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INDIA AND MODI RETURN WITH MUSCLE FROM THE USA

Terroist to be extradited Defence ties to be bolstered

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

In his remarks, Trump said he and PM Modi have

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

that both sides have decided to expand the overall defence partnership. Starting this year, we will be

increasing military sales to India by many billions of dollars," Trump said. 'We are also paving the way to ultimately provide India with F-35 stealth fighters," he added. The F35 jets are

known as the most lethal, survivable and connected fighter aircraft in the world. Trump also announced that India and the US will be working together like "never before" to confront the threat of radical Islamic terror across the world. "I am pleased to announce

that my administration has approved the extradition of one of the very evil people of the world," he said, referring to the extradition of 26/11 Mumbai attack plotter Tahawwur Rana to India. Rana, currently detained at a metropolitan detention centre in Los Angeles, is known to be associated with Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, one of the main

conspirators of the terror



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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



landing in Amritsar on February 5, 2025

More deportation flights to arrive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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

Another US plane carrying deportees is also expected to land on February 16. The development came days after a US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed at the Amritsar airport last week. Of them, 33 each were from Haryana and Gujarat and 30 from Punjab.

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

After Donald Trump assumed office as the US President, the country's law enforcement agencies have launched a crackdown against illegal immigrants. Many people from Punjab and some other states, who entered the US through "donkey routes" -- an illegal and risky pathway used by migrants to enter America or other illegal means by spending lakhs of rupees —

are now facing deportation.

MARKETS

SENSEX 75,939.21 ↓ -0.26%



BJP to swear in government in Delhi next week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

two deputy chief ministers. According to sources, after the arrival of PM Modi, the central leadership will appoint observers who will held discussions with newly elected MLAs to take a final decision before announcing the name for the chief

ministers and perhaps one or

minister. The BJP asserted that it will soon announce the name of Delhi chief minister and slammed AAP leader Atishi over her claims of power cuts in the city, saying she should observe 13 days of mourning over her party's "death".



MHA seeks sanction to prosecute Jain

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday sought the President of India's approval to prosecute former Delhi minister and AAP leader Satvendar Iain under Section 218 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), 2023 in the alleged disproportionate assets were to the tune of Rs 1.47 crore, about 217 per cent more than Jain's known sources of income during 2015-17.

The Pioneer was the first to report the disproportionate assets case.

The agency alleged that Jain, with the help of his family members and associates, disproportionate assets between February 14, 2015, and May 31, 2017, while serving as a minister in the Delhi government.

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

Kerala ragging row turns political

KUMAR CHELLAPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

VD Satheeshan, leader of opposition and the chief minister in waiting, asked the CPI(M) to disband the SFI. "This outfit is



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

responsible for all type of cruelties and antisocial activities happening in campuses in the State," said Satheeshan.

Responses from the college principal and other senior teachers in the college sounded hollow and it was like passing the buck. While the principal said that an assistant warden has been appointed to be in the hostel 24X7, students said that they have not seen any such officials at any time.

It has come to light that the cruel act of ragging took place on the first anniversary of the death of Sidharthan, a first year veterinary science student at the Government Veterinary College in Wayanad. Sidharthan, a tribal student, was found dead in his hostel room under mysterious conditions on 20th February 2024 following three day and night ragging by the SFI students. Though the 16 accused were arrested within weeks and were suspended from the college, judiciary in Kerala came to their help and allowed them to attend regular classes. But a division bench of the Kerala High Court quashed on 5th February the order of the single bench which had allowed the accused to attend regular classes.

Follow

Panel to name next CEC on February 17

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

Act, 2023, would be used for

the first time, it was used to

appoint ECs Gyanesh Kumar

and Sandhu to fill the

vacancies created by the

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

election commissioner. According to the law, the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the president on the recommendation of a selection committee headed by the prime minister and comprising the Lok Sabha opposition leader and a Union Cabinet minister to be nominated by the prime minister. The sources said the same set of

candidates could also be used to appoint a new EC. According to the law, the CEC and other ECs will be appointed from among persons who are holding or have held a post equivalent to the rank of secretary to the government of India and will be persons of integrity with knowledge of and experience in management and conduct of elections. In other words, serving and retired secretarylevel officials can be appointed as the CEC and ECs.

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

revolutionized Delhi's governance with reforms in education,

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Chief Minister's Office of The Chief Millister of the Delhi on Friday wrote to the social media platform X to restore the "CMO Delhi" (@DelhiCMO) official handle allegedly renamed to Kejriwal At Work (@KejriwalAtWork) at the behest of the former chief minister Arvind Keiriwal. "Since '@CMODelhi' became free

changing it '@KejriwalAtWork,' one user used this ID and opened a parody account. It also appears that previously '@CMODelhi' and now @KejriwalAtWork' are showing an error - "something went wrong" when tried to see a post from this account," the email sent to X said while adding that official accounts are not associated with individuals

and pass on to successors.

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

9,90,000 followers," it said. This will ensure that the official handle of the Chief Minister's Office is not misused in future and cannot be tampered with, the letter said,

identity said

"In view of the above, it is requested 'X' Platform to restore "@CMODelhi" and Password of the

Arvind Kejriwal at Work Former Chief Minister of Delhi Shri Arvind Kejriwal

Joined March 2020

@KejriwalAtWork

asking the social media platform to deactivate any other account having "@cmodelhi" immediately.

same may kindly be sent to the official email ID cmdelhi@nic.in,

healthcare, electricity, and public services.

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

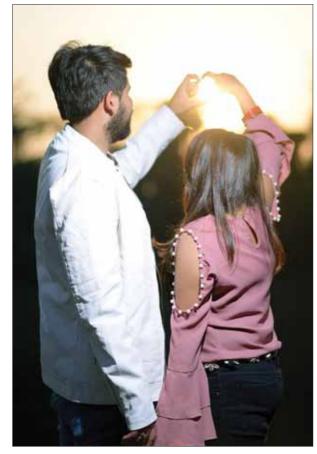
without consent of this office. Also at present any other account having "@cmodelhi" must be deactivated immediately," CMO said.

On Thursday, political controversy erupted on Thursday after the BJP claimed that Arvind Kejriwal renamed the official X handle of the Delhi Chief Minister's Office (CMO) to 'Arvind Kejriwal at work' (@kejriwalAtWork). In-charge of the BJP's National Information and Technology Department, Amit Malviya, also slammed Kejriwal. "After losing the Delhi elections, Arvind Kejriwal deactivated and renamed the official Twitter and YouTube accounts of the Chief Minister of Delhi. These digital assets, previously known as @CMODelhi, have been rebranded as @KejriwalAtWork," Malviya tweeted. Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva accused AAP national convenor of "stealing" the digital property of the Delhi government. "Arvind Kejriwal changed the account of Delhi CMO and made it his own account, this is a direct loot of government money. This is digital loot. We have demanded from LG that the IT department of Delhi government should immediately file an FIR, start an investigation and take strict action," said Sachdeva Notably, the account was deleted later. The Delhi BJP chief also sought Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena's help to seek a report from the Delhi government's IT and social media departments over the alleged renaming of the Delhi CMO's social media handles. The BJP has returned to power in

Delhi, after 26 years, defeating the Aam Aadmi Party in February 5 Assembly polls. The party government is yet to be formed.

the pioneer

Peaceful Valentine's Day celebration amid 'Black Day' protest



PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

alentine's Day celebrations in the city remained peaceful on Friday, with no reports of untoward incidents. The city witnessed a large turnout of youngsters, families, and couples at popular spots like parks and malls. To ensure safety and maintain public order, over 100 police personnel were strategically deployed across the city, especially in areas where crowds gathered in significant numbers. While the youth enjoyed

the day of love with boat rides, local delicacies, and visits to decorated shopping malls filled with red ribbons and heart-shaped balloons, members of right-wing organisations such as Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Parishad (VHP) marked the day as 'Black Day' in remembrance of the Pulwama attack in Kashmir.

Activists from Bajrang Dal and VHP observed the day solemnly, paying tribute to the martyrs who lost their lives in the Pulwama terror attack. Speaking on the

Singh, a VHP official in Jamshedpur, said, "We have gathered to pay homage to the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives in Kashmir. For us, February 14 is a black day, and we urge people to remember the martyrs and boycott Valentine's Day."

Despite the protests, the celebratory spirit was high among young couples, college and school students, and families who thronged popular hangouts. Gift shops and florists witnessed brisk business as buyers picked up gifts, flowers, and bouquets to express love. The bright sunshine and pleasant weather further added to the festive ambiance.

The Jamshedpur Police

made elaborate security arrangements to prevent any moral policing or harassment. A senior police officer stated, "We are not here for moral policing. No one will be allowed to take the law their hands. Adequate police personnel have been deployed to ensure safety and a peaceful atmosphere." prominent hotels, including curated special Valentine's Day menus, offering a mix of delicious cuisines to enhance the celebratory mood. With slow music, red heart motifs, and candlelit settings, the atmosphere catered not just to couples but also to families and groups of friends. "We wanted to break the myth that Valentine's Day is only for couples. Our food spread ensures a memorable experience for all, said the manager of one of In a heartwarming gesture, residents Jamshedpur celebrated love by visiting welfare homes. Sister Jacinta of RP Patel Cheshire Home

Sundernagar shared, "Many people visit welfare homes on this day to spend time with underprivileged children, listen to their stories and donate the money they would have otherwise spent on gifts. They celebrate love in its truest form." A volun-teer added, "Bringing smiles to these children's faces is the best way we could spend our Valentine's

IIT ISM wins first prize at Pan-India IIT FIPI Hackathon



Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri giving away the award. PNS

PANKAJ: DHANBAD

A team of innovative minds from IIT (ISM) Dhanbad has achieved a significant milestone by securing the first prize at the prestigious Pan-India IIT Hackathon of Federation Petroleum Industry (FIPI) held as part of India Energy Week 2025. The award was presented today by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, along with Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Pankaj Jain, during the closing ceremony at Yashobhoomi Convention Čentre, Delhi.

