said once the situation improves in the state, the

House can be reinstated. Reacting to the development, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said it is a belated admission by the BJP of their complete inability to govern Manipur. "Now, PM Modi can no longer deny his direct responsibility for Manipur," he said in a post on X. "Has he finally made up his mind to visit the state, and explain to the people of Manipur and India his plan to restore peace and normalcy?" Gandhi said. In another post on X, Congress general secretary, Communications, Jairam Ramesh said, "Finally what the Indian National Congress has been

demanding for almost 20 months has happened. President's rule has been imposed in Manipur." Meanwhile, the Manipur CPI(M) unit said the President's rule should be immediately revoked and fresh elections held at the earliest. CPI(M) state committee secretary Ksh Shanta told reporters that the party, along with other like-minded ones, will stand for Manipur's territorial integrity during President's rule. He also claimed that the selfish quest for power among legislators brought the state to such a situation.

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh warns against unqualified health advisers spreading disinformation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ AHMEDABAD

Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh on Friday expressed concern over a "new genre" of unqualified and "self-styled counsellors" advising people on health and lifestyle, and rued that there was no regulation for them unlike doctors. He also held such people responsible for spreading "disinformation". Singh, who is also a diabetes specialist, was addressing a gathering of doctors and healthcare experts after inaugurating the 'World Congress of Diabetes', which will go on till February 16. "A huge, huge caution against a new genre of self-styled counsellors in Delhi.

You have a variety of diet charts in the market today. More than information, it is disinformation in this country, which plays havoc," he said. "They will impress you with graphs and you think it's the final truth. Because that's what is driving our culture today. And unfortunately, you don't have any regulation for them, and there is no mandatory registration for them like regular doctors," he added. Earlier, uneducated quacks used to do such things, but now English-speaking people are doing it, the minister said. Singh also called for collective efforts to fight diabetes and obesity in the country.

Gurugram cracks down on littering: 29 FIRs filed

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

In a major crackdown against 133 vehicle owners and drivers, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) recommended 29 FIRs and imposed a penalty of ₹22.39 against them for throwing garbage and debris in public places. It may be noted that the MCG had formed the Sanitation Security Force (SSF) to monitor the growing waste management and cleanliness challenges in the district. Along with filing FIRs under various sections, the SSF also ensure the seizure of the vehicle used in hamper cleanliness system in the city. According to Dr Balpreet Singh, Additional Commissioner of MCG,

throwing debris or garbage in a public places is a punishable offence, and to curb such activities, the SSF of the Municipal Corporation is monitoring around the clock, seven days a week. "During the monitoring by the teams, 29 FIRs have been registered against 33 vehicle owners and drivers at various police stations, while 158 vehicles have been challenged and their owners or drivers have been fined ₹22.39 lakh," Singh said. Singh said that this action has been taken by the SSF team during continuous monitoring at Sector-31, 32, 10, 22, 42, 25, 34, 59, 48, and 43, in front of Airtel building, Gwal Pahari, IFFCO Chowk, Krishna Chowk, around Sheetla Mata Mandir and other places.

ISRO develops world's largest solid propellant mixer for rocket motors

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

ISRO on Friday said it has developed and realised the ten-tonne propellant mixer for solid motors. Solid propulsion plays a crucial role in Indian Space Transportation Systems and vertical mixer is one of the critical equipment in solid motor production, ISRO said in a statement. "Solid propellants are the backbone of rocket motors, and their production requires precise mixing of highly sensitive and hazardous ingredients," the statement read. The space agency said that towards increasing the production scale of solid motor segments, Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in collaboration with Central Manufacturing



Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru has successfully designed and developed 10-tonne Vertical Planetary Mixers for processing the solid propellants. ISRO has termed it a significant technological marvel. It added that the 10-tonne vertical mixer is the world's largest solid propellant mixing equipment. The development involves

collaboration with academia and industries and has completed factory-level acceptance tests. This high-capacity mixer will enable productivity, quality and throughput improvement for heavy solid motors production. Stating that the Department of Space has undertaken multiple initiatives towards indigenous development of critical technologies,

materials and machinery as part of 'Atmanirbhara (self reliance) in Space', ISRO said. "The realisation of indigenous 10-tonne vertical mixer is a true testament to India's growing technological prowess, self-reliance and unwavering commitment to innovation," it added. The 10 tonne vertical mixer is handed over to Director, SDSC SHAR by Director, CMTI in the presence of ISRO Chairperson V Narayanan on Thursday in CMTI, Bengaluru. ISRO said the 10-tonne vertical mixer weighs about 150 tonnes with a length of 5.4 m, breadth of 3.3 m and height of 8.7 m. The system has multiple agitators, which are hydrostatic driven and will be remotely operated using PLC-based control system with SCADA stations.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

US U-turn on Ukraine war

Trump and Putin have agreed to negotiate an end to the Ukraine war, a move that could have far-reaching implications for global peace and trade

The US President Trump has had a good relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin and that is now showing in the policy shift of the US. The US stance on the Ukraine war now seems to be taking a U-turn as in all likelihood the US would now go soft on Russia and leave Ukraine in the cold. In a significant geopolitical development, US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin have agreed to initiate negotiations aimed at ending the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. This move marks a notable shift in US foreign policy and has elicited varied reactions globally. President Trump held a 90-minute phone conversation with President Putin, discussing a range of topics, with a primary focus on the situation in Ukraine. Following the call, Trump announced that both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had expressed a willingness to pursue peace, leading to the initiation of negotiations to end the war. Trump indicated that these talks would commence immediately, with a potential meeting with Putin in Saudi Arabia in the near future.



Ukrainian and European leaders have expressed concerns about being sidelined in the negotiations and the potential for unfavourable concessions. The decision by the US to engage directly with Russia has raised questions about a potential shift in its support for Ukraine. By recognising Ukraine's NATO membership as 'impractical' and the return of Russian-occupied territories as 'illusory,' the US appears to be moving away from its previous stance of isolating Russia. This shift has led to concerns that Ukraine may be left in a precarious position, especially if European allies are unable to fill the void left

by a potential US withdrawal. The announcement of potential peace talks has had immediate effects on global markets. European stock markets have shown optimism, with indices such as Spain's Ibex 35 reaching new highs. Oil prices have also declined, with Brent crude falling below \$75 per barrel, as traders anticipate a relaxation of sanctions on Russian producers. However, uncertainties remain. Analysts caution that while a de-escalation could stabilise energy and food markets, the specifics of any agreement will determine the long-term impacts. The agricultural sector, in particular, is closely monitoring the situation, given that Russia and Ukraine together account for a significant portion of global wheat exports. A resolution to the conflict could ease supply constraints, but logistical challenges and infrastructure damage in Ukraine may continue to pose obstacles. India, as a major importer of commodities like sunflower oil, stands to be affected by these developments. A potential end to the conflict could lead to more predictable trade flows and possibly lower prices for key imports. While Trump-Putin negotiations it offers a glimmer of hope for peace, the potential shifts in alliances and the impacts on global markets warrant careful consideration by all stakeholders involved.

PICTALK



A foreign devotee during the Mahakumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj

Kumbh Mela: The catalyst for Gandhi's freedom struggle



RAJDEEP PATHAK

It was at this grand confluence of faith and politics that Gandhi fully grasped his growing influence, reinforcing his resolve for satyagraha

One of the most notable episodes in the history of the Kumbh Mela occurred in 1915 when Mahatma Gandhi visited the Haridwar gathering shortly after returning from South Africa after twenty-one years. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Gandhi's political mentor, had advised him to undertake a nationwide tour to understand India's socio-political landscape before formulating his strategies - and plunging himself into the dynamics of the freedom movement. It was during this tour that Gandhi decided to attend the Kumbh, primarily to visit Mahatma Munshiram at his Gurukul in Rishikesh and to oversee the activities of the Servants of India Society. While Gandhi's views on various issues such as cleanliness and sanitation, including that of communal harmony were critical - which Gandhi distinctly mentions in his autobiography too - his brief political debut at Haridwar Kumbh Mela pointed towards the necessity of bridging the communal divide to achieve a more conscientious goal for freedom. Gandhi was also awestruck, not only by the overwhelming crowds but also by the chaos, superstition, and lack of hygiene. He noted the rampant disregard for cleanliness, which tarnished the sanctity of the event.



which I could call my own. I was followed even to the bathing ghat by these darshan-seekers, nor did they leave me alone whilst I was having my meals. Thus, it was in Haridwar that I realised what a deep impression my humble services in South Africa had made throughout the whole of India."

The Kumbh Mela at Haridwar proved to be a pivotal moment in shaping Mahatma Gandhi's sense of purpose and his eventual entry into the political arena of India's freedom movement. This deepened his realisation that the people of India looked up to him, not just as a spiritual figure, but as a leader capable of addressing the nation's struggles. This realisation planted the seeds of confidence and responsibility within Gandhi, inspiring him to expand his mission of service and truth to the broader cause of India's liberation - which resulted in his first non-violent satyagraha in 1917 in Champaran, Bihar. The overwhelming response he received at the Kumbh Mela reinforced his belief in the power of collective action and solidified his resolve to dedicate his life to the fight for India's freedom. It is also fascinating to note that Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Haridwar and his entry into the political arena coincided with a landmark moment in history - the All India Hindu Mahasabha formation during



THE KUMBH MELA AT HARIDWAR PROVED TO BE A PIVOTAL MOMENT IN SHAPING MAHATMA GANDHI'S SENSE OF PURPOSE AND HIS EVENTUAL ENTRY INTO THE POLITICAL ARENA OF INDIA'S FREEDOM MOVEMENT

the Kumbh Mela. In April 1915, amidst the spiritual fervour of the Haridwar Kumbh, Gandhi joined luminaries such as Swami Shradhdhanand, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and other visionaries at the inaugural conference of the Sarvadeshak (All India) Hindu Sabha, marking a pivotal chapter in India's socio-political awakening. Gandhi's participation at the Kumbh was also available to British intelligence, who had made records - now available in the Regional State Archives. The colonial period introduced a fresh perspective to the Kumbh Mela, with European observers chronicling its magnificence and adding valuable historical context. Fascinated by the immense scale and diversity of the pilgrimage, the British left behind detailed records that provide significant insights into the evolution of the Maha Kumbh Mela which also can be found in the well-documented writings of James Prinsep, a British colonial administrator. It is worth referring to The Sunday Guardian's article, Beyond Faith: How Kumbh Mela Reshapes the Course of History, which highlights the Kumbh Mela's role in India's independence movement. A 1920 British intelligence document, displayed at the Allahabad Museum, reveals a pivotal 1918 meeting during the Mela. This meeting adopt-

ed a memorial supporting political reforms, demanded Panchayats, permanent settlements, and tenant protections, and founded the UP Peasants Association. Led by Pt Madan Mohan Malviya, the association grew to 450 branches, fostering unity among peasants and opposing zamindar dominance. The Sunday Guardian further highlights the pivotal role of the Kumbh Mela in shaping India's post-independence democracy, particularly during the Emergency. The JP Movement gained significant momentum at this Kumbh, with the Sadhu Samaj lending strong support. Events such as the 'Dharma Sansad' and 'Sadhu Sammelans (congregation)' cemented widespread support for the Janata Party across the Hindi heartland. The 'Maha Kumbh Mela' transcends its role as a spiritual gathering, reflecting the profound confluence of the sacred and the secular. While it offers a space for deep introspection and devotion, it also acts as a mirror to the socio-political currents that shape Indian society. This timeless festival continues to evolve, bridging spiritual and worldly realms. The Kumbh Mela remains a powerful testament to India's enduring cultural legacy. (The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAJJAN KUMAR CONVICTED IN SIKH RIOTS

Madam — Congress leader Sajjan Kumar stands convicted in yet another case related to anti-Sikh violence in Delhi after the death of the then PM Indira Gandhi, gunned down by two Sikh security guards more than 40 years ago. There were no FIRs and the Congress goons roamed across Delhi to burn alive the Sikhs along with damaging their property continuously for 3 days when the Army was called to contain the violence. The moot question is, "Who was responsible?"

