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PTI PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a strong case for collective efforts to establish a global framework for artificial intelligence (AI) based on open source which enhances trust, transparency and is free from biases.

Co-chairing the AI Action Summit along with French President Emmanuel Macron here, Modi said that AI is changing the polity, economy, security and society, and is writing the code for humanity in this century

Modi also offered to host the next AI Action Summit in India, supporting the decision taken at the first summit hosted by France to set up the 'AI Foundation' and the

'Council for Sustainable AI'. "There is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks and build trust, Modi said, adding that governance is not just about managing risks and rivalries but is also about promoting innovations and deploying them for global good. "We must democratise

technology and create people-centric applications. We must address concerns related to cyber security, disinformation and deep fakes," the Prime Minister said.

Stressing on the need to develop quality data sets free from biases, the Prime Minister said there is a need to develop open-source AI ecosystems that enhance trust and transparency. He said the technology should be rooted in the local ecosystem for it to be effective and useful. Modi started his address with



French President Emmanuel Macron shakes hands with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they arrive to the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit at the Grand Palais in Paris, France

deployed even faster. There is

also a deep inter-dependence

across borders. We need to

observation on the especially in the global south. an potential of AI by stating that It is where the capabilities are AI can cut through jargon and more lacking, be it compute, power, talent, data or the financial resources," Modi summarise medical prescriptions in a language that can be understood easily. said. "If you upload your medical The Prime Minister further report to an AI app, it can said that AI can help explain in simple language, transform millions of lives by free of any jargon, what it improving health, education, means for your health. But, if agriculture and so much more. you ask the same app to draw It can help create a world in an image of someone writing which the journey to sustainable development goals with their Left hand, the app will most likely draw someone become easier and faster. To writing with their Right hand. do this, we must pool together Because that is what the resources and talent. Referring to apprehensions training data is dominated by. "It shows that while the about job losses on account of positive potential of AI is AI, Modi said history has shown that work does not absolutely amazing, there are many biases that we need to disappear due to technology think carefully about," he said, but its nature changes and new Modi pitched for inclusive types of jobs are created. development of AI especially "AI is developing at an unprecedented scale and speed and being adopted and for the Global South.

"We must think deeply and discuss openly about innovations and governance. Governance is also about ensuring access to all, invest in skilling and re-

skilling our people for an AIdriven future," Modi said. India, he said, leads in AI adoption and techno-legal

solutions on data privacy "We are developing AI applications for public good. India is ready to share its experience and expertise to ensure that the AI future is for good, and for all," Modi said. In his concluding remarks at the summit, Modi said that the discussions have clearly brought out that there is "unity in vision and unity in purpose across stakeholders."

that Observing the partnership for AI is truly global in nature, Modi said, To build on the momentum of this Action Summit, India would be happy to host the next Summit.

'We must also make the 'Global Partnership for AI' truly global in nature. It should be more inclusive of the Global South and its priorities, concerns and needs," Modi said

PM pushes for global AI framework BJP claims to sweep urban bodies polls



Women voters are in a queue on Tuesday at a polling booth in Durg town to exercise their franchise.

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

hhattisgarh's ruling BJP claimed victory on Tuesday hours after the polling for 10 Municipal Corporations, 49 Municipal Councils and 114 Nagar Panchayats concluded in the

state. Results will be announced on February 15. The polling was largely eaceful barring a few incidents of clashes in Bilaspur and malfunctioning of EVMs

in Raipur and Durg. The Congress had won majority of mayoral seats in last polls but the BJP is

expected to sweep urban boded poll campaign.

ies this time as Congress failed to run a spirited & unit-The polling for three-tier

Panchayat elections will be held in three phases on February 17, 20 and 23. Continued on pg-3

EATHER AQI 293 MAX 29.7°C(+6) MIN 9.8°C(-0.4)

12:00 pm

US\$ = 86.82 INR

3:00 pm

Sensex tanks

PTI MUMBAI

trade war fears.

six with gains.

biggest laggards.

fifth day in a row

Benchmark stock indices Sensex and Nifty tanked

more than 1 per cent on Tuesday amid unabated foreign fund outflows and fresh US tariffs that reignited

Declining for the fifth day

running, the 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 1,018.20

points or 1.32 per cent to settle

at a two-week low of 76,293.60. During the day, it tumbled 1,281.21 points or

1.65 per cent to 76,030.59. The NSE Nifty cracked 309.80

points or 1.32 per cent to

23,071.80 with 44 of its

constituents closing lower and

Among 30 Sensex shares,

Zomato tanked over 5 per

cent. Tata Steel, Bajaj Finserv,

Tata Motors, Power Grid, Larsen & Toubro, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Hindustan

Unilever and ITC were the

Bharti Airtel was the only

gainer among Sensex scrips

MARKETS

SENSEX 76,293.60

77,400

7.200

76,800

76,600[.]

76,400

76.200

76,000

Trump warns Gaza Kejriwal dismisses rumours of Punjab discord EC faces SC heat over EVM verification ceasefire collapse

PTI WASHINGTON

 $P_{\text{said}}^{\text{resident Donald Trump}}_{\text{said Monday that a}}$ precarious ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas should be cancelled if Hamas doesn't release all the remaining hostages it is holding in Gaza by midday on S turday though he also said that such a decision would be up to Israel. Trump was responding to Hamas saying it will delay the further release of hostages in the Gaza Strip after accusing Israel of violating the three-week-old ceasefire. The US president said that after the freeing of three visibly emaciated hostages on Saturday it was time for Israel to demand the release of all hostages by noon on Saturday, or restart the war. "If they're not here, all hell is going to break out," Trump said. He added of the ceasefire, "Cancel it, and all bets are off." Trump said the final decision would be up to Israel, saying, "I'm speaking for myself. Israel can override it." But asked if the US would join in a response to Hamas if hostages weren't freed, Trump added, "Hamas will find out what I mean." Those comments came after Trump said in an interview with Fox News Channel that Palestinians in Gaza would not have a right to return under his plan for US"ownership" of the wartorn territory - contradicting other officials in his administration who have sought to argue Trump was only calling for the temporary relocation of its population. Less than a week after he floated his plan for the US to take control of Gaza and turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East," Trump, in an interview with Fox News' Bret Baier airing Monday, said "No, they wouldn't" when asked if Palestinians in Gaza would have a right to return to the territory. It comes as he has ramped up pressure on Arab states, especially US allies Jordan and Egypt, to take in Palestinians from Gaza, who claim the territory as part of a future homeland.

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

A midst reports of exodus of MLAs, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Party Arvind Kejriwal met Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann and 91 state MLAs in Delhi on Tuesday and dismissed speculation of internal discord within the party stating that "all is well" n the parts After the meeting, which lasted for about an hour, Mann and other leaders outright rejected the possibility of Kejriwal becoming the Chief Minister of Punjab and about 35 MLAs in Punjab breaking away and joining the Congress. "Our MLAs arrived here for a meeting with party national convener Arvind Kejriwal, the polls. who expressed his gratitude for their efforts in campaigning during the Delhi Assembly elections," the chief minister said. He water. said the party accepts the The verdict of the people in the Delhi Assembly elections while praising the AAPs' 'Delhi model' of governance. The meeting sent out a strong signal about there being no promised. threat to the party's government in Punjab amid claims by the rival Congress about a brewing discontent



Arvind Kejriwal might now seek to replace Bhagwant Mann as the state's chief minister and over 30 AAP MLAs were in touch with his party

AAP sources said the agenda of the meeting included assessing the Delhi election outcome and devising a roadmap for the 2027 Punjab elections. Tuesday's meeting carries added significance amid speculations that Kejriwal could consider a more direct role in Punjab politics now. With Ludhiana's assembly seat currently vacant, political observers are also discussing the possibility of Kejriwal contesting from there and becoming a part of the Punjab government. AAP, which had governed and Delhi for a decade, suffered a major setback in the February 5 elections, winning only 22 seats out of 70 in the Assembly elections. The BJP's victory ended AAP's rule in the capital, raising concerns over the party's future. Punjab MLA Narinder Kaur also refuted claims of internal dissent before the meeting, calling the recent meeting a routine strategy session. "Congress should focus on why they got zero seats in Delhi instead of commenting on our party," she said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{c} T_{\text{Tuesday}}^{\text{he Supreme Court on}} & \text{on} \\ \text{Election Commission of} \end{array}$ India's response on the pleas seeking verification of the burnt memory and symbol loading units in EVMs in compliance of its judgement. A special bench comprising Chief Justice Sanijy Khanna



Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann with AAP MLAs talks to the media after a meeting at Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer the Kapurthala House

after the AAP's defeat in the meeting in which Delhi Delhi. Mann said Kejriwal leaders thanked Punjab used the meeting to thank leaders for their efforts in the MLAs for their efforts during party's campaign dissected the loss in the Sharing details, Mann said national capital to take Punjab will set an example forward the learnings from it. The meeting was held at with its work in education,

Kapurthala House. healthcare, electricity, and Responding to Congress leader Partap Bajwa's claims is that he might leave AAP, Bhagwant Mann dismissed accelerating progress and exceeding its guaranteesthem as baseless. Mann also shutting down 17 toll plazas rubbished Congress's claim of and ending multiple pensions dissent in the AAP's state for MLAs, actions never even unit, asserting dedication of According to AAP insiders, its leaders and workers. besides Kejriwal, AAP leaders Partap Singh Bajwa, Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Manish Sisodia and Sandeep Pathak were also present at Assembly, alleged that

and Justice Dipankar Datta asked the poll panel to refrain from erasing or reloading data during the verification process.

The pleas sought a direction to the poll panel to check and verify burnt memory/microcontrollers and the symbol loading unit (SLU) of electronic voting machines (EVM).

The bench asked the poll panel to file its response within 15 days and explain the procedure adopted and posted the matter in the week commencing March 3.

Irked over suppression of the fact relating to a similar petition which was dismissed as withdrawn, the bench said it would not hear a fresh plea filed by former Haryana minister and five-time MLA Karan Singh Dalal seeking a policy for the verification of ÊVMs.

The bench issued notices to the poll panel on the interim application filed by NGO Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and a losing candidate Sarv Mitter, represented bv senior advocate Devadatt Kamat. The top court, in its judgement of April 26, last year, rejected the demand for reverting to the old paper ballot system, saying the polling devices were 'secured" and eliminated

booth capturing and bogus voting. It, however, opened a window for aggrieved unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places in poll results and allowed them to seek

verification of micro controller chips embedded in 5 per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of a fee to the poll panel.

The top court directed that from May 1, last year, the symbol loading units should be sealed and secured in a container and stored in a strongroom along with the EVMs for a minimum of 45 days post-declaration of results

ADR in a fresh plea, said the standard operating procedure of the poll panel for verification of the EVMs was not in accordance with the 2024 judgement passed on its petition in the EVM-VVPAT

Dhankhar questions missing Constitution illustrations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said the Constitution signed by its framers that includes 22 miniatures together with amendments by Parliament is the only authentic one that needs to be promulgated and any violation be taken seriously and dealt with sternly. He said this in the House after BJP MP Radha Mohan Das Agrawal raised the issue of 22 illustrations missing in most copies of the Constitution sold in the country today. He demanded inclusion of the original illustrations, which he alleged have been removed

"unconstitutionally". The issue led to a heated discussion in the House with the Congress staging a walkout, alleging that Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge was not allowed to complete his point on the issue.

"I have no doubt and I am

categorical, the Constitution signed by the founding fathers of the Constitution, carrying 22 miniatures, is the only authentic one and it can include amendments by the Parliament. If there is any change effected by judiciary or any institution, it is

government

not acceptable to this House. "I will appeal to the Leader of the House to ensure that in the country only the authentic version of the Indian Constitution be promulgated. Any violation of this should be taken quite seriously by the government and severe action taken," the Chairman said in the House. Kharge was first given the floor to

speak on the issue, who alleged that the BJP was unnecessarily raising the issue to create a controversy. "They are unnecessarily raising the issue and want to create a controversy on Ambedkar's Constitution. They never raised this issue when Ambedkar, Patel, others were alive...Now they are bringing new



Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge speaks in the Rajya Sabha as Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar looks on during Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi, Tuesday

issues. This is an attempt to create a controversy and defame Ambedkar. This is wrong," Kharge alleged.

who refuted the charges made by Nadda wondered what objection

When Kharge sought to speak further, the Chair gave the floor to the Leader of the House J P Nadda, the House.

does the Congress have on the issue and they should have supported it and urged the government to take action.

^tIt is unfortunate that the Congress leader is trying to seek advantage of the issue by making it political by alleging that attempts are being made to defame Ambedkar and this should be expunged," he said, adding that the publishers should publish the Constitution keeping in view the spirit of the framers. He said they all respected Ambedkar. Nadda said the copies of Constitution being published by publishers do not have the illustrations as pointed out by Agarwal.

He further said the government will ensure publishers publish copies depicting spirit of Constitution and only those are available in the market.

The Chairman later said this was an extremely serious issue as the 22 illustrations carry the depiction of India's 5,000 year old tradition and heritage.



nation 02

MCD Budget 2025-26: No tax hikes, focus BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri demands on cleanliness, education and healthcare

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is unlikely to impose tax hikes in its upcoming budget and will prioritise cleanliness, education, and healthcare. The MCD budget 2025-26 will be presented on Thursday by Commissioner Ashwani Kumar in a special House session. The budget is expected to increase total outlay from last year's ₹16,683 Crore, source said. According to them, the special budget is likely to allocate nearly ₹4,900 Crore for sanitation, up from ₹4,305 Crore, and education around ₹1,660 Crore, up from ₹1,645 in the previous budget last year. More than ₹1,830 Crore may be allotted to health and medical relief, up from ₹1,814 Crore in the previous budget, while ₹393.2 Crore is likely to be set aside for horticulture. Sources said that there



Civic Centre

additional taxes. The civic body had sought approval from Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena to allow the commissioner to present the budget in the absence of a standing committee. the Election While Commission had initially

withheld clearance due to won't be any increments or

the model code of conduct. the LG has now given his green light to the proposal. Traditionally, the MCD budget is presented by the Standing Committee by January 30, allowing opposition parties and councillors time for discussion. However, delays in forming

works

Photo: File photo

the committee and the enforcement of the model code of conduct led to disruptions. A total of 22 MCD councillors contested the recently concluded elections, of which 11 managed to win.

This includes eight councillors from the BJP and three from the AAP.

The winning BJP candidates included Ravinder Negi from Patparganj, Neelam Pehalwan from Najafgarh, Rekha Gupta from Shalimar Bagh, Shikha Roy from Greater Kailash, Umang Bajaj from Rajendra Nagar, Gajender Drall from Mundka, Poonam Sharma Wazirpur from and Chandan Choudhary from Sangam Vihar. three AAP, From

councillors won-Punardeep Sawhney from Chandni Chowk, Prem Chauhan from Deoli and Aaley Mohammad Iqbal from Matia Mahal. According Delhi to Municipal Corporation

(DMC) Act, the budget estimates, after being presented before the standing committee, are amended by the panel and forwarded to the house of councillors to be finalised. The budget process to finalise various municipal tax rates, the Act says, must culminate before February 15

in the house of councillors.

Delhi Secretariat prepares for new BJP Government after 26-year wait

regularisation of 69 Delhi colonies

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

 $B_{\rm Ramvir}^{\rm JP\ MP}$ from South Delhi Bidhuri on Tuesday raised the demand in the Lok Sabha to regularize 69 colonies like Sainik Farm and provide all civic amenities in them. He also said just as a decision has been taken to regularize 1,700 unauthorized colonies. in the same way these colonies should also be regularized. The matter of these colonies is stuck for a long time.

Bidhuri said in the House that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has regularized more than 1,700 colonies of the capital. The work of giving ownership rights and providing civic amenities in these colonies is going on at a fast pace, but a decision has not been taken about 69 colonies like Sainik Farm.

He said the announcement of giving ownership rights and providing civic amenities to these colonies should also be made soon. Permission should also be given to make layout plans of these colonies and to build houses in them as per building bylaws.

Bidhuri said he has also raised Bidhuri saio ne nas use in this matter before Union Union Urban

BJP MP from South Delhi Ramvir Singh Bidhuri

Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. The Delhi High Court also feels that civic amenities should be provided in these colonies.

Last week, the Delhi High Court has asked the Centre to decide on the regularisation of south Delhi's Sainik Farms colony saying the "fate of the colony has to be decided". A bench of Chief Justice DK

Upadhayaya and Tushar Rao Gedela, while dealing with petitions, including one filed in 2015, for the colony's regularisation, said the matter could not be kept pending and asked the Centre's counsel to take "complete instructions". The Centre's affidavit filed earlier said it took a conscious decision to not get into the

regularisation of illegal colonies that were categorised as affluent colonies, like Sainik Farms, and it was presently focusing on the redevelopment work of the 1,797 unauthorised colonies, sub-divided into two classes.

Constructions raised in the affluent colonies like Sainik Farms are protected by law up to December 2023, it added.

Under

department stated that the entry of private individuals

into the Secretariat complex will be allowed only after proper

only after proper verification of their identity

Private security guards

have been instructed to

intensify surveillance on all floors of the Delhi

Secretariat, and officials

have been directed to ensure that CCTV cameras

remain operational on all

The formation of the new

government in Delhi by the

and purpose of visit.

their



BJP keeps Delhi CM suspense alive, announcement expected after PM Modi's US return

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A group of newly-elected Delhi BJP MLAs met party's national president J P Nadda on Tuesday in what was described as a courtesy meeting amid continuing suspense over who will be the next chief minister. Several MLAs said after the meeting discussion over t legislature party meeting or likely chief ministerial choices occurred in the meeting. The Chief Minister face of Delhi is still a suspense as BJP has not made any announcement yet. It is expected that the chief minister for the national capital will be announced upon the return of Prime Minister Narendra Modi from his France and US visit. The legislature party is likely to meet after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from his visit to France and the US. Those who have observed the recent politics are aware of the process of selection. In most of the states, the party's central leadership decided the Chief Minister name after the results and almost all were surprise choices whether it is BJP or Congress

Many of the senior leaders from the organisational point-of-view are first or

second time MLAs. Hence, MLAs like Satish Upadhyay, Ashish Sood, Pawan Sharma, and Shikha Roy have very limited legislative experience. Even a leader like Parvesh Verma, who remained MP for two STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI consecutive terms, has neither any experien ce of

STAFF REPORTER NEW The Delhi Secretariat is being readied to serve as the seat of the new BJP government in power, with changing nameplates of former ministers, repairs and other routine maintenance The BJP, which won 48 of the 70 assembly seats in the polls held on February 5, has returned to power in Delhi after 26 years. A meeting of the BJP legislative party is yet to take place to elect the leader

of official records.

The security at the Delhi senior administration department Secretariat was ramped up on Saturday itself while the (GAD) officer said that routine maintenance works were being speeded up to counting of votes was progressing to ensure safety

ensure the Delhi Secretariat premises was ready to receive the new government.

The nameplates of the Atishi, who resigned as the in previous chief minister on Sunday,

government were removed. their offices were also being spruced up for the new council of ministers.

was urged by the lieutenant documents, electronic files governor to continue on the etc. section/branches. post till formation of the In another order, the

new government. The nameplate outside the working chief minister's office was also removed. The files at different departments were also secured to maintain sanctity of the official records. The GAD of the Delhi

government had last week issued an order for all the departments to ensure that no files, electronic records, documents were moved out of the Delhi Secretariat and camp offices of the ministers without its prior permission.

It directed the department heads for necessary instructions to the branch in charges concerned to ensure safety of records, files,

BJP is expected after Prime Minister Narendra Modi returns from his foreign visit in the weekend.

floors 24x7.

Delhi Traffic Police collects ₹46 Crore in fines in 2024

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Tnion Minister of State for Nitvanand Rai informed the Lok Sabha on 17.26 Lakh challans and 56.53 Tuesday that Delhi Traffic Police collected over ₹46 Crore in 2024 by issuing more than 74 lakh

Crore in 2022 having 14.69 Lakh challans and 59.87 Lakh notices, ₹46.29 Crore in 2024, and ₹40.31 Crore in



governance nor has ever worked at any important organisational post. As they had been wanting to meet Nadda following the party's big win over the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in the Delhi Assembly polls, they were asked to see him at his office in the Parliament building, the MLAs said. Newly elected BJP MLAs-Anil Sharma, Shikha Roy, off. Satish Upadhyay, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Vijendra Gupta, Ajay Mahawar, Rekha Gupta, Kapil Mishra, Kulwant Rana and Dr Anil Goyal, paid a courtesy call to BJP National President JP Nadda in Parliament. Ending its over 26 years spell out of power, the BJP won 48 seats in the elections to the 70-member assembly, relegating the AAP to a distant second with 22

▲ joint Delhi Police team Alooking for AAP MLA from Okhla, Amanatullah Khan, who has been booked for allegedly threatening and assaulting Crime Branch officers during an operation in Jamia Nagar. According to sources, multiple raids were also conducted but the MLA was not found and his mobile phone was also switched-

of the House who will be the

new chief minister of Delhi.

The FIR, registered at Jamia Nagar police station, accuses Khan and his associatesand Laddan, Muneer, Farman—of obstructing a police raid and facilitating the escape of a wanted criminal. According to the FIR, on February 10, a Crime Branch team was tracking down Shavej, a proclaimed offender wanted for attempt to murder. Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Sub-Inspector Bir Pal reached Jogabai Extension near Al Taqua Mosque around 3:00 p.m. and located Shavej.



allegedly assaulting Crime Branch Officers

However, before the officers could take further action, Khan allegedly arrived with 20-25 men, aggressively questioning the presence of law enforcement, as per FIR. The FIR further revealed that despite police identifying themselves and displaying their ID cards, Khan allegedly snatched an officer's ID, physically assaulted the team, and made grave threats. The FIR quotes Khan and his supporters as saying: "This area belongs to us. If you do not

leave immediately, you will not make it out alive. If we raise our voice, so many people will gather that you will disappear without a trace. Your police and court documents will be of no use here. Do you even know who I am? I can have your uniform removed. Another case against me makes no difference—I will get rid of you right here, and no one will be left to testify against it." Khan and his associates then allegedly freed Shavej by force, preventing officers from

leaving behind the snatched ID card.

making calls for backup. By the

time reinforcements arrived,

The case has been registered at Jamia Nagar police station, which falls under southeast district jurisdiction, under sections 221 (obstruction of public servants while they are performing their duties), 132 (criminal force or assault against a public servant while they are performing their duties), 121 (voluntarily duties), causing hurt or grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty), 191 (rioting), 190 (unlawful assembly), 263 resistance or obstruction to lawful apprehension of another person). 351 (criminal intimidation), intimidation), and 111 (organised crime) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Amanatullah Khan is a prominent AAP leader who has been representing the Okhla constituency since 2015.

challans and notices. Responding to a written reply about the number of traffic violations in various categories, Rai said the city police have issued a total of 23.09 Lakh challans and 51.41 Lakh notices regarding traffic violations for various offences in 2024 and collected ₹46.29 crore.

According to the police, challans are issued by the traffic personnel on-site while notices are generated online though the traffic violation detection cameras. In last five years, the maximum amount of ₹213 Crore was collected in 2020 when police had issued 10.99 lakh challans and 85.94 Lakh notices. This was followed by ₹98.45 Crore in 2021 when there were 13.23 Lakh challans and 66.03 lakh notices, ₹74.46

Lakh notices, Rai stated. The Delhi Police has informed that the main reasons behind reported increase in traffic violations in the city are an increase in vehicular traffic in Delhi and adjoining areas, lack of awareness among the commuters and strict enforcement of rules by Delhi

Police among others, he

mentioned. The city police has taken various measures to create awareness in the public about diligent driving and road sense, which inter-alia include road safety programmes in schools, colleges, and public places; awareness programmes conducted with road users and commuters; training of both drivers and traffic police officers on road safety and accident prevention; and Intensified enforcement efforts, etc., Rai added

Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena and Netherlands Ambassador Marisa Gerards inaugurate NDMC Tulip Festival

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELH

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena and Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands Marisa Gerards on Tuesday inaugurated the NDMC Tulip Festival - 2025 and both participated in Tulip walk. They also visited Tulip exhibition organized by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at Shanti Path, Chankyapuri in the presence of NDMC Chairperson Keshav Chandra and Vice Chairman Kuljeeet Singh Chahal After

inaugurating the Tulip Festival, NDMC Tulip Saxena congratulated NDMC for its effort and the gardeners who have nurtured the flowers with hard work and have spread beauty here with the bloom of these flowers and said that this year 3.25 lakh tulips have

been planted. Some Tulips have also been planted in 20 parks of DDA this time.

seats

As many as 15, 000 tulips have been produced in Palanpur at Himachal Pardesh, developed in India itself which are also planted in New Delhi. Our aim is to minimize the dependence on imports in the next four years. He said we have to make Delhi more beautiful, for which such efforts will continue. The friendship that has been formed with the Netherlands due to this cooperation, a tulip plant has been named "Maitri".

On the occasion, Ambassador of Netherlands said we're planting the tulips to celebrate, the friendship between our two countries. We could see that the city of Delhi was doing so well by growing the tulips. But, of course, there is much more friendly relationship that that binds our two countries goes back a long way. We management,



Delhi LG Vinai Kumar Saxena and Netherlands Ambassador Marisa Gerards during the inauguration of Tulip Festival

together than just tulips. We share a strong and

collaborate in important sectors, such as agriculture, health, water

innovation. We are very many strong partners in these areas, she added. After the success and and

PTI

appreciation from the large public of different walks of life in the last two years, NDMC is going to welcome the spring season with its blooming Tulips in the heart of Capital City of India -New Delhi by organizing its third edition of NDMC Tulip Festival – 2025.