The award-winning team, consisting of Sayantika Thandar (M.Tech, Chemical), Riya Jaisawal (M.Tech, Mohammad Chemical), Faheem (B.Tech, Chemical), and Md. Modassir Ashraf (B.Tech, Chemical), developed a patented process for the low-cost production of nitronanopowder designed for CO2 adsorption

breakthrough research, conducted under the guidance of Prof. Ejaz Ahmad from the Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, as Faculty Mentor of the team introduces a sustainable and eco-friendly method for creating advanced graphene materials using bamboo powder. This innovative solution demonstrates a significant advancement in tackling environmental challenges, particularly carbon dioxide emissions.

The graphene nanopowder, featuring a unique porous, layered structure ideal for capturing CO2, presents a low-cost, green technology innovation with immense potential for global energy and environmental applications.

The hackathon, held under two key themes— Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage (CCUS) and the Development of Cost-Effective Renewable Energy Sources, Storage Systems, Integration-witnessed participation from leading IITs, including IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Roorkee.

Speaking achievement, Prof. Ejaz Ahmad commented, "This recognition underscores the innovative spirit of our institute students. Their invention offers a promising step forward in sustainable energy solutions, aligning with India's energy transition goals." This accolade further solidifies IIT (ISM) Dhanbad's reputation for excellence in technological innovation. Notably, in 2024, another team, Energy Nexus, won the Switch Energy Alliance Competition, triumphing over participants from 31 countries in a rigorous threeround challenge. The continued success of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad in global and national competitions highlights its commitment to research-driven innovation and sustainable solutions, reinforcing its role as a leader in the energy and environ-

8 trains connecting Ranchi cancelled

The South Eastern Railway has announced the cancellation of eight trains due to ongoing developmental works in Ranchi Division. These cancellations will continue until February 22, 2025, impacting passengers traveling on key routes.

The affected trains include the Hatia-Tatanagar-Hatia Express (18602/18601), Tatanagar-Bilaspur-Tatanagar Express and Hatia-Tatanagar-Hatia MEMU Additionally, the Barddhaman-Hatia-(18113/18114),Barddhaman MEMU (13503/13504), Ranchi-Bokaro Steel City-Ranchi Passenger (58034/58033), Hatia-Sanki-Hatia MEMU (58663/58664 and 58665/58666), and Ranchi-Howrah-Ranchi Express (18628/18627) have also been canceled.

In addition to the cancellations, two trains have been diverted. The Malda Town-Surat Special (13425) will be diverted via Muri-Chandil-Sini-Rourkela on February 15, 2025, while the Raxaul-Secunderabad Special (07052) will follow the same route on February 18, 2025.

Passengers are advised to check the latest schedules before planning their journeys. The South Eastern Railway has implemented these changes to facilitate essential infrastructure improvements, aimed at enhancing the efficiency and safety of

Technical meet on "Micro-alloyed Steels and its processing" organised at RDCIS, SAIL

A technical meet on "Micro-alloyed Steels and its processing - Recent Advances, Challenges & Opportunities" was organized at RDCIS, SAIL, Ranchi this week. Its objective was to disseminate the knowledge towards developing a composite perspective towards adoption of advanced micro-alloyed steel processing technologies in SAIL plants and to address the modern technologies, advancements and challenges in micro-alloyed steel research and its application aligned with achieving sustainability and cost efficiency towards greener steel production. The meet was formally inaugurated by Sandip Kumar Kar, ED, RDCIS.

It brought together 70 delegates from various SAIL plants and units, including steel plants of Bokaro, Rourkela, Burnpur, Durgapur, Salem, RDCIS, CET and CMO, along with participants from MECON Ltd., NIAMT (formerly, NIFFT), and experts from M/s CBMM, Brazil. Over one and a half days, eight technical sessions were conducted, covering



key advancements in steelmaking, alloy design, and sustainability related to microalloyed steels.

The meet provided a valuable platform for addressing key challenges in steelmaking, fostering collaboration among plants, research institutes, and industry experts to drive innovations in alloy development, process optimization, and sustainable production.

Jamshedpur students shine in JEE Main results

Bansal Classes, Jamshedpur results of its students in the recently held Joint Entrance Examination, JEE Mains. With the hard work and dedication of the students and their guiding teachers, Bansal Classes has once again proved that it is the

These results have clarified the institute's commitment to providing excellent education and the students' passion for success in competitive examinations. Vedant Saraf 99.84 percentile, Vaibhav 99.71, Rashi Mahato

leading coaching institute in



96.56, Muskan Raj 95.23, Mahesh 97.37, Srishti 97.37. Also, all the students were honored with a bouquet of flowers, along with the director of the institute, Manish Singh said that all the students will be prepared for

JEE Advanced free of cost.

Bansal Classes has been

many times in Joint Entrance their hard work, determina-Examination (JEE) for the tion and dedication of our ears. By giving this result in its very first year, Bansal Classes Jamshedpur has proved that Bansal Classes does what it says, along with this, the Center Director Manish Kumar Singh also told that a free scholarship test is going to be held on 23 February 2025 at our center MNPS campus gate number 2, which is for 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th and dropper (JEE NEET)

Classes Jamshedpur Director Manish Kumar Singh felt proud of the success of his students and students are consistently performing excellently in competitive examinations, and we are committed to give them even greater success in the

Bansal Classes Jamshedpur provides its students with individual attention, a holistic study plan, and an environment that fosters academic excellence. The institute constantly works with each student to provide them with all the necessary tools and resources to achieve success

An awareness campaign was launched by Ranchi Police against the illegal cultivation of opium under Tamar, Rahe police station on Friday.PNS

CMPDI CMD inaugurates medical equipment at RK **Mission TB Sanatorium**

CMD, CMPDI, Manoj Kumar, inaugurated medical equipment like Digital X-ray, Ultrasonography, Dental X-ray etc., at Ramakrishna Mission TB Sanatorium, Tupudana, Ranchi on Friday. CMPDI, RI-III, Ranchi under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provided financial assistance of Rs. Rs 55.86 Lakhs for the procurement of these medical equipment. Kanchan Sinha, RD, RI-III, Ranchi; Jayant Chakraborty, Ex-RD, RI-III; R.K. Mahapatra, GM(HRD/CSR); Swami Satsangananda, Secretary, RK Mission TB Sanatorium, Tupudana and other officials from CMPDI were present on this occasion.

This initiative will enhance diagnostic and treatment capabilities at the Ramakrishna Mission TB Sanatorium, improving healthcare access for marginalized communities in and around Ranchi affected by TB and other diseases.



JAP HAVILDAR DIES IN PALAMU, **CARDIAC FAILURE SUSPECTED**

PNS: DALTONGANJ

A 50 year old havildar of JAP 8 identified as Chotan Ram died of a possible cardiac arrest on the intervening night of Thursday/Friday.

He had profuse sweat-

Thursday evening. These are the unmistaken signs of cardiac congestion. He was deputed at Saraideeh police picket. The picket comes under the

ing and restlessness

Naudeeha Bazar police sta-Officer in charge of the Naudeeha Bazar police station Ameet Kumar Dwivedi said "The havildar had profuse sweating and restless-

ness. He was rushed to the sub divisional hospital

Chhaterpur last night." Deputy superintendent of the sub divisional hospital Chhaterpur Dr Rajesh Agrawal told " Chotan Řam was brought dead around 12.40 am Friday night."

Police officer Dwivedi said as this havildar was first deputed at the Dagra picket and thereafter at Saraideeh picket,not much is known about his health

The deceased havildar hailed from Rehla under Palamu district.

Autopsy was conducted in the MMCH Daltonganj, said police.

Cops of all ranks need proper and complete health check up twice in a year. They work under tremendous stress. Many become diabetic and they come to know of it months Cops in the rural land-

scape police stations are not free of anxiety. They are more at risk of health as the more remote the police station, the more vulnerable is their health in the emergency and critical

EESL and **DVC** join hands for advance energy efficiency

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Energy Efficiency Services Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with Corporation (DVC) on the Day 4 of India Energy Week 2025 (IEW 2025) in New

This strategic partnership aims to advance collaboration in energy efficiency, renewable energy, e-mobility, and resource conservation to support DVC's decarbonization ini-

Speaking on the occasion, chairman of DVC, Suresh Kumar said, "As we move towards achieving our decarbonization goals, this partnership with EESL will play a crucial role in enhancing our energy efficiency measures deploying clean energy solutions across DVC's operational areas.' EESL, leveraging its

technical expertise and innovative business models will support DVC in executing and implementing various energy efficiency and clean energy programs. This partnership will focus on the implementation of the Street Lights National Program (SLNP), including industrial and solar street-

efficiency in buildings through the deployment of Limited (EESL), a JV of energy-efficient fans, PSUs under Ministry of super-efficient air conditioners, chillers, and indus trial lighting solutions. Additionally, it will introduce cutting-edge industrial energy efficiency solutions and expand decentralized solar programs, including solar rooftop installations, solar carports, and solar tree installations. Hybrid thermal solar solutions will also be promoted to enhance energy efficiency.

The partnership aims to accelerate the adoption of electric mobility solutions, including electric cars, electric buses, and electric cycles, alongside the development of EV charging infrastructure. metering solutions will be implemented for improved energy management, and trigeneration projects will be advanced to ensure effi-

cient energy utilisation.
Under the National Replacement Motor Program (NMRP), inefficient motors will be replaced with energy-efficient alternatives, and energy-efficient pumps will be installed to enhance operational efficiency. Comprehensive audits will be conducted to identify and implement efficiency measures.



Prez arrives Ranchi to attend BIT Mesra's platinum jubilee celebrations

Tight security arrangements in city, traffic plan altered for two days

PNS: RANCHI

Draupadi resident reached evening on her two-day visit to Jharkhand. The Governor welcomed the President as soon as she reached the Raj Bhavan. Ranchi Police had made tight security arrangements on the entire route line from the airport to the Raj Bhavan. On February 15, the President will attend the Platinum Jubilee celebrations of BIT Mesra as the chief guest. Tight security arrangements have been made for the President's arrival in Ranchi. Apart from ten IPS, 1000 policemen have been deployed for her securi-

Barricading has been done on both sides of the road from the airport to the Raj Bhavan and from the Raj Bhavan to BIT Mesra for the arrival of the President. Also, drop gates have been made at many places. Traffic DSP, inspector and policemen have been deployed on every road to manage the traffic. As the President's convoy moved forward, the traffic was opened accordingly. Barricading has also been done at many places to stop

Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari held a meeting to review preparations for the President's visit. Tiwari instructed officials to keep all the arrangements in order during the President's visit as per the protocol. Deployment of police forces was seen at strategic locations.