Obviously, the violence had the blessings of Rajiv Gandhi, who took over as PM immediately after the death of her mother and justified the killings on camera, yet no case was made against him or the family, and even the courts remained aloof to the bare fact about the responsibility of Rajiv Gandhi while hearing the petitions pertaining to the violence. Sajjan Kumar or Jagdish Tytler were only carrying out the orders to finish the Sikhs as much as possible within 3 days. The same courts as well as the media tried and tried Gujarat CM Narendra Modi for the violence that erupted after the gruesome burning alive of 59 Hindus. Doesn't it establish that the special family is much bigger than scores of poor Hindus in the eyes of the media and judiciary?

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

US BANS ASSOCIATED PRESS

Madam — The decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to ban the renowned news agency Associated Press (AP) from entering the White House is a severe blow to democracy. This is not merely a restriction on a media institution but an attempt to crush independent journalism. The Trump administration accused AP of misusing the term "of America," but can this truly justify curbing press freedom? The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the press the right to operate fearlessly, impartially, and independently. However, when those in power seek to evade

New Income Tax Bill simplifies taxation



The newly tabled Income Tax Bill brings much-needed reforms to India's tax system and deserves commendation. By replacing the outdated Income Tax Act of 1961, the bill aims to simplify tax laws, reduce litigation and remove obsolete provisions, making the tax process more transparent and efficient for both taxpayers and the government. One of the most notable changes is the

increased tax rebate under Section 87A, which will now provide up to Rs 60,000 for individuals with a net taxable income of Rs 12 lakh or below. This is a significant step towards reducing the tax burden on the middle class, offering greater financial relief. Furthermore, the introduction of two clear deductions under the new tax regime, a Rs 75,000 standard deduction and NPS contributions, enhances tax planning options for individuals, making it simpler to manage finances. Although the income tax slabs remain unchanged for FY 2025-26, the streamlined approach will likely benefit taxpayers in the long run, fostering greater compliance and reducing unnecessary complications. Overall, this bill paves the way for a more modern and efficient tax system that is better suited to today's economic landscape.

Vishal Mayur | Tumakuru

accountability, their first move is often to silence the voice of truth.

The role of the media is to provide the public with unbiased information and critically examine government policies. Blocking a media organisation from entering the White House, the epicentre of power, is a direct attack on the press. History bears witness that wherever governments have attempted to suppress the press, dictatorship has followed. An independent media is the fourth pillar of democracy, and any restriction on it is an infringement on public rights. In a true democracy, power does not lie with the ruling authorities but with the people. Freedom of the press is the most powerful tool to amplify the voice of the citizens.

Jai Prakash Gupta | Tirunelveli

RAGGING MUST STOP

Madam — The Kottayam Nursing College ragging incident is a crude reminder that ragging is very much prevailing in our colleges without any deterrent and despite ragging being a

criminal offence. These ragging incidents continued for three months, telling how much ordeal freshers had to face during that period.

Till about the 90s, ragging in the educational institutes used to be a platform to create affinity, closeness, and rapport between first-year students and seniors. Sadly, it has now taken an unfortunate turn and become a tool to torture. Merely getting parents and students to sign the undertaking was never going to help and prevent ragging from taking place. Punishing culpable students is an absolute must, but college administration must be held accountable in such cases too. One out-of-the-box idea could be to set a rule that any student who is found guilty of ragging and torturing juniors would not be allowed to participate in final placement or not be given passing out certificates. We have to hit it where it hurts them most.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

WazirX hack exposes crypto risks:

A call for stringent regulations

Such cyberattacks expose regulatory gaps across jurisdictions and underscore the need for investor protection and the need for stricter crypto regulations



NIRUPAMA SOUNDARARAJAN

At the 2023 G20 Summit under India's presidency, world economies pledged to create a global regulatory framework for crypto assets. While each country must establish its regulations, international collaboration is equally important.



This need for both domestic and global regulatory frameworks is exemplified by the recent WazirX case, which underscores the urgency of addressing vulnerabilities in the crypto ecosystem. WazirX, one of India's leading cryptocurrency exchanges, suffered a cyberattack in July 2024 by the North Korean hacker group Lazarus. This has been confirmed by a joint statement issued by the governments of the United States, Japan and South Korea and the three countries have pledged to collaborate to counter this.

In India, the attack has raised concerns about cybersecurity risks and the reliability of custodial exchanges. Custodial exchanges, where assets are held centrally pose significant risks, as evidenced by this cyber-attack. This episode has exposed broader systemic risks and has revived the conversation about a regulatory intervention into the entire crypto ecosystem in the country. Approximately 4.4 million users were affected.

The Anatomy of a Crypto Crisis WazirX's holding company, Zettai Pte Ltd, is based in Singapore, meaning any legal recourse must go through Singapore's regulatory channels, even though over 95 per cent of WazirX's users were Indian investors. In response to the crisis, WazirX introduced a Restructuring Scheme aimed at user recovery and long-term operational stability. The proposed scheme promises quicker asset recovery, profit-sharing mechanisms and operational changes. Last month, WazirX received approval from the Singapore High Court to propose its Scheme of Arrangement to creditors. Additionally, WazirX recently completed its

asset rebalancing exercise, which ensures hack victims will receive 85 per cent of their portfolio value as of July 18, 2024. Following the breach, WazirX faced a significant shortfall in ERC-20 tokens, leaving it unable to fully cover user balances. Since matching individual token losses would be complex and impractical, the proposed Scheme aims to distribute available assets equitably among all creditors, based on their claim values at the time of the attack.

This standardised valuation approach ensures fairness and transparency and has been approved by the Singapore court.

The Scheme of Arrangement The Scheme of Arrangement promises to offer a legally binding path to recovery, ensuring equitable treatment of all creditors, regardless of the size of their claims or the type of cryptocurrency they hold. This approach takes an egalitarian stance, providing all users with a fair opportunity to recover their assets. The restructuring and resolution process will only proceed with the approval of a majority of creditors. To enhance recovery prospects, the

Scheme includes the issuance of Recovery Tokens (RTs), which would give creditors a stake in future platform profits and assets. If the Scheme is rejected, WazirX may face liquidation, which would likely erode value, force the sale of assets at distressed prices and drag out the recovery process for years with uncertain outcomes.

The Way Forward WazirX's restructuring plan represents a bold approach to crisis management, prioritising immediate user recovery and laying the groundwork for a more resilient crypto ecosystem. However, the broader lesson from this case is the urgent need for a robust regulatory framework for virtual digital assets in India. As the G20 emphasised, global cooperation and regulatory consistency are key to addressing the risks in the crypto ecosystem. India must develop a comprehensive regulatory framework to better protect investors and mitigate future risks, ensuring the country's preparedness for a rapidly evolving digital economy. (The writer is CEO & Co-founder, The Policy Consensus Centre; views are personal)



FIRST COLUMN

SHAPING INDIA'S AI FUTURE

As AI redefines global power dynamics, India is emerging as a key player in its governance and innovation



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

Prime Minister Modi's Paris and Washington visit, meetings with the two most powerful leaders from the developed world, comes at a time of shifting geopolitical sands. The buzzword around both these high-level bilaterals was high-end technology cooperation in a world, increasingly getting fragmented. India was the co-chair of the AI Action Summit in Paris, along with the host country France. This is the third global-level event on Artificial Intelligence, making it a Kumbh of technology leaders, policy makers, experts, corporates and world leaders in France. The theme was how to harness the power of this nearly mind-bending technology, whose evolution has been compared to the invention of the wheel and humans learning to use fire safely.

Almost simultaneously, China released a nimble version of the generative AI tool DeepSeek, which is currently a huge challenger to US billions of dollars infused into US technology companies' almost monopolistic dominance on AI tools and standards. US President Biden in his last week at the Oval Office had passed an executive order called the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion, essentially imposing export controls on high-end software and hardware required for AI development across nations which may be considered inimical to US interests (i.e. China) but also, close allies like India.



While the global technology industry stakeholders have requested the new President to be consistent with the Trump Administration's previously stated, Regulatory Freeze Order, and suspend implementation of the AI Diffusion Rule until the Secretary of Commerce and other relevant officials can review the rule appropriately and pursue robust stakeholder engagement so that the rules reflect the government's objectives and ensure companies can engage with key US trading partners. President Trump is yet to revoke the executive order signed by his predecessor, even though he did sign a fresh one on January 23, which potentially hints at a pause.

Three days into the Oval Office President Trump signed the executive order on AI development and deployment stating the purpose as "The United States has long been at the forefront of artificial intelligence (AI) innovation, driven by the strength of our free markets, world-class research institutions, and entrepreneurial spirit. To maintain this leadership, we must develop AI systems that are free from ideological bias or engineered social agendas. With the right Government policies, we can solidify our position as the global leader in AI and secure a brighter future for all Americans. This order revokes certain existing AI policies and directives that act as barriers to American AI innovation, clearing a path for the United States to act decisively to retain global leadership in artificial intelligence. It is the policy of the United States to sustain and enhance America's global AI dominance in order to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security."

India is aiming to have an equal say on global high tables of AI governance, innovation and development. It has an ambitious AI mission of its own, which is heavily dependent on high-end chips and Graphic Processing Units (GPUs) currently available from US technology companies. Any restrictions on access to these high-end processors would upset the ambitious goal envisaged under the India AI mission. The conversation in Paris, India's announcement to host the fourth global AI summit in Delhi, and conversations with President Trump and other leaders this week, are steps in the right direction.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

Palestine in ruins: The unbearable cost of war



K C TYAGI

As political instability deepens and global powers debate the future of Gaza, millions of Palestinians face an uncertain and harrowing future

On October 7, 2003, Hamas fighters successfully launched a massive attack on Israel, but the price that Palestinians had to pay for it is heartbreaking. It will take three centuries to recover from the destruction caused by this war, which lasted for more than 15 months. According to a United Nations survey, it may take more than 350 years to rebuild Palestine, which has been reduced to rubble. The estimated loss in the first four months of the war was \$18.5 billion. At present, about 69 per cent of the structures in Gaza are either damaged or destroyed. More than 50 million tons of rubble have accumulated in the Gaza region, which may take more than 15 years to remove. Piles of rubble are visible throughout Palestine due to bombings and ground operations.

A United Nations report states that the accumulated rubble is approximately 12 times the size of the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt. According to estimates, even if more than 100 trucks work continuously, it may still take more than 15 years to clear the debris. Three generations born in tents will likely have to make them their permanent homes for a long time. Reconstruction will require billions of dollars, yet no international institution is willing to invest in an ungoverned region that has seen five wars in less than two decades.

Using satellite data, the United Nations estimated last month that 70 per cent of structures in Gaza have been destroyed, including more than 245,000 residential buildings. The World Bank estimated losses of \$18.5 billion in the first four months of the war—an amount nearly equal to the combined economic output of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. Major roads have been turned into deep trenches, essential water and electricity infrastructure has been destroyed, and most hospitals are no longer functional due to being targeted during the bombings. According to the United Nations, more than 50,000 people have died in Gaza, 44 per cent of whom are children. The children who have survived are suffering from sickness, stress, insomnia, depression, and fear. They are terrified of every stranger. The children of Gaza have lost the will to live. Amidst the devastation, 96 per cent of children express a desire not to live, and 49 per cent say they would have preferred to die. Among those who feel this way, 72 per cent are boys and 46 per cent are girls. A Netherlands-based organisation, War Child Alliance, has collected shocking and heartbreaking data. The alliance gathered this information from 500 parents or caretakers, including families whose children were crippled in the war or separated from their families.