NDMC began planting its Tulip Bulbs in 2017-18 as a trial to assess the seasonal suitability. Starting with 17,000 bulbs of Tulip, this initiative has since grown significantly becoming an annual tradition of floral beautification of New Delhi. This initiative has proved a great success, making NDMC the first civic body in India to plant these precious

flowers in public space. This year, NDMC imported 3.25 Lakh Tulip Bulbs and planted 2.25 lakhs in open space in which 1.46 L akh Tulip Bulbs alone were

planted at Shanti Path in

Chankyapuri area. As a trial through storage and multiplication, 10,880 large bulbs were produced and these also have been planted. In collaboration the Institute of with Himalayan Bio resources Technology – CSIR, 14735 Bulbs were produced at Palanpur in Himachal Pradesh and received to plant in this Tulip Festival.

For the first time NDMC has made the potted plants of one lakh Tulip Bulbs and has put it up for sale to make them available to the general public at Shanti Path Lawn, Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, Talkatora Garden, Central Park, and NDMC nurseries (Safdarjung Madarsa, Gurudwara Park, Purana Quila Road etc).

In this spring session, the Tulip Bulbs are blooming at the different location of New

Delhi area like Shanti Path Lawn, Central Park at Connaught Place, NDMC Convention Centre Lawn, Lodhi Garden, Talkatora Garden, Sardar Patel Marg, Mandi House, Windsor Place, Shershah Suri Marg and at many Round Abouts. New Delhi is adorned with vibrant shades of blooming Tulips in red, white, yellow, purple, pink, bicolor and orange.

\Tulips are now in full bloom adding a spectacular splash of color to prominent NDMC areas. The public is enjoying these floral displays in open

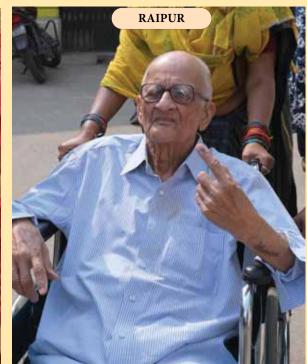
spaces. An exhibition is also organized based on the history of Tulips and the variety of Tulips with history of monuments around the Shantipath that are displayed at Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi in surrounding of the blooming Tulips.



chhattisgarh 03



A differently able woman Kunwar Bai came to the polling station in Kanker city on wheel-chair to cast her vote.



84-year-old Narendra Jain exercised his franchise at Madhav Rao Sapre School polling station in Raipur.



BJP's Ambikapur mayoral candidate Manjusha Bhagat and her family members cast their vote in Ambikapur.



BJP's former MP and Rajnandgaon mayoral candidate Madhusudan Yadav and his family cast their votes at a polling station in Motipur school in Rajnandgaon city.



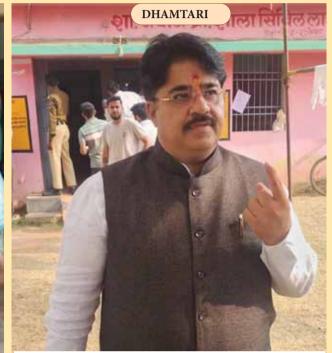
BJP's Durg mayoral candidate Alka Baghmar exercised her franchise at Kotul Board Ward-60 in a steel colony in Durg city.



BJP's Jagdalpur mayoral candidate Sanjay Pandey and his family members exercised their franchise at a polling booth in Jagdalpur city.



BJP's Korba mayoral candidate Sanju Devi Rajput exercised her franchise along with her family members in Korba city.



BJP's Dhamtari mayoral candidate Jagdish Ramu Rohra exercised his franchise at Government Primary School in Civil Lines in Dhamtari city.

Bank

Authorised Office

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited

Cong to win majority of seats: PCC Chief



Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief Deepak Baij claimed that the mandate will come in his party's favour in the urban body elections for voting concluded on Tuesday. Voters' anger was clearly

visible at the polling booths, he claimed. The government has

city. The incident took place disappointed the people by failing to fulfil the promises

Rs 50 lakh looted in a broad daylight robbery

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

 $U_{\rm including\ a\ woman\ on}^{\rm nidentified\ persons}$ Tuesday looted cash worth Rs 50 lakh and jewelery in broad daylight on polling day in Chhattisgarh capital

around 3 pm in Anupam



IDFC FIRST Bank Limited Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792





Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with [rule 3] of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notices calling upon the Borrower/ Co-borrowers and Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the demand notice appended below within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice together with further interest and other charges from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

The Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules,



RAIPUR

Titing people's anger Citing people's anger existing on the ground against the BJP government,

elections, he said. People are disappointed due to the deteriorating law and order-daily murders, rapes,

Nagar locality in Raipur city, made during the assembly Raipur Superintendent of Police also (Crime) Sandeep Mittal said. Around four to five

persons entered into the residence of victim Manohar loots, and and stabbings, he Velu. They looted the money and ornaments at a gun

others, the official added. po After being alerted, the mo land deal.

SOUTH EAST CENT

Tender Notice No.: E

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our website: Engineer - II, ntral Railway, Raipur Methods and in exercise 12002 and in exercise	44864324	1. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI (IN THE CAPACITY OF AVAILABLE LEGAL HEIR OF LATE JAGDISH PATEL), 2. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI,	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND AREA 0.008 HECT. (861 SQ. FT. OR 80.01 SQ. MTRS.) PART OF KHASRA NO. 317/2, SITUATED AT VILLAGE: HATKESHWAR, P.H. NO. 31, R.I.C- BHOTHLI, TEHSI: DHAMTARI, DISTRICT: DHAMTARI, CHHATTISGARH-493773, AND BOUNDED AS:EAST: LAND OF DHANIRAM, WEST: LAND OF DILIP PATEL NORTH: LAND OF DILIP PATEL SOUTH: NAGAR NIGAM CALL	16.10.2024	Rs. 14,90,715.62/-	06-02-2025 Symbolic Possession
fpowers conferred on in general are hereby amount as mentioned exAct. If the borrower ed for sale or transfer, transfer or sale of the Date of Date of Demand Posse Notice ssion 19-Nov 06-Feb 2024 2025	142520541	1. JAGANNATH DAS MAHANT, 2. KAJAL MAHANT, 3. PUNI DAS MAHANT, 4. SHAKUNTALA BAI MAHANT	ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF LAND ON KHASRA NO. 542/8 (PART OF KH. NO. 542/1), AREA 0.024 HECT., SITUATED AT VILLAGE KHARSIA, OLD P.H. NO. 11, NEW P.H. NO. 22, R.N.M/TAHSIL KHARSIA, DISTT. RAIGARH, CHHATTISGARH-496661, AND, BOUNDED AS: EAST: GALI . WEST: LAND OF GOVIND NORTH: LAND OF DILESHWAR SOUTH: LAND OF JAGMOHAN	05.10.2024	RS. 10,63,730.92/-	06-02-2025 Symbolic Possession

The Borrower/ Co-borrowers/ Guarantors 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 IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and

amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount mentioned in the demand notice together with further interest and other charges

Elderly, disabled set example for CRPF jawan injured in IED blast others in urban bodies polls

said.

STAFF REPORTER

RAIPUR

 $E^{\rm lderly}$ and disabled voters in Chhattisgarh turned up with enthusiasm on Tuesday to exercise their franchise to elect local representatives in urban body elections.

Voter buddies were deployed to assist them.

Utilising the facilities, 104-year-old Sakina Begum and 100-year-old Kalavati Devi graced the polling stations in Surajpur and set an example for others. Disabled voters, 79-year-old Anand Yadav in Janjgir and 62-year-old Meenu Singh in Bilaspur casted their votes and called upon others to do their part. They said that voting was not a



right but a duty, which everyone should fulfil. Unlike the Assembly and Lok Sabha elections, they did not have the facility of home voting. A total of 173 civic bodies,

comprising 10 municipal corporations, 49 municipal councils, and 114 nagar panchayats, went to poll in a single phase. The results will be declared on February 15.



Jagargunda are exercise, Dantewa Gaurav Rai said.

The CRPF's 231 battalion was out on the operation, he added. CRPF head constable MN

10	Tuesday in an IED	1
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Sec.1	Maoists in	l
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	of Chhattisgarh. The	ĥ
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Shukla was injured in the blast. He was administered preliminary treatment and airlifted to Raipur for better medical facilities.

POSSESSION NOTICE - (for immovable property) Rule 8-(1)

e undersigned being the Authorized Officer of IIFL Home Finance Limited (Formety known as India Infolir FU under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act onferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, a Demand M ed Officer of the company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to repay the amount mer Maghi Punni Mela' to its original grandeur, renaming it as 'Rajim e company to the borrowers / co-borrowers mentioned herein below to of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amo

all the bubble in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of In under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower in particular and the public in under with interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the ass the dues of the "IHE-HE-T together with all costs, charges and expenses incurred, at any time before the date fixed assets essets shall not be sold or transferred by "IFL HFL" and no further step shall be taken by "IFL HFL" for the rourd assets. These festivals play a in me of the Borrower(s)/ Description of secured asset (immovable property) Co-Borrower(s) All that piece and parcel of Flat No 301, 3rd Floor, Block A, Dues (R Mr. Fag Das Satnami, Kamal Vihar, LIG12 Flats, Sector 1, Kamal Vihar, Raipur, Rs. 589508.004 Dues (Rs.)

Mrs. Dasmat Satnami Mrs. Mamta Barle (Prospect No.IL10454560)	492004, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Saleable_Area, Carpet_Area, Super_Built_Up_Area, Property Area: 415.59, 322.27, 619.89	Five Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Eight Only)	19-Nov 2024	06-Feb 2025
Mr. Lakhmichand Dakhanmal Thakur Mrs. Rajni Thakur Satguru Boot House (Prospect No.IL10655025)	All that piece and parcel of LIG Flat No 522, 5th Floor, Block H, Sector 4, Vikas Yojana- 4(Kamal Vihar), Rda , Raipur, Chhattisgarh, 492001, Area Admeasuring (IN SQ. FT.): Property Type: Carpet_Area, Built_Up_Area , Super_Built_Up_Area, PropertyArea: 645.29, 740.44, 1005.77	Rs. 1497858.00/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Eight Only)	21-Oct 2024	06-Feb 2025
	ase Contact To Authorised Officer At Branch Office: 1st Floo aipur, CG 492001 /or Corporate Office: Plot No.98, Phase-iv,	Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon, Harya	ana. uthorised	Officer,

Chhattisgarh and neighbouring states. Date: 12/02/2025

STAFF REPORTER DANTEWADA

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'Rajim Kumbh Kalp' from today Chief Minister

Vishnu Deo Sai extended

his greetings and urged

devotees to participate in

large numbers.

STAFF REPORTER RAJIM

↓he annual 'Rajim ▲ Kumbh Kalp' will be held from February 12 to 26 at Chhattisgarh's cultural hub, Rajim city.

The pilgrimage festival, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, is being held at the confluence of the Mahanadi, Pairi, and Sondur rivers.

The Shivrinarayan fair will also be held restored the 'Rajim alongside it.

state. He remarked that his government has

devotees. He said that this is not just a religious event but an effort see gatherings of saints, towards preserving and enhancing cultural and spiritual heritage of the

Rajim is the Prayag of crucial role Chhattisgarh and is strengthening the state's prepared to host the rich traditions and spiritual consciousness, he said. The festival will

> religious discourses, vibrant displays of folk

Kumbh Kalp?

culture, and a large number of devotees from

Date: 06-02-2025 Place: CHHATTISGARH For IIFL Home Fin

from the date of demand notice till payment/realization.

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Indian economy seeing speedy rebound: Nirmala Sitharaman PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

inance Minister Nirmala Finance Minister Tuesday said that the Indian economy is seeing a "speedy rebound' from 5.4 per cent growth clocked in the second quarter of the current fiscal, and the government shall take measures to ensure that India remains the world's fastestgrowing economy.

Replying to discussions on the Union Budget for 2025-26 in the Lok Sabha, the finance minister said the Budget has taken various steps to increase liquidity in the hands of people while maintaining fiscal prudence by using 99 per cent of the borrowing in FY'26 to fund capital expenditure. She also said that inflation management receives the highest priority of this government with retail inflation within the tolerance band of 2-6 per cent. Inflation trend, particularly in food, appears to be moderating, she added. Speaking about GDP growth, Sitharaman said in the three years prior to 2024-25, the country's GDP growth rate averaged about 8 per cent. The Indian economy is pro-

jected to grow at 6.4 per cent in the current fiscal - the lowest pace in four years. The Finance Ministry's Economic Survey has projected growth in next fiscal FY'26 to be between 6.3 per cent to 6.8 per



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi

Sitharaman said only in two out of 12 quarters, India's growth rate touched 5.4 or remained below it. The GDP growth in the second quarter (July-September) slowed to 7 per cent-quarter low of 5.4 per cent.

...On account of strong economic foundation, a speedy rebound is happening, and we shall take measures which will going forward, help in keeping our economy growing fastest as in the last few years. We will continue to remain the fastest-growing economy," the minister said.

Sitharaman said the private final consumption expenditure is expected to grow by 7.3 per cent in the current fiscal driven by a good rural demand. The private final consumption

expenditure is estimated to be 61.8 per cent of the nominal GDP, which is the highest since 2002-03, she added. Sitharaman said the effective capital expenditure in FY'26 is ₹15.48 Lakh Crore, which is 4.3 per cent of GDP.

The Government is targeting a fiscal deficit of ₹15.68 Lakh Crore, which is 4.4 per cent of

the GDP in FY'26. Fiscal deficit is the difference between government revenue and expenditure and the gap is met by market borrowings. .. The government is using almost the entire borrowed resources for financing effec-

tive capital expenditure. So the borrowings are not going for revenue expenditure or committed expenditure, or

any of those kinds. It is going only for creating capital assets.

"So, in effect, the government intends to use about 99 per cent of borrowed resources to

expenditure in the upcoming year," she said in the Lok . Sabha.

Sitharaman said the Budget has come in a time of immense uncertainties, changes in the global macroeconomic environment, stagnating global growth and sticky inflation.

The world's scenario in the last 10 years turned 180 degrees, and making Budget is more challenging now than ever before, she said, adding Budget balances national development necessities with fiscal priorities.

On the weakening of rupee against the US dollar, the minister said various global and domestic factors are influencing the value of rupee

The Indian rupee has depreciated 3.3 per cent against the US dollar between October 2024 and January 2025, but the decline has been lower than that in some of its Asian peers. South Korean Won and Indonesian Rupiah depreciated by 8.1 per cent and 6.9 per cent, respectively in this peri-od. Further, all G-10 currencies also depreciated during this period by more than 6 per cent with Euro and British Pound depreciating by 6.7 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively. respectively.

Sitharaman also said there has been no cut in transfer to states and ₹25.01 Lakh Crore will be transferred in FY'26.

Speaker Om Birla defends Sanskrit interpretation amid DMK objections



Delhi

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and DMK MP Dayanidhi Maran during the Budget session of Parliament, in New

against the US dollar.

NEW DELHI $D_{\text{Maran on Tuesday}}^{\text{MK MP Dayanidhi}}$ alleged that taxpayers' money was being wasted by providing simultaneous interpretation of Lok Sabha proceedings in Sanskrit due to RSS ideology, prompting Speaker Om Birla to hit back saying Sanskrit has been the primary language of India.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

A visibly upset Birla said simultaneous interpretation of House proceedings was not limited to Sanskrit alone but other recognised languages too.

"Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Ĥindi and Sanskrit," Birla said. Soon after the Question Hour

concluded, Birla said he was happy to announce that six more languages - Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit and Urdu - have been included in the list of languages in which simultaneous interpretation was available for members.

He said besides English and Hindi, simultaneous interpretation is available in Assamese, Bangla, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odiya, Punjabi,

Tamil and Telugu. When Birla made the announcement, DMK mem-bers started raising slogans prompting the Speaker to ask Maran what his "problem" was. Maran said while he welcomed simultaneous interpretation of official state languages, he had objections to Sanskrit interpretation as it was "not communicable". He cited the 2011 population survey to claim that Sanskrit was spoken by 73,000 people. "Why should taxpayers' money be wasted because of

Photo: File photo

nation 04

RSS ideology," he said. Birla hit back, asking the DMK member which country he was residing in. "This is Bharat and its primary lan-guage has been Sanskrit. I said 22 languages, not Sanskrit alone. Why do you object to Sanskrit. There are 22 recognised languages in Parliament. Simultaneous interpretation will take place in Hindi as well as Sanskrit," he asserted.

Government to use AI to crack down on Cyber fraud

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The government is planning to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) identify 'mule' accounts, where cyber fraudsters park swindled funds, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has said. Chairing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs on the topic of 'Cyber Security and Cyber Crime' on Monday, Shah also said that for national security reasons, 805 apps and 3,266 website links have been blocked based on the recommendations of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), the government's cyberime monitoring and detection Additionally, he said, 399 banks and financial intermediaries have come on board, over six lakh suspicious data points have been shared, more than 19 lakh mule accounts have been caught, and suspicious transactions worth ₹ 2,038 Crore have been prevent-Shah said efforts are underway to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for identifying mule accounts, in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and all banks to establish a system for their detection, an official statement said. The home minister said the government will ensure the closure of mule accounts before they even become operational. A mule account is a bank account used by criminals to move stolen money. He said a total of 1,43,000 FIRs have been registered on the I4C portal which has been used by more than 19 Crore people. In light of financial cyber fraud, the '1930' helpline provides a one-



point solution offering various the last decade and without services, such as blocking cards, understanding the size and scale of this digital revolution, "we can-Shah said not face the challenges in the He said the government has also ensured that people are made cyber domain", the home minaware of Prime Minister ister said. Narendra Modi's mantra 'STOP-

Today, 95 per cent villages in the ligitally connected,

Trouble mounts for Ranveer Allahbadia: YouTube blocks controversial episode

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NFW DFI HI

Aday after he hit the spotlight with a comment on parents and sex, trouble mounted for influencer Ranveer Allahbadia on Tuesday with Mumbai police at his doorstep, YouTube pulling down the episode of "India's Got Latent" and the issue being raised in Parliament.

The internet personality, with over 16 Million followers across social media platforms, landed in soup after the clip with his comments started making the rounds on social media on Monday and led to massive debate on freedom of speech and what constitutes decency. Allahbadia tried to defuse the situation by issuing a video apology where he called his comment a "lapse in judgeent" but the is



to die down. Raising the matter in Parliament during Zero Hour, Shiv Sena MP Naresh Mhaske called for a law to regulate social media. He said there was a need to enact a law to regulate social media platforms where influencers are posting "all kinds of nonsense" in the name of freedom of speech. "The inappropriate

be censored. There should be censorship on influencers' content, and today I also raised this issue in Parliament, suggesting that action should be taken against them. If such individuals continue to spread negativity, action should be taken against them," Mhaske said PTI.

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday asked Allahabadia, Samay Raina, Apoorva Makhija, Jaspreet Singh, and Ashish Chanchlani, as well as the show's producers Tushar Poojari and Saurabh Bothra to appear before it on February 17 in New Delhi.

The summons came after Women and Child Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi said her ministry will seek a report from the NCW in this regard. The NCW also urged

Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to take immediate regulatory measures to address the prevalence of obscene content on various Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms and social-media streaming sites. Following orders from the government, YouTube India has blocked the episode in which the controversial comment was

"The 'India Has Latent' (India's Got Latent) episode on @YouTube with obscene and perverse comments by Ranveer Allahbadia has been blocked following Government of India orders," Kanchan Gupta, senior adviser in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, said in a post on X.

A team of Mumbai Police was spotted outside Allahbadia's residence on Tuesday. The YouTuber is facing police complaints in Guwahati and Indore. The Maharashtra Cyber Department has also registered the case under relevant sections of the IT Act and sought removal of all episodes - total 18 - of the comedy show.

Summonses are being sent to about 30 guests who have participated in the show from the first episode till now, a police

-TAKE ACTION' to make them more vigilant against cybercrime

In recent years, there has been an expansion of digital infrastructure in India, which has naturally led to an increase in the number of cyber attacks, the home minister said. When the cyberspace is looked

at from a different perspective, it forms a complex network of 'software', 'services', and 'users', he noted.

"Until we consider controlling cyber fraud through software, services, and users, it will be impossible to resolve the issues of cyberspace," he said.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several significant steps towards making India a cyber-safe nation, Shah said.

He added that cybercrime has erased all geographical bound-aries and called it a 'borderless' and 'formless' crime, as it has no limits or fixed form. India has witnessed a 'digital revolution' in

while one lakh gram panchayats are equipped with Wi-Fi hotspots, he said.

In the past 10 years, the number of internet users has increased by 4.5 times and in 2024, a total of 246 trillion transactions worth ₹17.221 Lakh Crore were made through UPI.

In 2024, 48 per cent of global digital transactions took place in India, and in terms of the startup ecosystem, India has become the third-largest country in the world, Shah said. In 2023, he said, the contribution of the digital economy to the gross domestic product (GDP) was around ₹32 Lakh Crore, which is 12 per cent, while nearly 15 million jobs were created in this period. Shah also said that today India has become the third-largest country in the world in terms of digital landscape, and the digital

economy contributes 20 per cent to the total economy of the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs' goal is to ensure zero cybercrime case, he said.

ev said vesterday should expressed strong concern

Jairam Ramesh opposes Aravalli safari Haryana to project, citing ecological concerns

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Tuesday backed calls for scrapping the proposed Aravalli Zoo Safari project in south Haryana, saying the pur-pose of any intervention there should be conservation and restoration, not destruction or monetisation.

Ramesh shared on social media a letter written by a group of retired Indian Forest Services officers to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to put an end to the "destructive" Aravalli Zoo Safari project proposed in the Delhi-bordering state.

'Thirty seven retired Indian Forest Services officers from across the country have written a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to put an end to the destructive Aravalli Zoo Safari project proposed in south Haryana," the former Union environment minister said. The Aravalli forests in Haryana

are arguably the most degraded forests in the country and are particularly important for ecological balance in a state that has the lowest forest cover in India, the former environment minister said. "In this context, the primary purpose of any intervention in this eco-sensitive area should be conservation and restoration, not destruction or monetisation,"

Ramesh said The letter read that the Aravalli Mountain System is under highly stressed conditions due to anthropogenic activities and it needs Prime Minister Modi's attention to save the ecological and geological heritage.

scientific Recent studies/researches have exposed the severe unrepairable environmental damages that have taken place due to ongoing land use changes in the Aravallis. The studies reveal that the continuous destruction of these fragile hill ecosystems is causing significant irreversible biodiversity losses," the letter said.

The officers said the primary purpose of any intervention in an eco-sensitive area should be conservation and restoration and not destruction.

"Around 2009, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram declared a biodiversity park and partnered with civil society, corporates and residents to plant trees and restore the forest. Today, it has nearly 200 species of native plants, 183 species of birds, numerous species of reptiles and insects," it pointed out. Gurugram and Nuh Aravallis

need rewilding of natural forests like this and not destructive zoo safari projects, the letter dated February six said. "Therefore, Forests are essential lungs for breathing and sustenance of humans.

build jungle safari in Gurugram

STAFF REPORTER GURUGRAM

The Haryana Government is making all efforts to ensure that tourists get international-level facilities in the world's largest jungle safari proposed in Gurugram.

In continuation of this, Environment, Forest and Wildlife Minister Rao Narbir Singh is constantly visiting major wildlife rescue centers and jungle safaris in the country and abroad, taking stock of the measures taken to preserve wildlife there and the facilities being provided to visitors in the jun-

gle safari. The Environment Minister, along with departmental officials associated with the project, visited the Gorewada Wildlife Safari in Nagpur, Maharashtra and Vantara Wildlife Rescue Center in Jamnagar, Gujarat and directed the concerned officials to study the best services and facilities provided there. He said the jungle safari to be built in Gurugram will be the world's largest jungle safari, so his effort is to provide the best mix of all the best wildlife rescue centers and jungle safaris in the world here

He said the start of this project in the Aravalli mountain range will increase the footfall of tourists, create employment opportunities locally and promote tourism.

India, Egypt kick off Joint Special Forces Exercise Cyclone-III

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The third edition of Joint Special Forces Exercise Cyclone involving India and Egypt commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan on Monday, defence ministry announced on Tuesday. The exercise will end on February 23. It is an annual event con-

ducted alternatively in India and Egypt. Last edition of the same exer-

cise was conducted in Egypt in January last year. The Indian contingent comprising 25 personnel will be represented by troops from two Special Forces Battalions.

Egypt contingent also com-

represented by Special Forces Group and Task Force of Egyptian Special Forces.

Aim of Exercise Cyclone is to promote military-military relationship between the two rain. countries through enhancement of interoperability, jointness and mutual exchange of special opera-

tions tactics. The exercise will focus on high degree of physical fitness, joint planning and joint tactical drills.