Wherever necessary, the departments should coordinate with each other and make the preparations strong," an official statement quoting the chief secretary.

The officials have been directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply, it said. Preparations for the national anthem and arrangements for security, electricity and loudspeakers and fire fighting, medical arrangements at the programme venue and accommodation site were reviewed," the statement

On her arrival at Ranchi this afternoon, the President proceeded to Raj Bhavan, and she will participate in the BIT Mesra event on Saturday, an official said. The institute will commemorate 75 years of academic excellence, research and technological innovation, a BIT official said. Ranchi Deputy Commissioner (DČ) Manjunath Bhajantri con-



President of India Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar during her arrival at Birsa Munda International airport in Ranchi on Friday. Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative, Shilpi Neha Tirkey also seen in the picture. PNS

vened meetings with officials to oversee preparations for the President's visit.

As per Bhajantri's directions, officers have been deputed at key locations, including the airport, Raj Security deployments have been in place at high-rise buildings and sensitive locations along the President's transit route.

President Draupadi Murmu will stay at the Raj Bhavan in Ranchi. In view of

this, separate arrangements have been made for transportation in Ranchi. No entry has been imposed from 6 am to 10 pm. Entry of small cargo vehicles has also been stopped in the city from 3 pm to 7 pm. From 3 pm to 6 pm,

Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative Minister, Shilpi Neha Tirkey during her arrival at Birsa Munda International airport in Ranchi on Friday. Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar is also seen in the picture. PNS

President of India Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by

Kanke, Ratu, Kanthitand, Daladli, Kathal Mor will be able to go towards their destination through Main Road, Lalpur Road, Kantatoli Road from the city.

Similarly, from 3 pm to 6

Airport Road, Hinoo Chowk, Birsa Chowk, Argora Chowk, Sahajanand Chowk, Bypass Kishoreganj Chowk, New Market Chowk, Hatlips Chowk, Raj Bhavan Mor will be diverted and stopped.

towards the city from Kanke Road, Ratu Road, Kathal Mor, Kanthidand can enter the city via Kanke Ring Road, Lalpur Chowk and Kantatoli Road. Many roads can also

NABARD's credit potential for priority sector of State is Rs 88303.77 cr



State Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative, Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Director, DFS A.K. Thakur, Regional Director, RBI Prem Ranjan Prasad Singh, ED, Bank of India P R Rajagopal, CGM, Bank of India Ashok Pathak, GM, Bank of India Manoj Kumar and others during the releases programme of State Focus Paper 2025-26 for Jharkhand RO, in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

PNS: RANCHI

The credit potential for the priority sector in the State has been projected

at Rs 88303.77 crore for the year 2025-26, as against Rs 54,008.31 crore for

the year 2024-25, showing an increase 63.50 per This was revealed during

NABARD's the State Focus 2025-26 Jharkhand regional office was launched on Friday by Jharkhand Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore, in the presence of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative, Shilpi Neha Tirkey Minister and CGM NABARD SK Jahangirdar.

Jahagirdar spoke at length on thrust areas which included promoting pulses, oilseeds, and higher-value crops in rice fallows. NABARD is supporting farmers in Giridih, Lohardaga, Latehar, Gumla and Khunti

post the harvest of paddy as well as promoting integrated farming, organic farming, and natural farming across various districts to enhance sustainability and soil health and adopting sustainable agricultural practices to combat climate vulnerability, alongside diversifying into allied sectors like dairy, fisheries, and tassar silk to

ensure income security. The CGM also emphasised to expanding KCC coverage to all eligible farmers under PM Kisan Yojana, with a focus on issuing KCC RuPay cards and involving involving Cooperative Banks, promoting water harvesting structures like check dams to

utilize fallow land and water runoff, encouraging cultivation of fruits such as custard apple, figs, sapota, dragon fruit, etc. and off-season vegetables in micro-shade net houses, with NABARD's pilot projects and potential state subsidies.

Jahangirdar said that the bank will facilitate in developing cargo handling and

infrastructural facilities, transportation, and export capabilities for horticulture enhancing warehousing capacities to

accommodate 20 lakh MT of food grains establishing modern agricultural markets, food

parks, and agro-industrial corridors to benefit farmers, setting up facilities for Disease Free Layings (DFL) and promoting tassar silkworm rearing to boost production, improving non-descript cattle breeds and upgrading dairy

infrastructure, promoting cage fisheries, bio floc, RAS, and establishing breeding centers and establishment of State Finance Corporation.

The CGM also suggested that the State Govt consider creating a credit guarantee corpus to be managed by Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) through which credit guarantee coverage can be SPV provided to women farmers and entrepreneurs while availing loan from financial Institutions up to a predetermined limit.

Radha Krishna Kishore appreciated the comprehensive State Focus Paper, highlighting its strategic insights and detailed projections. The Minister commended the focus on sustainable agricultural practices, financial inclusion, and infrastructure development, which align with the States vision

for economic growth and

social well-being. Shilpi Neha Tirkey appreciated the suggestions put forward by NABARD and the good work done by NABARD. She also exhorted for a greater partnership between the State Government and

16th National Conference IHSCON 2025 organised in city

Indian Hernia Society and Orchid Super Speciality Hospital, Ranchi, jointly organised the conference

PNS: RANCHI

Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari, the Guest of Honour for IHSCON 2025 attended the 16th National Conference IHSCON 2025, which concluded on Friday

On this occasion, the Health Minister stated that this conference serves as a vital platform for promoting innovation in the medical field. Organized in collaboration with the Indian Hernia Society, AIIMS New Delhi, and Orchid Medical Centre, the conference featured live surgical workshops, CME sessions, and panel discussions.

The Minister highlighted the 25 free hernia surgeries conducted as an exemplary act of social service and reaffirmed the government's commitment to improving healthcare services in the state. He praised Ranchi as an ideal venue for such events and acknowledged the contributions of medical experts

Postgraduate students from across India participated in the competitive paper session and were felicitated today by V.K. Bansal. The CME sessions featured distinguished speakers including renowned surgeons from various parts of India and

During the conference, a live surgical workshop was conducted for patients suffering from hernia, in which approxiworkshop took place in the state-of-the-art operation theatre of Orchid Hospital and was broadcast live at the IHSCON conference held at Hotel Radisson Blu.

The event was graced by Siddhant Jain, Director of Orchid Medical Centre, Anant Jain of Orchid Medical Centre; Organizing Secretary General & Renal Transplant Surgeon Dr. Geeta Prasad, Organizing Chairman & renowned Ranchi-based Surgeon Dr. Shambhu Prasad Singh, Treasurer, Surgeon & Laparoscopic Surgeon Dr. Ranjan Kumar, Chief Administrative Officer of Orchid Hospital, Dr. P.K. Gupta and Medical Superintendent of Orchid Hospital, Col Dr. Anjani Kumar.



State's CD ratio crosses 50 % mark, reaches 51.13 %



State Finance Minister Radha Krishna Kishore, Minister of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Cooperative, Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Director, DFS A.K Thakur, Regional Director, RBI Prem Ranjan Prasad Singh, ED, Bank of India P R Rajagopal, CGM, Bank of India Ashok Pathak, GM, Bank of India Manoj Kumar and others releases the State Focus Paper 2025-26 for Jharkhand RO, in Ranchi on Friday. PNS

PNS: RANCHI

The Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio breached the 50 per cent mark this year and it reached at 51.13 per cent which is 10.50 per cent higher than last year's December quarter.

The fact came to light during the State Level Banking Committee's (SLBC)'s 90th meeting that took place on Friday in the State Capital.

The program started in the presence of Finance Minister, Government of Jharkhand, Radha Krishna Kishore, Agriculture Minister, Government of Jharkhand, Shilpi Neha Tirkey, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi and Nodal Officer, New Dellii and Nodal Onices, SLBC, Jharkhand, Anjani Kumar Thakur, Executive Director, Bank of India, Head Office cum Chairman, SLBC, Jharkhand, PR Rajagopal, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Ranchi Regional Office, Prem Ranjan Prasad Singh, Chief General Manager, NABARD, Regional Office, Jharkhand, Sunil

Krishna Jahangirdar

Pathak, Ashok Kumar General Manager, Jharkhand, Manoj Kumar, Deputy General Manager, SLBC, Jharkhand, CH Gopala Krishna and others The program started with

the welcome address of General Manager, SLBC -Bank of India, Regional General Manager Öffice, Ranchi, Manoj Kumar. Kumar told the gathering in his speech that if the farmers of the state make prompt payment in KCC loan, then they can get this loan at 0 per cent interest. He further expressed concern in his greeting that the farmers of our state are not able to properly utilize the agricultural loan being given.

In the program, Director, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, New Delhi and Nodal Officer, SLBC Jharkhand, Anjani Kumar Thakur gave an analysis of the various works of SLBC Jharkhand and congratulated the Convenor, SLBC,

Jharkhand for organizing two Chief General Manager, meetings in a very short time Bank of India, Head Office, and for this the Convenor deserves congratulations. In the program, Radha

Krishna Kishore expressed concern over the interest rate charged from KCC holders, which is currently 7 per cent. This interest rate is a challenge for KCC holders, especially when the interest rate of vehicle loan given to ministers is 4 per cent, he said.

Leading the program, Shilpi Neha Tirkey in her address urged the banks to provide the benefits of effective schemes of the government to the underprivileged and poor beneficiaries of J h a r k h a n d . He advised the banks to improve financial literacy among the villagers and appreciated the Bank of India for taking the initiative to share knowledge among the villagers about KCC grants. He also urged to open branches in remote places and areas far from financial inclusion to bring them into the mainstream.

IIM-R to host conference on Building a Sustainable Future

As Artificial Intelligence reshapes lives and the climate crisis continues to intensify the future is filled with both opportunities and uncertainties. To discuss these pressing issues, share ideas and collaborate, incubators redefining compassion, harmony, sustainability, nonviolence, innovation, and trusteeship will come together on February 16 at IIM Ranchi.

The purpose of the event is to give the panelists an opportunity to 'Share your ideas on how Values can navigate us through a dynamic tomorrow' in the form of essays, poems, values, research or anything that can inspire a dialogue for the future direction. The event which is free of charge will also feature a community kitchen and a Trust- Based Market Festival.