Their findings revealed that 92 per cent of the children surveyed are unable to accept the reality of war. The smell of gunpowder lingers in Gaza's atmosphere. The situation is so dire that 79 per cent of children experience nightmares, and 73 per cent have become so overwhelmed that their behaviour has turned aggressive. Many scream and moan in their sleep. These children have witnessed their homes and schools reduced to rubble. Their young minds are shattered, unable to comprehend why they are being punished and what crime they have committed.

Devastated by this horrific situation, the entire Palestinian government, including



DESPITE MULTIPLE RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, ALL PREVIOUS EFFORTS HAD FAILED. ISRAEL WAS EVEN INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF SHAME, A DOCUMENT THAT RECORDS ALLEGED RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICT

Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, has resigned. In his resignation letter, he acknowledged that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are starving. Tensions escalated further when an American airman involved in military operations set himself on fire outside the Israeli embassy in Washington, DC, repeatedly shouting, "No more involvement in genocide." The United Nations has passed a ceasefire resolution, endorsed by 158 nations, including India.

Despite multiple resolutions calling for a ceasefire in the UN General Assembly, all previous efforts had failed. Israel was even included in the List of Shame, a document that records alleged rights violations against children in armed conflict. In this report, Israel is accused of committing severe violations of children's rights. This inclusion has angered Israel and damaged its international reputation. Several key European Union countries, which previously sympathised with Israel, have now condemned its actions. Despite continued American support, Israel's economy has begun to collapse. In recent months, GDP growth has been only 0.7 per cent. The Israeli army has requested \$16 billion, equivalent to 3 per cent of the country's GDP. Even after the ceasefire, the military requires \$8 billion annually to address new security challenges.

The fiscal deficit has now reached 8 per cent of GDP. Israel is also deeply concerned that fighting has spread to its major business hubs, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. In January, Israel's debt stood at 62 per cent of GDP, which is still lower than the average for most wealthy nations in the OECD. However, prominent credit rating agencies such as Fitch and Moody's have already downgraded Israel's credit rating once this

year, with the possibility of further downgrades shortly.

Following the Hamas attack last year, Israel revoked work permits for 80,000 Palestinian workers. No replacements have been hired, leading to a 40 per cent decline in the construction industry. The same trend is observed in the high-tech sector and other industries. Inflation reached an annual rate of 3.6 per cent last month. If the war had continued any longer, the value of the Israeli shekel might have dropped further, forcing banks to rely on their reserves. Although a ceasefire is in place, this does not mark the end of the war. A recent statement by US President Donald Trump has crushed any hopes of peace efforts. Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is currently visiting the US, where he has been given priority among the foreign guests invited by the President. However, Netanyahu faces growing protests in Israel, driven by both economic instability and widespread public dissent. The situation worsened when Israel's Defense Minister, Benny Gantz, resigned from his position along with other members of his party, putting additional pressure on the government. Both leaders have sparked global controversy following a press conference at the White House, where they announced plans for the US to occupy the Gaza Strip and transform it into a resort city.

The proposed project would turn Gaza into a hub for employment and tourism in West Asia. The entire area would be levelled to develop infrastructure, and the 2.3 million people currently living in Gaza would be relocated to countries such as Egypt and Jordan. However, both Egypt and Jordan have firmly rejected this proposal. Experts argue that international laws and treaties will pose a significant obstacle to

any US attempt to occupy Gaza. Meanwhile, major Arab nations are mobilising against Trump's plan, with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, and Turkey openly opposing it.

Hamas has strongly condemned the proposal, labelling it ethnic genocide. Several US lawmakers, both Democrats and Republicans, have also voiced their opposition. In the past, Trump had similarly expressed intentions to occupy Greenfield Island, take control of the Panama Canal, and annex Canada as the 51st state of America. The Israeli parliament has enacted several controversial laws that have further inflamed tensions with Palestine and Arab nations. For example, the Jewish State Bill officially declares Israel as a Jewish state, effectively relegating non-Jewish communities to second-class citizenship. Additionally, the decision to shift the capital from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is widely seen as an act of provocation against Palestinians. Israel also occupies the Syrian territory of the Golan Heights, which has been under Israeli control since the 1967 war.

A massive city, known as Trump City, is currently being developed in the region. The month of Ramadan is approaching, which is likely to bring additional hardships. Tensions surrounding the Al-Aqsa Mosque also intensify during this time, as restrictions are often imposed on Muslim worshippers. At present, the likelihood of renewed conflict appears higher than the prospect of lasting peace. The international community is also deeply concerned about the Trump administration's decision to withdraw US representatives from the United Nations.

(The writer is a former Member of Parliament; views are personal)

India stands on the brink of an AI-driven revolution

By prioritising comprehensive AI education, ethical governance and transparent regulations, India can lead the global AI revolution

India is emerging as a dominant force in Artificial Intelligence (AI), shaping its economy, security, and global influence. At the ongoing AI Summit in Paris, India's leadership in AI highlights its commitment to technological advancement and innovation. The Prime Minister's prominent role at the summit underscores the country's strategic focus on AI, positioning it as a counterforce to China's deepfake threats. Whether in AI, digital transformation, or healthcare, India is rapidly evolving into a global technology powerhouse, striving for AI self-reliance and economic growth.

AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it is an immediate reality reshaping India's digital landscape. Projections suggest that AI will contribute \$500 billion to the Indian economy by 2025, accounting for 10 per cent of the national GDP. The technology is revolutionising industries, from agriculture to healthcare and revitalising cultural and linguistic heritage. India is not merely adopting AI; it is actively leading the revolution through ambitious government initiatives, collaborations with tech giants and extensive investment in AI infrastructure. The Indian government has launched several initiatives to position the country as a leader in AI. The IndiaAI Mission and the establishment of India's first AI University in Maharashtra reflect a strong commitment to technological leadership. Partnerships with global tech



VINAY PATHAK

firms like NVIDIA are helping develop AI solutions tailored to India's unique challenges. AI-driven tools in agriculture, such as CropIn and Intello Labs, assist farmers in predicting weather patterns, optimising irrigation, and detecting crop diseases, thereby boosting productivity and sustainability. India's corporate sector is also investing heavily in AI.

Companies like Infosys and TCS are deploying AI-driven solutions to streamline business processes, automate customer service, and optimise supply chains. Infosys' Nia platform enhances efficiency and reduces operational costs, while Zoho's AI-powered CRM tools empower small and medium enterprises to compete globally. Generative AI tools like ChatGPT are increasingly being utilised by job seekers, with 87 per cent leveraging them to refine resumes and prepare for interviews.

Despite its rapid progress, India faces significant challenges in AI adoption. A critical skills shortage in AI-related professions remains a pressing issue. To address this, the National Programme on AI,



launched by NITI Aayog, aims to train over a million workers in AI skills. Additionally, states like Karnataka and Telangana are establishing AI hubs to nurture innovation and talent development. However, while India produces over 1.5 million engineers annually, only a small percentage have the specialised expertise required for AI development. AI's rise also brings security concerns. Cyber threats are

growing, with increasing vulnerability to sophisticated cyberattacks. In 2023, a major Indian bank suffered a ransomware attack, disrupting services for millions of customers. AI-powered cyber tools, while beneficial, can be exploited by malicious actors. The dangers of misinformation and AI-generated deepfakes are also becoming more apparent. The viral deepfake video of actor Rashmika Mandanna in 2023 highlighted the risks of AI-driven disinformation. Similarly, AI-powered voice cloning scams are on the rise, posing significant fraud risks.

AI is also playing a crucial role in preserving India's cultural and linguistic heritage. Institutions like IIT Madras are developing AI models to revive

endangered languages such as Toda and Gondi.

The Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute is using AI to digitise ancient manuscripts, ensuring the preservation of India's historical knowledge. AI is further enhancing the entertainment sector through immersive experiences, such as virtual reality tours of historical sites and AI-curated regional literature and music recommendations.

In healthcare, AI-driven tools like Niramai are revolutionising early cancer detection, while telemedicine platforms like Apollo Telehealth are providing medical access to rural communities. The education sector is benefiting from AI-powered platforms. In disaster management, AI is helping predict natural disasters and

coordinate relief efforts. The Indian Meteorological Department employs AI to analyze weather patterns and issue early warnings for cyclones and floods, thereby minimising casualties.

AI is not merely a technological tool; it is a transformative force shaping India's future. However, the country must strike a balance between innovation and regulation to ensure ethical AI deployment. As AI evolves, India must establish a robust framework to address ethical concerns, security risks, and workforce reskilling. Collaborative efforts between the government, industry, and academia will be key in ensuring AI benefits for the society.

(The writer is an assistant professor at IIT, Sonapat; views are personal)

EU commission pledges swift response to Trump's tariffs

PTI ■ BRUSSELS

The European Union's executive branch on Friday vowed to "take firm and immediate action" against US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on steel and aluminum.

The European Commission said in a statement that Trump's proposed "reciprocal" trade policy goes "in the wrong direction." "The EU will take firm and immediate action against unjustified barriers to free and fair trade, including when tariffs are used to challenge legitimate and non-discriminatory policies," the Commission said. "The EU will always protect European businesses, workers and consumers from unjustified tariff measures."

The Commission, which negotiates trade relations on behalf of the 27-nation bloc, said the EU has some of the lowest tariffs in the world and sees no justification for increased US tariffs on its exports.

"Tariffs are taxes. By imposing tariffs, the US is taxing its own citizens, raising costs for business, stifling growth and fuelling inflation," it said.

"Tariffs heighten economic uncertainty and disrupt the efficiency and integration of global markets."

Earlier this week, the Commission said US tariffs on steel and aluminum would not go unanswered.

It is not yet clear what countermeasures would apply. Trump slapped similar tariffs on EU steel and aluminum during his first term, which enraged European and other allies. The EU imposed countermeasures in retaliation at the time, raising tariffs on US-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans, among other items. The EU estimates that annual trade volume between both sides stands at about \$1.5 trillion, representing some 30% of global trade. While the bloc has a substantial export surplus in goods, it says that is partly offset by the US surplus in the trade of services. The EU says that trade in goods reached 851 billion euros (\$878 billion) in 2023, with a trade surplus of 156 billion euros (\$161 billion) for the EU. Trade in services was worth 688 billion euros (\$710 billion) with a trade deficit of 104 billion euros (\$107 billion) for the EU.

Taiwan pledges to invest more in US after Trump tariff threats

PTI ■ TAIPEI

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said Friday he would communicate more with the US over President Donald Trump's concerns over the chip industry and invest more in the US, hours after Trump ordered reciprocal tariffs on trade partners. Trump said on Thursday that Taiwan had taken away the US chip business and said that he wanted it back in the country. Taiwan's TSMC is the world's largest chipmaker and produces chips for companies including Apple, Intel and Nvidia.

In a news briefing after holding a meeting of the National Security Council at the presidential office, Lai said that he was aware of Trump's concerns. He described Taiwan's semiconductor industry as well as the global semiconductor industry is part of an "ecosystem" in which countries specialise in different areas.

"The global semiconductor industry is an ecosystem, and it's a division of work," Lai said. "In response to President Trump's latest actions, Taiwan needs to respond calmly, and communicate well with the industries," Lai said.

"We hope to create a win-win scenario, not just to ensure benefit to the US but also to ensure that Taiwan's industries has room for growth." His comments came hours after Trump ordered reciprocal tariffs on trade partners that tax US imports, a move that could threaten a global trade war. The US does not recognise Taiwan as a country, but is its strongest backer and biggest arms provider. But bilateral relations between the two are less certain amid Trump's seemingly transactional approach to geopolitical relations.