Drills aspects to be rehearsed during the exercise will include advanced special forces skills and various other tactics, techniques and procedures as per the current operational paradigm.

prising 25 personnel will be The exercise will culminate in a 48-hour long validation exercise to rehearse and validate the tactical drills for

counter terrorism operations in desert semi-desert ter-

The exercise will also include a display of indigenous military equipment and an overview of the defence manufacturing industry for the Egyptian side. The drill will enable the two sides to share their best practices in tactics, techniques and procedures of conducting tactical opera-tions. The exercise will also facilitate developing bonhomie and camaraderie between soldiers of both the

sides.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Panchayati Raj S P Singh Baghel will release the comprehensive Devolution Index Report on panchayats in the country on Thursday. It will provide insights into the progress of decentralisation across states and Union Territories, the ministry said on Tuesday.

The Panchayati Raj Ministry in a statement issued here said the report titled "Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States - An Indicative Evidence Based Ranking 2024", will be released by the Minister on February 13. The ministry said it marks a milestone in India's journey towards empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and realizing the vision of "Local Self Government" of the 73rd



Panchayati Raj Ministry to release Devolution Index Report

Minister of state for Panchayati Raj S P Singh Baghel

istry said.

Functions,

Functionaries, Capacity Building, Constitutional Amendment. "The Devolution Index, a result of meticulous research and empirical analysis, provides insights into the progress of decentralisation across States and Union Territories," the min-Going beyond conventional metrics, the Index evaluates six critical dimensions: Framework,

Finances,

and Accountability of the Panchayats. "The Index specifically examines how 'free' Panchayats are to make and implement independent decisions, reflecting the true spirit of Article 243G of the Constitution. This article empowers State legislatures to devolve powers and responsibilities to Panchayats across 29 subjects listed in the

Photo: File photo

Eleventh Schedule," they said. The ministry added that the Devolution Index will serve as a tool for strengthening cooperative federalism and local self-governance, enabling States to identify areas for improvement and adopt best practices for more empowered and effective Panchayats. It said the index will provide

transparency in tracking Panchayat functioning and resource allocation for citizens, data-driven insights for advocacy and reform for elected representatives, and will serve as a roadmap for implementing effective decentralization policies for government officials.

Policymakers can use the Devolution Index to assess the overall health of local governance and identify where reforms are most urgently needed, the ministry added.



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Pilgrims fleeced as costs soar at Maha Kumbh Rajnath Singh calls for innovative approaches in global security

PT

BISWAJEET BANERJEE PRAYAGRAJ

the Maha Kumbh, pilgrims are facing severe price gouging for essential services. From exorbitant boat fares to overpriced food and transport, those arriv-ing with faith and devotion are being forced to shell out thou-sands even before stepping foot

into the sacred ghats. A boat ride to the Sangam, which is officially priced at ₹150 per person, has become a luxu-ry few can afford. Boatmen are demanding anywhere between ₹1,000 and ₹1,500, leaving pil-grims with little choice. "This is extortion in the name of reli-gion," fumed Ashok Verma, who had come from Lucknow with his family. "We wanted to take a holy dip, not be robbed him di" blind!

Some pilgrims, especially the elderly, are struggling to pay such hefty amounts. "I saved for years to come to the Kumbh, but I never imagined I would be spending thousands just to get to the Sangam," said a visibly upset Geeta Devi from Madhubani, Bihar.



Devotees converging at the sangam for the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagra

Parking to mela ground: A pricey journey

The ordeal does not end at the river. Pilgrims arriving by car or bus are facing another financial hurdle-transport from the parking bays to the mela ground. With no regulated local transport, opportunistic youth are charging ₹500 for a ride cover-ing barely two kilometers. "I could have walked if I was not

carrying my luggage," said Somnath Sanyal, a Prayagraj resident. "But ₹500 for such a short ride? It feels like we are being looted at every step before we even reach the Kumbh!" Even basic necessities like food and tea have seen a steep price hike. "A simple meal that should cost ₹50 is being sold for ₹150," complained Sunita Yadav, a school teacher from Jhansi.

"And tea? ₹30 for a cup of water with a hint of milk. If this is not loot, what is?" Some vendors are justifying the prices, citing high demand and transportation costs. But for middle-class and poor devotees, the sudden spike in expenses is forcing them to cut back. "We are sharing one meal between three people," said Anwar Sheikh, who traveled from West Bengal with his family. "Faith alone cannot fill an empty stomach." Relief and comfort inside the mela grounds

mela grounds However, once inside the Kumbh Mela grounds, pilgrims breathed a sigh of relief. "Everything is well-organised here. The police are managing crowds, toilets are available, and langars (community kitchens) are feeding thousands," said Rajesh Mishra from Varanasi. Rajesh Mishra from Varanasi. "The trouble is just getting here!

here!" Many were also touched by the kindness of locals, especially women who allowed female pilgrims to use their home toi-lets due to the lack of proper sanitation along the roads. "These women are our saviors," said Sarojini Devi, a devotee from Chhattisgarh. "Had it not been for them, the journey would have been unbearable?

With the Kumbh attracting millions daily, the unchecked overpricing has left pilgrims frustrated. Many are now calling for stricter enforcement of govern-ment rates. "The government has done a great job inside the Kumbh, but what about outside? Who is controlling the looters?" questioned Ramesh Gupta from Kanpur.

PNS BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday asserted that the evolving global security scenario demands innovative approaches and stronger partnerships.

Addressing the Defence Ministers' Conclave organised as part of the Aero India 2025, he said, India believes that international order and peace cannot be ensured from a posi-

tion of weakness. "Today, increasing number of conflicts is making our world, a more unpredictable place. New power plays, new methods and new means of weaponisation, increased role of non-state actors and disruptive technologies, have made the world order more fragile," the defence minister said.

At the same time, the distinction between security of the borders and internal security is getting blurred, as hybrid warfare can target critical national infrastructure even during the peace time, he said, "The definition of front line is changing fast today. Moreover, the dimensions of cyberspace and outer space are challenging the established definition of sovereignty."

"It is my firm belief that the evolving global security sce-nario demands innovative approaches and stronger partnerships. India's engagements in the global stage exemplifies our commitment to fostering security and growth for all," he added.

According to officials, the Defence Ministers' Conclave, organised in hybrid mode, is aimed at strengthening defence cooperation with friendly nations amidst a rapidly-evolving global security landscape, and this year's theme 'Building Resilience through International Defence and Global Engagement (BRIDGE) underscores the importance of supply chain resilience and strategic collaboration in defence.

Officials had earlier said that representatives from more than 80 countries were likely to participate in the conclave and around 30 defence ministers in addition to defence, service chiefs and permanent secretaries from friendly nations would attend the event. Reiterating India's conviction



Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh addresses the Defence Minister Conclave 'Bridge' at Aero India, in Bengaluru

on being strong to ensure peace, the defence minister said, "We have been working very hard, to bring about a transformation in our defence capabilities. We have put in place a very conducive policy regime which encourages investment in and production of an entire range of modern state-of-the-art land, maritime and air systems."

India's emergence as a global hub for research, development,

hub for research, development, and innovation in defence is a testament to our capabilities and aspirations, he added. "Today, we have a vibrant defence startup ecosystem with-in the larger Indian startup ecosystem, which ranks third globally in terms of unicorn globally in terms of unicorn count," Rajnath said.

'Our thriving aerospace and defence sectors, supported by a significant research and development base and an entrepre-neurial spirit, offer unparalleled opportunities for collaboration," he added.

Pointing out that India's skill base enables it to produce at highly competitive costs, and the country is committed to share state-of-the-art defence equipment, hardware, services and technology with friends and partners, Rajnath told countries attending the con-clave, "I invite you to join us in co-developing and co-produc-ing advanced systems and fos-

tering innovation together." India's defence diplomacy reflects our commitment to building enduring bilateral and multilateral relationships. "Our approach emphasises mutual capacity building, prosperity and security for the sovereignty of our partner nations," he said

"We do not believe in transactional relationships or impos-ing solutions. Indian solutions are not prescriptive. Instead, we aim to empower our partners to chart their own paths, through support that aligns with their national priorities," he added. India's position as a preferred partner for defence exports is reinforced by adherence to quality, reliability and commitment to the specific needs of partners, the defence minis-

ter said. "Our defence industry is well-equipped to meet diverse requirements, from cuttingedge technology to cost-effec-tive solutions," he added.

The challenges like terrorism, cyber-crime, humanitarian crises and climate-induced dis-

asters, transcend borders, and they demand a united response, he said.

The BRIDGE initiative represents our commitment to transforming dialogue into actionable outcomes, fostering partnerships that are resilient, adaptable and forward-look-ing," he said.

'India stands ready to work with all nations in crafting solutions that are innovative, equitable and sustainable. Together, we can build a future where security and prosperity go hand in hand, ensuring peace and stability for genera-tions to come," he added.

Devotees perform rituals at Sangam after taking a holy dip on the eve of 'Maghi Purnima' bath festival during ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, in Prayagraj

Maha Kumbh records 45 Crore taking dip

BISWAJEET BANERJEE PRAYAGRAJ

Minister **hief** Yogi CAdityanath had predicted that this year's grand Mahakumbh would set a historic record with 45 Crore devotees. His forecast proved right 15 days before the event's conclusion.

and devotees from across the globe, further solidifying Mahakumbh 2025 as an By 8 am on February 11, the official count had surpassed 45 Crores, with nearly 50 Lakh unprecedented es taking a h din ir

Unprecedented crowd chokes Kashi BISWAJEET BANERJEE unable to reach their VARANASI

Varanasi witnessed an unprecedented influx of visitors, causing massive traffic congestion across the city and its highways. According to police estimates, around 12 Lakh people arrived from outside, bringing with them more than 60,000 vehicles. This marked the highest single-day surge of visitors in Kashi's history.

With the municipal corporation area's population standing at approximately 15 Lakh, the city found itself overwhelmed, resembling a 'Maha jam' (massive traffic jam). Roads were gridlocked from highways to inner from highways to inner streets, making movement nearly impossible. Schoolchildren faced severe delays, taking up to three hours to reach home. By

fervor of faith persists even beyond the last Amrit Snan as devotees flock to the sacred evening, food supplies in By Tuesday morning, 49.68 Lakh people had taken a holy dip in the Triveni, bringing the total count of bathers past hotels and dhabas were exhausted, while many visitors with hotel and guesthouse bookings were 45 Crores. Among them were

accommodations due to border restrictions.

The city's traffic management collapsed under the pressure. Autos and e-rickshaws were rendered immobile, and school buses were stuck at multiple locations. The Prayagraj-Varanasi highway remained choked throughout the day, with not a single moment of respite. By 4 pm, authorities halted vehicle entry from Varanasi, entry from Varanasi, Ghazipur, Gorakhpur, Deoria, and Mau at the Kaithi toll plaza.

piaza. The situation worsened as borders were sealed at multiple points. The Ghazipur city entry was blocked before Chaubepur toll plaza, resulting in long queues of vehicles Similarly traffic from vehicles. Similarly, traffic from Prayagraj was halted at Jansa. Akhri-Mohansarai-The Mirzamurad stretch was completely gridlocked, with even the service lanes unfit for pedestrian movement. Meanwhile, the Harhua ring road intersection to Lohrapur

saw an unbroken queue of vehicles. The congestion severely hampered emergency response. Two ambulances were caught in the jam on the Rathyatra-Gurubag route, raising concerns about access to critical medical services. With thousands of stranded commuters and overwhelmed roads, the city struggled to cope with the unexpected deluge of visitors.

The massive congestion left locals and pilgrims with mixed reactions. Residents expressed frustration over the traffic mismanagement, with many struggling to carry out daily their activities. Commuters were stranded for hours, and businesses faced disruptions due to supply delays. Pilgrims, however, viewed the overwhelming crowd as a testament to Kashi's spiritual significance. Despite the inconveniences, many devotees remained determined to complete their religious journey, expressing awe at the city's vibrancy and devotion.

Collective effort essential to empower common man: Andhra CM

PTI 📕 AMARAVATI

achieving a sustained growth rate of 15 be left pending and added that budget-related matters should be reviewed for swift clearance in case of financial files.

the Triveni Sangam that

morning alone. With 15 days remaining and two major bathing festivals yet to occur, the total number of bathers is expected to surpass 50 Crores-55 Crores.

The sacred confluence of Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna, and the invisible Maa Saraswati continues to witness an overwhelming surge of faith Saints, and devotion. devotees, Kalpvasis, and pilgrims from all walks of life are taking the holy dip, fulfilling the vision that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had foreseen even before Mahakumbh began.

Even after the three significant Amrit Snans-Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya, and Basant Panchami-the enthusiasm and devotion of pilgrims remain unwavering. Millions continue to arrive from across India and the world, drawn by the spiritual magnetism of Prayagraj. The

An analysis of the total footfall so far reveals that Mauni Amavasya saw the highest turnout, with eight Crore devotees taking a holy dip. In comparison, 3.5 Crore devotees participated in the Amrit Snan on Makar Sankranti. On February 1 and January 30, over two Crore devotees bathed each day, while Paush Purnima saw 1.7 Crore pilgrims take a dip. Additionally, 2.57 Crore devotees bathed in the Triveni on Basant Panchami. Even before Magh Purnima, over one crore devotees arrived daily at the Sangam banks for the sacred ritual

banks of the Sangam.

10 Lakh Kalpvasis and saints

spiritual

President Draupadi Murmu took a holy dip in Triveni Sangam on Monday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath (including cabinet) also took a holy dip in Sangam

ndhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Andhra Prauesn Chief Andrababu Naidu on Tuesday said here that a cohesive and collective brainstorming among all government departments is crucial to empower the common man.

Addressing a meeting of ministers and secretaries at the Secretariat in the Chief Minister Amaravati, underscored that effective coordination, integration and execution is the government's responsibility.

I can say it is a brainstorming session for reorienting ourselves. We organised the meeting to get clarity on what we should do." he said

Outlining the state's challenges, the Chief Minister alleged that nearly 90 centrally sponsored schemes had become nonfunctional due to mismanagement and funds diversions in the erstwhile YSRCP government.

The government is now prioritising the optimal implementation of central schemes and to ensure that right people are placed in key positions, he said. Stressing on the long-term vision of Swarna Andhra 2047, which aligns with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047,

Naidu said this strategy focuses on

Further, he stressed on the need to strengthen family welfare services, ensuring streetlights, roads, drainage, garbage collection and a circular economy model to build a healthier and

wealthier society. revenue "Accelerating growth, streamlining bureaucratic processes, and fostering a culture of innovation is the need of the hour," he added.

Naidu directed officials to leverage the 'first mover advantage' to secure central funds under the newly announced Union Budget schemes.

The CM called upon all officials to rededicate themselves to the mission of building a prosperous and developed Andhra Pradesh, among other targets, including transforming the state to achieve a GSDP of USD 2.4 Trillion.

Naidu also instructed officials to expedite the process of file clearance in the e-office system, emphasising the need for speed in government offices. Calling on secretaries and departmental heads to find out where files are getting stuck and identify the reasons for delays, he said these hindrances should be

promptly resolved. CM said non-financial files should never

The Chief Minister highlighted that Andhra Pradesh has ₹87,000 Crore shortfall in GSDP compared to Telangana and stressed that declining purchasing power must be addressed. He emphasised that a strategic approach is required to meet GSDP targets as economic growth is contingent upon achieving these goals.

Naidu also said a Vision Monitoring Unit (VMU) will be established at the state level and districts must prepare constituency-level plans.

He called upon the districts to identify key projects contributing to GSDP growth which will be tracked through a dedicated portal.

He also said department mapping with GSDP will be conducted, and a 15.76 per cent overall growth rate has been set as the target.

Naidu directed officials to ensure quality service delivery, utilizing technological touchpoints and implementing QR codes to gauge people's satisfaction especially for programmes such as pension distribution, anna canteens, paddy procurement, temple services, government hospital services and others.

calm amid leadership crisis

Manipur government urges

PTI IMPHAL

The Manipur government on Tuesday urged people to stay calm and not to fall prey to unverified news, rumours or misinformation that may cause unnecessary panic or disrupt peace and harmony in the state.

The appeal was made amid a leadership crisis following the resignation of N Biren Singh from the post of chief minister on February 9.

"It has also come to the notice of the government that certain unscrupulous individuals and groups may deliberately attempt to incite unrest, disrupt harmony and spread fear among the public using false information, inflammatory content or fabricated narratives," a statement issued by Chief Secretary PK Singh said. "Such attempts are intended to create lawlessness, and the public is strongly advised not

to give heed to such misinformation or incitement," it added To ensure that people receive accurate information, the government has set up a control room, where citizens can verify any news or information they come across. The control room can be reached at 9485280419 and is operational

24x7, it said.

"Maintaining peace and law and order is a collective responsibility, and the government strongly advises all residents to remain vigilant against those trying to create disturbances. Any attempt to incite violence or disrupt harmony will be dealt with strictly as per the

It also urged community leaders, civil society organisations, religious leaders, student bodies, intellectuals and citizens to come together "to foster unity and work towards rebuilding trust amongst all communities'

law," the statement said.

Prayagraj tightens traffic regulations ahead of Maghi Purnima festivities

BISWAJEET BANERJEE PRAYAGRA,

With a massive influx of devotees expected for Maghi Purnima, a key bathing occasion at the ongoing Maha Kumbh, authorities in Prayagraj have enforced strict traffic regulations to manage the anticipated crowd. Given that crores of pilgrims are likely to gather at the Sangam for the holy dip, officials have introduced extensive movement restrictions to prevent overcrowding. These measures come in the aftermath of the January 29 stampede, which resulted in the tragic loss of at least 30 lives

To ensure smooth crowd management, the fairground has been designated a no-vehicle zone from 4 am on Tuesday. The restrictions will expand

citywide starting at 5 pm, with designated parking zones

arranged for incoming pilgrims. These traffic controls will remain in force until Wednesday to facilitate an orderly dispersal of devotees. However, emergency and essential services will not be affected by the curbs. Additionally, the restrictions

will extend to Kalpvasis-pilgrims who observe extended stays near the Sangam as part of their religious practice.

On Monday night, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath convened a highlevel meeting with police and civic officials to assess readiness for Maghi Purnima. Stressing the importance of seamless traffic and crowd management, he instructed

authorities to fully utilise park-

ing facilities capable of accom-



Rush of devotees on pontoon bridge on the eve of 'Magh Purnima' during the ongoing Mahakumbh Mela, in Prayagraj

modating over five Lakh vehishould there be long vehicle cles queues. Ensuring smooth traf-"Under no circumstances fic flow is a top priority," he week, the influx of devotees

directed He noted that over the past

into Prayagraj has significantly increased from all directions. In addition to public transport, a large number of private vehicles are also arriving, and this number is expected to rise further on the bathing festival. In light of this, a well-structured traffic and crowd management plan must be implemented

Parking facilities at Prayagraj's borders should be operated efficiently. The available park-ing capacity of over five Lakh vehicles must be fully utilised. While providing necessary support to children, women, and the elderly, no vehicle should be allowed to enter the fair premises in violation of regulations. Shuttle buses should be used as required, with an increase in their numbers as per demand. Devotees must be encouraged to follow the designated parking system, and they should be treated cooperatively and respectfully, Yogi instructed officials.

No long queues of vehicles should be allowed to form on the roads, and traffic congestion must be prevented at all costs. Strict measures should be taken to ensure that vehicles are not parked on the roads, and vehicular movement remains continuous and unobstructed. District Magistrates of all districts sharing a border with Prayagraj must maintain constant coordination with the Prayagraj administration to ensure smooth vehicle movement. Mutual coordination should be maintained to prevent congestion in the fair area, and barricading should be installed where necessary. There should be no traffic jams due to toll collection.

CM said, "Railway stations in Prayagraj are witnessing a large number of devotees returning home after taking a holy dip. Authorities have been direct ed to ensure their safe journey. Continuous operation of trains should be ensured by maintaining coordination with the Railways, and additional Transport Corporation buses should be deployed for better passenger movement." He also ordered deployment of

28 administrative officers of ADM and SDM levels, along with several police officers. "Their services should be utilised as needed, with police officers specifically assigned to traffic management," he said and added: "Continuous police patrolling should be ensured on all routes leading to Prayagraj to regulate traffic effectively and maintain order."

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A push for AI and defence

The Prime Minister Modi's France visit underscores a shared vision on technological innovation and global stability

rime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France marked a significant chapter in Indo-French relations, focusing on advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), defence collaboration and honouring shared historical ties. Al Action Summit co-hosted by President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Modi convened global leaders, tech industry executives and researchers to deliberate on the ethical deployment of AI and its potential benefits for the society. The summit aimed to position France and India at the forefront of the AI revolution, emphasising the need for responsible and democratic AI governance. Notable outcome of the summit was the announcement of the 'Current AI' partnership, a public-interest initiative with an initial investment of \$400 million. This partnership seeks to provide open-source access to databases, software, and tools for trusted Al actors, promoting the use of Al in addressing global challenges such as healthcare and environmental sustainability.



In a groundbreaking development, France is in advanced discussions to procure India's domestically developed Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher system. This potential deal signifies a shift in defence dynamics, as it would be the first instance of one of India's major arms suppliers purchasing Indian-made weaponry. The Pinaka system, with a range of up to 90 km, has been demonstrated to a French delegation and met with positive feedback. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the World Wars by visiting the Mazargues War Cemetery in Marseille. This gesture underscored the deep historical ties between India

and France and highlighted the shared values and sacrifices that bind the two nations. The visit also marked a milestone in diplomatic outreach with the inauguration of India's first consulate in Marseille. This move is expected to bolster bilateral relations, facilitate consular services for the Indian diaspora, and enhance cultural and economic exchanges between the two countries. Prime Minister Modi and President Macron reviewed progress on the Horizon 2047 Roadmap, an initiative launched in 2023 to chart the course of Indo-French relations up to 2047. The roadmap focuses on collaboration in key sectors such as nuclear energy, defence and technology, aiming to strengthen the strategic partnership between the two nations. Engaging in global Al dialogues and partnerships positions India to harness AI for public good, addressing challenges in healthcare, agriculture and education. The prospective sale of the Pinaka system to France not only boosts India's defence exports but also signifies international recognition of India's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities. The inauguration of the consulate in Marseille and the review of the Horizon 2047 Roadmap reflect India's commitment to deepening bilateral ties with France, fostering cooperation across various sectors.



The US humanitarian legacy under siege



AMAL CHANDRA

USAID faces an existential crisis as the Trump administration's aggressive restructuring and Elon Musk's vocal opposition threaten its very survival

SAID, long regard-ed as a pillar of American humanitarian aid and soft power, now finds itself embroiled in an existential crisis that threatens its very survival. Founded in 1961 by President John F Kennedy, the agency has historically been at the forefront of global development efforts, providing critical support in areas such as food security, healthcare, and economic development. Over the decades, USAID has built a complex legacy—on one hand, saving millions of lives through vaccination programmes, disaster relief, and poverty alleviation initiatives, while on the other, facing criticism for allegedly serving as a tool for American political influence and intervention abroad. Now, under the Trump admin-

istration's aggressive restructuring plans and the unexpected involvement of billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk, USAID's future hangs precariously in the balance.At the centre of this upheaval is the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a newly created federal body with a mandate to streamline government operations by cutting budgets, eliminating inefficiencies, and reducing the federal workforce.

With its expansive global footprint and substantial funding, USAID has become a prime target. The Trump administration, which has already frozen the majority of foreign aid programs, is pushing to either drastically curtail USAID's power or absorb it into the State Department-an action that would effectively end its independent operation.

The situation reached a boiling point when DOGE agents attempted to force their way into USAID's Washington, DC headquarters, leading to a tense standoff with security personnel. Eventually, the agents gained access to USAID's control systems, locked out employees, and combed through internal communications. Allegations have

which USAID's offices were infiltrated has raised troubling concerns about the security of other government institutions. Elon Musk, known for his ventures in electric vehicles, space exploration, artificial intelligence, and social media, has emerged as one of USAID's most vocal critics. He has publicly labelled the agency a "criminal organisation" and a "viper's nest" of corruption, accusing it of funding radical leftist causes and supporting groups that oppose American interests. Musk has called for the complete dismantling of USAID, arguing that American taxpayers should not be footing the bill for foreign aid that, in his view, does not serve the nation's interests. While President Trump has not explicitly endorsed Musk's rhetoric, sources within the administration suggest that his views have influenced internal discussions about USAID's future.

Signs of this shift are already visible-nearly 100 USAID employees have been placed on administrative leave, including two security officers who attempted to prevent DOGE's entry. Additionally, the agency's website and official X (formerly Twitter) account have been taken offline, signalling that a fundamental transformation is



THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION, WHICH HAS ALREADY FROZEN THE MAJORITY OF FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS, IS PUSHING TO DRASTICALLY CURTAIL USAID'S POWER OR **ABSORB IT INTO** THE STATE

underway. If these trends continue, USAID's six-decade existence may soon come to an unceremonious end.

The ramifications of this crisis extend far beyond the political infighting in Washington, DC USAID operates in over 50 countries, funding programs that provide clean water, healthcare, sanitation, and ed munities. At the same time, India has increasingly scrutinised for-eign-funded NGOs, with the Modi administration tightening restrictions on organisations perceived as meddling in domestic affairs.

In this light, a reduced USAID presence may align with India's push for self-reliance. Moreover, as the US pulls back from global aid commit-**EITHER** ments, India may see an opportunity to expand its influence in South Asia, filling the void left by Washington's retreat. The broader question at stake is what role the United States intends to play in the world moving forward. Should it continue investing in foreign DEPARTMENT aid as a means of exercising global leadership, or should it prioritise a more insular, A retreat from humanitarian efforts would create a vacuum that rival powers-especially China—are eager to exploit. Beijing has already made significant inroads through its Belt and Road Initiative, offering infrastructure financing and economic partnerships to nations that might otherwise have sought aid from Washington. If the US abandons its foreign aid commitments, it risks ceding valuable influence to geopolitical competitors.