In the morning session, the opening keynote will be based



future' where seven value incubators will share 10- 15 minute presentations, covering unique experiments and initiatives to actualize values such as sustainability, innovation, trusteeship, inquiry, harmony, non- violence, compassion, service, dignity, and fairness in modern society.

Utsow Padhan, Founder TIEEDI Forest Garden, a social entrepreneur and environment activist will talk about sustainability and the ability to meet present needs without compromising on the

Lakshmi Menon, future. Governing Council Member, NIF will speak on innovation and the act of introducing new ideas, methods or prod-

ucts.

The speaker for trusteeship - responsible governance of resources for the greater will be Deepak good Srivastava, Director, IIM Ranchi. To enlighten the audience on inquiry- the act of seeking knowledge through questioning Kaustubh Deshpande, PhD - University of Maryland BS - MS IISER,

Punel Narmada Parikrami

will be present.

To speak on harmony- a state of peaceful coexistence and balance, the .guest speaker is Pratul Jain, Founder at Backpack with Pratl and Place of Possibilities Consultant for Sustainable Practices. Manasi Saxena, Trainer and Founder of enCOMPASSion and Former Board Member of CNVC will talk on non-violence and the practice of resolving conflicts without harm or aggression.

To speak on compassion- a deep concern for the suffering of others, with a desire to help, the guest speaker will be Rohit Rajgarhia from ServiceSpace and a CA, IIMB, SRCC alumni.

The afternoon session will be a creative showcase of the selected submissions such as posters, essays and poems which will be displayed in a gallery format, with short presentations by authors or

BJP hails Govt decision to open Anganwadi centers in tribal areas

PNS: RANCHI

BJP state president Babulal Marandi has described the decision to open new Anganwadi centers in tribal villages of Jharkhand as welcome. He wrote on social media that the decision of the central government to open 1220 new Anganwadi centers in tribal villages of Jharkhand under PM Janman and Dharti Aba Janjati Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan is welcome. This will greatly improve the development and nutrition of the trib-

al society.
The BJP state president praised it and said that this step will improve health services and provide new employment opportunities for rural women. The appointment of Anganwadi workers and assistants will also empower



women. This decision of the central government is an important step towards the goal of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas', which will prove to be

a milestone in the upliftment of the tribal community of Iharkhand.

president BJP state Babulal Marandi

expressed concern over the status of giving rights to panchayats in Jharkhand being much below the national average. He shared a post on social media saying that gram panchayats should be given the power of self-governance, but due to lack of rights, they are unable to take decisions related to education, health, water supply and infrastructure independently. Babulal said that lack of financial independence is also hindering development work, due to which the local governance system is getting weakened. He has appealed to Chief Minister Hemant Soren to empower the gram panchayats by giving them adequate resources and financial autonomy, so that all-round development of rural areas can take place.

CBI seeks hearing dates for **2G** case acquittal appeal involving A Raja

The CBI on Friday informed the Delhi High Court that its appeal against the acquittal of former Telecom Minister A Raja and 16 others in the 2G spectrum allocation case was "ripe for hearing".

CBI counsel senior advocate Sanjay Jain urged Justice Vikas Mahajan to either fix multiple dates to hear the matter, having a voluminous record, or post it on another date to decide a hearing schedule. He said, "The matter is ripe for hearing. I request the court to give a bouquet of multiple dates. Justice Mahajan then posted the matter on March 18.

A special CBI court on December 21, 2017 acquitted former UPA-era Telecom Minister Raja, who is now an MP from Nilgiris, DMK MP Kanimozhi and others in the CBI and ED cases stemming from the 2G scam. CBI and ED filed appeal challenging



Former tellicomm minister A Raia

the acquittal in the High Court in March 2018. After six years, the High Court on March 22, 2024 admitted the CBI appeal saying there were "some contradictions" in the trial court judgment requiring a "deeper examination". acy, cheating, forgery, using as genuine fake documents,

abusing official position, criminal misconduct by public servant and taking bribes. Aside from Raja and Kanimozhi, the special court acquitted former telecom secretary Siddharth Behura, Raja's former private secretary R K Chandolia, Unitech Limited managing director Sanjay Chandra and three top executives of the Reliance Anil Ambani Group -Gautam Doshi, Surendra Pipara and Hari Nair - in the CBI case. Swan Telecom promoters

Shahid Balwa and Vinod Goenka and the directors of Kusegaon Fruits and Vegetables Private Limited -Asif Balwa and Rajiv Agarwal were also acquitted in the

The special court also acquitted Swan Telecom (Private) Limited, Unitech Wireless (Tamil Nadu) Limited, Reliance Telecom Limited film producer Karim Morani and Kalaignar TV director Sharad Kumar in the CBI

Buddha's teachings offer solution to global conflicts, says PM Modi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that many of the world's conflicts are an outcome of taking extreme positions instead of a balanced approach, asserting that Buddha's teachings of following the middle path and avoiding extremes offer solution to numerous global chal-

In a video address to the fourth edition of Samvad, a global Hindu-Buddhist initiative for conflict avoidance, organised in Thailand, Modi said the shared traditions of Asia rooted in the principles of Dhamma provide answers to the environmental crisis plaguing the

Hinduism, Shintoism, and other Asian traditions teach people to live in harmony with nature, he said, adding they do not see themselves as separate from nature but as a part of it. According to a statement, Modi

highlighted the concept of



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses 'SAMVAD' programme in Thailand via

trusteeship, as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, and empha sised that when using natural resources for progress, one must also consider our responsibility to future generations. This approach ensures that resources are used for growth, not greed, he added. Noting that this edition of Samvad is hosting a religious roundtable, bringing together diverse religious leaders, He expressed confidence that valuable insights will emerge from this platform, shaping a more harmonious world. Praising the host country Thailand for its rich culture, history, and heritage, Modi stressed that it stands as a beautiful example of the shared philosophical and spiritual traditions of Asia.

Underlining the deep cultural ties shared by India and Thailand spanning over 2,000 years, he said Ramayana and Ramakien connect the two nations and that their shared reverence for Lord Buddha

Citing Buddha, he said the principle of moderation remains relevant today, offering guidance in addressing global

He mentioned the vibrant partnership across multiple sectors between the two countries, and said India's 'Act East' pol-icy and Thailand's 'Act West' policy complement each other. He said another cause of conflict is perceiving others as fundamentally different, adding that differences lead to distance, and distance can turn into discord. To counter this, he cited a verse from the Dhammapada, which states that everyone fears pain and

The prime minister noted that he hailed from Gujarat's Vadnagar and represented Varanasi in Parliament, and said it is a beautiful coincidence that places associated with Lord Buddha have shaped his journey. He said, "Our reverence for Bhagwan Buddha is reflected in the policies of the Indian government."

SC slams TN Govt on delay in filing appeal against Isha Foundation

In the CBI case, Raja,

Kanimozhi and 15 others

were tried under provisions

of the IPC and the Prevention

of Corruption Act for

offences of criminal conspir-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Friday slammed the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board for moving after two years against an order that quashed a showcause notice issued against Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation for allegedly flouting environmental norms. A bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice N Kotiswar Singh termed the petition filed by the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) as a "friendly match" played by bureaucrats wanting the apex court's stamp on the petition's dis-

"Mr Advocate General what prevented the authorities from approaching the court on time. There is a delay of 637 days in filing this petition, which is nearly two years. This is actually a friendly match where the bureaucrats want the stamp of the Supreme Court and the High



Supreme court of India

Court on dismissal of the petition," the bench said. The showcause was issued to the foundation for constructing buildings between 2006 and 2014 without reportedly obtaining mandatory environmental clearances but the Madras High Court quashed

Justice Surya Kant further told the State's law officer. "When the State comes belatedly, we become suspicious.

File photo We start reading between lines. How can you say a yoga centre is not an educational institution? If they are not going as per plan, then

of hutment. The top court told State Advocate General PS Raman that now that Isha Foundation

you can challenge the non-

compliance but you can't be

allowed to demolish the struc-

ture constructed in over a

lakh yards. It is not some kind

had constructed a yoga and meditation centre in district's Coimbatore Velliangiri, the state must ensure environmental compliance. "Now that a yoga centre has been constructed and you are not saying that it is dangerous, then your concern must be to ensure that all environmental parameters are complied with like sunlight, greenery, sewage treatment plant. You can raise those issues. Everybody is obligated to comply with these

norms," it said. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Isha Foundation, urged the top court to hear the matter after Shivratri, saying a major function was scheduled to be held there. "We have all necessary approvals.

They are talking only about environmental clearance. The yoga centre is 80 per cent green. It's one of the best centres in India," he said.

The Madras High Court, said the court, was right in its view

on the claim of Isha Foundation that it is covered under the notification of Centre for an educational centre. When asked about the delay, Raman said the matter was stuck between two State departments. The bench posted the matter for hearing post Shivratri.

On December 14, 2022, holding that the facilities set up by Isha Foundation Coimbatore would fall under the education category, the High Court set aside the TNPCB notice.

The High Court quashed the notice dated November 19, 2021, and allowed the plea of Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation.

The showcause notice was over construction of buildings in the foothills of Velliangiri without prior environmental clearance. The Centre had informed the High Court that the foundation was imparting yoga lessons aside from running a school and it fell under the education category.

NOTA votes hit record low of 0.99 per cent in 2024 Lok Sabha polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The None Of The Above (NOTA) option in EVMs recorded its lowest percent age share in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls since its introduction in 2013, according to data shared by the Election Commission(ÉC). The option was implemented in a Lok Sabha poll for the first time

According to the polls panel's 'Atlas-2024', a book containing data from last year's Lok Sabha polls, there has been a gradual decline in NOTA votes over the past three Lok Sabha elections, from 1.08 per cent in 2014 to 0.99 per cent in 2024.

While the percentage might seem small, the total number of NOTA votes can still be significant, especially in seats with comparatively lower winning margins, where the NOTA votes could have affected outcomes in some constituencies.

The distribution of NOTA votes across the states exhibits significant variation, reflecting regional political dynamics, voter preferences and levels of political engage-

Bihar recorded the highest share (percentage) of NOTA votes at 2.07 per cent, followed closely by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu with 2.06 per cent and Gujarat at 1.58 per cent. In contrast, Nagaland recorded the lowest share of NOTA votes at just 0.21%, suggesting a stronger alignment or preference for the contesting candidates in the state.