Lai said his government would propose a "global semiconductor democratic supply chain partnership initiative" and said he would be willing to work with partners such as the US to build a more resilient and diversified semiconductor supply chain.

Lai said that Taiwan will maintain communication with the

US to help the new government better understand that Taiwan is an "indispensable partner in the United States' process of rebuilding its manufacturing industry and consolidating its high-tech leadership." Over the past two years, more than 40% of Taiwan's overseas investments are US bound, Lai said, exceeding that of investments in China. Lai also said Friday that he would propose a "special budget" to increase defense spending to over 3% of Taiwan's gross domestic product. (AP)

Judge sets 5-day deadline for Trump administration to start lifting its USAID funding freeze

Washington (AP) A federal judge has ordered President Donald Trump's administration to temporarily lift a funding freeze that has shut down US humanitarian aid and development work around the world, and he has set a five-day deadline for the administration to prove it's complying. The judge's ruling late Thursday cited the financial devastation that the near-overnight cutoff of payments has caused suppliers and nonprofits that carry out much of US aid overseas.

The ruling was the first to challenge the Republican administration's funding freeze. It comes amid a growing number of lawsuits by government employees' groups, aid groups and government suppliers asking courts to roll back the administration's fast-paced dismantling of the US Agency for International Development, or USAID, and US foreign assistance overall. Trump and his aide Elon Musk say the 6-decade-old aid agency and much of foreign assistance overall is out of line with the Republican president's agenda. Administration officials "have not offered any explanation for why a blanket suspension of all congressionally appropriated foreign aid, which set off a shockwave and upended" contracts with thousands of non-profit groups, businesses and others, "was a rational precursor to reviewing programmes," Judge Amir H. Ali said in his

ruling. Contractors, farmers and suppliers in the US and around the world say the Trump administration's funding freeze has stifled them on hundreds of millions of dollars in pay for work already done, has forced them to lay off staff and is rapidly putting many near the point of financial collapse. Farmers and other suppliers and contractors describe fortunes in undelivered food aid rotting in ports and other undelivered aid at risk of theft.

The judge ordered the administration to notify every organization with an existing foreign-aid contract with the federal government of his temporary stay. He set a Tuesday deadline for the administration to show it had done so and was otherwise complying with the order. There was no immediate public response from the Trump administration.

The judge issued the temporary order in the US in a lawsuit brought by two organisations, the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition and the Global Health Council, representing health organisations receiving US funds for work abroad. In his order, the judge noted that the Trump administration argued it had to shut down funding for the thousands of USAID aid programs abroad to conduct a thorough review of each program and whether it should be eliminated.

However, lawyers for the administration had failed to show they had a "rational reason for disregarding ... the countless small and large businesses that would have to shutter programs or shutter their businesses altogether," the judge added. The ruling also bars Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other Trump officials from enforcing stop-work orders that the Trump administration and Musk have sent to the companies and organizations carrying out foreign aid orders. The judge also rejected the Trump administration's argument that it was buffering the impact of the funding freeze, offering waivers to allow funding to keep flowing to some aid partners.

Vance to meet Zelenskyy amid concerns about US-Russia talks

PTI ■ MUNICH

Vice President JD Vance hammered home the US demand that the NATO alliance step up defense spending on Friday, ahead of a security meeting in Europe at a time of intense concern and uncertainty over the Trump administration's foreign policy.

The future of Ukraine is the top item on the agenda at the Munich Security Conference following a phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian leader Vladimir Putin this week, when they pledged to work together to end the 3-year-old Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Vance is expected to meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later Friday for talks that many observers, particularly in Europe, hope will shed at least some light on Trump's ideas for a negotiated settlement to the war.

Vance started his day in Munich meeting separately with NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and British foreign secretary David Lammy. He used the engagements to reiterate the Republican Trump administration's call for NATO members to spend more on defense. Currently, 23 of NATO's 32 member nations are hitting the Western military alliance's target of spending 2% of the nation's GDP on defense.

"NATO is a very important military alliance, of course, that we're the most significant part of," Vance told Rutte. "But we want to make sure that NATO is actually built for the future, and we think a big part of that is ensuring that NATO does a little bit more burden sharing in Europe, so the United States can focus on some of our challenges in East Asia."

Rutte said he agreed that Europe needs to step up. "We have to grow up in that sense and spend much more," he said. Hours before Vance and Zelenskyy were set to meet, a Russian drone with a high-explosive warhead hit the protective confinement shell of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Kyiv region, the Ukrainian president said. Radiation levels have not increased, Zelenskyy and the UN atomic agency said.

Zelenskyy in Munich told reporters that he thinks the



United States Vice-President JD Vance, third left, meets with Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, second right, and Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, center right, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Munich, Germany, Friday. AP/PTI

Chernobyl drone strike is a "very clear greeting from Putin and Russian Federation to the security conference."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday denied Ukraine's claims. And Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said the Munich organizers haven't invited Russia for several years, a decision she called "strange and politicised."

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was supposed to join Vance and Zelenskyy but was delayed when his Air Force plane had to return to Washington after developing a mechanical problem en route to Munich. He took a different aircraft, but it was unclear whether he would arrive in time for the meeting.

Trump, who upended years of steadfast US support for Ukraine during his call with Putin on Wednesday, has been vague about his specific intentions — other than suggesting that a deal will likely result in Ukraine being forced to cede territory that Russia has seized since it annexed Crimea in 2014.

"The Ukraine war has to end," Trump told reporters Thursday. "Young people are being killed at levels that nobody's seen since World War II. And it's a ridiculous war."

Trump's musings have left Europeans in a quandary, wondering how — or even if — they can maintain the post-WWII security that NATO afforded them or fill the gap in the billions of dollars of security assistance that the

Democratic Biden administration provided to Ukraine since Russia's February 2022 invasion.

Trump has been highly skeptical of that aid and is expected to cut or otherwise limit it as negotiations get underway in the coming days.

Both Trump and US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth this week undercut Ukraine's hopes of becoming part of NATO, which the alliance said less than a year ago was "irreversible," or of getting back its territory captured by Russia, which currently occupies close to 20% including Crimea.

"I don't see any way that a country in Russia's position could allow ... them to join NATO," Trump said Thursday. "I don't see that happening."

But British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Zelenskyy on Friday that Ukraine must be allowed to join NATO. Trump in recent days said he wants to reach an agreement with Ukraine to gain access to the country's rare earth materials as a condition for continuing US support for Ukraine's defense against Russia. He confirmed earlier this week that aides were working toward striking such a deal.

Asked Friday if a deal might be completed in Munich, Vance responded, "We'll see."

Vance, in an interview with the Wall Street Journal, said that the US would hit Moscow with sanctions and potentially military action if Putin won't agree to a peace deal with Ukraine that guarantees Kyiv's long-term independence.

The warning that military options "remain on the table" was striking language from a Trump administration that's repeatedly underscored a desire to quickly end the war.

The US reassurances may have somewhat allayed Zelenskyy's fears, although they will not replace any lost military or economic support that President Joe Biden's administration had provided.

The Ukrainian leader conceded Thursday that it was "not very pleasant" that Trump spoke first to Putin. But he said the main issue was to "not allow everything to go according to Putin's plan."

"We cannot accept it, as an independent country, any agreements (made) without us," Zelenskyy said as he visited a nuclear power plant in western Ukraine.

The track Trump is taking also has rocked Europe, much as his dismissive comments about France and Germany did during his first term.

French Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Haddad described Europe as being at a turning point, with the ground shifting rapidly under its feet, and said Europe must wean itself off its reliance on the United States for its security. He warned that handing a victory to Russia in Ukraine could have repercussions in Asia, too.

"I think we're not sufficiently grasping the extent to which our world is changing. Both our competitors and our allies are busy accelerating," Haddad told broadcaster France Info on Thursday.



President Donald Trump congratulates Robert F. Kennedy Jr., after he was sworn in as Health and Human Services Secretary in the Oval Office at the White House, Thursday in Washington. AP/PTI

'Russian drone struck Chernobyl reactor shell but radiation levels normal'

Kyiv (PTI): A Russian drone with a high-explosive warhead hit the protective containment shell of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Kyiv region during the night, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday. Radiation levels have not increased, Zelenskyy and the UN atomic agency said. Russian officials made no immediate comment, and it was not possible to independently confirm Ukraine's claim of Russian responsibility. The UN atomic agency did not attribute blame, saying only its team stationed at the site heard an explosion and were informed that a drone had struck the shell. Zelenskyy said that the strike

damaged the structure and started a fire, which has been put out. The strike came two days after US President Donald Trump said he would meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss ending the war, in a move that seemed to identify Putin as the only player that matters and looked set to sideline Zelenskyy, as well as European governments, in any peace talks. Ukraine intends to provide detailed information to US officials about the Chernobyl strike during the Munich Security Conference starting Friday, the head of Ukraine's Presidential Office, Andrii Yermak, wrote on his Telegram channel. The UN International Atomic Energy Agency said the

Chernobyl strike occurred at 1:50 am local time (2350 GMT). It said there was "no indication of a breach in the ... inner containment" shell. The outer shell that was hit is a protective cover built in 2016 over a heavy concrete containment structure. The inner layer was placed on the plant's fourth reactor soon after the 1986 disaster, which was one of the worst accidents in nuclear history. The containment shells seek to prevent radiation leaks. The three-year Russia-Ukraine war has brought repeated warnings of dangers to Ukraine's four nuclear plants, especially at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, which is Europe's

biggest and one of the 10 largest in the world. IAEA chief Rafael Rossi said on X that the Chernobyl strike and the recent increase in military activity near the Zaporizhzhia plant "underline persistent nuclear safety risks," adding that the IAEA remains "on high alert." The IAEA said its personnel at the site responded within minutes of the strike, adding there were no casualties. "Radiation levels inside and outside remain normal and stable," the IAEA said on X. Zelenskyy claimed on Telegram that the Chernobyl strike showed that "Putin is certainly not preparing for negotiations" — a claim Ukrainian officials have repeatedly made.

London's Lord Mayor to promote capital flows in India

London (PTI): The Lord Mayor of London is on his way to "bang on doors" with the message of free trade and greater two-way capital flows as he begins a week-long visit to India on Saturday. Alderman Alastair King, who as the 696th Lord Mayor is the global ambassador for the financial hub of the City of London, will be in Mumbai for a wide range of discussions centred around his chosen theme of "Growth Unleashed" for his mayoralty. Alderman King has meetings scheduled with British government trade officials as well as key Indian banking and financial institutions such as HDFC, State Bank of India (SBI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Pope Francis hospitalised to treat bronchitis

Rome (PTI): Pope Francis was hospitalised Friday to treat a weeklong bout of bronchitis and undergo diagnostic tests, the Vatican said, confirming the latest issues with the 88-year-old's pontiff's health that forced him to cancel his agenda through Monday at least. Francis was diagnosed with bronchitis on February 6, but had continued to hold daily audiences in his Vatican hotel suite. He attended his general audience Wednesday and presided at an outdoor Mass on Sunday. But he had handed off his speeches for an aide to read aloud, saying he was having trouble breathing. On Friday, he appeared bloated and pale during the handful of audiences he held before going to the hospital. The bloating appeared to indicate that the medication he was taking to treat the lung infection was making him retain water. Francis, who had part of one

lung removed as a young man, has long battled health problems, especially bouts of acute bronchitis in winter. He uses a wheelchair, walker or cane when moving around his apartment and recently fell twice, hurting his arm and chin. Francis was hospitalised at Rome's Gemelli hospital, where he was last admitted in June 2023 to have surgery to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia in the abdominal wall. A few months before that, he spent three days in the hospital to receive intravenous antibiotics for a respiratory infection. The Vatican said Francis was admitted after his Friday audiences. In addition to regular Vatican officials, the pope met Friday morning with the Slovak Prime Minister, Robert Fico, and CNN head Mark Thompson. "This morning, at the end of the audiences, Pope Francis will be admitted to the Agostino

Gemelli Polyclinic for some necessary diagnostic tests and to continue in a hospital setting treatment for bronchitis that is still ongoing," a Vatican statement said. No details were given about the duration of Francis' hospitalization, but it later announced he was cancelling his participation in Holy Year events through Monday. The pope had a busy weekend agenda planned with an audience with artists in town for the Jubilee on Saturday, a Mass for them on Sunday and a trip to Rome's famed Cinecittà studios on Monday. While a Vatican cardinal would preside over the Mass in Francis' place, the Vatican said the other events were cancelled "due to the impossibility of the pope to participate." The Vatican announcements, delivered ahead of Francis' hospitalization, came in sharp contrast to its 2023 hospitalization for bronchitis that caused

confusion. Initially, the Vatican had said he had gone in for scheduled tests, but the pontiff later revealed he had felt pain in his chest and was rushed to the hospital where bronchitis was diagnosed. He was put on intravenous antibiotics and was released April 1, quipping as he left that he was "still alive." Francis spent 10 days at the same hospital in July 2021 following intestinal surgery for a bowel narrowing. He credited his personal nurse then with saving his life for having insisted he get the problem checked out. It wasn't the first time he credited a nurse with saving his life. Francis recounted his near-death experience with his youthful lung infection in his recent autobiography "Hope," in which he credited his survival to a nurse, an Italian nun named Sister Cornelia Caraglio.