The coming months will determine whether USAID's fate is sealed or if political resistance will salvage some version of the agency. What is certain, however, is that this is not just a bureaucratic dispute-it is a battle over the values that America chooses to uphold. If humanitarian aid is sacrificed in favour of a purely transactional foreign policy, the consequences will reverberate not only in the nations that once relied on US assistance but within America itself.

The world is watching, and history will judge whether this moment signifies the decline of American global responsibility or the dawn of a more ruthless, self-serving era in US foreign policy. (Amal Chandra is an author, political analyst, and colum*nist; views are personal)*

since surfaced that DOGE operatives were attempting to seize classified documents, though the department has denied any wrongdoing. The ease with

supporters of USAID argue that America's strength is not merely derived from military power but also from its ability to assist those in need.

America-first approach?

Farmers pluck Gladiolus flowers at an orchard, in Nadia

The comfort of relationships that need no validation



ASHA IYER KUMAR

Let's free our relationships from the weight of constant maintenance, trusting that true bonds don't fade in silence but grow stronger in the depths of our affection

→ his is a sequel to my column of last week, wherein I underlined the need for us to stay in touch with people to build a robust circle of love, care, and compassion around us. The article, which was lauded by many, also raised a slew of questions. What do people who don't genuinely find the time to make calls and retain personal connections in a tangible way do?

They accepted the merits of what I had highlighted in the column but doubted if, in this age when generations are passing in a jiffy and the race to the finish line seems to go on forever, we could squeeze in little niceties like making a call or strengthening our links with people by going beyond pleasantries. I was even asked if I have been able to maintain relationships in the manner I had suggested.

The answer is, "No, I haven't been able to keep pace with my growing connections," but there is something that I do in order to spare myself the guilt of not calling people as often as I would like: keep them close to my heart even when there is prolonged silence, and when the oppor-



or frowns.

tion altogether, and not all are that not all relationships primed to keep up incognito relationships where love and care thrive even without regular check-ins. We look for reinforcements and reassurances, and when they aren't forthcoming, tend to blame it on the other for their lack of affinity. I have many connections where the foundations of the association are so firm and deep-rooted that no time or space can dislodge us from each other's lives. Months and years may pass, but when we meet, it is as if the bond has only grown stronger and our love for each other more pristine, untouched by the

patina of time.

bonds the freedom to exist without yoking them to formalities? Why don't we come to terms with the fact that there is no lack of love, but each one of us is just bogged down by the demands of life in the fast lane? There is an unspoken comfort

demand constant validation.

absent. It is a reassuring truth

tunity to meet them or speak to them knocks, pick it up from where we had left off the last time, without complaints Now, that's a different equa-

> require the crutch of routine communication to remain strong. Yet, the modern mind struggles to accept this form of connection, often mistaking silence for indifference and distance for detachment. In an age where instant responses are expected, where friendships are measured in the currency of texts and calls, we have begun to equate attention with affection and availability with authenticity. And when someone does not reach out as often as we desire, we assume they have relegated us to the margins of

> > their lives. The expectation that rela-

Why can't we allow our social tionships must be constantly tended to, like fragile saplings that require perpetual watering, stems from a fear of being forgotten. But relationships built on mutual respect and a deep-seated connection are not fragile; they are resilient. Perhaps, instead of lamenting

the lack of frequent contact, we should cherish the in relationships that do not moments when reconnec-Some bonds flourish in tions happen naturally, withsilence, in the spaces between out resentment or reproach. meetings, in the warmth that True companionship does lingers even when words are not wilt under the weight of time-it endures, sustained by the simple yet profound act of keeping someone close in thought and heart.

So let us release our relationships from the burden of constant upkeep. Let us trust that genuine bonds, once formed, do not wither in silence but gather strength in the depths of our affection. And when the moment to reconnect arrives, let it be a celebration of love that time could never diminish. This, perhaps, is the only way we can realign our relationships with the changing world. (The author is a Dubai-based columnist and children's writing coach. She has published *six books. Views are personal)*

THE EDITOR **PM MODI ENCOURAGES STUDENTS**

Madam - Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in the eighth edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, imparted the invaluable mantra of confidence and positive thinking to students. He emphasised that exams are merely a milestone, not the final destination of life. They serve as a powerful medium to assess one's knowledge and preparation. Encouraging students, Modi advised them to master the art of handling mental pressure, just as a skilled batsman focuses on the next ball despite the loud cheers of the audience. This initiative reflects that the nation's leadership is not confined to policies alone but is also deeply concerned about the bright future of the younger generation. He urged parents not to compare their children with others and to stop treating them merely as a means of performance evaluation.

Every child is unique and should be encouraged according to their individual capabilities. Highlighting the importance of mental balance, a healthy diet and adequate rest, Modi introduced students to the art of effective time management and emphasised that every student deserves the opportunity to fulfil their dreams. The Prime Minister encouraged students to focus on their studies without stress and to challenge themselves continuously. This interactive session not only helps students overcome the fear of exams but also instils confidence in them, fostering a positive outlook on life.

R K Jain | Barwani

ROHIT SHARMA BACK IN FORM

Madam— Form is temporary, class is permanent was at last proved by the Indian skipper Rohit Sharma by his scintillating century at Cuttack against England in the second ODI, which has come at the appropriate time by winning the match with a series lead. However big a player is, self-confidence matters most when it comes to a comeback when in a bad patch. The board and the selection panel have given more than the required time for

Security forces kill 31 Naxalites



n another successful encounter, security officers killed 31 Naxalites in Bijapur district of Bastar division in Chhattisgarh, which is regarded as a den of red terrorism. The magnitude of the success in the recent elimination spree of the security forces against the Naxalites proves that Left Wing Extremism is heading to its end in the country. Their dream of establishing a red corridor from Nepal to Andhra Pradesh has been devastated

the selectors to repose faith in him. It will be prudent for Rohit to keep the past memories aside and ascertain his position as an invincible hitman to bring the ICC Champions Trophy for Team India as his next milestone. The upright decision to have included the mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy for the second ODI has been a success when he made the breakthrough to begin with by adding salt to the wound of Englishmen by dismissing Phil Salt, the opener. The kind of form maintained by Ravindra Jadeja, both with the bat and ball, would do a world of good with the company of Varun Chakravarthy for Team India in the ICC Champions Trophy, giving them a certain edge to win the title. A.P. Thiruvadi | Chennai

SAFEGUARD INDUSTRY INTERESTS

Madam - The US President Trump knows pretty well the global impacts of imposing tariffs and duties unilaterally. The industries in India apparently were least prepared to face this tariff war and the consequences. It should be noticed and recog-Rohit to perform. He must be thankful for nised by our Union Government how

by the security forces. The success also reflects Union Home Minister Amit Shah's resolve to completely eliminate naxalism by March 2026.

The better coordination in the now BJPruled states of Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra has led to an effective implementation of the anti-naxalite operation. There were reports that some elements connected with left-wing student unions in JNU celebrated the massacre of 76 CRPF jawans by naxalites in Chhattisgarh. On the contrary, the Modi government has zero tolerance against Naxal violence. Besides counterinsurgency, welfare and development schemes launched in naxalism-affected areas have also made the tribal youths disillusioned with naxalism.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

strongly the US and China safeguard their industry's interests while we let our industry face the global pressures and turbulence and trade deficits on their own. The US and China advance their policies of trade and strategic interests of futuristic two decades. We have to safeguard our industry's interests, exports and trade balance.

The steel industry obviously may not be impacted on a substantial basis as hardly a fraction of its production is exported to the US but as detailed in the news, the Indian steel industry may be stressed if the major producers divert their exports to India, high on steel consumption. If the US continues with tariff escalation, it takes risks of consequent higher cost of domestic production. India will continuously face competition and rivalry in the global trade from the US and China, so there is a need to divert and set up our manufacturing bases in African countries, Southeast Asia and Europe and even in the US

Vinod Johri | Delhi

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FIRSTCOLUMN PROTECT **YOUR SPINE**

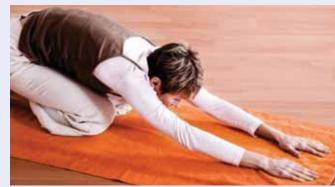
The spine plays a crucial role in maintaining overall health, yet we often neglect it



RAVI VALLURI

ow many of us get up in the morning and virtually struggle to get out of bed as the body feels sore, the neck remains stiff, knees wobble, shoulders and feet pain? In fact, the entire day is torturous. Such individuals run to doctors, seeking a magical cure for the pestilence. Unless the problem is genetic or hereditary, humans get afflicted with such disorders because of a deficient lifestyle, stress accumulated over a period of time and poor dietary habits. The vertebra and our skeletal frame are an extremely important part of the human body, which we ignore at our own peril.

Therefore, a healthy spine leads to a healthy life. Do we recall when a child begins to walk, the preliminary baby steps are raising his/her thumbs; this is called the 'Merudanda Mudra'. The vertebra consists of a series of small bones which form the backbone or the spine, having several projections for articulation and muscle attachment, and a hole through which the spinal cord passes. The spine is the first identifiable structure that provides us with a shape and form rather than being a ball of cells without any differentiation. It keeps us upright, allows us to bend



and twist and connects the different parts of our skeleton. Office goers are programmed - for making a living - to undertake a typical quotidian 9 to 5 routine, and several among them use computers for prolonged hours, or those professionals who are compelled to drive long distances to their places of work from their dwelling paces ought to necessarily know how to protect their backs, necks and hand muscles. Not only are these muscles to be protected and fortified but the tissues should be sufficiently strengthened.

Such working men and women should be educated regarding deploying the correct posture. Many homemakers at times develop severe middle or lower back medical problems for a variety of reasons. Continuously undertaking repeated chores and even activities involving the handling of small or no weights, performed with an incorrect posture, can damage tissues and muscles, which causes irreparable damage to the back and neck. The afflicted suffer from the debility for years together in pain. Awareness about the structure of the spine and adopting the right postures along with simple strengthening stretches significantly helps to avoid these misadventures in one's life In the cases where these problems assume the shape of chronic disorders the patient suffering can be guided through simple stretching exercises under the supervision of a physiotherapist or an orthopaedic. To ameliorate the condition of those suffering from these debilitating health issues, the patients should take treatment for it. Those in particular suffering from spondylitis, frozen shoulder, middle and lower back problems, and knee problems benefit immensely upon undergoing the rehabilitation process and will certainly see visible dramatic changes in their lifestyle patterns and daily routines. Such programmes generally encompasses the techniques mentioned below with the required sensitivity to an individual's health condition

Trump's 'America first' policy causes chaos As Donald Trump embarks on his second term as the US President, the nation



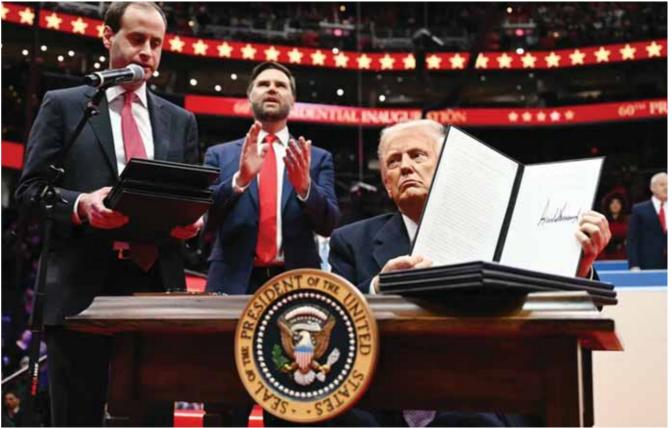
analys \$ 07

faces a turbulent landscape of climate disasters and economic uncertainty

ne of the first executive orders signed by Donald Trump after his inaugura-tion as US President was the withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord, overlooking a whole lot of climate disruptions that the country has faced since his election campaign. At least 335 human deaths were attributed to Hurricane Beryl and Hurricane Milton, making 2024 the deadliest hurricane season in the continental US since 2005. What followed each time was damaged buildings, roads and bridges and power outages for several days, forcing people to live without electricity for days and weeks. The year 2025 welcomed the US with unprecedented snowfall in the central and eastern part forcing the shifting of Trump's second term inauguration indoors, and a week earlier, catastrophic wildfires ravaged the Los Angeles region in the western part of the country.

The fire lasted for ten days and climate experts have attributed it to strong Santa Ana winds and extremely dry weather making forest vegetation readymade fuel. Los Angeles fire killed at least 25 persons, damaged more than 15,000 structures and ravaged more than 200 square km area. 60,000 per-sons including Hollywood stars left home for safety. The largest fire in the region the Palisades and Eaton have continued to burn for ten days. After El Nino and neutral weather conditions, La Nina arrived and pushed the storm back to the northern part of the US making the northern part wetter than usual and the southern part drier than usual. Santa Ana winds common in January and February in the region have been aggressive with wind speeds up to 120 km per hour.

This made damage control difficult. The temperature contrast between cooler inland areas (southern California deserts) and warmer coastal areas is the recipe for these winds. The extent of dryness of the area can be understood by the fact that the last half-inch of rain received in the region was only a year ago. In his America First policy, Trump has been continuously announcing to increase tariffs on goods imported from Canada, Mexico, China and several more. He has also named Brazil and India among the countries that harm the US, through their tariffs. Trump's action has the potential to initiate a trade war among countries and impact many developing economies. He has offered two million federal workers the option to resign but get paid till September 2025, in his effort to cut the federal workforce and push out those who do not support his political agenda. Though federal law has long protected civil servants from pressure and political interference, yet President is testing his power. The process of deportation of illegal immigrants has started in a big way. Search for other undocumented immigrants is aggressively going on. Religious places like Gurudwaras have been searched in New York and New Jersey, at the cost of antagonising Sikh and other religious groups. He has also said that he will hold some in Guantanamo Bay away from legal and social services and support. Some of these migrants are so bad that countries cannot be trusted to



hold them back. Time will tell whether Trump's agenda to bring manufacturing back to the US would succeed in the absence of a labour force that is largely being deported/ housed in Guantanamo Bay where 30,000 beds are being added to expand the government's detention capacity.

THOUGH FEDERAL Renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America would hard-LAW HAS LONG ly carry any meaning, but it can irritate a neighbouring country PROTECTED CIVIL SERVANTS FROM and may be a spoilsport in their relationship. Donald Trump wants Canada to become the PRESSURE AND 51st state of the USA and his jus-POLITICAL tification is that the US is the only country Canada shares its bound-ary along the land and makes it INTERFERENCE, secure. The countries have a free YET PRESIDENT trade agreement and Canada IS TESTING HIS takes full advantage of it. Further POWER. THE Trump has expressed to take over the Panama Canal from PROCESS OF Panama and purchase Greenland from Denmark for the transformer from Denmark for strategic rea

and called for decisive climate ing that it would remain buried action in 2025 and speed up the transition to renewable energy. Trump has again withdrawn from the Paris Climate Accord and prioritised energy self-sufficiency through domestic drilling and exploration of oil and natural gas with the sole justification of cutting the cost of energy and there-by bringing down inflation.

It is feared that the gains achieved by Biden through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) 2022, where \$369 billion was invested in clean energy initiatives and that also created jobs in the US, will be dismantled. He has declared a National Energy emergency, a first in US history, which may lead to the suspension of environmental rules and grant permission for mining projects. He has halted the lease of federal water for offshore wind farms and called for shutting wind turbines

that cause wildfire. The prohibition on drilling of oil and gas in Polar Bear Wildlife Sanctuary in Alaska has been lift-ed. It will not only threaten the life of wildlife species but would accelerate the melting of ice in the region, causing undue concern such as sea level rise etc. Why US is keeping an eye on Greenland? It has a history. Immediately after World War II, they planned there to build 600 nuclear missile bases to be mounted on a train riding 3000 km of track. It never took off. In the late 1950s and early 1960s US Army made a camp there for the 'Project Iceworm'. A small nuclear reactor was brought to power the camp. Once they realized after a few years that the project was not feasible, they gave up but left a lot of nuclear waste water at the camp. They also left thousands of litres of diesel fuel in the middle of Greenland's ice sheet, expect-

in the ice forever. But climate change happened, the planet has warmed and ice has melted.

It has the potential to contami-nate water in Greenland. While China has deployed its vast foreign exchange reserve to secure long-term control over strategic minerals critical for advanced technologies in the defence sector, climate change etc. in resource-rich nations like copper and cobalt from Congo and Peru, nickel from Indonesia and lithium from Argentina, the Trump administration is looking to counter it by accessing rare earth and critical mineral deposits in

Greenland. The southern pointed mountains of Greenland are gold belts, which is another temptation for the new US administration. Panama Canal, an engineering marvel constructed in 1913 enables ships to cross from the lower water level of the Atlantic to the higher water level of the Pacific Ocean, saving the costs and journey time in trades. A dam was built on river Cagres and water was impounded in Gatun Lake, where ships pass. The level of water in Gatun is managed through gates. With the rising water level ships from the Atlantic side gain height and sail towards the Pacific. The flow of water in River Cagres and many other rivers from Amazon forests has been depleted due to massive degradation and deforestation. Panama Canal efficiency is lowered and hardly half the ships can cross. Trump should strive to conserve river catchments, rather than owning the Panama Canal.

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Ergonomics

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(The writer is the CEO of Chhattisgarh East Railway Ltd. and Chhattisgarh East West Railway Ltd. He has authored both fiction and nonfiction and is a faculty member of the Art of Living. Views are personal)

DEPORTATION OF These steps are needed to have a ILLEGAL check over growing Chinese control on trade with Latin American **IMMIGRANTS HAS** STARTED IN A BIG WAY. SEARCH FOR

OTHER UNDOCUMENTED **IMMIGRANTS IS** AGGRESSIVELY GOING ON

countries. Greenland is approachable by China from the Arctic side, while the Panama Canal is crucial for Chinese ships to cross from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, which provides a shorter route for trade to all countries in South America. The taking over of the Panama Canal and Greenland can have serious

environmental fallout. World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) secretary-general Celeste Saulo, while addressing the 150th Foundation Day celebration of the Indian Meteorological Department referred average global temperature rise of 1.55 degrees Celsius in 2024 over the preindustrial period and she termed it as a "very grave danger"

about boosting agricultural

(The writer is Retd Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force,

Karnataka. Views are personal)

Union budget 2025: Transforming agriculture for a sustainable and inclusive future

Union Budget 2025 introduces a bold vision for agricultural transformation, addressing key challenges such as soil degradation, climate change and rural distress

griculture has been the backbone of India's rowth and the livelihoods of millions, thus correctly referred to as the primary engine for India's accelerated and inclusive growth in the annual budget presented on February 1, 2025. However, the sector is facing numerous challenges, including deteriorating soil quality, stagnating crop yields, inadequate technologies, shrinking farmlands, poor infrastructure and heightened vulnerability to climate change, which poses a threat to food security and the wellbeing of our Anndatta. Further, these difficulties have led to a troubling trend: many marginal farmers and agricultural labourers from rural areas are being forced to



PUSHPLATA SINGH

migrate to cities in search of marked by significant regional disparities, with certain disbetter opportunities. Agricultural sustainability is tricts lagging in infrastructure, also closely tied to climate productivity, and economic change, which affects nearly all opportunities. This ambitious of the United Nations' program stands as a transfor-Sustainable Development mative initiative for rural India, focusing on the 100 most Goals (SDGs). With a population still heavily reliant on underdeveloped districts, and farming, the need for sectoral directly benefiting around 1.7

reforms is undeniable. New crore farmers. PMDDKY policies and regulations are focuses on these underdevelcrucial for inclusive and accelerated growth. India's 2025 oped areas, directing resources to regions that have been overbudget addresses issues in the looked in the broader developagriculture sector with a forment process. This initiative ward-thinking framework, by seeks to ensure that farmers in enabling improved credit access, and infrastructure these areas have access to the same opportunities as their development, and preparing counterparts in more prosperfarmers for future growth. ous regions. One standout initiative is the The program aims to address

Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya long-standing agricultural challenges and empower farm-Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY). India's agricultural sector is ers, particularly those affected by climate change and those from marginalised communities. With proper execution, PMDDKY can spark a ripple effect of development, improving infrastructure, technology access, and financial services in these districts thus enabling equitable growth across the country. By focusing on sus-



tainability, inclusivity, and empowerment, PMDDKY strives to uplift farmers, women, and marginalised communities while ensuring resilience against future challenges.

The program also offers access to high-yielding varieties of seed and irrigation techniques and training to address the root causes of agricultural stagnation.

By supporting farmers in overcoming unpredictable weather patterns, outdated techoutput but also ensuring sustainable practices.

One of the unfortunate consequences of rural stagnation is the mass migration of farmers to urban areas in search of better opportunities. By strengthening agriculture in rural areas, PMDDKY aims to create conditions where farmers can barriers such as limited access thrive while cultivating their to credit, technology, and edu-cation. PMDDKY seeks to farmlands. If executed well, PMDDKY could be the cataaddress these gaps by providlyst for a brighter, more incluing women farmers with sive future in agriculture, greater control over land, where every farmer has the improved training, and better market access. For margintools to thrive. The hope is that migration for farmers will alised communities, the probecome a choice, not a necesgram aims to ensure they are sity-allowing agricultural included in the benefits of agricommunities to thrive where cultural development, prothey are. moting equality and empow-erment. PMDDKY is not only

The budget also emphasises investment in innovation and technology, particularly in

developing high-yield, climateresilient crop varieties. The creation of germplasm banks to restore and introduce local crop varieties will strengthen domestic production. Additionally, the government is working to enhance the agricultural value chain, focusing on better storage, transportation, and export infrastructure, benefiting both farmers and consumers. Targeted schemes for crops like cotton, pulses, oilseeds, and vegetables will help mitigate the effects of climate change on farmers. These programs aim to boost food security and export potential, all while securing farmers' livelihoods. (The writer is Associate

Director, The Energy and Resources Institute; views are personal)



27 religious groups sue Trump administration to protect houses of worship from immigration arrests

more than 780 congregations;

the Convención Bautista

Hispana de Texas, encompass-ing about 1,100 Hispanic

Baptist churches; the Friends

General Conference, an associ-

ation of regional Quaker organ-

isations; the Mennonite Church

USA, with about 50,000 mem-

bers: the Unitarian Universalist

Association, with more than

1,000 congregations; the United

Synagogue of Conservative

Judaism, with more than 500

US congregations; and region-

al branches of the United Methodist Church and the

The massive scale of the suit

will be hard for them to ignore,"

said Kelsi Corkran, a lawyer

with the Georgetown University Law Centre's

Institute for Constitutional

Advocacy and Protection who

is lead counsel for the lawsuit.

Prior to the recent Trump

administration change,

Corkran said immigration

agents generally needed a judi-

United Church of Christ.

PTI WASHINGTON

ore than two-dozen Christian and Jewish groups representing millions of Americans — rang-ing from the Episcopal Church and the Union for Reform Judaism to the Mennonites and Unitarian Universalists filed a federal court lawsuit Tuesday challenging a Trump administration move giving immigration agents more leeway to make arrests at houses of worship.

The lawsuit, filed in US District Court in Washington, contends that the new policy is spreading fear of raids, thus lowering attendance at worship services and other valuable church programmes. The result, says the suit, infringes on the groups' religious freedom - namely their ability to min-

ister to migrants, including those in the United States illegally. "We have immigrants, refugees, people who are documented

and undocumented," said the Most Rev Sean Rowe, the presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. "We cannot worship freely if

some of us are living in fear," he told The Associated Press. "By joining this lawsuit, we're seek-ing the ability to gather and fully practice our faith, to follow Jesus' command to love our neighbours as ourselves."

The new lawsuit echoes and expands on some of the arguments made in a similar lawsuit filed Jan 27 by five Quaker congregations and later joined by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and a Sikh temple.

It is currently pending in US District Court in Maryland. million followers of Reform Judaism, the estimated 1.5 mil-There was no immediate lion Episcopalians in 6,700 Trump administration congregations nationwide, response to the new lawsuit, nearly 1.1 million members of which names the Department the Presbyterian Church of Homeland Security and its (USA), and the estimated 1.5 million active members of the immigration enforcement African Methodist Episcopal agencies as defendants. However, a memorandum filed Church — the country's oldest Friday by the Department of Justice, opposing the thrust of

predominantly Black denomination. the Quaker lawsuit, outlined Among the other plaintiffs are arguments that may also apply the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with more than to the new lawsuit. 3,000 congregations; the Church of the Brethren, with

In essence, the memo contended that the plaintiffs' request to block the new enforcement policy is based on speculation of hypothetical future harm and thus is insufficient grounds for issuing an injunction. The memo said that immigration enforcement affecting

houses of worship had been permitted for decades, and the new policy announced in January simply said that field agents — using "common sense" and "discretion" — could now conduct such operations without pre-approval from a supervisor. One part of that memo might

not apply to the new lawsuit, as it argued the Quakers and their fellow plaintiffs have no basis for seeking a nationwide injunction against the revised enforcement policy. "Any relief in this case should

be tailored solely to the named plaintiffs," said the DOJ memo, contending that any injunction should not apply to other religious organisations. The plaintiffs in the new law-

cial warrant or other special authorisation to conduct oper-ations at houses of worship and suit represent a vastly larger swath of American worship-pers — including more than 1

other "sensitive locations" such as schools and hospitals.