Such varying trends across states may be influenced by factors such as political competition, the prominence of regional parties, voter education, and the overall electoral landscape within each

The variation highlights the diverse ways in which voters engage with the electoral process and express their preferences, either by actively participating in choosing candidate or by using NOTA as a tool for protest or

Introduced in 2013, the NOTA option on electronic voting machines (EVMs) has its own symbol - a ballot paper with a black cross across it. The EC added the NOTA button on EVMs as the last option on the voting panel after a September 2013 Supreme Court order.

Before the apex court's order, those not inclined to vote for any candidate had the option of filling what is popularly called Form 49-O.

But filling out the form at the polling station under Rule 49-O of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, compromised the secrecy of the

Experts share tips on healthy eating, sleep for exam success | BJP hails PM Modi's US visit as landmark,

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

dequate sleep, eating Ahome-cooked food and avoiding binge eating to counter stress during examinations were among the mantras for school students shared by top nutrition experts as part of the prime minister's latest "Pariksha Pe Charcha" episode, aired on Friday. Nutrition and health experts

Shonali Sabherwal, Rujuta Diwekar and Revant Himatsingka shed light on the importance of healthy eating habits and the crucial role of quality sleep in academic success during a special session of "Pariksha Pe Charcha" - an annual event in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students appearing for board examinations

In a shift from the traditional town hall format, Modi preferred a more informal



setting this time and took students to Delhi's iconic Sunder Nursery for his annual interaction. Eminent personalities such as boxer MC Mary Kom and spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev have shared their experiences and knowledge on key aspects of life and learning in different episodes. On Wednesday, actor Deepika Padukone shared tips on stress management while opening up about her own struggles with depression. Macrobiotic nutritionist and

author Sabherwal said, Homemade food is the best (for destressing)... millets and brown rice can be included in the diet. One should eat a balanced meal to keep cravings under control. Millets can keep you full for around eight

Diwekar said it was fine to eat the things that made one feel better during exams but suggested avoiding binge eating to counter stress. "Especially junk food, processed foods and sugar...," she said. Talking about his "Label

Padhega India" initiative, foodpharmer and health and influencer Himatsingka said the idea was to know about the things one was consuming. "If every person in India

starts reading labels, they will know what they are eating. My goal is to include health in the school curriculum in the next five years," he

'Pariksha Pe Charcha" is an annual event in which Modi interacts with students appearing for board examinations. During this, he also answers students' queries related to exam stress and other issues.

The first edition of the interactive programme with school and college students was held at Delhi's Talkatora Stadium in 2018. A seventh edition was held in a town hall format at Bharat Mandapam, engaging participants from around the country and overseas.

slams Rahul Gandhi for criticism

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The BJP on Friday hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's US visit as "landmark" and slammed Rahul Gandhi for his remarks on him, saying it has become a habit of Congress leaders to find fault in the prime minister's foreign visits. În a social media post, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla wrote, "PM Narendra Modi's impactful USA visit solidified India-US bonds like never before." "A landmark visit," he added, listing Modi's achievements during his US visit.

Party national spokesperson Syed Shahnawaz Hussain said US President Donald Trump's announcement about his administration's go-ahead to the extradition of 26/11 Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Rana is a "very big

diplomatic victory for India". 'Tahawwur Rana, the master mind of 26/11 terror attack, will be brought to india. He (PM Modi) convinced the US for this. This is a very big diplomatic victory for India,"

Hussain said. He also slammed Rahul Gandhi for accusing Modi of "covering up" the alleged corruption of businessman Gautam Adani, saying the Congress leader should keep in mind that Modi visited the US as the prime minister of the country and leader of its 140 crore people, not as a BJP leader. "Finding faults with the prime

minister's foreign visits has become a habit of the Congress," he said, responding to Gandhi's remarks. Earlier, Rahul Gandhi said

Modi maintains silence when questions are asked in the country and terms it a person-

NTCA urges priority village relocation from tiger reserves for conservation

al matter when asked abroad. "If you ask questions in the country, there is silence. If you ask abroad, it is a personal matter! Even in America, Modi Ji covered up Adani Ji's corruption!" Gandhi charged in a social media post in Hindi. The Congress leader criticised Modi, apparently latching on to his reply to a media query on Adani in the US. To a question on whether the issue relating to Adani figured in the talks,

with Trump in Washington said: "India is a democracy and our culture is 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. We consider the whole world as one family. I believe every Indian is mine." Modi further said such individual matters are not discussed in talks between two leaders. "Two prominent

Union Social Justice Minister Ramdas Modi at a joint media briefing

by Rotary Club of Delhi Imperial aimed at empower-ing individuals with physical challenges through prosthetic limb donation, training, and rehabilitation. As part of its launch, 400 leaders of two countries never discuss such individual issues,' prosthetic limbs are to be distributed in the first phase.

> President of Rotary Club of Delhi Imperial Rtn. Rajesh Aggarwal is being well supported by the members. Project 'ÁtmaNirbhar' is not jusť about prosthetic limb donation - it is a movement

> for self-reliance. The initiative goes beyond

fying the right beneficiaries, and equipping them with the skills, confidence, and resources needed to rebuild their lives with dig-

limb does not mean losing a

Athawale lauded the efforts stating, "Helping people walk again is not just a medical achievement but a step towards an inclusive society. This is the true spirit of social service. Initiatives like AtmaNirbhar' address the root causes of social issues and empower those in need."

PM Modi, Amit Shah pay tribute to Pulwama martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday paid homage to 40 Central Reserve Force(CRPF)personnel who lost their lives in a terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama on this day in 2019. "Homage to the courageous

heroes we lost in Pulwama in 2019. The coming generations will never forget their sacrifice and their unwavering dedication to the nation, Modi said in a social media

A suicide bomber crashed his explosive-laden vehicle into a bus ferrying CRPF personnel on February 14 in 2019, killing 40 jawans. Days later, India launched a retaliatory attack, which came to be



known as the Balakot

airstrike. Paying tributes to the jawans. Shah said the Narendra Modi government is determined to completely destroy terrorists by carrying out a campaign with a "zero-tolerance" policy against them, Shah also said.
"On behalf of a grateful nation, I pay my heartfelt tribute to the soldiers who were martyred in the cowardly

terror attack in Pulwama on

this day in 2019," he said in Hindi in a social media post. Terrorism is the biggest enemy of the entire humanity and the whole world has united against it, the home minister added.

"Be it through a surgical strike or an air strike, the Modi government is determined to completely destroy terrorists by carrying out a campaign with a 'zero-tolerance' policy against them," Shah said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Voluntary relocation of villages from core areas of tiger reserves should be carried out on a "priority" to support wildlife conservation and ensure the inclusive growth of people living in forest areas, the National Tiger Conservation Authority(NTCA)has said. During a meeting of the NTCA, some members also said the current voluntary village rehabilitation package might not be attractive to all communities living in core and critical tiger habitats and suggested it be revised. According to the minutes of the latest NTCA meeting,

Union Environment Minister

Bhupender Yadav said green

growth should be achieved

through mitigation strategies

in buffer and corridor areas

while core and critical tiger

ment principles. Yadav, who is also the NTCA chairman, "emphasised" that "voluntary relocation of villages from core or critical tiger

habitats made "inviolate",

according to tiger manage-

habitats of the tiger reserve, which is backed with statutory provisions, should be taken on a priority so that a win-win situation for tiger conservation and inclusive growth can be achieved and people living inside forest areas can be brought into the mainstream". He stressed that the needs of forest dwellers should be considered while carrying out voluntary relocations and highlighted the potential of tiger reserves as an "instrument for development of Tier II cities". Last year, a large number of people from tribal communities living in the core zones of India's tiger reserves protested against the NTCA's directive to

forest officials to speed up the relocation of 64,801 families from 591 villages in the core areas of 54 tiger reserves. Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj, the

NTCA's member secretary, said in the meeting that village rehabilitation was a "completely voluntary process" and informed consent of the gram sabha and the people affected is obtained" before relocation. The resettlement package for families was raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh in 2021, he added.

An NTCA member suggested that the relocation package be revised periodically based on inflation trends. He pointed out that the people being relocated from forest areas were usually reluctant to change and this should be considered while encouraging voluntary rehabilitation through capacity and skill development programmes. A Union tribal

affairs ministry official informed the NTCA that it had received several representations from organisations fol-lowing the NTCA's letter requesting states to undertake voluntary village relocation. The ministry last month asked states to gather data on the number of villages and families living in tiger reserves, details of villages relocated outside, and the status of claims to forest land and produce settled under the Forest Rights Act,

A tiger reserve consists of two zones - the core (critical tiger habitat) and the buffer (peripheral areas). According to the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, core areas must remain "inviolate for the purpose of tiger conservation". The buffer areas, in contrast, permit sustainable human activities alongside wildlife conserva-

Union Minister **Athawale** supports project 'Atmanirbhar' by Rotary Club

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW

Athawale extended his support to Project 'AtmaNirbhar', an initiative

The initiative, led by

charity, focusing on identi-

The project aims to transform at least one life every single day over the coming year, ensuring that losing a

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

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

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

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

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



An aerial view of devotees gathered to take a holy dip at Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and mythical

this investment has led to a transformative revival of generating significant returns through increased tourism commercial activity.

The Chief Minister also lauded the comprehensive transportation arrangements that have facilitated the movement of millions of

He noted that 40 regular flights are operating to and from Prayagraj, connecting the city to major destinations the country. Additionally, the Indian Railways has introduced hundreds of special trains, improved road

networks have played a crucial

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

CM Yogi cited the smooth

crore devotees taking a dip in the holy Sangam without any major disruptions. He attributed this success to the well-coordinated efforts of the 'double-engine government,' referring to the BJP-led state and central governments working in tandem. For the first time in history devotees at Maha Kumbh

Snan,

Amavasya

2025 are being granted unrestricted access to sacred sites such as Akshayvat, Patalpuri, and Saraswati Koop, which had previously off-limits remained restricted.

CM Yogi acknowledged the Ministry of Defence's cooperation in leasing the land for the event over the past eight years, ensuring a smooth organization of the festival.

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

Traffic chaos returns to Prayagraj as devotees struggle to reach Sangam

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

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

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



Devotees return from the ongoing Maha Kumbh

said Vikram Prasad, a pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh.