Is AI making us stupider?

PTI ■ BRISBANE

There is only so much thinking most of us can do in our heads. Try dividing 16,951 by 67 without reaching for a pen and paper. Or a calculator. Try doing the weekly shopping without a list on the back of last week's receipt. Or on your phone. By relying on these devices to help make our lives easier, are we making ourselves smarter or dumber? Have we traded efficiency gains for inching ever closer to idiocy as a species? This question is especially important to consider with regard to generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology such as ChatGPT, an AI chatbot owned by tech company OpenAI, which at the time of writing is used by 300 million people each week. According to a recent paper by a team of researchers from Microsoft and Carnegie Mellon

University in the United States, the answer might be yes. But there's more to the story. The researchers assessed how users perceive the effect of generative AI on their own critical thinking. Generally speaking, critical thinking has to do with thinking well. One way we do this is by judging our own thinking processes against established norms and methods of good reasoning. These norms include values such as precision, clarity, accuracy, breadth, depth, relevance, significance and cogency of arguments. Other factors that can affect quality of thinking include the influence of our existing world views, cognitive biases, and reliance on incomplete or inaccurate mental models. The authors of the recent study adopt a definition of critical thinking developed by American educational psychol-

ogist Benjamin Bloom and colleagues in 1956. It's not really a definition at all. Rather it's a hierarchical way to categorise cognitive skills, including recall of information, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. The authors state they prefer this categorisation, also known as a "taxonomy," because it's simple and easy to apply. However, since it was devised it has fallen out of favour and has been discredited by Robert Marzano and indeed by Bloom himself. In particular, it assumes there is a hierarchy of cognitive skills in which so-called "higher-order" skills are built upon "lower-order" skills. This does not hold on logical or evidence-based grounds. For example, evaluation, usually seen as a culminating or higher-order process, can be the beginning of inquiry or very easy to perform in some contexts.

"The theme 'Growth Unleashed' is to encourage British businesses to get out to extraordinary growth markets such as India, bang on doors and build their businesses," the Lord Mayor told PTI, ahead of his visit to Mumbai this week-end. The visit comes ahead of a proposed visit by UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds later this month to formally relaunch the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), stalled by the general election cycle in both countries last year. "I think the timing is very good. There was a bit of a lull in relation to pushing forward for the Free Trade Agreement, and I'm very pleased to see that Minister Reynolds is off to India as well. We can [meanwhile] talk about the opportunities to people involved in financial, professional, legal and maritime services that the Free Trade Agreement will present," said King.

Sarfraz Dogar's oath as acting CJ of Islamabad High Court draws ire of fellow judges, Oppn

Islamabad (PTI): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday gave oath to Sarfraz Dogar as acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, a move that has drawn ire of judges and opposition parties. Dogar made headlines when he was transferred last month to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) from the Lahore High Court (LHC). Judges, lawyers and opposition parties criticised the development as Dogar was 13th on the seniority list of the judges but rose to the second position in IHC. He was tipped to rise to the top after the elevation of the IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq to the Supreme Court. Five other IHC judges opposed his rise and challenged Dogar's seniority. However, ignoring all concerns, Dogar was sworn-in at a ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the official residence of the president of Pakistan. The official notification read: "President of Pakistan appointed Justice Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar as Acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court with effect from the day he takes oath of his office till the appointment of regular chief justice."

that it would lead to manipulation of cases related to Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi and other PTI leaders. "The appointment of Justice Sarfraz Dogar may impact the hearing of cases of PTI leaders," said PTI Senator Ali Zafar while speaking in the Senate.

opposed by fellow justices Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, Babar Sattar, Sardar Ejaz Ishaq Khan, and Saman Rafiq, who consider his elevation as a violation of rules for determination of seniority of judges. Leading opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also opposed Dogar's new role as the party founded by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan fears

The appointment was made under Article 196 of the Constitution. Dogar's rise was

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Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Short Term E-Tender Notice for Sophisticated Equipments E-Tender Notice

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM-1 Expression of Interest from Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) operators to operate and maintain the hangar and associated facilities for MRO services at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), Bhubaneswar (Odisha)

This notification is in continuation to EOI Reference No: 922 dt. 30.01.2025 regarding invitation of EOI from Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) operators to operate and maintain the hangar and associated facilities for MRO services at Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA), Bhubaneswar (Odisha) and the last date of submission of proposal has been extended from 17.02.2025 to 03.03.2025.

Eligible and interested Bidders may download the EOI document from the website of Commerce and Transport Department (https://ct.odisha.gov.in/tenders) and submit their offer by email at ctsec.or@nic.in by 1700 hours on 03.03.2025.

Additional Secretary to Govt. Commerce & Transport (Transport) Department Government of Odisha

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the public at large that my client (ICI) Bank is advancing a loan to Mr. Vishal Anand S/o Mr. Ashok Kumar for LAP (Loan Against Property), the Freehold Property No. K.H-178, area admeasuring 200 Sq. Yds. Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. ("said property").

RELIABLE DATA SERVICES LIMITED Extract Of Unaudited Financial Results for Quarter Ended December 31, 2024, On Stand Alone and Consolidated Basis.

Reliable Data Services Limited Regd. Office: GF-22, Hans Bhawan, 1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (Govt. of M.P. Undertaking) 45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal- 462 011, Madhya Pradesh, CIN : U45203MP2004SGC016758

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of Work, PAC Value (in INR Cr.), Bid Security (EMD) (in INR Lakhs), Bid Document (in Rs.), Completion Period (l/c Rainy Season)

The dates for purchase, submission, etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be purchased online upto 15:30 hrs. on 24.03.2025 from website www.mptenders.gov.in. The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only.

UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED Reg. Office: Plot No 66 Sector 34 EHTP Gurgaon, Haryana, India, -122001

EXTRACT OF STANDALONE UN-AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Particulars, Quarter ended 31/12/2024 3 Months ended (31-12-2024), Preceding 3 Months ended (30-09-2024), Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (31-12-2023), Current Year ended 31Mar 2024

Notes: 1. The above Financial Results were reviewed by the Members of Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective Meeting held on 14th February, 2025.

PUBLIC NOTICE Information is given to general public at large that Abdul Rashid S/o Abdul Majid who is/are purchasing the Built up Third Floor, area measuring 100 Sq. Yards, Built on Property No. 865-A, out of Kharsa No. 11/3, Sector 10, Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE Regd. Residential Plot No. 9, area measuring 25 sq.yds. i.e. 20.90 sq.mtrs., "said portion" out of total area measuring 50 sq.yds., falling in Kharsa No.939, Situated Adarsh Nagar Colony, Village Makampur, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad (U.P.)

FEDDERS HOLDING LIMITED (Formerly known as IM+ Capitals Limited) Regd. Office: C-15, RDC, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001 (U.P.)

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE THIRD QUARTER AND NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2024

Table with 5 columns: Sl. No., Particulars, Standalone (Quarter Ended, Nine Months Ended), Consolidated (Quarter Ended, Nine Months Ended)

Place : Ghaziabad Date : 14.02.2025

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under CIRP)

Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019 CIN: U70200DL2010PTC205410; Phone No.: 0120-7111500; Fax No.: 0120-7111550

ANNEXURE I Format for publishing financial results in newspapers [Regulation 52 (8), read with Regulation 52 (4), of the SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015]

Table with 4 columns: S. No., Particulars, For the Quarter Ended 31.12.2024 Unaudited, For the Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 Unaudited, For the Year ended 31.03.2024 Audited

Note: a) The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Kashinath Jha sd/ Director Gaurav Katiyar Interim Registration Professional Reg. No.: IBB/IPA001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Auction of movable property of Swastika Mahajan in physical possession with authorized officer Adv Umesh Sharma and attached for recovery of outstanding rent of Rs. 36,65,342 towards Bhuwan Sahu as on 17.01.2025 vide order dated 08.01.2025 of Hon'ble ADM (F/R) G.B. Nagar in case no. 1618/2024 titled Bhuwan Sahu Vs Swastika Mahajan

1. The auction sale is on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "whatever there is" basis in a single lot.

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022, EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66

Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop

Table with 3 columns: Sr. No., Name of Work/Item, Period/Tentative Qty

NOTE: 1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.

India, US aim to double bilateral trade to \$500 Billion by 2030

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

India and the United States (US) have resolved to more than double the two-way trade to \$500 Billion by 2030 and announced plans for a bilateral trade agreement with a view to bringing down duties and increase market access.

According to the joint statement issued after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump here, the two leaders have also pledged the bilateral trade relationship to promote growth that ensures fairness, national security and job creation.

"To this end, the leaders set a bold new goal for bilateral trade - Mission 500 - aiming to more than double total bilateral trade to \$500 Billion by 2030. Recognising that this level of ambition would require new, fair-trade terms, the leaders announced plans to negotiate the first tranche of a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) by fall of 2025," it said.

The statement further said that both sides committed to designate senior representatives to advance these negotiations and to ensure that the trade

relationship fully reflects the aspirations of the Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce and Technology (COMPACT).

"To advance this innovative, wide-ranging BTA, the US and India will take an integrated approach to strengthen and deepen bilateral trade across the goods and services sector, and will work towards increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepening supply chain integration," it added.

Normally in a free trade agreement, two trading partners either eliminate or significantly reduce customs duties on maximum number of goods traded between them. Besides, they also ease norms to promote trade in services and boost investments.

During the first term of President Donald Trump, India and the US had discussed a mini-trade deal, but was shelved by the Joe Biden administration as they were not in favour of a free trade agreement.

The leaders also welcomed early steps to demonstrate mutual commitment to address bilateral trade barriers.

In 2023, the US and India



President Donald Trump and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi hold a news conference in the East Room of the White House PTI

bilateral trade in goods and services stood at \$190.08 Billion (\$123.89 goods and \$66.19 services trade). In that year, India's merchandise exports to the US stood at \$83.77 Billion, while imports were \$40.12 Billion, leaving a trade gap of \$43.65 Billion in favour of India.

The country's services exports to America was \$36.33 Billion in 2023, while imports were

aggregated at \$29.86 Billion. The trade gap (difference between imports and exports) was \$6.47 Billion in favour of New Delhi.