"Now it's go anywhere, any time," she told the AP. "Now they have broad authority to swoop in — they've made it very clear they'll get every undocumented person? She cited a recent incident in

which a Honduran man was arrested outside his family's Atlanta-area church while a service was being held inside. The lawsuit includes details from some of the plaintiffs as to how their operations might be affected. The Union for Reform Judaism and the Mennonites, among others, said many of their synagogues and churches host on-site foodbanks, meal programs, homeless shelters and other support services for undocumented people who might now be fearful of participating.

One of the plaintiffs is the Latino Christian National Network, which seeks to bring together Latino leaders with different traditions and values to collaborate on pressing social issues. The network's president is the Rev Carlos Malavé, a pastor of two churches in Virginia, who described to the AP what netdescribed to the AP what net-work members are observing. "There is deep-seated fear and distrust of our govern-ment," he said. "People fear going to the store, they are avoiding going to church... The churches are increasing-ly doing online services ly doing online services because people fear for the well-being of their families

and children." The US Conference of

Catholic Bishops, which leads the nation's largest denomination, did not joint the lawsuit, though it has criticised Trump's migration crack-down. On Tuesday, Pope Francis issued a major rebuke to the deportation plan, warning that the forceful removal people purely because of their illegal status deprives them of their inherent dignity and "will end badly'

Many conservative faith leaders and legal experts across the US do not share concerns about the new arrest policy. "Places of worship are for worship and are not sanctuaries for illegal activity or for harboring people engaged in illegal activity," said Mat Staver, founder of the conservative Christian legal organization Liberty Counsel.

"Fugitives or criminals are not immune from the law merely because they enter a place of worship," he said via email. "This is not a matter of religious freedom. There is no right to openly violate the law and disobey law enforcement." Professor Cathleen Kaveny, who teaches in the theology department and law school at Boston College, questioned whether the plaintiffs would prevail with the religious free-dom argument, but suggested the Trump administration might be unwise to disregard a traditional view of houses of worship as places of sanctuary

for vulnerable people. "These buildings are different almost like embassies," she said. "I think of churches as belonging to an eternal coun-



Relatives of hostages, held by Hamas in the Gaza Strip, protest outside of Israel's Ministry of Defense in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Monday after the militant group announced it would delay hostage releases in the Gaza Strip after accusing Israel of violating a fragile ceasefire

Worried about ISIS-K's growing threat in Af, Pak: US tells UN and Mumbai on the overarch-

of terrorist activities.

Terrorism

ing instability.

terrorist purposes

Director at the Counter-

Executive Directorate (CTED), Assistant Secretary-General

Natalia Gherman said that beyond the Middle East,

'Da'esh remains agile, taking

advantage of ongoing conflicts

and regions experiencing grow-

Significantly, in her remarks Gherman also referred to the

'Delhi Declaration' that was adopted during India's 2021-22

tenure in the Security Council

on countering the use of new

and emerging technologies for

"As mandated by the Delhi Declaration, the Counter-

Terrorism Committee just last

month adopted the non-bind-

ing guiding principles on "pre-

venting, detecting and disrupt-

ing the use of new and emerg-ing financial technologies for

terrorist purposes", also known

Committee

PTI UNITED NATIONS

The United States said it remains concerned about terror group ISIS-Khorasan's (ISIS K) and Killing (ISIS-K) capabilities to plot, conduct attacks and sustain recruitment campaigns, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

These remarks were made at the Security Council by Ambassador Dorothy Shea, Charge d'Affaires ad interim at the US Mission to the UN in her briefing on 'Threats to International Peace and

Security by Terrorist Acts.' Shea also said "Countering ISIS and other terrorist groups around the world is a top priority for the Trump administration ... President Trump's message is clear: The United States always stands ready to find and eliminate terrorists who threaten the United States and our allies.

She noted that ISIS affiliates in Central Asia, most notably ISIS-Khorasan, also pose a significant global threat.

We remain concerned about ISIS-K's capabilities to plot and conduct attacks, as well as sustain recruitment campaigns, particularly in Afghanistan and

Pakistan," she said. In his remarks to th

ing theme of 'Countering the travel to Afghanistan,' use of new and emerging tech-Voronkov said. nologies for terrorist purposes'. Voronkov recalled Secretary-As an outcome of the special General Antonio Guterres'

meeting, the Committee adopt-ed the 'Delhi Declaration' on "appeal to all member states to unite to prevent Afghanistan countering the use of new and from again becoming a hotbed emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. India, during its 2021-22 tenure In her remarks, Executive

world 08

as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, had assumed the chair of the CTC in 2022. The meeting of UNSC CTC took place on October 28 in Hotel Taj Mahal Palace in Mumbai, the site of the horrific 26/11 Mumbai attacks and in Delhi on October 29, where the Delhi Declaration was agreed upon.

Shea added that ISIS has expanded the frequency and lethality of its attacks in the Sahel, making this region the global epicentre for fatalities from terrorist attacks. As such, ISIS-Somalia, ISIS-Sahel, and ISIS-West Africa collectively pose a significant threat to stability and prosperity in

Africa. She asserted that accountability for terrorist attacks and other terrorist activity is key to the fight against terrorism and to deterring such acts from takhe future

Hamas insists all parties must be committed to ceasefire

PTI GAZA CITY/TEL AVIV

Hamas has brushed off President Donald Trump's threat that "all hell" will break out if it does not release the remaining Israeli hostages held in the Gaza Strip by Saturday. Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri said Tuesday that the dozens of hostages would only be returned if all parties remain committed to a ceasefire deal reached last month.

"Trump must remember there is an agreement that must be respected by both parties," he said, adding that threatening language only complicates matdelay the next release of three Israeli hostages, due Saturday accusing Israel of violating the ceasefire agreement, including by not allowing a surge of tents and shelters into the devastated territory While Trump said the ceasefire should be cancelled if Hamas doesn't release all the remaining hostages Saturday, he also said such a decision would be up to Israel. During the first phase of the ceasefire, Hamas has com-



remaining hostages and an indefinite extension of the truce. Meanwhile, an Israeli man who was thought to be alive and in Hamas captivity was killed during the 2023 attack and his body taken to Gaza, the military said on Tuesday.

Shlomo Mantzur was thought to be the oldest hostage held by the militant group in Gaza and because of his age became a symbol in Israel of the brutali-ty of Hamas' hostage-taking tactic. Huma S5 at the time of tactic. He was 85 at the time of the attack on southern Israel on Oct 7, 2023. The military said the determination of Mantzur's death was based on intelligence

ered in recent month

try. Five killed in suicide bombing near bank in northern Af

Islamabad (PTI): A suicide bomber blew himself up near a bank in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing at least five people and wounding seven others, police said. The attack happened near a branch of the Kabul Bank in Kunduz province, said Jumauddin

Khaksar said police spokesman. The dead included a guard at the bank. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack and Khaksar said police were work-ing to track down these who ing to track down those who orchestrated the attack. Khaksar provided no further details.

Militants from the Afghan chapters of the Islamic State group have carried out bombings across Afghanistan, though suihave h

small numbers of foreign terrorist fighters continuing to

Displaced Palestinians, travelling in vehicles, wait in line to pass through a security checkpoint at the Netzarim corridor as they make their way from central Gaza to their homes in the northern Gaza Strip, on Monday AP/PT

mitted to freeing a total of 33 hostages and over 730 hostages captured in its Oct 7, 2023, attack in exchange for Israel releasing nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners so far. The war could resume in early March if no agreement is Palestinian prisoners. The sides have carried out five reached on the more complicated second phase of the ceasefire, which calls for the return of all swaps since Jan 19, freeing 21

News of Mantzur's death comes as Israelis have been outraged over the poor condition of hostages who are being freed under the ceasefire with Hamas. On Tuesday, protesters briefly blocked a main highway calling for more hostages to be freed. That anger is putting heavy pressure on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to extend the ceasefire, what would allow for more hostages to be freed

since the Taliban seized power in August 2021, as US and NATO forces withdrew after 20 vears of war. The IS affiliate has also targeted minority Shiite Muslims, especially in Kabul. The latest attack came two months after a suicide bombing in Kabul killed Khalil Haqqanī, the Taliban refugee minister and two others. It was the most brazen attack on a member of the Taliban inner circle since they returned to power.

Under-Secretary-General United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov said that ISIL-K continued to pose a significant threat in Afghanistan, the region and beyond.

He said that in addition to attacks in Afghanistan, ISIL-K supporters plotted attacks in Europe and were actively seeking to recruit individuals from Central Asian States.

"There were also reports of

Guiding σeria Principles," she said.

The guiding principles have been prepared with the support of the CTED, highlight the importance of a comprehensive and risk-based approach, and provide practical guidance to Member States, Gherman added.

In October 2022, the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), chaired by India that year, organised a Special Meeting in New Delhi

vein, we urge the members of this Council to take action and agree to list more ISIL and al-Qa'ida affiliates in the 1267 Sanctions Committee, so that they will be subject to a worldwide asset freeze, travel ban, and arms embargo."

The US also called on Member States to play an active and timely role in updating and implementing UN 1267 sanctions to counter ISIS and al-Qa'ida.

1 killed as private jets collide at EU chief vows tough US President says he will host **Scottsdale Airport in Arizona** Jordan's King Abdullah II

pressure on his plan for Gaza resettlement

PTI WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump will host Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Tuesday as he escalates pressure on the Arab nation to take in refugees from Gaza — perhaps permanently - as part of his audacious plan to remake the Middle East.

The visit is happening at a perilous moment for the ongoing ceasefire in Gaza as Hamas, accusing Israel of violating the truce, has said it is pausing future releases of hostages and as Trump has called for Israel to resume fighting if all those remaining in captivity are not freed by this weekend. Trump has proposed the US take control of Gaza and turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East," with Palestinians in the war-torn territory pushed into neighbouring nations with no right of return. He suggested on Monday that, if necessary, he would with-

and among the top recipients of its foreign aid, as a means of persuading them to accept additional Palestinians from Gaza. "Yeah, maybe. Sure, why not?" Trump told reporters. "If they don't. I would conceivably withhold aid, yes."

Jordan is home to more than 2 million Palestinians and, along with other Arab states, has flatly rejected Trump's plan to relocate civilians from Gaza. Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, said last week that his country's opposition to Trump's idea was "firm and unwavering."

In addition to concerns about jeopardizing the long-held goals of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, Egypt and Jordan have privateraised security concerns about welcoming large numbers of additional refugees into their countries even temporarily. When asked how he'd persuade Abdullah to take in Palestinians, Trump told reporters, "I do think he'll take, and I think other countries will take also. They have good hearts?

The king is also meeting with

... as he escalates hold US funding from Jordan and Egypt, longtime US allies Marco Rubio, national security adviser Mike Waltz, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth. He is the third foreign leader to hold an in-person meeting with Trump since his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Trump announced his ideas for resettling Palestinians from Gaza and taking ownership of the territory for the US during a press conference last week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump initially didn't rule out deploying US troops to help secure Gaza but at the same time insisted no US funds would go to pay for the recon-struction of the territory, raising fundamental questions about the nature of his plan. After Trump's initial com-ments, Rubio and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt insisted that Trump only wanted Palestinians relocated from Gaza "temporarily" and sought an "interim" period to allow for debris removal, the disposal of unexploded ordnance and reconstruction. But asked in an interview with Fox News' Bret Baier that aired Monday if Palestinians in Gaza would

top Trump administration officials during his visit, including Secretary of State to return to the replied, "No, they wouldn't."

PTI SCOTTSDALE (US)

One person was killed and Oothers were injured when a private jet owned by Motlev Crue singer Vince Neil collided with another jet Monday afternoon at the Scottsdale Airport in Arizona, authorities said. Neil's jet was landing at the airport when it veered off the runway and collided with another parked plane, Neil's representative Worrick Robinson, IV, said in a statement. There were two pilots and two passengers on Neil's plane, but he was not among them.

"Mr. Neil's thoughts and prayers go out to everyone involved, and he is grateful for the critical aid of all first responders assisting today," Robinson said.

The arriving jet veered off the runway and collided with the Gulfstream 200 jet that was parked on private property, according to Kelli Kuester, avia tion planning and outreach coordinator at the Scottsdale Airport. It appeared that the left main landing gear of the arriving jet failed, resulting in the collision, she said.

Kuester said four people were on the arriving jet, which had come from Austin, Texas, and one person was in the parked plane. Two people injured in the collision were taken to trauma centers and one was in stable condi-



tion at a hospital, Scottsdale Fire Department Capt Dave Folio said. He said they were working to recover the body of the person killed in the collision.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to everybody involved in this," Folio said.

The runway has been closed and will remain closed "for the foreseeable future," Kuester said. Scottsdale Mayor Lisa Borowsky said in a statement that she is closely monitoring the situation and is in touch with the airport, police and federal agencies.

On behalf of the city of Scottsdale, we offer our deepest condolences to those involved in the accident and for those who have been taken to our trauma center for treatment," she said. "We will keep all affected by this tragedy in our prayers."

The airport is a popular hub for jets coming in and out of the Phoenix area, especially during big sports weekends like the Waste Management Phoenix Open golf tournament, which attracts huge crowds just a few miles away.

The Scottsdale collision comes after three major US aviation disasters in the past two weeks. A commercial jetliner and an Army helicopter collided near the nation's capital on Jan. 29, killing 67 people. A medical transortation plane crashed in Philadelphia on Jan 31, killing the six people on board and another person on the ground. And last week a small commuter plane crashed in western Alaska on its way to the hub community of Nome, killing all 10 people on board.

countermeasures to United States tariffs

Brussels (PTI): European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen vowed on Tuesday that US tariffs on steel and aluminum "will not go unanswered", adding that they will trigger tough countermeasures from the 27-nation bloc. "The EU will act to safeguard its economic interests," von der Leyen said in a statement in reaction to US President Donald Trump's imposition of tariffs on steel and alu-

minum the previous day. "Tariffs are taxes — bad for business, worse for consumers," von der Leyen said. "Unjustified tariffs on the EU will not go unanswered they will trigger firm and proportionate countermeasures. In Germany, home to the EU's largest economy, Chancellor Olaf Scholz told parliament that "if the US leaves us no other choice, then the European Union will react united," adding that "ultimately, trade wars always cost both sides prosperity".

Trump is hitting foreign steel and aluminum with a 25% tax in the hope that they will give local producers relief from intense global competition, allowing them to charge high-

er prices. He imposed similar tariffs during his first presidency but the move damaged relations with key US allies and drove up costs for "downstream" manufacturers that buy steel and aluminum.

It is not clear what counter measures would seek to apply, but officials and observers have said they would target Republican states and traditionally strong US exports.

After Trump imposed steel tariffs in 2018, the EU imposed counter-tariffs on US-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans, among other items. EU Commission vice-president Maroš Šefcovic said Tuesday that the tariffs are "economi cally counterproductive, especially given the deeply integrated production chains established through our extensive transatlantic trade and investment ties".

We will protect our workers, businesses and consumers, Šefcovic said, but added that "it is not our preferred sce nario. We remain committed to constructive dialogue. We stand ready for negotiations and to find mutually beneficial solutions where possible."





JD Vance rails against 'excessive regulation' of AI at Paris summit

PTI PARIS

US Vice President JD Vance on Tuesday warned global leaders and tech industry executives that "excessive regulation" could cripple the rapidly growing artificial intelligence industry in a rebuke to European efforts to curb AI's risks. The speech underscored a widening, three-way rift over

The United States, under President Donald Trump, champions a hands-off approach to fuel innovation, while Europe is tightening the reins with strict regulations to ensure safety and accountability. Meanwhile, China is rapidly expanding AI through statebacked tech giants, vying for dominance in the global race.

from a joint statement signed by more than 60 nations, pledging to "promote AI accessibility to reduce digital divides" and "ensure AI is open, inclusive, transparent, ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy? The agreement also called for "making AI sustainable for people and the planet" and protecting "human rights, gender

equality, linguistic diversity, protection of consumers and of intellectual property rights." In a surprise, China - long criticised for its human rights record - signed the declaration, leaving the US as the outlier. At the summit, Vance made his first major policy speech since becoming vice president last month, framing AI as an economic turning point but cau-

weapons-grade levels.

count.

The US was noticeably absent tioning that "at this moment, we face the extraordinary prospect of a new industrial revolution, one on par with the invention of the steam engine". 'But it will never come to pass if overregulation deters innovators from taking the risks necessary to advance the ball," Vance added.

The 40-year-old vice president, leveraging the AI summit and a security conference in Munich later this week, is seeking to project Trump's forceful new style of diplomacy. The Trump administration will

"ensure that AI systems developed in America are free from ideological bias," Vance said and pledged the US would "never restrict our citizens" right to free speech".

Vance also took aim at foreign

governments for "tightening the screws" on US tech firms, saying such moves were troubling. His remarks underscored the growing divide between Washington and its European allies on AI governance.

Commission European President Ursula von der Leyen stressed that, "AI needs the con fidence of the people and has to be safe" and detailed EU guidelines intended to standardise the bloc's AI Act but acknowledged concerns over regulatory burden.

"At the same time, I know that we have to make it easier and we have to cut red tape and we will," she added.

She also announced that the "InvestAI" initiative had reached a total of€200 billion in AI investments across

Europe, including€20 billion dedicated to AI gigafactories. The summit laid bare competing global AI strategies -Europe pushing to regulate and invest, China expanding AI through state-backed giants, and the US doubling down on an unregulated, free-market approach. French President Emmanuel

Macron positioned Europe as a "third way" in the AI race, one that avoids dependence on major powers like the United States and China.

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	CUBICAL FINANCIAL SE Regd. Office-456, Aggarwal Metro Height, Netaji S CIN-L65993DL1990i	Subhash Place,		alhi-110034
we	bsite : www.cubical90.com		nail : cubfinse	@yahoo.com
Ext	ract of the statement of Unaudited Financial Result	ts for the Quart	er ended Dece	mber 31, 2024
				(Rs. In Lacs
SI.		Quarter	Quarter	Year
No.	Particulars	Ended	Ended	Ended
L		12/31/2024	12/31/2023	31-03-2024
		(Un-audited)	(Un-audited)	(Audited)
1.	Total Income from operations	37.48	37.36	273.45
2.	Profit/ (Loss) for the period before tax	14.54	9.40	128.70
3.	Net Profit / Loss for the period after tax	11.67	13.37	115.88
	Equity Share Capital	1303.40	1303.40	1303.40
	Reserves excluding Revaluation Reserve	-	-	169.27
6.	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (of Rs. 2/- each)			
	Basic	0.02	0.04	0.18
	Diluted	0.02	0.04	0.18
Not	e:- The above is an Extract of the Detailsed Forma	t of Quarterly F	inancial Result	s filed with the
Sto	ck Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (List	ing Obligations	and Disclocure	Requirements
Reg	julations, 2015 The Full Format of the Quarterely Fi	nancial Results	is available on	the Website o
Bor	mbay Stock Exchange at www.bseindia.com & on C	ompany website	e at www.cubic	alrealtors.com
	54¥ 🗐	By Or	rder of the Boa	rd of Directors
불		for CUBICAL FI	NANCIAL SERV	ICES LIMITED
n in in				Sd/-
	V276		(ASHWANI K	UMAR GUPTA
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

MANAGING DIRECTO DIN-00348610

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Ruchi Chaturved is the owner of Piot no. 10 & 11, area measuring 152 sq. yards. i.e. 127.08 sq. meters. out of Khasra no. 994 situated at Keshayour Exotica-2, village Accheja, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Disti. Gautam Budh Nagar through Sale Deed dated 20.12.021 as Doc no. 41967 executed by Mr. Shahmal Singh in favour of Mrs. Ruchi Chaturvedin respectofsaid Plot. Mrs. Ruchi Chaturvedi intends to transfer the ownership of above-mentioned Piotby way of Sale Deed to Sunil Kumar. Subsequently, Sunil Kumaris in the process of mortgaging the said plot with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the considered binding with respect

period will not be considered binding with respe-to the said property or the interests of our client.

To the said property of the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Yashraj Deora thereinafter referred to as the said Mortgagor/Borrower) is purchasing Ground Floor, built on Plot No. 200 in Bock C, adm. 300 Sq. Yrts. Greater Kailash Part-I, New Delhi. (Hereinafter referred to "said property") from Mrs. Bhavna Singh d/o Late Virender Bhardwaj who is its absolute owner by virtue of Sale Dead dated 27.11.1961 regd. as 8055, Will dated 0.10.1.1967, Family Settlement dated 13.04.2004, Supplementary Agreement dated 14.06.2004, Will dated 0.708.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Will dated 0.68.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Will dated 0.68.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Will dated 0.69.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Will dated 0.69.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Will dated 0.708.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Will dated 0.708.2007 regd. as Doc. No. 2783, Bark Limited, D-70A, East of Kailash, New Delhi. Any person. body, individual, institution having any **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Bank Limited, D-70 A, East of Kailash, New Delhi. Any person, body, individual, institution having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said property by way of sale, exchange, lease, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, gift, trust, easement, maintenance, inheritance, testamentary deposition or otherwise or having in their custody any title documents pertaining to the said property shall communicate the same to the undersigned at our address within 07 days from the publication of this notice with documentary evidence in support thereof, failing which all the claim, of such person shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Any objections raised after the completion of the 07 days shall not be binding upon the said property or purchaser/Mortgagor/Borrower.

Ms. Smridhi Mahajan (Advocate); A-38, Kailash Colony New Delhi. 110048 Tel.+ 1149774545/99

PUBLIC NOTICE It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs Seema who is the owner of Plot measurin 25 sq.yds., Khasra No.470b, situated a 25 sq.yds., Khasra No.470b, situated a Saraswati Vihar, Village Khoda, Pargan. Loni, Tehsil and Distt. Ghazlabad, Utta Pradesh vide Sale Deed date 19.03.202 (Doc. No.3476) executed by Mr. Ramesl and same to be finance & mortgage b Muthoot Homefin (India) Ltd. (MHL). That Mr. Ramesh has sold the said property without consent of Legal Heirs of Late Mrs Kirankali wife of Mr. Dulli intespect of Khasn. No. 470b and others (Property has been mutated in the name of Mr. Ramesh (son) am K. Asbok (varandson) as the Legal Heirs of Legal Heirs of Late Mrs No. 41 You and solves it (Deputy has been invitated in the name of Mr. Ramesh (son) and Mr. Ashok (grandson) as the Legal Heirs o deceased Mrs. Kirankali, but further Sale Deed was executed by Mr. Ramesh only without consent of Mr. Ashok. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LF B-33B, Second Floor, Opp. SEI Bani Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301Contact#0120-426937

Sector 2 Noida IIP-201301Contact#0120-426937

PUBLIC NOTICE On behalf of M/S MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD having its registered office at 408, 4th floor, RG Trade Tower Netaii Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of application/

documents submitted by Smt. Veena

Gautam W/o. Late Sh. Suresh Kumar

Gautam R/0 737. Mukheriee Nagar, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice regarding cancellation of property This Public Notice is from M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd for Mr Ravindra Kumar and Mrs Sweat Soni bearing unit no. B2-805 at JKG Palm Court Plot No. GH-01D, Sector 16C, Greater Noida West, Uttar Pradesh-201009

We have offered possession of your allotted unit in June 2019, basis which we have shared final demand notice of unit B2-805 on 23.08.2019 21.09.2020, 03.02.2022, 31.03.2022, 11.03.2024 & 18.06.2024 but you failed to make the payment as per final demand notice. Hence we have cancelled your allotted unit via cancellation intimation letter dated 25.11.2024. Neither got any response from your end nor we have received any payment so far which tantamount to your tacit acceptance that you are no more interested in taking possession of the said flat.

Hence your allotted flat B2-805 is being cancelled as such the allotment has become null & void and you have no claim on the dwelling unit and Public Notice regarding cancellation of property your deposited amoun shall be refunded as per BBA Claus.