The problem began early in the day, with vehicles piling up on Mirzapur Road in Naini from 10 AM. Both lanes remained gridlocked, forcing commuters to inch forward at a frustratingly slow pace. The main entry routes into the

fair from the city, particularly near the Harshvardhan intersection and Alopibagh Chungi Bridge, saw a massive build-up of vehicles. The congestion has significantly delayed travel to Sangam, with some pilgrims taking several hours to cover short distances. Despite a heavy deployment of traffic police, the overwhelming number of vehicles left them struggling to manage the flow. Officers

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

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

Mizoram announces village council elections for March 12

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he Mizoram state election}}_{\text{commission (SEC) on}}$ Friday announced elections to 88 village councils (VCs) within Chakma Autonomous District Council (CADC) in south Mizoram's Lawngtlai State election commissioner

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

The last date for filing nominations is February 19, while contestants can withdraw their names latest by February 24. Scrutiny of papers will be held on February 21, he added. The last date for formation of the executive body is

March 17 and the election process is scheduled to be completed by March 18. According to the election seats, 88 are reserved for

A total of 37,883 voters, polls.

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

Meanwhile, in the elections to village councils in nine districts or non-scheduled areas and local councils (LCs) within two urban local bodies held on Wednesday, the ruling Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) emerged victorious securing a majority in 267 out of the total 544 VCs and 54 out of 110 LCs. Opposition party Mizo National Front (MNF) secured a majority in 122 VCs and 27 LCs, while Congress won in 43 VCs and 14 LCs. areas and local councils

and 14 LCs.

BJP secured a majority in one VC, and there were seven VCs and two LCs where only independent candidates were elected. There was no clear majority in 104 VCs and 13 LCs, according to the SEC.

More than 75 per cent of over 4.3 voters cast their 64.72 voting percentage was recorded in the LC

Kinnar Akhada Mahamandaleshwar, | Himachal Government allocates three followers injured in knife attack | ₹1800 Crore to upgrade

BISWAJEET BANERJEE/HARI OM

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

unidentified assailants stopped their vehicle under the pretext of seeking blessings. According to police sources, Kalyani Nand Giri and her followers were returning from the Kinnar Akhada to her residence in Sadiyapur in a Fortuner

SUV when a group of individuals signaled them As the spiritual leader stepped out of her vehicle, the attackers suddenly drew knives and launched

an assault.



Photo: File photo

Officials have confirmed an ongoing investigation, though the motive behind the attack remains unclear. "We are examining CCTV footage from the Sector 16 area, which suggests that around six individuals were involved in the

angles, including internal conflicts within the Kinnar Akhada," a senior police officer said.

The attack has raised serious security concerns, especially with the Maha Kumbh 2025 drawing massive crowds

information, the police No suspects have been rushed to the spot and identified yet, and we are transported the injured to exploring all possible further incidents.

obsolete medical equipment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■

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

Studies indicate that late diagnosis can increase medical costs by 30-50 per cent for a patient.

Considering the challenges faced by patients due to old medical equipment, Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has directed the replacement of outdated machines, according to the statement.

According health department data, 9.5 lakh patients travel outside Himachal Pradesh annually for treatment, resulting in crore to the state's Gross facilities such as radiation Domestic Product (GDP).

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

Robotic surgery will be introduced in all medical colleges, along with stateof-the-art radiology and laboratory equipment, a spokesperson for the state government said. Each medical college will be equipped with 3-Tesla

MRI machines, 256-slice high-end PET machines, machines, and other advanced diagnostic tools to ensure the timely detection of diseases and accurate treatment of Additionally, patients. modular operation theatres will be set up in these institutions, he said.

A 150-bed Cancer Care Centre will be established in Hamirpur, offering Focusing on four key points, medicine, he added.

Eight arrested for duping citizens posing as Axis Bank representative

Barabanki.

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

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

The suspects ran a "call centre" in Delhi's Badarpur area that allegedly targeted citizens by posing as a representative of Axis Bank and duped amount in the name of file charge, DD and other charges, police said.

Regarding this, the Gurugram

received a complaint on February 4 for fraud of Rs 18,000 and a case was registered under the relevant sections at Cyber Police station Manesar, Gurugram. During investigation, a police team of the Gurugram police technology, busted the call

center that committed the fraud/cheating in the above case and arrested 08 accused from Badarpur, Delhi on Thursday.

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

Police investigation revealed that the accused used to commit fraud by calling people and duped money in the form of various types of charges in the name of getting

The accused used to get salary for this fraud and also commission from defrauded amount. The accused were committing fraud since May 2024, police

"The realisation of indigenous 10-tonne vertical

mixer is a true testament to

India's growing technological

prowess, self-reliance and

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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



hill and valley districts of Manipur

to political uncertainty in the on state. The decision came as the candidate, despite having BJP failed to build a consensus

chief ministerial

several rounds of discussions

between its northeast in-charge Sambit Patra and

Singh, who was heading the BJP government in Manipur, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far.

The Manipur assembly has a tenure till 2027. Officials said on Friday that security forces were on high alert in state capital Imphal, particularly around the Raj Bhavan and the CM secretariat. "The Manipur Police increased delopyment of personnel in Imphal area, especially in front of Kangla Gate, Sanjenthong, Moirangkhom,

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

House can be reinstated. Reacting to the development, Congress leader Gandhi said it is a belated admission by the BIP of their complete inability to govern Manipur.

'Now, PM Modi can no longer deny his direct responsibility for Manipur," he said in a post on X. "Has he finally made up his mind to visit the state, and explain to the people of Manipur and India his plan to restore peace and normalcy?" Gandhi said. In another post on X, Congress general secretary, Communications, Jairam Ramesh said, "Finally what the Indian National Congress

demanding for almost 20 months has happened. months happened. President's rule has been imposed in Manipur." Meanwhile, the Manipur CPI(M) unit said the President's rule should be

fresh elections held at the earliest. CPI(M) state committee secretary Ksh Shanta told reporters that the party, along with other like-minded ones will stand for Manipur's

territorial integrity during

President's rule.

immediately revoked and

He also claimed that the selfish quest for power among legislators brought the state to such a situation.

ISRO develops world's largest solid propellant mixer for rocket motors materials and machinery as part of 'Atmanirbharata (self reliance) in Space', ISRO said.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE AHMEDABAD

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

You have a variety of diet charts in the market today. More than information, it is disinformation in this country, which plays havoc," he said. "They will impress you with graphs and you think it's the final truth. Because that's what is driving

our culture today. And unfortunately, you don't have any regulation for them, and there is no mandatory registration for them like regular doctors," he added. Earlier, uneducated quacks used to do such things, but now English-speaking people are doing it, the minister said. Singh also called for collective efforts to fight diabetes and obesity in the country.

Gurugram cracks down on littering: 29 FIRs filed STAFF REPORTER

Tn a major crackdown against **▲**33 vehicle owners and drivers, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) recommended 29 FIRs and imposed a penalty of ₹22.39 against them for throwing garbage and debris in public places.

It may be noted that the MCG had formed the Sanitation Security Force (SSF) to monitor the growing waste management and cleanliness challenges in the district.

Along with filing FIRs under various sections, the SSF also ensure the seizure of the vehicle used in hamper cleanliness system in the city. According to Dr Balpreet Singh, Additional Commissioner of MCG, throwing debris or garbage in a public places is a punishable offence, and to curb such activities, the SSF of the Municipal Corporation is monitoring around the clock, seven days a week. "During the monitoring by the teams, 29 FIRs have been

registered against 33 vehicle owners and drivers at various police stations, while 158 vehicles have been challenged and their owners or drivers have been fined ₹22.39 lakh.' Singh said. Singh said that this action has been taken by the SSF team during continuous monitoring at Sector-31, 32, 10, 22, 42, 25, 34, 59, 48, and 43, in front of Airtel building, Gwal Pahari, IFFCO Chowk Krishna Chowk, around

Sheetla Mata Mandir and

other places.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ BENGALURU

improves in the state, the

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{SRO}}$ on Friday said it has developed and realised the ten-tonne propellant mixer for solid motors.

Solid propulsion plays a crucial role in Indian Space Transportation Systems and vertical mixer is one of the critical equipment in solid motor production, ISRO said in a statement

Solid propellants are the backbone of rocket motors, and their production requires precise mixing of highly sensitive and hazardous ingredients," the statement

The space agency said that towards increasing the production scale of solid motor segments, Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in collaboration equipment. with Central Manufacturing



Technology Institute (CMTI), Bengaluru has successfully designed and developed 10tonne Vertical Planetary Mixers for processing the solid propellants.

ISRO has termed it a significant technological marvel. It added that the 10tonne vertical mixer is the world's largest solid propellant mixing

The development involves

and industries and has factory-level completed acceptance tests. This highcapacity mixer will enable productivity, quality and throughput improvement for solid motors production.

Stating that the Department of Space has undertaken multiple initiatives towards indigenous development of technologies,

unwavering commitment to innovation," it added. The 10 tonne vertical mixer is handed over to Director, SDSC SHAR by Director, CMTI in the presence of Chairperson Narayanan on Thursday in CMTI, Bengaluru.

ISRO said the 10-tonne vertical mixer weighs about 150 tonnes with a length of 5.4 m, breadth of 3.3 m and height of 8.7 m. The system has multiple which

agitators, hydrostatic driven and will be remotely operated using PLC-based control system with SCADA stations.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

US U-turn on Ukraine war

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

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

ing with Putin in Saudi Arabia in the near future. Ukrainian and European leaders have expressed concerns about being sidelined in the negotiations and the potential for unfavourable concessions.