Further, the statement said that the US hailed India's recent measures to lower tariffs on American products of interest in the areas of bourbon, motorcycles, Information and Communications Technology

(ICT) products and metals, as well as measures to enhance market access for US agricultural products, like alfalfa hay and duck meat, and medical devices.

"India also expressed appreciation for US measures taken to enhance exports of Indian mangoes and pomegranates to the US," it said, adding the two countries pledged to collaborate to

enhance bilateral trade by increasing US exports of industrial goods to India and Indian exports of labour-intensive manufactured products to America.

The two sides will also work together to increase trade in agricultural goods.

It added the two leaders agreed to drive opportunities for companies of the two countries to make greenfield

investments in high-value industries.

They welcomed ongoing investments by Indian companies worth about \$7.35 Billion, such as those by Hindalco's Novelis in finished aluminium goods at their state-of-the-art facilities in Alabama and Kentucky, JSW in steel manufacturing operations at Texas and Ohio, Epsilon Advanced Materials in the manufacturing of critical battery materials in North Carolina, and Jubilant Pharma in the manufacturing of injectables in Washington.

These investments support over 3,000 high-quality jobs for local families, the statement said.

The Modi-Trump meeting came hours after the US president announced a new reciprocal tariff policy to match higher duties charged by all its trading partners.

At a joint media briefing with Modi, Trump announced that he and Modi agreed on a deal that would facilitate India to import more US oil and gas to bring down Washington's trade deficit. In his remarks to the press, Trump called import duties imposed by India on certain US products "very unfair" and "strong".

While announcing the new tariff policy, the president also spoke about how India is

"right at the top of the pack" when it comes to tariffs. Earlier also, he has termed India as "tariff abuser" and "tariff king".

According to experts, Trump's announcement on imposing reciprocal tariffs has created an uncertain trade environment between India and the US, though the plan for a major trade deal could help promote two-way commerce.

The bilateral trade between India and the US was around \$130 Billion last year and the trade gap stands at around \$45 Billion in New Delhi's favour.

In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations, biological (\$8.1 Billion), telecom instruments (\$6.5 Billion), precious and semi-precious stones (\$5.3 Billion), petroleum products (\$4.1 Billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (\$3.2 Billion), ready-made garments of cotton including accessories (\$2.8 Billion), and products of iron and steel (\$2.7 Billion).

Imports included crude oil (\$4.5 Billion), petroleum products (\$3.6 Billion), coal, coke (\$3.4 Billion), cut and polished diamonds (\$2.6 Billion), electric machinery (\$1.4 Billion), aircrafts, space crafts and parts (\$1.3 Billion), and gold (\$1.3 Billion).

Wholesale price inflation eases to 2.31 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wholesale Price Inflation (WPI) moderated marginally to 2.31 per cent in January due to the decline in prices of food items especially vegetables, government data released on Friday showed.

The WPI based inflation was 2.37 per cent in December 2024. It was 0.33 per cent in January 2024.

As per the data, inflation in food items eased to 5.88 per cent in January, as against 8.47 per cent in December 2024. Inflation in vegetables came down significantly to 8.35 per cent, as against 28.65 per cent in December 2024.

In the eggs, meat and fish category inflation declined to 3.56 per cent as against 5.43 per cent last month. Within vegetables, tomato prices declined to 18.9 per cent while inflation in potato continued to be high at 74.28 per cent, and in onion it spiked to 28.33 per cent in January.

The fuel and power category witnessed a deflation of 2.78 per cent in January, against a deflation of 3.79 per cent in

December. In manufactured items, inflation was 2.51 per cent as compared to 2.14 per cent in December 2024.

Retail inflation data released on Wednesday showed that Consumer Price Index (CPI) based inflation eased to a 5-month low of 4.31 per cent in January on easing prices of food items. ICRA Senior Economist Rahul Agrawal said, "We project the WPI to average at 2.4 per cent in FY2025 and inch up further to 3 per cent in FY2026, despite expectations of a cooling in the prints for the food segment".

According to CARE Ratings Chief Economist Rajani Sinha, food prices are likely to ease in the coming months driven by seasonal correction in prices. However, there are headwinds as far as global commodity prices are concerned.

Their prices have been hardening amid growing uncertainty around the impact of the US protectionist trade policies.

This would exert an upward pressure on the WPI non-food component.

India-US TRUST initiative to boost NCMM



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The India-United States (US) Transforming Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology (TRUST) initiative will help in giving a push to the government's National Critical Mineral Mission, which encourages public and private sector companies to acquire critical mineral assets abroad.

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM),

approved by the government for a period of seven years till 2030-31, at an outlay of ₹34,300 Crore, proposes development of stockpiles of critical minerals within the country.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump have agreed on the TRUST initiative, to emphasis on creating strong supply chains of critical minerals, advanced pharmaceuticals.

As per a joint statement

issued after the Trump-Modi meeting in Washington, both the countries have decided to launch a recovery and processing initiative for strategic minerals like lithium and rare earth.

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) aims to build a resilient value chain encompassing exploration, mining, beneficiation, processing and recovery from end-of-life products, Mining body FIMI said.

"NCMM also seeks to encourage Indian public sector undertakings and private companies to acquire critical mineral assets abroad and enhance trade with resource-rich countries.

TRUST will greatly help to achieve the objectives of NCMM," said R K Sharma, Special Advisor at Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI).

The two sides will also work together on economic corridors and connectivity infrastructure under the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and I2U2 meworks.

Centre invites applications for NFRA Chairperson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has invited applications for the posts of chairperson and three full-time members in the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

The NFRA is an independent regulatory body overseeing financial reporting and auditing standards in the country.

For chairperson, the applicants will be a person of eminence, ability, and integrity with at least 25 years of expertise in accountancy, auditing, finance, or law and for full-time members, they must have at least 20 years of experience in the same fields, according to a release.

The chairperson will receive a consolidated monthly salary of ₹5.62 Lakh without house and car or the pay and allowances are equivalent to a secretary to the government of India, as per the NFRA's (Manner of Appointment and other terms and conditions of Service of Chairperson and members) rules. For full-time, members will have the option of drawing

either a consolidated monthly salary of ₹5 Lakh or receiving pay as admissible to an additional secretary.

Those drawing a government pension will have their pay reduced by the gross pension amount. Separate applications must be submitted for the post of Chairperson and members, the release said.

The Chairperson and all members, before being appointed, will have to submit a declaration to the government confirming that they have no conflict of interest, or lack of independence in respect of such appointment as Chairperson or member, failing which their appointment will not be considered.

The appointees cannot be associated with any audit firm, including related consultancy firms during their tenure and for two years after demitting office. The term of office for both Chairperson and full-time members will be three years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, with the possibility of re-appointment for one more term.

Girlyveda launches 'Harmo Balancer' for women

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Girlyveda, a brand that has catered to the health and wellness of women, has launched Harmo Balancer, an ayurvedic supplement that assists women in overcoming hormonal imbalance problems.

The new product will help in controlling the symptoms of Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), a hormonal condition that affects women of reproductive age.

Girlyveda aims to serve as a reliable, safe, and effective way to assist Indian women in managing this condition.

Globally, the prevalence of PCOS ranges from four per cent to 21 per cent, 20-29 and in India, the prevalence varies from two per cent to 35 per cent. Harmo Balancer is a unique Ayurvedic blend of powerful herbs like Kachnaar, Gudmar, Shatavari, and Ashoka that balances hormones, regulates menstrual cycles, and improves insulin sensitivity.

Speaking about the new product, Danny Kumar Meena, Founder, Girlyveda, said, "Women's health is often overlooked, and conditions like PCOS are still not widely understood. At Girlyveda, we believe in providing chemical-free, Ayurvedic solutions that empower women to take control of their health naturally. Harmo Balancer is designed to support hormonal balance, promote menstrual health, and help manage the symptoms of PCOS without any harmful side effects."

Rupee rises 12 paise to close against USD

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee extended its recovery and settled 12 paise higher at 86.81 (provisional) against the US dollar on Friday amid easing American currency.

However, higher crude oil prices and incessant selling of domestic equities by foreign institutional investors capped a sharp gain in the local unit, forex traders said.

Also, they said, the aggressive dollar chase was halted after the US government announced the implementation of reciprocal tariffs on April 1,

giving its trading partners some relief.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.86 and touched the high of 86.79 against the greenback during intraday. It also touched the low of 86.90 before ending the session at 86.81 (provisional) against the dollar, logging a gain of 12 paise from its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee settled almost flat with a marginal gain of two paise at 86.93 against the US dollar. The unit had closed 16 paise lower on Wednesday, a day after

surging 66 paise, witnessing the highest single-day rise in nearly two years.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee gained on the weak US dollar index.

He further said that the US dollar declined as President Donald Trump delayed the implementation of reciprocal tariffs to April 1 which calmed market nerves.

"Persistent outflows by FIIs may pressurise the rupee further. However, any further intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels. Traders may

take cues from retail sales and industrial production data from the US, Choudhary said, adding the "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 86.60 to 87.10".

The domestic unit has been facing extreme volatility for the past few months due to several global macroeconomic uncertainties.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said the rupee along with other Asian currencies has depreciated against the US dollar on account of uncertainty pervading the global macroeconomy.

RBI supersedes board of New India Co-op Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

A day after imposing several restrictions on city-based New India Co-operative Bank, the Reserve Bank India (RBI) on Friday superseded its board citing poor governance standards.

A large number of bank's customers had gathered at its branches on Friday following RBI's restrictions, which included a bar on issuing new loans and suspension of deposit withdrawals for six months.

The bank has 28 branches, mostly located in the Mumbai region. In a statement, the RBI said it has appointed Shreekant, a former chief general manager of State Bank of India (SBI) as

'Administrator' to manage the affairs of the bank.

The Board of Directors of New India Co-operative Bank, Mumbai, has been superseded for 12 months, the RBI said in a statement. It has also appointed a 'Committee of Advisors' to assist the Administrator in discharging his duties. The members of the Committee of Advisors are Ravindra Sapra (former General Manager, SBI) and Abhijeet Deshmukh (chartered accountant).

"The action is necessitated due to certain material concerns emanating from poor governance standards observed in the bank," it said.

On Thursday, the RBI had imposed several restrictions on

the lender including on withdrawal of funds by depositors, amid supervisory concerns.

The restrictions came into force from the close of business on Thursday and would remain in force for a period of six months and are subject to review.

"Considering the bank's present liquidity position, the bank has been directed not to allow withdrawal of any amount from savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor," the RBI said while imposing the restrictions.

The lender, however, has been allowed to set off loans against deposits subject to the conditions stated in the RBI directions.

BSES launches toll-free support for consumer issues

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Power discom on Friday said the consumers can reach BSES through multiple channels in case of any disruption or local fault. It has issued two toll free numbers and Whatsapp numbers- for BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL).

The toll free numbers and Whatsapp numbers for BRPL is 19123 and 8800919123, while for BYPL, the numbers are 19122 and 8745999808, respectively.

According to State Load Despatch Centre (SLDC) data, the city's peak power

demand has remained stable, ranging between 4200-4500 MW since February 8.

BSES discoms are ensuring a seamless, reliable and quality power supply, successfully meeting Delhi's winter electricity demand.

BSES is committed to ensure reliable and quality power supply to over 50 Lakh consumers and two Crore residents across south, west, east, and central Delhi. Smart power procurement strategies, including long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), banking arrangements with other states, along with a robust distribution network, are ensuring an uninterrupted

power supply. To maintain a sustainable and eco-friendly power supply, up to 2000 MW of renewable energy is significantly contributing to meeting BSES' winter power demand.