For M/S JKG Construction Pvt Ltd

मार्गा म.प्र. राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम मर्यादित पर्यटन भवन भदभदा रोड, भोपाल-462003

फोन : 0755-4027100, 2774340/42, www.mpstdc.com क्रमांक 95/यांत्रिकी/पविनि/25 दिनांक 11.02.2025

निविदा सूचना 49/ 2025 STDC 402137 1

मध्यप्रदेश राज्य पर्यटन विकास निगम भोपाल द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेत ऑनलाइन (Online) निविदा प्रपत्र APPENDIX 2.10 पर म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से आमंत्रित की जाती है। कार्य का नाम : भारत भवन भोपाल के परिसर में कलाग्राम का निर्माण एवं विकास कार्य (आंतरिक विद्युतीकरण सहित)। (15 माह)। कार्य की अनुमानित लागत राशि रु. 1072.59 लाख

वेबसाइट पर ऑनलाइन भुगतान कर निविदा प्रपत्र (टेण्डर डाक्युमेंट) वेबसाइट के माध्यम से क्रय किये जा सकते है। निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन क्रय करने की अंतिम तिथि 05.03.2025 समय सायं 05:00 बजे तक निर्धारित है। कार्य का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यपालन यंत्री म.प्र.माध्यम/118775/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of M/S MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD having its registered office at 408.4th floor, RG Trade Tower Netaji Subhash Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034, the general public is hereby informed that on the basis of application. documents submitted by Sh. Mahesh Chand Singal H/o. Late Smt. Vinod Bala Jain Singal R/O. A-701, Airport Apartment Sector-47, South City-II, Gurgaon-122018, the Developer M/s. Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd is Substituting, in place of late Smt. Vinod Bala Jain Singal, the name of following Class 1 Legal heirs of Late Smt. Vinod Bala Jain Singal, qua allotment of Flat No. D-103, 10th Floor. Maxheights Metro View Apartments

Sector-35. Sonipat Harvana:-1. Mahesh Chand Singal (Husband) 2. Nishi Jain (Daughter)

the said property or against the said substitution, they may file his/her

claim/objection within 15 days to the

पंजाब नैचनल बेंत

punjab national bank

Circle Office: South Delhi, 7 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066

E-mail: cosdelgad@pnb.co.in

NOTICE TO GENERAL PUBLIC

shifted where) or any other branch of Punjab

National Bank. We wish to inform all the locker holders of our existing branch that utmost care will be taken while shifting the

ockers to the new branch address.

owever, any customer with a locker facility isires to take possession of contents

before shifting and re-deposit the same after

shifting the lockers to the new branch address, we request you to do so on or before 05.03.2025 by contacting Branch

Head, Puniab National Bank is always

3. Taniya Jain (Daughter)

Date : 11.02.2025

Metro Max Infrastructures 4. Pranab Kumar Jain(Son) f any person has any objection/claim on

Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. Judgment debtors Judgement Debtors Name:

Monu Kumar & Ors

PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIONAL CONSUMER

DISPUTES REDRESSAL

COMMISSION

Inder the Consumer Protection Act, 2019

Upbhokta Nyay Bhawan 'F'- Block,

General Pool Office Complex, INA,

NEW DELHI-110023

Telephone No.: 011-24608801-04

Fax No.: 011-24651505

Email: ncdrc@nic.in

Website: www.ncdrc.nic.in

Execution Application No. 379 of 2024

in

Consumer Complaint No. 1361 of 2015

Versus

..... Decree Holders

company, and thereafter no objection/ 1. M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES claim will be entertained in this regard. Kshitij Sharda Advocate PVT. LTD. D-12, FIRST FLOOR, OPPOSITE D/1516/2008

- B-9, GATE NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ NEW DELHI-110070. (a), MR. PANKAJ SHARMA, ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES PVT. LTD.
- F-119, 1ST FLOOR, JANPATH, SHYAM
- NAGAR, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN. MR. PANKAJ SHARMA,
- ADDITIONAL DIRECTOR M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES
- All General and Esteemed customers are hereby informed that the shifting of the following branch as mentioned under Punjab PVT. LTD. D-12, FIRST FLOOR OPPOSITE B-9,
- National Bank, Circle Office South Delhi has been finalized with effect from 10 March 2025, details of which are as under: GATÉ NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ NEW Branch to Shift: B-1/A-14, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Main Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044 DELHI-110070. MR AMIT DHINGRA
 - ADDTIONAL DIRECTOR M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES PVT. LTD.

MR. ASHU MATHUR. DIRECTOR

M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES

MR. SHIV PRATAP GURJAR, DIRECTOR

M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES

D-12, FIRST FLOOR OPPOSITE B-9,

M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES

D-12, FIRST FLOOR OPPOSITE B-9,

NOTICE

(Service By way of Publication of Notice)

Whereas, in Execution Application No. 379 of

2024 in Consumer Complaint 1361 of 2015 has

een filed by the Decree Holder - Mr. Monu Kumar

S/o Lt. Krishan Prasad Singh & Ors. R/o 3rd Floor

House No. J-15, Dilshad Colony. Delhi-110095.

nrough its counsel Mr. Rachit Batra, Advocate

Chamber No. 315, Block-1, Delhi. High Court

New Delhi, Mobile No.9953033330 before the

Hon'ble National Consumer Disputes Redressal

Commission, New Delhi.

GATE NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ, NEW

GATE NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ NEW

MR. DEEPAK RANA, DIRECTOR

D-12, FIRST FLOOR OPPOSITE B-9,

GATE NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ, NEW

Place where Branch to be shift: 8-1/A-12, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Main Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044 D-12, FIRST FLOOR OPPOSITE B-9. Therefore, all customers are requested to operate their account and avail of other banking facilities from 10 March 2025 at the above-mentioned branch address (to be GATE NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ NEW

DELHI-110070

DELHI-110070

DELHI-110070

DELHI-110070

PVT ITD

PVT. LTD.

PVT LTD.

PVT. LTD.

curbs on foreign cars, iPhones CHANGE OF NAME

PTI TEHRAN

ll architecture student A Amirhossein Azizi wanted for his 19th birthday was the latest iPhone - and for Iran's cash-strapped theocracy, it was just the gift they needed as well. Just buying a top-of-the-line iPhone 16 Pro Max in Iran's capital cost him on the day 1.6

billion rials (USD 1,880). An additional 450 million rials (USD 530) is required for import fees and registration on government-managed mobile phone networks.

"I'm very happy to own one of the most expensive phones in the country," Azizi said. His father, Mohammad, laughed nearby and added: "Maybe if they had to earn the money themselves, they wouldn't be so quick to spend it."

The purchase is only possible after Iran lifted import bans on expensive goods like foreign cars and new iPhones, vielding to public demand for the products while also trying to mask the dire straits of its economy. While being described as a way to boost Iran's much-vaunted "resistance economy", the decisions trapped Iranians into buying more affordable locally produced vehicles long derided as "death wagons" and boosted the prices of aging, secondhand iPhones.

orated, pushing average Iranians into holding onto They also provide Iran with gold, real estate and other tanmuc -nee tax revenues a its government struggles under international sanctions over its nuclear programme. Uncertainty over how US President Donald Trump will deal with Iran also has put pressure on its rial currency, which sits at record lows against the dollar. Powerful forces within Iran long have been believed to be taking advantage of the sanctions, while those benefiting may just be among the country's most well-off citizens.

Iran loosens import

Sanctions are not new for us? I, Syed Mansoor Ahmed S/o Khamenei said in a 2010 Syed Marghoob R/o LP-9D, speech. "All achievements have Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, been made and all the great Delhi-110034 have changed movements of the people of

my name to SYED MANSOOR. Iran have been launched while we were under sanctions? PD(1451)C In some ways, it's worked for I, Kapil Dewan, S/o Hari Iran's ruling clerics since Trump Krishan Dewan, R/o Eunilaterally reimposed sanc-20/79, Ground Floor, tions on Tehran after withdraw-Sector- 3, Rohini, Delhiing America from the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran struck deals 110085, have changed my with China to continuing buy-Name from Kapil Kumar ing its crude oil, likely at a dis-Dewan to Kapil Dewan for all purposes. Those in Iran's paramilitary

PD(1453)C Revolutionary Guard, which I, hitherto known as Sucheta has grown into a major power Chauhan W/o- Surendra center under Khamenei, handle Chauhan, R/o- Flat No. 77A, the sales — both funding their D-1C Block, Janak Puri, New operations against Israel during Delhi- 110058, have changed the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip and creating a new my name and shall hereafter wealthy elite loval to Khamenei. be known as Sucheta Verma But for the average person, for all purposes. there's clearly a before and an

PD(1454)C I, Baboo Lal, Father of-No.16013275P Hav Hariom Singh, R/o- Vill- Nagla Shyam, Post- Akola, Teh & Dist- Agra, U.P.- 283102, have changed my name from Baboo Lal to Babulal, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1455)C I, Soniya Yadav W/o- JC-676708L Sub Man Singh, R/o-Vill & PO- Patauda, Teh & Dist-Jhajjar, Harvana-

I, Panchu Yadav, Father of-No.6502805K Sep Mahesh Kumar Yadav, R/o- Vill & PO-Paragasapur, Dist-Sant Ravidas Nagar, U.P.- 221409, have changed my name from Panchu Yadav to Panchulal Kalikaprasad Yadav, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1459)C I, Phool Devi, Mother of-No.6502805K Sep Mahesh Kumar Yadav, R/o- Vill & PO-Paragasapur, Dist- Sant Ravidas Nagar, U.P.- 221409, have changed my name from Phool Devi to Ful Devi, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1460)C

I, No.15816356L Hav Shyam Vir Singh, R/o- Vill- Mansya Kalan, Post & Teh- Sadabad, Distt-Hathras, U.P.- 281306, declare that in my service records, my mother's name & DOB is wrongly mentioned as Vimlesh Devi (DOB 03/05/1970) whereas her correct Name & DOB is Vimlesh (DOB 04/05/1965) which may be amended accordingly for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 10/02/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi Cantt

PD(1461)C I, Buddhi Prakash Singh, Father of- No.15435405K Hav (NA) Gyanendra Singh, R/o-Vill & PO- Diya, Teh & Dist-Panna, M.P.- 488001, have changed my name from Buddhi Prakash Singh to

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Karamwati who is purchasing the Residential Piot bearing No. 39, area measuring 420 Sq., Mrs., Road Moulsari, Situated in the residential colony known as DLF City (Earlier Known as DLF Outab Enclave complex). Phase ill, and around Village Nathupur, Tehsil Wazirabad & District Gurugram, Haryana from Mr. Atul Atri and Ms. Mukta Nidhi Samnotra who had owned the subject property by virtue of 05.07.2024, which was executed by Mrs. Tara Atri, Neide Document No. 6723, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 173/5611, on Pages 29.75/1 to 10, on dated 05.07.2024, SR-Wazirabad, now Mrs. Karamwati intends to purchase the same and intend to 05.07.2024, SR-Wazirabad, now Mrs. Karamwati intends to purchase the same and intend to Original Salita Housing Finance Limited, That the Original Salita Housing Finance Limited, That the Suff Sub LF Universal Limited in favour of Mrs. Tara Atri in respect of the said property (Doc No. 10894) is/are lost/misplaced, Now, Mr. Atul Atri and Ms. Mukta Nidhi Samnotra is absolute owner of the property as abovementioned. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBEC, we give Atri and Ms. Mukta Nidhi Samnotra is absolute owner of the property as abovementioned. To comply the requirements of BANKINBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to initimate in writing to the undersigned about his objections within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Dethi-110049,Contact # 011-40046316 PUBLIC NOTICE ERNED THAT WE, ANIL KUMAR AGARWAL

T IS BROUGHT TO THE NOTICE OF ALL CONCERNED THAT WE, ANIL KUMARAGARWAL S/O SHRI HUKUM CHAND AGARWAL & MRS. MADHU (UMARI AGARWAL WIF OF SHRI ANIL KUMAR SCARWAL R/O E-301 ELITEESTATE, PLOT NO. C-4, SECTOR-18, VASUNDHARA-GHAZIABAD-201012, IOINTLY HEREBY DECLARES THAT DUE TO VARIOUS DIFFERENCES ANISEN BETWEEN US AND DUR ELDER DAUGHTER MS. MAHIMA GOVEN DUE TO HER HOSTILE, IRRESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR, JONDUCT AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS US AND DESPITE OUR DISAGREEMENT FOR HER DECISION NOUR FULL SENSE AND IN SOUND STATE OF MIND AEREBY DISCOMED OUR DAUGHTER MS. MAHIMA GYENN FROM OUR ALL PROPERTIES WITH MEDIATE EFFECT AND HEREBY FURTHER JOUGHTEN MS. MAHIMA GOVEN AMINGAN GYENNER SM AND AND DESPITE SING NUR FULL SENSE AND IN SOUND STATE OF MIND AEREBY DISCOMED OUR DAUGHTER MS. MAHIMA GYEN FROM OUR ALL PROPERTIES WITH MEDIATE EFFECT AND HEREBY FURTHER DECLARE THAT AFTER OUR DEMISE OUR CHILDRENAND/OR HER HUSBAND SHALL HAVE NO CONCERN WITH OUR PROPERTIES IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER. FURTHER IF ANY BODY JEALS WITH OUR DUGHTER MS MAHIMA AGVEN SHALL BE. DOING SO ENTIRELY AT HIS/HER OWN SHALL BE. DOING SO ENTIRELY AT HIS/HER OWN SHALL BE DOING SO ENTIRELY AT HIS/HER OWN

DATED: 04th February 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

olice is hereby given on behalf of M/S. IDDLEPATH CONSULTANCY PVT. LTD with spect to PLOT NO. 3 AREA MEASURING 350 2 MTRS BLOCK

respect to PLOT NO. 3 AREA MLASURING 330 SQ. MTRS, BLOCK-D, STUATED IN VILLAGE RANGPURI RESIDENTIAL SCHEME NEW DELHI; which is presently owned byM/s Middlepath Consultancy PWL tdL had purchased he 4/f^b share of subject property from Mrs. Phoolwali, Ram Kumar, Inderwali, Ashok Kumar, fara & Mrs. Krishna Devi and Phoolwali (1/5th

PLACE : DELHI

PUBLIC NOTICE

DATED : 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

"It's more about perception than reality," Iranian economist Saeed Leilaz said.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, now 85, first proposed the idea nearly 15 years ago as Tehran faced its first round of intense sanctions over its nuclear program, which the West fears puts the Islamic Republic at the precipice of obtaining an atomic bomb. Iran maintains its program is peaceful — even as it enriches uranium closer than ever to

wealth Other cryptocurrencies or fall to getrich schemes Iran banned the import of for-

after for the life under the

nuclear deal, which saw Iran

agree to drastically limit its

enrichment and overall stock-

At the time of the deal, the

Iranian rial traded at 32,000 to

USD 1. Now, a decade later,

USD 1 was worth 885,000 rials

The public's savings have evap-

reserves remain low due to sanctions. "Lifting restrictions

on a few platforms or allowing

iPhone imports are the kinds of

steps the government can take

guickly and with minimal cost

to create a sense of progress,"

said Leilaz, the economist.

pile of uranium.

on Tuesday.

eign cars in 2017, while not allowing iPhones newer than the 13 to be registered on the country's mobile phone networks. The phone decision set off a scramble for older iPhones, boosting their price, while used car prices for foreign models remain high as well. In the last Persian year ending in March 2024, Iran imported USD 3.2 billion worth of mobile phones, customs data shows. The cut for high-end iPhones makes them a lucrative option to plug some of the gaping holes in Iran's government spending though Iran's foreign currency

124108, have changed my name from Soniva Yadav to Soniya, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1456)C I, Inder Kanwar, Mother of-No.16028631F Rfn Mool Singh, R/o- Ratdiya Ki Dhani Dhouba, PO- Khuri, Dist-Jaisalmer, Rajasthan- 345034, have changed my name from Inder Kanwar to Indra, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1457)C I, Gayatri Devi, Mother of-No.16013275P Hav Hariom Singh, R/o- Vill- Nagla Shyam, Post- Akola, Teh & Dist- Agra, U.P.- 283102, have changed my name from Gayatri Devi to Gaytri Devi, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

Buddhiprakash Sinh, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

Kumar Manjhi, R/o- PO-

Ihalbarda, PS- Chandankiyari,

Kumardih, Bokaro, Jharkhand-

828134, declare that Palashi

Devi is my mother, in my

service documents her name

is wrongly written as Moni

Devi whereas her correct

name is Palashi Devi, vide

affidavit dated 11/02/2025

PD(1462)C I, No.15448314Y Sep Mithun Kumar Manjhi, R/o- PO-Jhalbarda, PS- Chandankiyari, Kumardih, Bokaro, Jharkhand-828134, declare that Badal Kumar Manjhi is my father, in

Brookwati, Ram Kumar, Inderwäti, Nahne Kumar, Tara & Mis, Krishna Devil and Phoolwati (165h Share), Ashok Kumar(1/10th share), Ram Kumar, Inderwati (1/10th share) & Tara wio Ashok(1/10th Share), Mis. Krishna Devi Intrough Their constituted general attorney. Mis Middlepath Consultancy Pet Livivde Regio GPA, SRA with Agreement to Selfs Will dated 56.07.213 & (Self) Sale Deed dated 20.6 2014 and had purchased the 1/5th share of subject property from(1) Mrs. Geetawati wio late Koldeep Singh & (3) Mrs. Heeraw with Selfa Kudeep Singh & (3) Mrs. Heera wio Ashok(1/14th Release Deec dated 20.02.014. Further, SPA dated 05.07.2013 & GPA dated 27.06.2014 vide 50.5.2014, Hencethere is not any defect in title & claim of any person. Now, PARVEEN SIROH Middlepath Consultancy Pvt. Lid is declaring Hat Inderwati wio Ram Kumar name not mentioned in Conveyance Deed dated 80.50.2014, Hencethere is not any defect in title & claim of any person. Now, PARVEEN SIROH HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, wije this pulcy had inder y person. Now, PaRVEEN SIROH HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, wije this pulcy days form load, failing which it shall be presumed that inder values slienes and mortgage LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110048.2014.518 my service documents his name is wrongly written as Badle Manjhi whereas his correct name is Badal Kumar Manjhi, vide affidavit dated 11/02/2025 before Notary PD(1463)C I, No.15448314Y Sep Mithun

RLF LIMITED Reg. Office:14 KMS, Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran, Distt. Gurgaon Haryana-122001 Corporate Office: D-41, South Extension-II, New Delhi-110049. CIN NO. L74999HR1979PLC032747, Phone: 011-26258237, Email: teamunited83@gmail.com

FINAL CALL MONEY-CUM-FORFEITURE NOTICE OF THE HOLDERS OF PARTL' PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES OF RLF LIMITED AS ON THE CUT OFF DATE I.E. TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 04th 2025.

In terms of provisions of the companies Act, 2013 (Act'), read with the relevant rules made thereunder the Final Call Money-Cum-Forfeiture Notice has been issued in the Physical mode to holders of Para pad up shares on their registered address available with the RTA of the Company as on the CUT OFF DATE LE, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 041H 2025, who have not pad the call money or part thereof. The Cum Company can be call the Role of the Role of the RTA of the Cum Company as one of Fide, 2014.

Labalation of third call where Compension relation in Frysland incode was compared on Pricedy of Perurary, 2025 respectively. The Board of Directors of the company at its meeting held on Wednesday, January 22, 2025, ha pproved to send the Final Call Money-Cum-Forfeiture Notice for payment of Final Call Money of S/- per artly-up equity share (comprising 85- towards face value). Urther, the Board of Directors of the Company fixed the period of Final Call Money-Cum-Forfeiture lottee from which call money will be payable, the details relating to the said events are mentione varounder.

recunder: The Company has fixed Cut-off date i.e. Tuesday, February 4, 2025, for the purpose of ascertaining the holders of Equity Shares to whom the Final Call money-Cum-Forfeiture Notice would be sent.

	would be sent.				
2.	Fixation of per	iod of pay	ment of Final Call Mor	ey (Both days inclusive) and mod	ie of payment:
Payr	nent Period	From		То	Duration
		Monday,	10 February, 2025	Monday, 24 February, 2025	15 Days
Mod	e of Payment		ue/Demand Draft	RLF Limited	
			e payable to)		
(i)Av				syments to be received on or befo	re close of
з.			ay, February 24, 2025.	le by cheque or demand draft mu	
3.				ion on or before Monday, Februar	
Nam	e of the Compar		RLF Limited.	ien en er belere mendag, i obraa	<i>j</i> = 1, 2020.
		.,		dress: D-41, South Extension, Part I	I, New
			Delhi-110049 Conta	ct Details: 011-41644995 011-490	75251
				nited83@gmail.com Website: www.rlf	itd.com
-			Contact Person: Mr.		
Fina	I Call Money			raft payable at Delhi, along with com	
			the office of the Co	by registered post/speed post/cou	nerat
4.	The sharehold	er must in		ing details in the payment slip:	
a.			irst shareholder;	a detaile in the payment expr	
b.	Final Call Mon	ey-Cum-	Forfeiture Notice Numb	er.;	
C.	DP ID-Client II				
d.	No. of partly p				
				y pursuant to the final call mon- uity shares of the Company (to the	
				eady paid thereon are liable to	
				of Association of the Company an	
Forn					
Shar	reholder may not				
i.				artly paid-up equity shares shall b	
	fully paid-up NSDL/CDSL	ordinary	shares and would b	e credited to ISIN INE629C01	014, allotted by
ü.		-receipt o	f the Final Call Money	-Cum-Forfeiture Notice, shareholi	ders can request
				Money-Cum- Forfeiture Notice to	
				pany's website: www.rlfltd.com;	
				client ID/Folio No., number of part	ly paid-up equity
	shares held ar	nd amount	payable towards the F	irst and Final Call Money.	

All correspondence in this regard may be addressed to: RLF Limited, Communication Address: D-41, South Extension, Part II, New Delhi-110049 Itact Details: 011-41644995: 011-49075251 ail Address: teamunited83@gmail.com

ebsite: www.rlfltd.com ontact Person: Mr. Vikas Grover or RLF Limited

110009, the Developer M/s. Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd is Substi tuting, in place of late Sh. Suresh Kuma Gautam, the name of following Class Legal heirs of Late Sh. Suresh Kuma Gautam, qua allotment of Flat No G-051 5th Floor and D-102, 10th Floor, Maxheights Metro View Apartments, Sector-35, Sonipat Haryana:-1. Prachi Vohra (Daughter)

2. Varun Gautam (Son) 3. Veena Gautam (Wife) If any person has any objection/claim on the said property or against the said substitution, they may file his/her claim/objection within 15 days to the company, and thereafter no objection/ claim will be entertained in this regard.

Date : 11.02.2025

itted to provide the best of the mers. Date: 12.02.2025 FORM NO. INC-26 (Pursuant to rule 30 the Companie (Incorporation) Rules, 2014] Advertisement for the shifting of Registered Office of the Applicant Kshitij Sharda Advocate

D/1516/2008

Aditya Khanna Managing Director DIN:01860038

Company from one State to another POONAM NAYYAR, DIRECTOR M/S. METRO MAX INFRASTRUCTURES **BEFORE THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT** REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MINISTRY O D-12, FIRST FLOOR OPPOSITE B-9, GATE NO. 1, VASANT KUNJ NEW CORPORATE AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NORTHERN REGION B-2 WING, 2nd FLOOR, PARYAVARAN DELHI-110070 BHAWAN, CGO COMPLEX,

Circle Head

NEW DELHI 110003 IN THE MATTER OF SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 13 OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 2013, SECTION 13(4) OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013

AND CLAUSE (a) of SUB-RULE 30 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014 SECTION 13(4) OF COMPANIES ACT, 2013 AND

CLAUSE (a) of SUB-RULE 30 OF THE COMPANIES (INCORPORATION) RULES, 2014

IN THE MATTER OF FORECH INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN:U51109DL1983PTC015047 HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT S-23, GREEN PARK EXTN. NEW DELHI 110016

.....APPLICANT Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make an application to the Central Government / Regional Director under section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of atteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special resolution passed at the Extra Ordinary General meeting of the Shareholder held on 11th February. 2025 to enable the company to change its Registered office from the "State of National Capital Territory of Delhi" to the "State of Haryana".

Haryana". Any person whose interest is likely to be affected Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company may deliver either on MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the concerned Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Northern Region, B-2 wing, 2nd floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO complex, New Delhi 110003 within fourteen days from the date of nublication of this notice with a conv to the

date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

plicant company of the company dress mentioned below: Current registered office of the Company: Forech India Private Limited S-23, Green Park Extn. New Delhi 110016 For and on behalf of the Applicant Forech India Pvt. Ltd. Sd/-Hon Dat Date: 11 February, 2025 Krishan Agarwal Place: New Delhi Whole Time Director DIN – 00020206 Address – 53, Suvidha Kunj, Pitampura, Delhi 110034 3rd.

gy and gas infrastructure in a "massive" nighttime missile attack and Ukrainian drones struck an important oil refinery inside Russia, officials said on Tuesday, as the almost three-year war rumbled on against a backdrop of renewed diplomatic efforts to end it. Ukraine's state energy company, Ukrenergo, said it imposed emergency blackouts due to the Russian attack. Russia has repeatedly hammered Ukraine's power grid throughout the war. Meanwhile, as part of its long-range drone campaign against targets deep inside Russia, Ukraine hit a refinery in Russia's Saratov region about 500 km from Ukraine's border, the Army General Staff claimed. The facility produces gasoline, fuel oil and

Outside Ukraine, international efforts are afoot to stop the fighting. President Donald Trump's senior advisers are expected to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later this week on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference to discuss a path toward ending the war. Vice President JD Vance, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and retired Lt Gen Keith Kellogg, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine and Russia, are among the US administration officials traveling to Germany for the summit.

Ukraine, Russia trade long-range attacks

Kviv (PTI): Russian forces targeted Ukraine's enerdiesel fuel for the Russian military, it said.

> Note under the C www.

Date: 11.02.2025 Place: Delhi

PD(1458)C	before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1464

PD(1464)C

Public Delhi.