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

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



Kumbh Mela: The catalyst for

Gandhi's freedom struggle



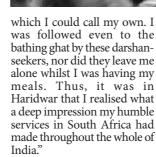
It was at this grand confluence of faith and politics that Gandhi fully grasped his growing influence, reinforcing his resolve for satyagraha

ne of the most notable episodes in the history of the Kumbh occurred in 1915 when Mahatma Gandhi visited the Haridwar gathering shortly after returning from South Africa after twenty-one years. Gopal Krishna Gokhale, Gandhi's political mentor, had advised him to undertake a nationwide tour to understand India's socio-political landscape before formulating his strategies - and plunging himself into the dynamics of the freedom movement. It was during this tour that Gandhi decided to attend the Kumbh, primarily to visit Mahatma Munshiram at his Gurukul in Rishikesh and to oversee the activities of the Servants of India Society. While Gandhi's views on various

issues such as cleanliness and sanitation, including that of communal harmony were critical - which Gandhi distinctly mentions in this autobiography too - his brief political debut at Haridwar Kumbh Mela pointed towards the necessity of bridging the communal divide to achieve a more conscientious goal for freedom. Gandhi was also awestruck, not only by the overwhelming crowds but also by the chaos, superstition, and lack of hygiene. He noted the rampant disregard for cleanliness, which tarnished the sanctity of

'The banks of the Ganga, a symbol of purity, were defiled by human waste and negligence, he lamented in his speeches decades later. In 1947, remembering his Kumbh experience, Gandhi remarked, 'We must ensure that our religious gatherings become sanctuaries of cleanliness and serenity, not breeding grounds for disease and disorder.

It was also here in Haridwar that Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi first grasped the profound impact his humble efforts in South Africa had on Bharat's people. Reflecting on this experience, he wrote in The Story of My Experiments with Truth: "My business was mostly to keep sitting in the tent, giving darshan and holding religious and other discussions with numerous pilgrims who called on



The Kumbh Mela at Haridwar proved to be a pivotal moment in shaping Mahatma Gandhi's sense of purpose and his eventual entry into the political arena of India's freedom movement. This deepened his realisation that the people of India looked up to him, not just as a spiritual figure, but as a leader capable of addressing the nation's struggles. This realisation planted the

seeds of confidence and responsibility within Gandhi, inspiring him to expand his mission of service and truth to the broader cause of India's liberation - which resulted in his first non-violent satyagraha in 1917 in Champaran, Bihar. The overwhelming response he received at the Kumbh Mela reinforced his belief in the power of collective action and solidified his resolve to dedicate his life to the fight for India's freedom.

It is also fascinating to note that Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Haridwar and his entry into the political arena coincided with a landmark moment in history - the All India Hindu me. This left me not a minute Mahasabha formation during



THE KUMBH MELA AT HARIDWAR **PROVED** TO BE A **PIVOTAL** MOMENT IN SHAPING MAHATMA **GANDHI'S** SENSE OF **PURPOSE**

AND HIS **EVENTUAL** ENTRY INTO THE **POLITICAL** ARENA OF **FREEDOM** MOVEMENT

the Kumbh Mela. In April 1915, amidst the spiritual fervour of the Haridwar Kumbh, Gandhi joined luminaries such as Swami Shraddhanand, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and other visionaries at the inaugural conference of the Sarvadeshak (All India) Hindu Sabha, marking a pivotal chapter in India's sociopolitical awakening. Gandhi's participation at the Kumbh was also available to British intelligence, who had made records - now available in the

Regional State Archives. The colonial period introduced a fresh perspective to the Kumbh Mela, with European observers chronicling its magnificence and adding valuable historical context. Fascinated by the immense scale and diversity of the pilgrimage, the British left behind detailed records that provide significant insights into the evolution of the Maha Kumbh Mela which also can be found in the well-documented writings of James Prinsep, a British colonial administrator. It is worth referring to The

Sunday Guardian's article, Beyond Faith: How Kumbh Mela Reshapes the Course of History, which highlights the Kumbh Mela's role in India's independence movement. A 1920 British intelligence document, displayed at the Allahabad Museum, reveals a pivotal 1918 meeting during the Mela. This meeting adopt-

ed a memorial supporting political reforms, demanded Panchayats, permanent set-tlements, and tenant protections, and founded the UP Peasants Association. Led by Pt Madan Mohan Malviya, the association grew to 450 branches, fostering unity among peasants and opposing zamindar dominance.

The Sunday Guardian further

highlights the pivotal role of the Kumbh Mela in shaping India's post-independence democracy, particularly during the Emergency. The JP Movement gained significant momentum at this Kumbh, with the Sadhu Samaj lending strong support. Events such as the 'Dharma Sansad' and 'Sadhu Sammelans (congregation)' cemented widespread support for the Janata Party across the Hindi heartland. The 'Maha Kumbh Mela' transcends its role as a spiritual

gathering, reflecting the profound confluence of the sacred and the secular. While it offers a space for deep

introspection and devotion, it also acts as a mirror to the socio-political currents that shape Indian society. This timeless festival continues to evolve, bridging spiritual and worldly realms. The Kumbh Mela remains a powerful testament to India's enduring cuiturai iegacy.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are

THE EDITOR

WazirX hack exposes crypto risks: A call for stringent regulations



SOUNDARARAJAN

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

t the 2023 G20 Summit under India's presiden-Acy, world economies pledged to create a global regulatory framework for crypto assets. While each country must establish Its regulations, international collaboration is equally important.

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

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

Crisis WazirX's holding company, Zettai Pte Ltd, is based in Singapore, meaning any legal recourse must go through Singapore's regulatory channels, even though over 95 per cent of WazirX's users were Indian investors.

In response to the crisis, WazirX introduced a Restructuring Scheme aimed at user recovery and longterm operational stability. The proposed scheme promises quicker asset recovery, profitsharing mechanisms and operational changes. Last month, WazirX received approval from the Singapore High Court to propose its Scheme of Arrangement to creditors. Additionally,

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

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

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

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

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

(The writer is CEO & Cofounder, The Policy Consensus Centre; views are personal)

SAJJAN KUMAR CONVICTED IN SIKH RIOTS

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

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

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

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

New Income Tax Bill simplifies taxation



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

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

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

Jai Prakash Gupta | Tirunelveli

RAGGING MUST STOP

Madam - The Kottayam Nursing College ragging incident is a crude reminder that ragging is very much prevailing in our colleges without any when those in power seek to evade deterrent and despite ragging being a

increased tax rebate under Section 87A, which will now provide up to Rs 60,000 for individuals with a net taxable income of Rs 12 lakh or below. This is a significant step towards reducing the tax burden on the middle class,

offering greater financial relief. Furthermore, the introduction of two clear deductions under the new tax regime, a Rs 75,000 standard deduction and NPS contributions, enhances tax planning options for individuals, making it simpler to manage finances. Although the income tax slabs remain unchanged for FY 2025-26, the streamlined approach will likely benefit taxpayers in the long run, fostering greater compliance and reducing unnecessary complications. Overall, this bill paves the way for a more modern and efficient tax system that is better suited to today's economic landscape.

Vishal Mayur | Tumakuru

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

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

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FIRST COLUMN

SHAPING INDIA'S AI FUTURE

As Al redefines global power dynamics, India is

emerging as a key player in its governance and innovation



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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



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

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

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

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

Palestine in ruins: The unbearable cost of war



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

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

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

Using satellite data, the United Nations estimated last month that 70 per cent of structures in Gaza have been destroyed, including more than 245,000 residential buildings. The World Bank estimated losses of \$18.5 billion in the first four months of the war-an amount nearly equal to the combined economic output of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. Major roads have been turned into deep trenches, essential water and electricity infrastructure has been destroyed, and most hospitals are no longer functional due to being targeted during the bombings. According to the United Nations, more than 50,000 people have died in Gaza, 44 per cent of whom are children. The children who have survived are suf-fering from sickness, stress, insomnia, depression, and fear. They are terrified of every stranger. The children of Gaza have lost the will to live. Amidst the devastation, 96 per cent of children express a desire not to live, and 49 per cent say they would have preferred to die. Among those who feel this way, 72 per cent are boys and 46 per cent are girls. A Netherlands-based organisation, War Child Alliance, has collected shocking and heartbreaking data. The alliance gathered this information from 500 parents or caretakers, including families whose children were crippled in the war or separated from their families. Their findings revealed that 92 per cent

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

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





DESPITE MULTIPLE RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR A CEASEFIRE IN THE UN **GENERAL** ASSEMBLY, **ALL PREVIOUS EFFORTS HAD** FAILED. ISRAEL INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF SHAME, A **DOCUMENT** THAT RECORDS ALLEGED

RIGHTS **VIOLATIONS AGAINST CHILDREN** IN ARMED CONFLICT

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

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

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

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

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

any U.S. attempt to occupy Gaza. Meanwhile, major Arab nations are mobilising against Trump's plan, with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, ordan, Qatar, and Turkey open-

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

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

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

India stands on the brink of an AI-driven revolution

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

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

ic growth. AI is no longer a futuristic concept-it is an immediate reality reshaping India's digital landscape. Projections suggest that AI will contribute \$500 billion to the Indian economy by 2025, accounting for 10 per cent of the national GDP. The technology is revolutionising industries, from agriculture to healthcare and revitalising cultural and linguistic heritage. India is not merely adopting AI; it is actively leading the revolution through ambitious govern-ment initiatives, collaborations with tech giants and extensive investment in AI infrastructure. The Indian gov-

ernment has launched several initiatives to position the country as a leader in AI. The IndiaAI Mission and the establishment of India's first AI University in Maharashtra reflect a strong commitment to technological leadership. Partnerships with global tech investing heavily in AI.



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

India's corporate sector is also

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

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



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

development. AI's rise also brings security

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

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

endangered languages such as Toda and Gondi.

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

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

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

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

(The writer is an assistant professor at IIIT, Sonepat; views are personal)

EU commission pledges swift Vance to meet Zelenskyy amid response to Trump's tariffs

PTI BRUSSELS

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

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

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

"Tariffs are taxes. By imposing tariffs, the US is taxing its own citizens, raising costs for business, stifling growth and fuelling inflation," it said. "Tariffs heighten economic uncertainty and disrupt the efficiency and integration of global markets.

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

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

Taiwan pledges to invest more in US after Trump tariff threats

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

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

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

"We hope to create a win-win scenario, not just to ensure benefit to the US but also to ensure that Taiwans industries has room from growth."

His comments came hours after Trump ordered reciprocal tariffs on trade partners that tax US imports, a move that could threaten a global trade war.

The US does not recognise Taiwan as a country, but is its strongest backer and biggest arms provider. But bilateral relations between the two are less certain amid Trump's seemingly transactional approach to geopolitical relations.