As part of commitment to ensure a reliable power supply, BSES discoms have dedicated war rooms for real-time monitoring of the power supply situation. Led by senior officials, these war rooms enable swift decision-making and response.

Additionally, BSES field teams remain on high alert, ready to address any exigencies promptly.

Modi, Trump advance India-US civil nuclear cooperation

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United States (US) President Donald Trump vowed to move forward to facilitate building American-designed nuclear reactors in India under the framework of the epochal civil nuclear deal sealed by the two nations over 16 years back.

In their talks at the White House on Thursday, the two leaders decided to significantly expand energy cooperation.

The civil nuclear deal changed India's overall engagement with the US as it paved the way for building the bonds of a strategic partnership, especially

in areas of high technology and defence.

"The leaders announced their commitment to fully realise the US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement by moving forward with plans to work together to build US-designed nuclear reactors in India through large-scale localisation and possible technology transfer," according to a joint statement.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the Union budget on February 1, announced plans to amend India's nuclear liability law as well as the Atomic Energy Act. Certain clauses in India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 have emerged as

hurdles in moving forward in the implementation of the civil nuclear deal.

Both sides welcomed the recent budget announcement by the government of India to take up amendments to the Atomic Energy Act and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA) for nuclear reactors, the statement said.

It said the two sides further decided to establish bilateral arrangements in accordance with CLNDA, that would address the issue of civil liability and facilitate the collaboration of Indian and US industry in the production and deployment of nuclear reactors.

INBRIEF

DMRC'S DIRECTOR DR AMIT JAIN, IRTS CO-AUTHORED A BOOK "LEAD SMART IN THE AI ERA"



NEW DELHI: DMRC's Director (Operations & Services), Dr Amit Kr Jain, IRTS have co-authored a book titled "Lead Smart in the AI Era" which elaborates on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries and leadership paradigm. This book is an important document on AI and its role in shaping leadership.

VIT-AP ORGANISES CONFERENCE ON 'INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES'

AMARAVATI: VIT-AP School of Business at VIT-AP University, in collaboration with the University of Newcastle, Australia, organises a two-day International Conference on "Innovation and Sustainable Business Practices in the Digital Era" on February 14-15.





Stories That Felt Like Home

A festival where stories lived, music felt like home and strangers left as part of a family, says SAKSHI PRIYA



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

Some stories are meant to be read, some meant to be watched, but the best ones? They are meant to be heard. Words, when spoken the right way, don't just tell a story, they create a world. That's exactly what happened at the Kathakar International Storytellers Festival.

Now in its 18th edition, Kathakar, India's first and Asia's largest oral storytelling festival, was brought to life by the Gahilote sisters, Rachna, Prarthana and Shaguna. Organised by Nivesh, HHACH and Babaji Music and supported by the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism and Delhi Tourism. Three days, countless stories and a sea of people who arrived as strangers but left as part of something bigger.

The evening, however, was when the magic truly began. Kutle Khan Manghaniyar took the stage, his hypnotic Rajasthani folk beats turning the space into a desert courtyard under the open sky. Then came Mohit Chauhan and Imtiaz Ali, in



AS LONG AS THERE ARE STORIES, THERE WILL BE STORYTELLERS. AND AS LONG AS THERE ARE STORYTELLERS, THE WORLD WILL ALWAYS LISTEN.



conversation with Prarthana Gahilote. The *kissey* felt like a late-night chat between two old friends, except the audience got to listen in. Chauhan spoke about the feeling behind a song, while Ali shared how stories take shape when you truly see people. Every word felt like a quiet nudge, reminding everyone that art isn't just about creating, it's about understanding.

The first day felt like an old book, one whose pages smelled of nostalgia, yet felt fresh.



Day 2: Music Felt, Words Heard

Usifu Jaloh from Sierra Leone, a storyteller who lived every word. With every movement, every shift in tone, he pulled people into his world. It didn't matter if you understood the language; you felt it. That's the beauty of storytelling, sometimes, emotions speak louder than words.

Later, Anurag Basu and Mohit Chauhan took the stage, turning a planned talk into an intimate exchange between two artists who just get each other. Basu spoke about how streaming platforms are changing the way we consume stories.

Bhupinder Babbal, fresh off the success of *Arjan Valley Ve*, set the perfect mood before the man everyone had been waiting for, Lucky Ali, walked in. The first notes of *O Sanam* sent a ripple through the crowd. Some people froze, some closed their eyes, others just felt. By the time he sang *Dooba Dooba*, the audience wasn't singing along, they were reliving something. A road trip, a lost love, a version of themselves from years ago. Day 2 felt like a storm - powerful, unexpected, impossible to ignore. The kind that reminds us why we turn to art, to remember, to feel, to belong.

Day 3: The Last Turns Slowly

The last day of a festival always carries a touch of melancholy, the realisation that this small world, built over three days, is about to fade away. Sajid Ali reflected on how films like *Laila Majnu* and *Chamkila* continue to resonate, perhaps because some stories are not just written, they are lived.

As the evening set in, music once again took centre stage. The *Niazi Brothers* performed *Chaap Tilak* and something shifted in the air. The claps, the swaying bodies, the voices rising as one, this was not simply a performance; it was a moment shared. The last day was like the final chapter of a book one does not want to finish. It carried joy, even in its farewells. And is that not the best way to conclude a story?

A FORGOTTEN ART WORLD



Samvega: Aesthetic Shocks is about artists whose voices have been quiet for too long, now finally heard, says TEAM VIVA



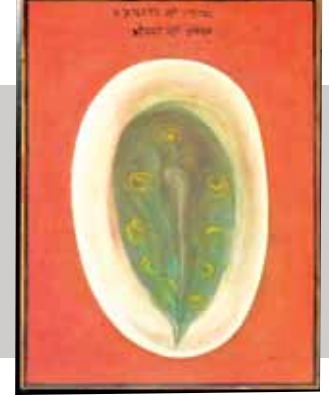
What does it feel like to stand before a work of art and sense something shift inside you? To encounter colours, patterns and forms that seem to hold centuries of wisdom? To realise that an artist whose name you have never heard has created something that speaks to you across time? *Samvega: Aesthetic Shocks* is an exhibition that invites this kind of experience. Featuring eleven artists whose works have remained largely unseen, the show brings forward a legacy of brilliance long overdue for recognition. Curated by Minhaz Majumdar.

There is something deeply moving about seeing these works gathered in one space. They hold a quiet urgency, a sense of voices that have waited too long to be heard. Some pieces feel meditative, drawing you in with intricate patterns and balanced compositions. Others disrupt that stillness, shifting perspectives and challenging the way art is traditionally viewed. Some works reveal themselves slowly, while others strike instantly, demanding attention in unexpected ways.

The Sanskrit term *Samvega* refers to an aesthetic shock, a moment of deep realisation that transforms perception. Some of the artists in *Samvega* have inherited these traditions through generations of training, while others have forged their own paths, developing styles in quiet dedication. Their works reflect a world where mathematics and mysticism, structure and spontaneity, come together in visual form. *Samvega* is the culmination of that journey, ensuring these artists receive the recognition they deserve. This is the kind of exhibition that stays with you. It is a reminder that art is not simply something to be admired from a distance, but something to be felt.

STEP INSIDE AND LET THE WORKS SPEAK. THE ARTWORKS CAPTURE ESSENCE THROUGH SACRED GEOMETRY, COSMIC SYMBOLISM OR INTENSITY, INVITING CONTEMPLATION AND CONNECTION

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



Layers of Shared Expression

What happens when artists, each with their own vision, style and philosophy, come together under one roof? *Forms /// Formation*, explores the relationships between artistic practice, collaboration and individual expression. Featuring painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography and printmaking, the exhibition offers a rare opportunity to see how different generations of artists engage with shared ideas while maintaining their distinct voices.

At the heart of the show is the exchange of influences, both direct and indirect. Anupam Sud's etching *At Sunset* presents a quiet, introspective moment, where shadowy figures dissolve into their surroundings. Madhur Sen's ceramic sculpture *Cold Winter Night* captures the weight of silence in its smooth, muted textures, evoking a sense of time suspended. Ananda M Banerji's



acrylic-on-canvas painting uses deep reds and ochres to create a hypnotic rhythm, while *Red Sky*, a mixed-media work on archival material, feels like a fleeting memory made permanent.

Biman Das, a Padma Bhushan awardee, presents a recent sculpture that bridges tradition and contemporary sensibilities, reflecting his mastery of form and material. Meanwhile, photography adds another layer to the exhibition, with Aditya Arya's cyanotype prints, deep blue impressions that carry an almost

dreamlike quality, inviting viewers to reconsider the boundaries between past and present.

Art thrives on conversation, between artists, between works and between those who come to see them. *Forms /// Formation* is a reflection of this ongoing process, where ideas take shape and shift in unexpected ways. The exhibition runs until 16th February 2025 at *The Stainless Gallery, New Delhi*. Take the time to step inside, look closely and become part of the dialogue.



ICC announces prize money for Champions Trophy

PTI ■ DUBAI

Winners of the upcoming Champions Trophy (CT) will walk away with a whopping \$2.24 Million cash reward after the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a 53 per cent hike in its prize money pool for the eight-team tournament starting February 19.

The winners' purse would be close to 20 crore in Indian currency. The runners-up will receive half the amount, \$1.12 Million (INR 9.72 Crore), while each losing semi-finalist will take home \$560,000 (INR 4.86 Crore). The total prize pool has increased to \$6.9 Million (₹60 Crore approx).

"The substantial prize pot underscores the ICC's ongoing commitment to investing in the sport and maintaining the global prestige of our events," ICC chairman Jay Shah said in a statement ahead of the tournament which will be held in Pakistan and the UAE.

Each group stage win would



be worth over \$34,000 (INR 30 Lakh) for the victorious team.

Teams finishing in fifth or sixth place will receive \$350,000 each (INR three Crore), while the seventh and eighth-placed sides will take home \$140,000 (INR 1.2

Crore). Additionally, all eight teams will receive a guaranteed \$125,000 each (INR 1.08 Crore) for participating in the event.

This tournament marks the first time Pakistan will host an ICC event since 1996.

However, India will play all their matches in Dubai owing to security concerns related to travelling to Pakistan. Rohit Sharma's men will begin their campaign on February 20 against Bangladesh. The Pakistan leg will feature games in Karachi,

Lahore and Rawalpindi. The 2025 edition features eight teams split into two groups of four, with the top two from each group advancing to the semi-finals.

"The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 represents a pivotal moment for cricket, reviving a tournament that highlights the pinnacle of ODI talent, where every match is critical," the ICC chairman emphasised in his statement.

"Beyond the financial incentive, this tournament ignites fierce competition, captivates fans worldwide, and plays a vital role in fostering the growth and long-term sustainability of cricket for future generations," Shah added.

The men's Champions Trophy was held every four years from 2009 to 2017 before a COVID disruption and deliberations on its relevance led to it being postponed. The tournament was first introduced as a biennial event in 1998. The women's Champions Trophy will make its debut in 2027 in the T20 format.

Injury rules out Ben Sears from Champions Trophy

PTI ■ CHRISTCHURCH

Pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the Champions Trophy (CT) due to a hamstring injury, a significant setback for New Zealand ahead of the ICC event which kicks off on February 19.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has named Jacob Duffy as Sears' replacement.

"Sears felt some pain in his left hamstring at the team's first training in Karachi on Wednesday and a subsequent scan revealed a minor tear that would require at least two weeks' rehabilitation," NZC said in a statement.

"The rehabilitation timeframe means that Sears would likely be available for only the team's final Group A match against India in Dubai, and so the decision was made to rule him out." Sears' absence has paved the way for Duffy, who is currently with the squad for the ODI Tri-Series against Pakistan and South Africa.