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995 Regd. Off: at NS-92,Khasra No – 33/21,Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Arjun park Bus Stand New Delhi – 110043 Email id: superiorfinlease@gmail.com: Website: www.superiorfinlease.com Extract of Statement of Unaudited Financial Result for the Quarter & Nine Month ended 31st December 2024 Rupees in Lacs
 Quarter ended for
 Nine Month ended
 Year ended

 31-12-24
 30-09-24
 31-12-23
 31-12-24
 31.12.2023
 31.03.2024
 Particulars

Particulars	31-12-24	30-09-24	31-12-23	31-12-24	31.12.2023	31.03.2024	
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	
REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS	8.44	22.83	23.16	53.81	72.00	93.73	
Profit / (loss) before exceptional items and	-7.49	13,73	3.59	9.50	-13.60	8.57	
tax (III-IV)							
Profit/(loss) before tax (V-VI)	-7.49	13.73	3.59	9.50	-13.60	8.57	
Profit / (loss) for the period from continuing	-7.49	13.73	3.59	9.50	-13.60	6.34	
operations (VII-VIII)							
Total Comprehensive income for the period	-7.49	13.73	3.59	9.50	-13.60	6.34	
(XIII + XV)							
Paid up equity share capital	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	
(Face value Rs. 1/- per share)							
Reserve excluding Revaluation Reserves as	383.79	383.79	377.58	383.79	377.58	383.79	
per balance sheet of previous accounting year							
Earnings per equity share							
(1) Basic (in Rupees)	-0.02	0.05	0.01	0.03	-0.05	0.02	
(2) Diluted (in Rupees)	-0.02	0.05	0.01	0.03	-0.05	0.02	
: The above is an extract of the detailed formate r regulation 33of the SEBI (Listing Obligations a Quarterly ended Financial Results are av bseindia.com and company's website i.e. www.	and Disclos ailable on	ure Require the Stock	ements) Re	egulations, Website	2015. The f i.e. www.n	ull format of nsei.in and	
				For Sup	erior Finlea	ise Limited Sd/-	

Website i.e. www.msei.in and	Part II, New Delhi-110049
hoodate her waterhootan and	Contact Details: 011-416449 Email Address: teamunited
For Superior Finlease Limited	Website: www.rlfltd.com
Sd/-	Contact Person: Mr. Vikas G For RLF Limited
RAJNEESH KUMAR	
DIRECTOR	Date. Fishi, February, 2025
DIN:02463693	Place: Delhi

2. The Execution Application No. 379 of 2024 i Consumer Complaint 1361 of 2015 relates to non-compliance of the directions passed by the Hon'ble National Commission vide its order dated 18 10 2023 3. Whereas, the Judgment Debtors (as mentioned n the Memo of Parties and addressed to above) ir

ne Execution Application No. 379 of 2024 i Consumer Complaint No. 1361 of 2015 have emained unserved in the normal course

4 And whereas, the Hon'hle National Commissio vide its order dated 23.12.2024 has posted the ase for further hearing on 21.02.2025, directing or substituted service of the hearing notice to the ludgment debtors by way of publication in two lewspapers, one English and one regional

ewspaper having circulation in the area where JDs carries on its business and file proof of the same.

5. Accordingly, take Notice that the above nentioned Judgment debtors are hereby directed o attend the hearing on **21.02.2025 at 10:30** AM, in-person or through an authorized epresentative / counsel, failing which, the case will be heard and determined ex-parte by the

ble National Commission.
ed New Delhi, on this
January, 2024.
(Rajesh Nath)
Assistant Registrar

money 10



PM invites investments in energy sector

PTI NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday invited global investments in India's energy sector, saying the country offers immense possibilities in its pursuit of ambitious renewable energy transition goals in the next five vears

Referring to the target of having 500 GW of renewable energy, five Million Tonnes of green hydrogen per annum output by 2030 as well as the launch of fresh bidding rounds for oil and gas assets, the prime minister said, "There are investments and I hope that you explore all possibilities in India". possibilities of new

"There are many possibilities of investment in these sector," Modi said addressing the India Energy Week 2025 (IEW'25) virtually.

"You are not just a part of India energy week, you are an

important part of India's energy ambitions," Modi told

investors. He further said, "All experts are saying that 21st century is India's century. Bharat is not only driving global growth." India's energy ambitions, he said, are based on five pillars. "We have resources, which we are harnessing. We are encouraging our brilliant minds to innovate. Thirdly, we investors.

encouraging our brilliant minds to innovate. Thirdly, we have economic strength and politically stability," he said. Also, he said, India has strategic geography, which makes energy trade easier and more attractive more attractive.

Besides, India is committed towards global sustainability and this is aiding new possibilities in the country's energy sector, the prime minister said.

For Viksit Bharat, the next two decades are very crucial, he said, adding that in the next five years we will cross many



Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivers his remarks via video conferencing during inauguration of India Energy Week

green hydrogen, he said and "Our energy goals are aligned with the deadline of 2030," he stressed "whatever India has achieved in last ten years said. By 2030, we want to add shows that these targets will be achieved. 500 GW of RE capacity, Indian Railways will be net zero by

In last 10 years, India has become fifth largest economy from 10th largest.

years, solar In last 10 generation capacity increased 32 times, he noted. Today, India is the third largest solar power generating nation and its non-fossil fuel capacity increased three times, he said. India is the first country

among G20 nations to meet its Modi said and pointed carbon emission reduction target set by the Paris global climate conference, he said. About ethanol blending with petrol, he said today India is petrol, he said today india is blending 19 per cent ethanol and exuded confidence that India will achieve the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending ahead of the October 2025

deadline. He boasted India's feedstock of 500 Million Tonnes and said the Global Biofuels Alliance formed during the G20 Summit in New Delhi has 28 member countries and 12 international organisations. Addressing the gathering at the International Energy Week, the prime minister said that India is bringing out reforms to exploit the full potential of exploration and production of hydrocarbons in the country

India is the fourth largest refining hub and it will expand its capacity by 20 per cent,

towards new hydrocarbon discoveries in the country that are yet to be explored, and the government has brought out Open Licensing Acreage Policy (OLAP).

He also stated that the government has supported the energy sector by setting up exclusive economic zones and single-window clearance system. After amendments in the Oilfields Regulation and Development Act, stability, extended leases and improved financial terms.

He also noted that the natural gas supply is increasing due the ramp up in pipeline infrastructure and discoveries. There are a lot of upcoming possibilities of investments in these sectors," he said.

India's major focus is on 'Make in India' and local supply chains, Modi said while highlighting the country's potential of manufacturing various types of hardware, including PV modules. The PM noted that India is

supporting local manufacturing, with the solar PV module manufacturing capacity expanding from two gigawatts to approximately 70 gigawatts in the past 10 years. About the opportunities for innovation and manufacturing in the battery and storage capacity sector, the prime minister said that India is rapidly advancing towards electric mobility and emphasised the need for swift action to meet the demands of such a large country in this sector. Modi said that the current year's budget includes numerous announcements

supporting green energy. He remarked that the National Critical Minerals Mission will play a crucial role in building a robust supply chain in India. He also highlighted the promotion of the non-lithium battery ecosystem.

Considering tariff exemptions on Australian steel, aluminium: Trump

milestones

2030 and we aim to achieve five MT annual output of

PTI MELBOURNE

 $U_{\text{President}}^{\text{nited} \ \text{S}}$ (US) States Donald Trump said he agreed to consider a tariff exemption on Australian steel and aluminium imports after a telephone call on Tuesday with Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese argued for an exemption during the call, which was scheduled before Trump announced tariffs on steel and aluminium

imports on Monday. Trump said the US trade surplus with Australia was one of the reasons he was considering an exemption from the tariffs.

"We actually have a surplus," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office about trade with Australia. "It is one of the only countries which we do. And I told (Albanese) that that's something that will we give great consideration to.' Trump spoke after he removed exceptions and exemptions from his 2018

that an exemption was under consideration in the interests of both of our tariffs on steel, meaning that all steel imports will be countries." "They are the words that are taxed at a minimum of 25 per cent. Trump also hiked



his 2018 aluminium tariffs say, though, that it was a to 25 per cent from 10 per very positive constructive discussion, Albanese added. Albanese had told reporters

earlier in Canberra he made Australia had an exemption Australia's case for an exemption, and that both from such tariffs during Trump's leaders agreed on wording to say publicly, "which is that the US President agreed administration.

Australia's arguments include that the country has run a trade deficit with the US since the mid-20th Australian century and BlueScope steelmaker employs thousands of agreed. They're the words workers in the US. Australia that I will stick to. And I can has only a minor share of workers in the US. Australia

and

first

the US markets. Albanese on Tuesday also raised the AUKUS agreement with the US and Britain, struck with former President Joe Biden's administration, in which Australia will acquire a fleet of submarines powered by of submarines powered by US nuclear technology. "Our steel and aluminium are both key inputs for the US-Australia defense industries in both of our countries," Albanese said.

Australia announced over the weekend it had made the first of six \$500 Million payments to the US under AUKUS to boost US submarine building capacity.

Trump intends to reset US taxes on all imports to match the same levels charged by other countries, all of which comes on top of the 10 per cent tariffs he has already put on China already put on China, China's retaliatory tariffs that started Monday and the US Tariffs planned for Canada and Mexico that have been suspended until March 1. Tuesday's conversation was Albanese's second with

Trump since the president

ONGC inks deal with BP to boost Mumbai high output

Last month ONGC had said the BP deal

PTI NEW DELHI

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC) has signed a contract with global oil major BP for raising output from its flagship Mumbai High (MH) oil and gas field by up to 60 per cent

over the next decade. BP will be Technical Services Provider (TSP) for the Mumbai High field, India's largest and most prolific offshore oil field, the two firms said in a statement.

"ONGC will retain ownership and operational control of the field," it said. "Under the terms of the contract, BP will receive a fixed fee for a period of two years for its deployed personnel, followed by a service fee linked to incremental oil and gas production." BP will work in close collaboration with ONGC to stabilise the field's current production decline and restore it to a robust growth trajectory.

will yield \$10.3 Billion revenue boost from increased oil and gas production. BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd, a wholly-owned step-down subsidiary of BP Plc, as the Technical Service Provider (TSP) "has indicated a substantial potential increase of approximately 44 per cent in crude oil (from baseline production of 45.47 Million Tonnes to 65.41 Million Tonnes) and approximately 89 per cent increase in gas production (from 24.94 Billion Cubic Metres to 47.22 Billion Cubic Metres) for the 10-year contract period," it had said.

In terms of oil and oil equivalent gas, the increase works out to 60 per cent (from 70.40 Million Tonnes of oil equivalent to 112.63 Million Tonnes of oil equivalent). The increase is expected to be visible from FY26 (April 2025 to March 2026 financial year) with fullscale visibility expected from FY28 (April 2027 to March 2028 fiscal).

ONGC said TSP will receive a fixed fee for the first two years, followed by a service fee based on a percentage share of the revenue from net incremental hydrocarbon production, after recovering incremental costs. MH, a prolific multi-layered field located in the Mumbai offshore area, was discovered by ONGC in 1974 and started production in 1976.

The field, which lies some 160 The field, which lies some 160 kilometres in the Arabian Sea off the Mumbai coast, hit a peak of 4,76,000 barrels of oil per day and 28 Billion Cubic Metres of gas in 1989 and has since seen a gradual decline in output. The field currently produces around 1,32,265 barrels of oil per day and around 13 Billion Cubic Metres of gas (less than 10 million standard cubic (less than 10 million standard cubic metres per day or mmscmd).

This output was projected to decline to about 75,000 bpd of oil and less than 4.5 mmscmd of gas by 2037-38.

India opens biggest oil, gas block bid round Easebuzz gets **RBI** approval as

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday opened its largest oil and gas bid round, offering 25 blocks covering 1.91 Lakh square kilometers (sqkm), mostly in offshore area, as the government looks to boost domestic production to cut imports and help energy security.

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched the 10th bid round under the Open icensing Policy

teamed up with ONGC for the first time to bid for a shallow water block in the Gujarat-

OALP-IX blocks to winners. In OALP-IX, ONGC bid for 14 blocks alone and with partners

state-owned ONGC won seven online payment blocks while a private sector consortium of Reliance aggregator Industries and BP, Oil India and private sector Sun Petrochemicals received one block each. The government introduced the OALP in 2017 PTI NEW DELHI to attract oil and gas firms to develop India's upstream sector. The OALP guarantees guarantees marketing and pricing freedom with a revenue-sharing model, apart from offering reduced Reliance and BP have more The nod allows the company than a decade-old partnership and are partners in KG deepsea block KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 from where they produce about 30 Million standard cubic

metres per day of gas. The

government has been hoping

that opening up more acreage

for exploration will help boost

India's oil and gas production,

helping cut down the \$222 Billion oil import bill.

In 2016, it brought in an open acreage policy which moved

away from the previous practice

The firm identifying the area

Mining mogul Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd walked away with

41 blocks out of the 55 blocks

on offer in the very first round

and got another 10 areas in two

gets a five-point advantage.

Payment solutions provider Easebuzz has received final authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online Payment Agregator (PA), according to a

and gas bid rounds since 2017. Reliance-BP combine had bid and won the two blocks they had bid for in the previous rounds and in OALP-IX they

Saurashtra basin. The government is yet to award such as state-owned Oil India Ltd (OIL) and Indian Oil

MoS Defence Sanjay Seth holds series of bilateral meetings

PTI BENGALURU

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth held a series of bilateral meetings on the sidelines of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru.

These meetings took place on Monday, the inaugural day of the biennial Aero India, officials said. In his meeting with Under Secretary of State for Defence, Italy Matteo Perego Di Cremnago, both Ministers reviewed the various facets of bilateral defence cooperation. They discussed about India's growing capabilities in manufacturing equipment and development 01

indigenous systems. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the ties in all spheres, an

official statement said. He also met Minister for the House of Lords, UK, Lord Vernon Coaker. Both the Ministers reviewed the bilateral defence cooperation and pledged to strengthen the relations.

They also reaffirmed their commitment to work bilaterally and with other partners for peace, prosperity and rules-based world order, specifically in the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean Region wherein cooperation would ensure freedom of navigation and rule of law in the maritime and other domains, the statement said.

Trump pauses enforcement of foreign bribery law

PTI VASHINGTON

cent.

States (UC) Donald U^{nited} S President Trump signed an executive order directing the Department of Justice to pause enforcing a nearly half-century-old law that was used to launch a bribery investigation against the

Adani Ğroup. Trump signed an order to pause enforcing of the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) that prohibits American companies and foreign firms from bribing officials of foreign governments to obtain or retain business. The President directed US

Attorney General Pam Bondi to pause enforcement of FCPA, which was at the heart of some of the US Department of Justice's most high-profile cases, including an indictment against Indian billionaire and Adani Group head Gautam Adani and his

nephew Sagar. Last year DoJ under President Joe Biden charged Adani for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over \$250 Million (about ₹2,100 Crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts.

This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors had alleged last year citing FCPA that allows pursuing corruption foreign allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets.

The pause and the review is being seen as a relief to the Adani Group but it remains to be seen what stand the DoJ takes after the six month review period.

The order that Trump signed asked "the Attorney General to review guidelines and policies governing

investigations and enforcement actions under the FCPA" in 180 days.

was elected.

"During the review period the Attorney General shall cease initiation of any new FCPA investigations or enforcement actions, unless the Attorney General the Attorney G determines that determines individual exception should be made," it said.

Also it sought "review in detail all existing FCPA investigations enforcement actions and take appropriate action with respect to such matters to restore proper bounds on FCPA enforcement and preserve Presidential foreign policy prerogatives." FCPA investigations and

actions enforcement initiated or continued after the revised guidelines or policies are issued "shall be governed by such guidelines or policies; and must be specifically authorised by the Attorney General".

(OALP) at the India Energy Week (IEW) here. OALP-X round will feature 25 blocks spread over 1,91,986 sqkm in 13 sedimentary basins. 13 of the blocks are in the offshore area.

In the previous nine rounds, 3.78 Lakh sqkm area was offered. The last bid round, OALP-IX, was the largest before the current bid round. The OALP-IX bid round

featured 28 blocks or areas spread over 1.36 Lakh sqkm were offered for finding and

OALP-IX in September attracted four bidders that included state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Ltd and private sector Vedanta Ltd, with most blocks getting just two bids, according to the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH). It also for the first time saw Reliance Industries Ltd-BP Plc combine bidding together with ONGC for one block in Gujarat offshore. Reliance and its supermajor partner BP had bid in just two of the past eight oil

Corporation (IOC) for four other blocks. After considering its bid with Reliance-BP, ONGC in all bids for 19 out of the 28 blocks on offer.

Mining billionaire Anil Agarwal-owned Vedanta Ltd bid for all the 28 blocks on offer while Sun Petrochemicals Ltd bid for seven areas.

Of the 28 blocks on offer, four blocks got three bids each while the rest had two bidders, one being Vedanta Ltd.

Blocks are awarded to firms offering the highest share of revenues generated from oil and gas produced from the blocks and the work programme they commit to. The 28 blocks offered in OALP-IX, including nine onshore blocks, eight shallow-water blocks and 11 ultra-deepwater blocks across eight sedimentary basins, covered an area of 136,596.45 sqkm. In the previous eight OALP rounds, 144 exploration and production blocks comprising a total area of 242,055 sqkm have been awarded.

In the last round (OALP-VIII) where 10 blocks were offered, to continue operating as an authorised payments platform and help process online payments for Indian businesses across sectors including e-commerce, travel and tourism, education and real estate.

"With this license, Easebuzz now joins a select group of approved payment aggregators in India, who are authorised to facilitate digital transactions for merchants under the regulatory framework set by

of government identifying and bidding out blocks to the one the RBI," the release said. Easebuzz Payments platform is currently processing an annualised Gross Transaction under which explorers were allowed the freedom to identify Value (GTV) of \$30 Billion, any area outside of the ones that are already with some company and is serving more than 2,00,000 businesses, including or other, for prospecting of oil and gas. The areas identified are SMEs (small and medium to be clubbed twice a year and

enterprises) and startups. Rohit Prasad, MD and CEO of Easebuzz, said the final authorisation from RBI to operate as a online PA stands as a testament to the company's adherence to building safe, secure and compliant digital payment solutions.

Centre enhancing focus on inter-agency coordination to eliminate smuggling

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Revenue The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has taken the lead to establish an antismuggling smuggling coordination platform so that all agencies come forward and share relevant information and work towards eliminating smuggling activities and catching the real culprits.

"There are various challenges that law enforcement agencies face in tackling smuggling including going after the criminal syndicates or the key persons who are financing such illegal operations; it is not enough to just catch the carrier. To put a big dent into the smuggling network, we need to



Mohan Kumar Singh, member (compliance management), Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs on FICCI CASCADE's 'Anti-Smuggling Day'

have enough data, skill sets and Central Board of Indirect Taxes tools to analyse the data and and Customs on the occasion of FICCI CASCADE's 'Antiintelligence coordination," said Smuggling Day' on Tuesday. Mohan Kumar Singh, member (compliance management), Talking about the importance

of inter-agency cooperation, Singh said it is important to focus on operational readiness and coordination among agencies to tackle cross border smuggling. "Also, recognition by the United Nations of this anti-smuggling day will create more international awareness on the issue, thereby contributing to the efforts in stemming this malaise," said Singh. Highlighting the colossal nature of the problem of smuggling in

the context of a rising Bharat, Anil Rajput, Chairman, FICCI CASCADE, said, "Along with the government and enforcement agencies it is critical that the consumers increasingly come forward and play their part in the battle against smuggling and illicit trade.

is critical that the It dissemination of information and exposure to facts related to smuggling is extended to the children and the youth. Additionally, I cannot overemphasise the importance of using advanced technology to counter smuggling and its offshoots. I am confident that the coming together of all these elements will lead to an effective and sustained response against

this formidable adversary. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Former Deputy National Security Advisor, Government of India said there are now new models of smuggling that involves technology such as the usage of drones that enables the creation of huge margins for these illegal activities.

INBRIEF

offered for bidding.

subsequent rounds.

GLOBAL LIBRARY SUMMIT 2025 IN NEW DELHI: A LANDMARK EVENT FOR LIBRARY DIPLOMACY



NEW DELHI: The Global Library Summit (GLS) 2025, themed "Library Diplomacy: Uniting Nations Through Library Cooperation," was held successfully between February 5-7 at the India International Centre, and SAU Campus.

OLA ELECTRIC REDEFINES THE MOTORCYCLING SEGMENT WITH ITS ROADSTER X SERIES

BENGALURU: Ola Electric, India's largest pure-play EV company, today announced its entry into the EV motorcycle segment with the launch of its Roadster X series to redefine motorcycling with impressive performance and a thrilling riding experience.





US Open revamps mixed doubles format, adds \$1 Million prize

PTI NEW YORK

◄ he U.S. Open is moving its mixed doubles

L championship to the week before the tournament begins, hoping a revamped format and \$1 million prize will persuade top singles players to chase a Grand Slam doubles title.

This year's event will feature 16 teams competing over two days in shorter matches. Tournament organizers believe that can attract the sport's biggest stars, many of whom have long passed on doubles to keep themselves fresh for singles

"What I would say is the reason behind this is to appeal to more fans and grow the fan base around the world," said Lew Sherr, executive director and CEO of the U.S. Tennis Association. "But the way to do that is to have the biggest names in the sport participating in doubles, and to showcase them teaming up and playing in a different format, we think is exciting. In fact, we know it's exciting. The plan announced Tuesday

calls for mixed doubles to be

caus for mixed doubles to be contested on Aug. 19 and 20, during the week when the qualifying rounds for men's and women's singles are being held. Main draw play in singles begins on Aug. 24 in singles begins on Aug. 24. The early round matches will be best-of-three sets played to just four games, with a deciding point played at deuce. Tiebreakers would be at 4-all — rather than 6-6 in a regular match — and a 10point match tiebreaker would be played if the teams split sets, rather than a third set. Only the final will closely resemble a Grand Slam match, a best-of-three sets played to six games with noad scoring, tiebreakers at 6-all and a 10-point match tiebreaker.

Sherr said the USTA had discussed a format change in previous years but the idea truly picked up steam after last year, when a "Mixed Madness" event during the qualifying week drew singles superstars such as Coco Gauff, Naomi Osaka, Nick Kyrgios and Ben Shelton, and was won by Stefanos Tsitsipas and Paula Badosa



'We've known and we've had conversations over the years, like, why don't they participate and understand the scheduling " Cherr said. "I

think last year's task with that mixed madness event really informed our thinking, that if could unlock that week and free up the top singles players to participate, because it

didn't compromise their fitness or their health going into the singles, there was a huge opportunity to attract them and that's what we saw." There was a \$500,000 prize

for that event, which had just four teams. By doubling the prize money and expanding the field. Sherr believes it will create a competition worthy of a Grand Slam title, rather than keeping it as an exhibition.

"The athletes played hard," Sherr said. "It was not an exhibition, it was not a hitand giggle, no kids got brought onto the court. It was a competition and that to me was the test. Would the athletes compete, and the answer to that was yes. Now we have an opportunity for a legitimate world

championship, a Grand Slam championship, and we think the stakes only go up by making it the actual event." Eight teams will earn direct entry by their combined singles rankings, with eight other teams given wild cards into the field. Sherr declined to name any players who had committed, but said enough have expressed interest that some teams may be announced in the coming weeks, long before the field is set in the summer.

The tournament will be played in Arthur Ashe and Louis Armstrong, the two biggest stadiums, and be televised by ESPN in primetime, exposure that is rarely given to doubles.

doubles specialists who count on Grand Slam paychecks and now lose access to one of them. To compensate for that, Sherr said the prize money that was allocated to the 32-team mixed doubles tournament at last year's U.S. Open would be redirected toward men's and women's doubles. "Yes, there's some that will be

But it will squeeze out

sports 11

disappointed that they won't have the opportunity to compete in this event," Sherr said. "On the other side, we know that there's a huge opportunity to create more interest globally in doubles and there may be a cascading effect here, that the mixed creates a bigger spotlight on the men's and women's doubles when we get into that portion of the tournament.

"We'll have to see how that plays out, but we do know that our mixed competition has historically been competing with the men's and women's singles, and so the fields have suffered and the attention has suffered.



Hopefully Shafali will carry her form in WPL: Lanning

PTI NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals' skipper Meg Lanning on Tuesday hoped explosive India opener Shafali Varma will carry her recent rich vein of form in domestic cricket into the third season of the Women's Like her opening partner, Premier League starting on Friday

Lanning also coming to the Shafali, who was dropped WPL 2025 without any from the Indian team for the substantial experience having retired away tour to Australia in mad excellent outings for Haryana in domestic matches recently to signal her return to runmaking ways "She looks like she's in really good touch and enjoying herself and having fun too, which I think is really important. For me, just watching her play with freedom, express herself, (and) when she does that, that plays a really important role for our team," Lanning said during the pre-tournament press meet of the Capitals. Shafali was the top run-getter in the Senior Women's One Day Trophy, scoring 527 runs at an average of 75.29 while in the Senior Women's One Day Challenger Trophy the righthander made 414 runs at an

Pankaj Advani wins Indian Snooker Championship

PTI 📕 INDORE

India's most accomplished player Pankaj Advani secured his 36th overall national title and 10th men's snooker crown at the Yashwant Club, in a commanding display of skill and determination.

The ONGC employee overcame an early setback to defeat Brijesh Damani in a final where Damani managed to take the opening frame, the only one he would claim throughout the match The tournament serves as

the only selection event for the Asian and World

Championships. Advani's performance was marked by consistency and precision. After falling game. She often puts on a behind by a frame, he maintained his composure and controlled the table, very entertaining show and I've got the best seat in the house. I always enjoy batting leaving little room for error. with her. We get on really well In the final frame, Advani and hopefully this season can delivered an impressive 84 continue on from where we

break, sealing the frame, match and championship. "Since this is the only event determines that representatives of country for international tournaments, the stakes were high," Advani said. high The pressure tournament proved to be a full-circle moment for Advani. In the group stage, he had suffered his only loss

of the competition at the hands of Damani, where he managed to win only one frame. The rivalry took an the ironic turn in the final when the the tables were turned and Advani emerged victorious, dropping just one frame in the match. A critical turning point in

this 91st edition of the National Championships came during the round of international stage.