"We're all really feeling for Ben. It's always tough being ruled



out of a major event at such a late stage, and it's especially tough in Ben's case given it would have been his first major ICC event," said New Zealand head coach Gary Stead.

"The timeframes for Ben to be fit to play again meant he would likely miss the majority of the group stage, and given the short nature of the tournament, we felt it was appropriate to bring in a player who is fully fit and ready to go."

"Ben is a player with huge potential and given the short rehabilitation timeframe, we're sure he'll be fit and raring to go for the home series against

Pakistan back in New Zealand." On Duffy's inclusion, Stead said, "Jacob showed with his performances in the recent home series against Sri Lanka that he is more than capable at international level."

"He's been part of the squad for the ODI Tri-Series so he's fully acclimatised and he's got plenty of experience in these conditions and is fit and ready to go."

"He's another player who will be experiencing his first senior ICC event, so it will be an exciting few weeks ahead for him."



India lose to Japan 0-3 in quarterfinals of BAMTC

PTI ■ QINGDAO

Prannoy fought valiantly, but India succumbed to a 0-3 defeat against a second-string Japan in the quarterfinals of the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Championships (BAMTC), ending their campaign on a disappointing note here on Friday.

India, the 2023 bronze medalists in Dubai, struggled to find their rhythm, and trailed 0-1 after going down in the mixed doubles.

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto, ranked 37th in the world, showed resilience before going down 13-21, 21-17, 13-21 to world number 12 Hiroki Midorikawa and Natsu Saito.

With PV Sindhu sidelined due to a hamstring injury, India faced an uphill task against Tomoka Miyazaki, who has quickly risen to world number 8 following her triumph at the 2022 World Junior Championships.

World number 31 Malvika Bansod, stepping in for Sindhu, put up a brave fight, especially in the second game, but struggled to match the control and consistency of her younger opponent and lost 12-21, 19-21, leaving India 0-2 behind.

It all came down to Prannoy to keep India alive, but despite a determined effort, the 32-year-old, returning after a long

break and struggling with early-season form, couldn't sustain the pressure against world number 16 Kenta Nishimoto.

The Japanese star sealed the rubber with a 21-14, 15-21, 21-12 victory in 1 hour and 17 minutes.

India will be disappointed with the loss, especially as Japan did not field their full-strength team, with several top players absent.

Japan were the inaugural edition champions in 2017 and were runners-up in 2019.

Miyazaki vs Malvika Miyazaki, leading the new-look Japanese team, was sharp and precise, quickly surging to an 11-3 lead after Malvika hit long.

Despite some good net play from the left-handed Indian, Miyazaki's cross-court drops and winners kept Malvika on the back foot.

Malvika narrowed the gap to 12-19, capitalising on unforced errors from Miyazaki.

However, two mistakes from the Indian allowed the Japanese to take the first game.

The second game was more competitive as Malvika took a 5-3 lead, engaging in tight rallies. She managed a slim 11-10 advantage after Miyazaki went long.

Malvika stayed sharp, not allowing her opponent to play her usual drops freely, moving to 17-15.

Playing 10 months a year will lead to more injuries: Kapil Dev

PTI ■ KOLKATA

World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev on Friday expressed concern over the rising number of injuries among Indian cricketers, attributing it to the demanding schedule that keeps players in action for almost 10 months each year.

The National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru has turned into a rehabilitation hub, with players spending more time recovering than training.

The latest casualty being India pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah who was forced to sit out of the second innings of the final Test in Sydney due to a back injury.

Initially named in the Champions Trophy (CT) squad, Bumrah has now been ruled out.

Mohammed Shami, India's top wicket-taker in the 2023 ODI World Cup (24 wickets), suffered a leg injury post-final and underwent surgery.

His 14-month recovery ruled



him out of the BGT series, which India lost for the first time in a decade. Shami's absence left Bumrah without a reliable bowling partner.

"The only thing that worries me is that they play for 10 months a year -- injuries will be much more common," the 1983 World Cup-winning skipper said at the Tata Steel Golf prize distribution ceremony here.

Asked whether Bumrah would be missed in CT, Kapil urged players to focus on

anything about it. Good luck to my Indian team -- go and play well," he added.

India will begin their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on February 20.

Kapil said he's excited to see so much rising talents in the Indian cricket team these days.

"When you see the youngsters, their confidence is unbelievable. We didn't have this much confidence when we were young. Good luck to them."

A known golf enthusiast and the current PGTI president, Kapil also made a playful pitch for the sport.

"Tell everyone to play golf. If they are not playing cricket, they should come and play golf. If they do, their performance will be better. There is a lot of fun in golf."

Emphasising on the importance of infrastructure for young golfers, he said: "If young players get the right facilities, they will improve. We are trying our best."



We trained plenty for India tour: McCullum

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England's head coach Brendon McCullum has dismissed suggestions that his team did not prepare adequately during their white-ball tour of India, calling such claims "factually incorrect".

The New Zealand great was responding to criticism that emerged during TV commentary for the third ODI, where Ravi Shastri and Kevin Pietersen suggested that, apart from Joe Root, England's players had not trained during the ODI series that India swept 3-0.

"Firstly, it's factually incorrect, the whole statement that we don't train," McCullum told 'talkSPORT' after England's third ODI defeat here on Wednesday.

"We've trained plenty right throughout, and guys have come from a lot of cricket as well. I think it's an easy thing to have as a throwaway line that guys don't train enough when the results aren't right."

While England had trained before the first match in Nagpur, they opted against formal sessions ahead of the second and third ODIs in Cuttack and Ahmedabad.

England suffered a 142-run defeat to India in their final ODI before the Champions Trophy slated in Pakistan and Dubai next week.

The ODI series loss came after a 1-4 drubbing by India in the T20I rubber.

McCullum also pointed out the injury setbacks to Jacob

Bethell (hamstring) and Jamie Smith (calf).

"We've got a style and a method that we believe in. We've got guys who are battling injuries and trying to make sure that we've got enough bodies out on the field, knowing that we've got a huge assignment coming up in a week or two."

"Ultimately it's factually incorrect what's been said and we'll stay true to what we believe in," he asserted.

England's Test coach McCullum, who took charge of the white-ball side before the India series, also stressed the importance of fostering a positive team environment despite recent setbacks.

"Ultimately, you're judged on results... From our point of view, we've got to strip away the fear of failure that results can bring," he said.

"Guys are fiercely determined and competitive... How do you allow an environment to provide the freedom and clarity of thought to go out there and allow your talent to come out?" he asked.

England will be in UAE for a short break before beginning their Champions Trophy campaign against Australia in Lahore on February 22.

McCullum said the squad-building will continue over the next week as well.

"We'll give the guys a fresh-up in Abu Dhabi, make sure all the bodies are fit and ready to go, and have a full squad to pick from come that first game against Australia," he said.

We want to win every FIH Pro League match: Harmanpreet

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh on Friday said his team's target is to win every FIH Pro League match and finish on top of the league to earn a direct ticket to the 2026 World Cup.

India will open their FIH Pro League campaign against Spain on Saturday in Bhubaneswar.

They will next play Spain again the next day, followed by matches against Germany on February 16 and 19 in the opening leg of the India tour.

"Our training is going well from Hockey India League, we have been preparing for months, have learnt a lot from HIL. We have been able to maintain our fitness as well," Harmanpreet said ahead of the



FIH Pro League opener.

"We just want to play good hockey, all players in good shape and the target is to win every game (in Pro League) looking at the World Cup," he added.

The 2026 men's hockey World Cup will be held from August

14 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands.

Harmanpreet, regarded as one of the best dragflickers in the world currently, praised HIL's top-scorer Jugraj Singh for his flicking abilities and said the rise of next generation of domestic players augur well for

the national side.

"We have seen some good domestic players in HIL. It was an opportunity for youngsters and they performed well," he said.

"Jugraj was the top-scorer and he was brilliant. I am happy for him and it is beneficial for the national team as well."

Harmanpreet, however, was in no mood to take Spain lightly. "Spain is a good team, we can't take them lightly. Our focus is to give our best and win the match," he said.

India's chief coach Craig Fulton said the FIH Pro League is a "building phase" for the side.

"It's a building phase for us. We will look to try out things and see what best suits us. We will like to use our players' HIL experience and integrate their learning into the team," he said.

Mourinho's Fenerbahce beats Anderlecht 3-0 in Europa League playoff

PTI ■ LONDON

José Mourinho's Fenerbahce might have only just squeezed into the Europa League knockout playoff round but it is already on the brink of the round of 16.

Fenerbahce dominated to beat Anderlecht 3-0 on Thursday and take a comprehensive lead to Belgium for the second leg next week.

Two of Mourinho's former clubs, Porto and Roma, drew 1-1 in Europe's second-tier competition.

Fenerbahce only just reached the playoffs by placing 24th in the new 36-standings format — the last qualification place, and on a tiebreaker of goal difference.

Anderlecht had finished 10th, only missing out on automatic progression to the last-16 by goal difference.

Fenerbahce took the lead in the 11th minute Thursday. Anderlecht failed to clear a

corner and the ball was put back to the area where Yusuf Akççek nodded it on for Dusan Tadic to head into the net.

Edin Dzeko doubled his team's advantage shortly before halftime following good work from Filip Kostic down the left flank. Dzeko's initial shot was blocked by Anderlecht defender Lucas Hey but the veteran forward fired home the rebound.

Youssef En-Nesyri added a third with a powerful header in the 57th minute and Fenerbahce missed several chances to extend its advantage.

Notably, Yusuf Akççek's header was deflected onto the post — it would have been the 19-year-old's first career goal, after recording his first-ever assist in the first half.

Dutch club AZ Alkmaar also has a healthy advantage to take into next week's second leg after it beat 10-man Galatasaray 4-1.



Dybala injured: Key Roma forward Paulo Dybala limped off in the first half of the match in Portugal with a knee injury.

Dybala had yelled out in

agony when his knee felt the full force of Porto midfielder Alan Varela's boot in the 20th minute but the Argentina World Cup winner had played on for another 15

minutes before admitting defeat. Roma took the lead with practically the last kick of the first half, with defender Zeki Celik scoring his first goal for the club.

Porto leveled against the run of play in the 67th minute through Francisco Moura's deflected shot.

Roma midfielder Bryan Cristante was sent off five

minutes later following a second booking.

Teenager scores for Ajax Ajax won 2-0 at Union Saint-Gilloise, with 16-year-old Jorjy Mokio netting his side's second goal.

Mokio scored in the 71st minute. A corner was cleared but only as far as the Belgium Under-21 international on the edge of the area and he volleyed it in for his first goal for the senior Ajax team.

Mokio, aged 16 years and 350 days, became the youngest player to score in a knockout stage match in the Europa League, UEFA said.

Christian Rasmussen had netted the opener in 59th.

Elsewhere, Real Sociedad won 2-1 at Midtjylland and Ferencvaros beat Viktoria Plzen 1-0. Romanian team FCSB came from behind to win 2-1 at PAOK and a stoppage-time penalty saw Twente beat Bodo/Glimt by the same scoreline.

Another youngest

goalscorer record Sixteen-year-old Michael Noonan netted on his Shamrock Rovers debut to help the Irish team win 1-0 at 10-man Molde.

That made Noonan, at 16 years, 197 days, the youngest-ever goalscorer in a European club competition, his team said.

Noonan scored from close range in the 57th minute. He also forced a red card for Molde defender Valdemar Lund for a last-man foul, three minutes before halftime.

Vikingsur Reykjavik became the first-ever Icelandic club to win a European knockout match by upsetting Panathinaikos 2-1. The match was held in Helsinki as no stadium in Iceland met the requirements to host the game.

Armandas Kucys scored twice but also missed a late penalty as Celje drew 2-2 against 10-man APOEL.