Despite being 4-2 down - a situation that nearly saw him exit the event - the multipletime world champion mounted an unforgettable comeback by winning the match 5-4. This resilient display not only saved his tournament bid but also set the stage for the success that

followed. "There was a good feeling about this gold when the round of 48 match saw me bounce back from almost being out of the competition. Then I knew this pivotal moment had to mean something big awaits. Happy to have earned the chance to again represent India in both billiards and snooker," Advani said.

With the Asian Snooker Championship scheduled to commence from February 15, both Advani and Damani now face the opportunity to play for the tricolour on the

Mumbai City look to prevail over FC Goa

PTI MUMBAI

Unbeaten in 13 matches against FC Goa in the Indian Super League (ISL), Mumbai City FC would look to prevail over their west coast in the points table in a crucial game here on Wednesday. The Islanders will aim to extend their stranglehold against the Gaurs as their

impressive unbeaten record in previous 13 ISL encounters includes eight wins and five draws.

A triumph on Wednesday will have Mumbai City cap off the eague double ove ioa for the fourth time, having done They are Shalini (46.12 seconds) of Uttarakhand, so earlier in 2017-18, 2021-22, Munita Prajapati (46:23) of and 2022-23. FC Goa are placed second in the points table with 36 points from 19 matches, winning 10 games and drawing six. However, they faced their first away loss of the season when Jamshedpur FC beat the side 3-1 earlier this month. As the ISL nears its business end, both these sides have different objectives coming into this match. FC Goa are 10 points behind the topplaced Mohun Bagan Super Giant (46), but their key objective right now is to safeguard their standing in the second spot. A second place finish will mean that they qualify straight for the semi-finals and would not have to play the single-legged eliminator in the playoffs. For that, they would have to fend off competition from the thirdplaced Jamshedpur FC (34),

with both sides having played the same number of games (19). Mumbai City, fifth in the standings, have 31 points from

19 matches and they will move up to top four if they win on Wednesday. Their nearest challengers, NorthEast United FC have accumulated 29 points from 20 games. The home side will 20 games. The home side will want to avoid any late slip-ups to secure a place in the top six. Furthermore, the contest on Wednesday can have a huge impact on the eventual title race. If FC Goa lose against Mumbai City, and Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat Kerala Blasters away on

Sprinter Kujur picks 3rd gold, hurdler Jyothi 2nd title PTI 📕 DEHRADUN 100m hurdles top prize she 2022, 2023, 2025) of who followed Ravina at the

had won on Sunday. Rising sprinter Animesh hurdler seconds Jyothi Yarraji clinched the Telangana's Nithya Gandhe (23.76 seconds) took home men's and women's 200m gold medals respectively to pick up the silver and bronze medals their third and second vellow respectively A 100m hurdles specialist, metal of the National Games Yarraji was the third athlete to on a day when 15 race walkers bettered the 26-year-old Games record in an clinch a second gold at the National Games. She had won unprecedented feat. a bronze in the 200m in the Kujur, 2023 edition in Goa. 21-year-old representing Odisha, added

Maharashtra. Karnataka's Unnathi Aiyappa Twinkle Chaudhary (2:03.46) times than the earlier Games Amande and (2:04.76), both from Punjab, pocketed the silver and bronze respectively. Earlier in the morning session, all the nine competitors who finished the women's 10km race walk bettered the earlier Games record set 26 years ago in an unprecedented result. Eleven athletes started the race but two could not finish. National record holder Priyanka Goswami entered her name but did not start the race, which returned to the National Games for the first time after the 1999 edition in Manipur. Harvana's Ravina, who had won the National Inter-State and National Open Championships last year in 20km event, clinched the gold with a time 45.52 seconds, bettering the earlier Games record of 51.56 seconds set by Y Bala Devi of Manipur in the 1999 Games in Imphal. All the other eight athletes

finish line also clocked better

average of 82.80. On both the occasions, she made runs at a strike-rate close to 150.

"She did a very similar thing a few days ago in our practice

international year. So, how has she managed to

have been the first two,"

Lanning added.

keep in touch with the game? 'I've been playing some games for Victoria in the WNCL (Women's National Cricket League). I think playing matches is important. There's nothing quite like being out in the middle and The being in a good rhythm with that

match-time

"So, I feel like those games are great for me in that respect. I feel like I'm in a good spot Sunday respectively. with my game."

Lanning said her past experiences of playing in India will help her in the WPL.

"I always enjoy playing and batting over here in India. I've had some success in the past. And yeah, so far with the couple of days I've been here, it's been nice to just get used to the conditions and

just be really clear on what my plan is and how I want to go about it.

Delhi's middle distance the 200m gold to his kitty of runner KM Chanda improved 100m and 4x100m relay titles her own Games record in the he had won on Saturday and women's 800m. On her way to gold, Chanda clocked 2:00.82 His 200m gold-winning time to better her earlier record of of 20.58 seconds narrowly fell short of the National Games 2:01.58 set in 2022.

It was a grand double for Chanda as she was also the record of 20.55 seconds set by Amlan Borgohain of Assam winner of 1500m gold. It was also a hat-trick of gold medals in the 2022 edition in Gujarat. Ragul Kumar G (21.06) and for the Asian Championships silver medallist. She had won Nithin B (21.07), both from gold in the 2022 and 2023 Tamil Nadu, took the silver editions of the National The 25-year-old Games, thus emulating the Yarraji, representing Andhra feats of Yarraji (women's 100m hurdles gold in 2022, Pradesh, won the women's 200m gold with a time of 2023, 2025) and Tejas Shirse 23.35 seconds to add to the (men's 110m hurdles gold in

Uttar Pradesh, Mokavi Muthurathinam (46.23) of Tamil Nadu, Payal (47.36) of Uttarakhand, Reshma Patel (48.16) of Uttar Pradesh, Mansi Negi (48.32) of Uttarakhand, Sejal Singh (49.33) of Maharashtra and Monika (51.45) of Harvana. Only Ravina's timing will, however, be considered as the new national record in the record books.

In the men's 20km event, six competitors out of 10 who finished the race bettered the earlier Games record of 1 hour, 23 minutes and 26 seconds set by Gurmeet Singh of Jharkhand in the 2011 edition.

Servin Sebastian of Services, who won the 20km race walk event at the National Open Championships, took the gold with a personal best time of 1:21:23

February 15, the Mariners will become the ISL 2024-25 League winners.

The two teams have played 27 matches against each other in the ISL, with Mumbai City winning 12 times and FC Goa emerging victorious in seven games. Eight games have produced draws

Mumbai City FC head coach Petr Kratky laid out the way he wants his team to approach the match against FC Goa.

"We want to keep the ball, be creative, and be dynamic and we need to continue working hard for that," he said.

FC Goa head coach Manolo Marguez refused to look too far ahead in the league stages at the moment.

'The most important thing for us right now is the next game, and not the ones that follow. It doesn't matter what happened in the past. We need to consider the circumstances around this match," he said.

R Vaishali sets sights on consistency and candidates qualification

PTI NEW DELHI

 $U_a^{\rm nbothered}$ by the drama over a handshake, focussed on being more consistent and determined to secure a spot in the Candidates -- R Vaishali has her priorities sorted for 2025 and the Indian Grandmaster says she would not let anything distract her from those goals.

The past year has already proven to be a remarkable chapter in the 23-year-old's career, with a series of career-defining milestones. These include becoming only the third woman from India to earn the Grandmaster title, playing a vital role in the country's gold medal-winning performance at the Chess Olympiad, and clinching a bronze medal at the World Blitz Championship.

"My main goal is to show consistent performance and play some good games," the 23-year-old told PTI.

A slight blip came recently when she finished ninth in the Tata Steel Chess Tournament's challengers' section. More than the performance, she hit the headlines for a declined handshake with Uzbek Grandmaster Nodirbek Yakubboev.

Following a wave of criticism, Yakubboev apologised to her with chocolate and flowers for refusing to shake hands due to his religious beliefs before a match between the

"I didn't know it was a big thing back in India. I was focused on the games and didn't know what was going on in the social media," she said of the episode.

"Later I got to know, and okay, we all know what happened. It didn't affect me in any way," she added. What did affect her was her inability to latch on to chances at the tournament.

'Tata Steel is a strong tournament, and I think my performance was

decent," she said.

and bronze respectively.

"Surely I could have scored a few points more, like I had some good positions, I failed to convert them, which I'll work on and try to improve. Going forward, I want to focus on showing more consistent performance."

Next big goal is Candidates The Women's Cano Candidates The Tournament determines the challenger for the World Chess Championship. The next edition is to be held in 2026 with the qualification process set for this year in which rankings will be of significance. "Of course, by the end of the year,

I aim to qualify for the Candidates Tournament. Ι had the opportunity to play in the Candidates last year, and I hope to qualify for it again," she said.

Reflecting on her bronze at the Blitz World Championship last year, Vaishali said the result was



following some disappointing results.

"It was an important result for my

had a few bad tournaments in a row and it was nice to end finally with a good result last year," she important for her confidence, confidence especially, because I said in a rather a modest

assessment of her performance. Vaishali endured ĥer fair share of lows that cost her valuable rating points but she views these challenges as valuable learning

also lost some rating points. It was a very interesting experience," she reflected.

"I had the chance to compete in year was a great learning experience for me."

return to the Norway Chess Women tournament scheduled to be held from May 26 to June 6. "Last year was a great experience. They're bringing in this women's tournament, new format along with the Norway main event. And personally, I really enjoyed playing

in Norway because like I've also got the chance to see the top players playing alongside," she said.

"The format is also very different. They have the Armageddon format if you make a draw in the classical game, we go on to the Armageddon game, which I've never played until the last Norway event.

Vaishali also feels that her younger R Praggnanandhaa's presence on tour has also been beneficial and she often seeks his counsel.

"He's a strong player. So for me, it's a great benefit to have him. He's also very passionate about the game. So, whenever I have some questions, I always go to him. And he's very happy to discuss about the game," she said of the recently-crowned Tata Steel Masters champion.

"He's a great support for me. Even in preparing some openings, I'll discuss with him."

experiences. "I would say it was a mixed year. I achieved some good results, but I

strong round-robin tournaments and participate in prestigious events like the Candidates backto-back challenges. Overall, last

For now, Vaishali is excited to



Team India eye ODI clean-sweep over England

PTI AHMEDABAD

big knock from Virat Kohli's currently silent bat A Kohli's currently silent bat along with a series clean-sweep over England will be on Team India's wish-list when the two teams square off in the third and final ODI here on Wednesday, marking the end of their Champions Trophy (CT) build-

While India hold an unassailable 2-0 lead with identical four-wicket wins in each of the first two ODIs, Rohit Sharma's men will be extra motivated to get a win here at the Narendra Modi Stadium where they had suffered a crushing ODI World Cup final loss in 2023.

Needless to say, having their batting mainstay Kohli among runs and a win would be perfect culmination to the home side's Champions Trophy preparations. The eight-team competition gets underway from February 19 in Karachi with India starting against Bangladesh the next day in Dubai as per a hybrid model of hosting.

The team has already got a shot in the arm by Rohit's return to form. His 90-ball 119 in the second ODI was a source of relief to both the side and to him after a prolonged

run of poor scores. Kohli hasn't looked completely out of touch but hasn't stayed at the crease for long enough to give himself a chance for a big knock either.

If he manages to click, Kohli is in with a chance create another record. He is 89 runs short of becoming only the third batter in history to score 14,000 runs in the format which arguably has been

the run-machine's favourite. India don't seem to have put a foot wrong in this series as they continue to make the most of their rich reservoir of talent.

The addition of Varun Chakravarthy has given additional ammunition to their lethal spin attack which will be vital for the Champions Trophy and Mohammed Shami's return after lengthy injury layoff has been seamless too.

Shami's successful comeback has certainly been assuring given that the Indian team management will spend an anxious day on Tuesday awaiting news on their premier fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah, whose availability for the Champions Trophy is still under doubt.

As per the original time-line, Bumrah was slated for a comeback in the Ahmedabad ODI, but the



ace pacer is currently toiling at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru under the watchful eyes of specialists aiming to make the final squad that is set to be unveiled on Wednesday. another ICC trophy. with the bat with a characteristic Bumrah's guile on varied pitches Both India and England will enjoy hundred in Cuttack, Rohit's

and conditions is something that no team across the world possesses and India would be desperate to have their trump card back in the mix as they chase an off day on Tuesday as they have skipped training and other prematch routines to rest and recuperate.

Having ended his troubled run

confidence will certainly rub off on the rest of the side.

While Yashasvi Jaiswal could continue to warm the bench, India will expect better application and results from wicketkeeper-batter KL Rahul, who is going through a lean patch himself.

But it would not be a surprise if India give the flamboyant Rishabh Pant a crack to get some game time and have another lefthanded batter in the mix to try out additional combinations.

India will need Shreyas Iyer's presence in the middle-order which has been bolstered by which has been bolstered by robust batting performances from Axar Patel. The 31-year-old all-rounder has shown immense maturity at No.5 in pressure situations of both the ODIs so far with knocks of 52 and 41 not out. Patel's exploits with the bat have Patel's exploits with the bat have taken some pressure off Ravindra Jadeja, who has chipped away at England with six wickets so far, exploiting the spin-friendly conditions perfectly to warm-up for similar set-ups in the for similar set-ups in the

Champions Trophy. But for Jos Butter's England, this tour has raised more questions than they would have expected. England have suffered repeated implosions in their core batting

line-up across the T20Is and ODIs which has undone the impressive work that the opening pair of Phil Salt and Ben Duckett has been putting up. Buttler maintains his team remains a work in progress but exit of the talented Jacob Bethell due to injury hampers them further.

sports 12

Harry Brook has blown hot and cold in ideal conditions for batting and Joe Root's impressive returns haven't got the adequate support from others.

Among bowlers, Adil Rashid has exploited the conditions perfectly but the onus will be on England batters to produce a unified show. Teams (from):

Teams (from): India: Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakaravarthy. England: Jos Buttler (c&wk), Harry Brook, Ben Duckett, Joe Root, Philip Salt, Jamie Smith (wk), Tom Banton, Brydon Carse,

(wk), Tom Banton, Brydon Carse, Liam Livingstone, Jamie Overton, Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Saqib Mahmood, Adil Rashid and Mark Wood.



Virat Kohli is world's best player regardless of form: Chris Gayle

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Virat Kohli may have been going through a poor run of form but the senior Indian batter remains the "best player in the world," feels former West Indian swashbuckler Chris Gayle.

endured yet another poor knee. Asked

dominated like no other for the longest time. Kohli's return to the format, however, was not a great one as he was caught behind off Adil Rashid in the second The 36-year-old Kohli opening game due to a sore

cricket of late, but he was years as well I have done it expected to find form in the alongside him. So he is the ODIs, which he has new king in town now. So new king in town now. So congrats to him, and hopefully, he goes on to hit more sixes.

Asked about youngster Abhishek **Sheldon Jackson retires from first-class cricket** Sharma's blistering hundred against match after missing the England in the fifth T20I, opening game due to a sore Gayle said, "I heard about PTI NEW DELHI his innings, it was a crac ing innings and for a youngster to do such a thing on an international platform, is huge and fantastic. Gayle also expressed his disappointment at West Indies' absence in the Champions Trophy. "I am disappointed, no West Indies in the Champions Trophy but it is good to have the Champions Trophy back, so I am looking forward to it. "Hopefully, it will be an entertaining one. I know it is actually taking place in Pakistan and Dubai, so hopefully, we will have some

South Africa could end ICC trophy drought this year: Graeme Smith

PTI JOHANNESBURG

Former captain Graeme Smith is optimistic that South Africa will end its prolonged wait for an ICC trophy this year, long before they host the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup in 2027. the With eight-team With the eight-team Champions Trophy beginning on February 19 and World Test Championship (WTC) final scheduled for June this year, Smith believes South Africa is on the brink of breaking their ICC trophy drought is on the brink of breaking their ICC trophy drought. "Hopefully, we will end that wait much before the 2027 World Cup, with the Champions Trophy and WTC final coming up but if South Africa could win a WC trophy in front of a home crowd, it would be amazing," Smith, who serves as SA20 commissioner, told PTI Bhasha. Bhasha.

"Over the next three years, we want to just keep pushing to improve our stadiums, pitches and our cricket

ecosystem, so that by the time we host the 2027 WC, we are the favourites." South Africa finished as runners-up at both the men's and women's T20 World Cups in 2024. Earlier this Cups in 2024. Earlier this year, they were also defeated by India in the ICC Women's Under-19 World Cup final. However, the Proteas have a chance to lift spirits in the country as they prepare to face Australia in the WTC final this June. This will be their first appearance in the

their first appearance in the summit clash, having secured their spot after a crucial win over Pakistan in the Boxing Day Test in Centurion.

Many believe South Africa had an easier run to the finals, having beaten teams such as India, West Indies, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

However, Smith, who boasts 9,265 runs in 117 Tests and 6,986 runs in 197 ODIs, dismissed the claims. "There is no smooth journey

in cricket today. You have got

A REAL PROPERTY AND A REAL PROPERTY.



cycle

On the ongoing "country vs club" debate, Smith club" acknowledged the rise of T20 cricket but stressed the

fans it has pulled. "I think franchise cricket will probably end up having 3 or 4 outstanding leagues in the world, with maybe a tier-two system. But in the future, it's more about all the member

more about all the member boards working together to keep each other strong." Smith also highlighted the role of scheduling in ensuring financial stability. "Scheduling also helps the revenue model. India is amazing as they tour frequently, providing frequently, providing revenue that keeps nations providing afloat. But if England and Australia continue playing only each other and not engaging with African or other nations, it gets harder because Test cricket is commercially pressure," he said. under

"If you look at how the money flows and the expenses, it puts Test cricket under strain. It's about working together and creating a model that can keep the game sustainable," he added.

sustainable model where all to do what you got to do. member boards collaborate. Right in the beginning, everyone knew who they were playing and who they were not playing. "South Africa has won 7 test

matches in a row to qualify. Everyone should look into the Test ecosystem, how it works as you play what you have been told to play in that

Smith importance of creating a

"I want to see Test cricket stay stronger and if we can keep it strong with at least 6 or 7 nations, that way Test cricket will stay strong," Smith, who led South Africa to a record 54 Test victories, said. "I often say that T20 cricket has to grow. We have seen it

moving into America and also in lots of new regions. We will see it in the Olympics now. What amazes me is that how many cricket

final against Karnataka and

Punjab respectively, to help Saurashtra qualify for the final for the first time.

Owing to his excellent run

with the bat that year, he

broke into the India A team

for the series against West

Indies A at home. He was

also a prominent member in

Saurashtra's second charge

in the 2015-16 season.

towards a Ranji Trophy title

Last month, Jackson had

called time on his limited-

overs career after scoring

2792 runs in 84 innings,

with his highest being an unbeaten 133 during the

Vijay Hazare Trophy in

In the limited-overs game,

he struck nine centuries and 14 half-centuries in all.

Gujarat crush Saurashtra by

for just five runs in the second ODI against England in Cuttack on Sunday.

But Gayle, who has played alongside Kohli at the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL, remains unperturbed by the Indian's lean stretch. "He is still the best player in the world regardless of the form, Virat Kohli is still the best player, the stats prove that, how many centuries across formats he has scored as well," Gayle said on the sidelines of an event here on Tuesday. "It's just one of those things

that we cricketers go through in patches. I know it is coming at the back end of his career as well, but these things do happen, so he just needs to pick himself up and come back again."

Kohli has been struggling for runs in international

if Kohli can Gayle's record for most number of runs scored in the Champions Trophy, he said, "It is easy for him just to get 200 runs (more to

surpass Gayle)". "I don't know how many games they will be playing but I am sure he can get over 200 runs, and I am sure he will get a century for sure, so it's just a matter of time before he goes on to break that record.

Known for his flamboyance besides his big-hitting capabilities, Gayle called Rohit Indian captain Sharma the "new king in town" after the Mumbaikar broke the Jamaican's record for most number of sixes in the ODI format. "Congratulations to Rohit,

sports always need a new off just my mind — India, entertainer and Rohit has England, Australia, and been entertaining all these probably New Zealand."

entertaining cricket." Asked to pick his semifinalists for the evnt starting February 19, Gayle said, "I'm going to be going

Prolific Saurashtra batter Sheldon Jackson on Tuesday retired from professional cricket after a career spanning 15 years, his last outing ending in a defeat to Gujarat in the Ranji

Trophy quarterfinal here. Jackson, 38, retires with more than 7200 runs in 105 first-class matches with a highest score of 186, 21 hundreds and 39 halfcenturies.

That he ended his career with an average of over 45 speaks volumes about his consistency in first-class cricket.

Jackson has been а multidimensional cricketer and besides being a reliable batsman and an excellent fielder. He also kept wickets for Saurashtra in the In the longer format, of the Kolkata Knight Riders December 2011.



however, he was not required to do the duty thanks to Sagar Jogiyani's presence.

He scored 14 and 27 in his final two outings as Gujarat won by an innings and 98 runs.

set-up after being spotted by former Bengal player Joydeep Mukherjee, made his debut for Saurashtra in

December 2011 After being on the fringes of selection for his state team Saurashtra for three years, he made his debut in

He made four fifties and innings and three hundreds in the 2012. 13 Ranji season, including 98 runs back-to-back centuries in the quarter-final and semi-

PTI 📕 RAJKOT

Pacers Priyajit Jadeja and Arzan Nagwaswalla shared seven wickets among them as Gujarat pummelled Saurashtra by an innings and 98 runs to enter the Ranji Trophy semifinals here on

Tuesday. The Saurashtra batting malfunctioned again in the match as they were bundled out for 197 in their second innings, far away from the mark of 295 required to make

Gujarat bat again. Left-arm pacer Nagwaswalla (3/54) and his right-arm colleague Priyajit (4/32) were unstoppable once Saurashtra resumed the day from 33 for no loss.

Rahane's century, Dias's effort put Mumbai in Ranji Trophy semifinal

PTI KOLKATA

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane a typically gritty hundred and pacer Royston Dias supported his effort with a fivedefending wicket haul as champions Mumbai completed a fine escape act, scripting a commanding 152-run over Haryana to enter the Ranji Trophy semifinals here on Tuesday. Rahane, resuming on 88, wasted

no time in the morning to notch 108 (180 balls; 13x4) -- his 41st first-class century, that guided Mumbai to 339 in the second innings for an overall lead of 353 runs.

Chasing 354, Haryana crumbled against left-arm pacer Dias (5/39) and Shardul Thakur (3/26), as the veteran quick completed a creditable nine-wicket haul for the match.

They were bowled out for 201 as the joyous Mumbai dressing room might have forgotten that worrisome period when they were

in the first session, as two exquisite boundaries off Sumit Kumar and Anshul Kamboj took him to 99, before a nudged single towards midwicket carried him past the milestone off 160 balls.

The Mumbai stalwart took his helmet off, looked skyward and seemed emotionally relieved as it was his first hundred of the season. However, Mumbai, resuming from 278/4, crumbled after his dismissal.

Shivam Dube (44 overnight) fell two runs short of a fifty, and Mumbai lost their remaining five wickets for just 25 runs in under 10 overs

Anuj Thakral (4/70) led Haryana's charge, while Kamboj, Sumit and Jayant Yadav chipped in with two wickets each.

But Haryana failed to replicate that

spirit in their chase. Barring a Lakshay Dalal and Sumit Kumar sixth-wicket partnership worth 90 runs, Haryana's chase never gathered momentum, as they folded in 57.3 overs on a day 65/5 in the first innings. when the play was agreed upon to Rahane made a bright beginning be extended because of good light



and also because of Haryana losing nine wickets.

2022.

Haryana's last five wickets tumbled in the final hour, with Dias producing a career-best 5/39 in 10.3 overs – his maiden five-wicket haul.

Shardul, who had taken six wickets in the first innings, was the first to strike. Steaming in from the High Court end, he extracted lateral movement on a docile pitch, bowling a relentless 10-over spell across two sessions that read 10-3-26 - 3.

From the Pavilion end, Dias provided perfect support, returning 6-2-12-2 in his first spell.

Lakshay, Sumit frustrate Mumbai Just as it seemed Mumbai would wrap things up early, Haryana's Lakshay (64 off 130; 9x4) and Sumit (62 off 96; 10x4) dug in, stitching a doughty stand against the run of play.

On an eased-out fourth-day pitch, Sumit counterattacked, stepping out to Shams Mulani to negate the turn.

Rahane turned to Dube's military runs.

medium pace, but Mumbai remained frustrated as misfields crept in, offering easy singles, though the steep target remained their advantage.

Sumit soon reached his seventh first-class fifty in 72 balls, Rahane's sharp captaincy changed the game. The breakthrough came via off-spinner Tanush Kotian, who struck in his very first over.

Lakshay, attempting to drag a ball from outside, gloved it faintly to the keeper.

The umpire wasn't convinced, but Rahane immediately called for DRS and the UltraEdge showed a clear deflection.

Dias then delivered another blow, as Rahane's astute bowling change ended Sumit's counterattacking knock.

Brief Scores

Mumbai 315 and 339 in 85.3 overs (Ajinkya Rahane 108, Suryakumar Yadav 70, Shivam Dube 48). Haryana 201; 57.3 overs (Lakshay Dalál 64, Sumit Kumar 62; Royston Dias 5/39, Shardul Thakur 3/26). Mumbai won by 152