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

Lai said that Taiwan will maintain communication with the sor to reviewing programmes," Judge Amir H. Ali said in his Lai said that Taiwan will main-

US to help the new government better understand that Taiwan is an "indispensable partner in" ruling. Contractors, farmers and suppliers in the US and around the world say the Trump the United States' process of rebuilding its manufacturing industry and consolidating its high-tech leadership."

Over the past two years, more than 40% of Taiwan's overseas investments are US bound, Lai said, exceeding that of investments in China

Lai also said Friday that he would propose a "special budget" to increase defense spending to over 3% of Taiwan's gross domestic product. (AP)

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

Washington(AP) A federal judge has ordered President Donald Trump's administra-tion to temporarily lift a funding freeze that has shut down US humanitarian aid and devel opment work around the world, and he has set a five-day deadline for the administration to prove it's complying.

The judge's ruling late Thursday cited the financial devastation that the near-overnight cutoff of payments has caused suppliers and nonprofits that carry out much of US aid overseas.

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

administration's funding freeze has stiffed them on hundreds of millions of dollars in pay for work already done, has forced them to lay off staff and is rapidly putting many near the point of financial collapse.

Farmers and other suppliers and contractors describe fortunes in undelivered food aid rotting in ports and other undelivered aid at risk of theft.

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

The judge issued the temporary order in the US in a lawsuit brought by two organisations, the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition and the Global Health Council, representing health organisations receiving US funds for work abroad.

In his order, the judge noted that the Trump administration argued it had to shut down funding for the thousands of USAID aid programs abroad to conduct a thorough review of each program and whether it should be eliminated.

However, lawyers for the administration had failed to show they had a "rational reason for disregarding ... the countless small and large businesses that would have to shutter programs or shutter their businesses altogether," the judge added. The ruling also bars Secretary of State Marco Rubio and other Trump officials from enforcing stop-work orders that the Trump administration and Musk have sent to the companies and organizations carrying out foreign aid orders.

The judge also rejected the Trump administration's argument that it was buffering the impact of the funding freeze, offering waivers to allow funding to keep flowing to some aid

concerns about US-Russia talks

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Young people are being killed at levels that nobody's seen since World War II. And it's a ridiculous war."

Trump's musings have left Europeans in a quandary, wondering how — or even if — they can maintain the post-WWII security that NATO afforded them or fill the gap in Zelenskyy in Munich told the billions of dollars of secuthat guarantees Ky reporters that he thinks the rity assistance that the term independence.

'very clear greeting from Putin

and Russian Federation to the

US Secretary of State Marco

Rubio was supposed to join Vance and Zelenskyy but was

delayed when his Air Force plane had to return to

Washington after developing a

mechanical problem en route

to Munich. He took a different

aircraft, but it was unclear

whether he would arrive in

time for the meeting.
Trump, who upended years of steadfast US support for Ukraine during his call with

Putin on Wednesday, has been

vague about his specific inten-

tions — other than suggesting that a deal will likely result in

Ukraine being forced to cede

territory that Russia has seized

since it annexed Crimea in

The Ukraine war has to end,"

Trump told reporters Thursday.

security conference."

politicised.

Chernobyl drone strike is a Democratic Biden administration provided to Ukraine since Russia's February 2022 invasion.

United States Vice-President JD Vance, third left, meets with Germany's President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, second right, and

Germany's Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock, center right, on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference in Munich

Trump has been highly skeptical of that aid and is expected Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday denied to cut or otherwise limit it as Ukraine's claims. And Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said the Munich negotiations get underway in the coming days.
Both Trump and US Defence
Secretary Pete Hegseth this
week undercut Ukraine's hopes organizers haven't invited Russia for several years, a decision she called "strange and

of becoming part of NATO, which the alliance said less than a year ago was "irreversible," or of getting back its territory captured by Russia, which current-ly occupies close to 20% including Crimea.

"I don't see any way that a country in Russia's position could allow ... them to join NATO," Trump said Thursday. "I don't see that happening." But British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Zelenskyy on Friday that Ukraine must be allowed to join NATO.

Trump in recent days said he wants to reach an agreement with Ukraine to gain access to the country's rare earth materials as a condition for continuing US support for Ukraine's defense against Russia. He confirmed earlier this week that aides were working toward striking such a deal.

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

Wall Street Journal, said that the US would hit Moscow with sanctions and potentially military action if Putin won't agree to a peace deal with Ukraine that guarantees Kyiv's longThe warning that military options "remain on the table" was striking language from a Trump administration that's repeatedly underscored a desire

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

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

independent country, any agreements (made) without us," Zelenskyy said as he visited a nuclear power plant in western Ukraine. The track Trump is taking also

has rocked Europe, much as his dismissive comments about France and Germany did during his first term.

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

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



the Oval Office at the White House, Thursday in Washington.

'Russian drone struck Chernobyl reactor | London's Lord shell but radiation levels normal'

Kviv (PTI): A Russian drone with a high-explosive warhead hit the protective containment shell of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the Kyiv region during the night, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Friday.

Radiation levels have not increased, Zelenskyy and the UN atomic agency said. Russian officials made no immediate comment, and it was not possible to independently confirm Ukraine's claim of Russian responsibility. The UN atomic agency did not attribute blame, saying only its team stationed at the site heard an explosion and were informed that a drone had struck the shell. Zelenskyy said that the strike

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

Chernobyl strike occurred at 1:50 am local time (2350 GMT). It said there was "no indication of a breach in the ... inner containment" shell.

The outer shell that was hit is a protective cover built in 2016 over a heavy concrete containment structure. The inner layer was placed on the plant's fourth reactor soon after the 1986 disaster, which was one of the worst accidents in nuclear history. The containment shells seek to prevent radiation leaks. The three-year Russia-Ukraine war has brought repeated warnings of dangers to Ukraine's four nuclear plants, especially at the Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in southern Ukraine, which is Europe's

biggest and one of the 10 largest in the world. IAEA chief Rafael Rossi said on

X that the Chernobyl strike and the recent increase in military activity near the Zaporizhzhia plant "underline persistent nuclear safety risks," adding that the IAEA remains "on

high alert." The IAEA said its personnel at the site responded within min-utes of the strike, adding there were no casualties. "Radiation levels inside and outside remain normal and stable," the IAEA said on X. Zelenskyy claimed on Telegram that the Chernobyl strike showed that "Putin is certainly not preparing for negotiations" — a claim Ukrainian officials have repeatedly made.

Mayor to promote capital flows in India

London (PTI): The Lord Mayor of London is on his way to "bang on doors" with the message of free trade and greater two-way capital flows as he begins a week-long visit to India on Saturday.

Alderman Alastair King, who as the 696th Lord Mayor is the global ambassador for the financial hub of the City of London, will be in Mumbai for a wide range of discussions centred around his chosen theme of "Growth Unleashed" for his mayoralty. Alderman King has meetings

scheduled with British government trade officials as well as key Indian banking and financial institutions such as HDFC State Bank of India (SBI), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

theme 'Growth The Unleashed' is to encourage British businesses to get out to extraordinary growth markets such as India, bang on doors and build their businesses," the Lord Mayor told PTI, ahead of his visit to Mumbai this week-

The visit comes ahead of a proposed visit by UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds later this month to formally relaunch the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA), stalled by the general election cycle in both countries last year. "I think the timing is very good. There was a bit of a lull in relation to pushing forward for the Free Trade Agreement, and I'm very pleased to see that Minister Reynolds is off to India as well. "We can [meanwhile] talk about the opportunities to people involved in financial, professional, legal and maritime services that the Free Trade Agreement will present," said King.

Pope Francis hospitalised to treat bronchitis lung removed as a young man, has long battled health probnecessary diagnostic tests and

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

lems, especially bouts of acute bronchitis in winter. He uses a wheelchair, walker or cane when moving around his apartment and recently fell twice, Francis was hospitalised at

hurting his arm and chin. Rome's Gemelli hospital, where he was last admitted in June 2023 to have surgery to remove intestinal scar tissue and repair a hernia in the abdominal wall. A few months before that, he spent three days in the hospital to receive intravenous antibiotics for a respiratory infection. The Vatican said Francis was admitted after his Friday audiences. In addition to regular Vatican officials, the pope met Friday morning with the Slovak Prime Minister, Robert Fico, and CNN head Mark Thompson.

"This morning, at the end of the audiences, Pope Francis will Francis, who had part of one

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

The Vatican announcements, delivered ahead of Francis' hospitalization, came in sharp contrast to its 2023 hospitalizabe admitted to the Agostino tion for bronchitis that caused

confusion. Initially, the Vatican had said he had gone in for scheduled tests, but the pontiff later revealed he had felt pain in his chest and was rushed to the hospital where bronchitis was diagnosed.

He was put on intravenous antibiotics and was released April 1, quipping as he left that he was "still alive.

Francis spent 10 days at the same hospital in July 2021 following intestinal surgery for a bowel narrowing. He credited his personal nurse

then with saving his life for having insisted he get the problem checked out. It wasn't the first time he credited a nurse with saving his life. Francis recounted his near-

death experience with his youthful lung infection in his recent autobiography "Hope," in which he credited his survival to a nurse, an Italian nun named Sister Cornelia Caraglio.

Al making us stupider? University in the United States,

PTI BRISBANE

There is only so much thinking most of us can do in our heads. Try dividing 16,951 by 67 without reaching for a pen and paper. Or a calculator. Try doing the weekly shopping without a list on the back of last week's receipt. Or on your phone.

By relying on these devices to help make our lives easier, are we making ourselves smarter or dumber? Have we traded efficiency gains for inching ever closer to idiocy as a species? This question is especially important to consider with regard to generative artificial intelligence (AI) technology such as ChatGPT, an AI chat-

writing is used by 300 million people each week. According to a recent paper by a team of researchers from Microsoft and Carnegie Mellon

the answer might be yes. But there's more to the story. The researchers assessed how users perceive the effect of

ical thinking. Generally speaking, critical thinking has to do with thinking well

generative AI on their own crit-

One way we do this is by judging our own thinking processes against established norms and methods of good reasoning. These norms include values such as precision, clarity, accuracy, breadth, depth, relevance, significance and cogency of arguments.

Other factors that can affect quality of thinking include the influence of our existing world bot owned by tech company views, cognitive biases, and OpenAI, which at the time of reliance on incomplete or inaccurate mental models.

The authors of the recent study adopt a definition of critical thinking developed by American educational psychol-

a definition at all. Rather it's a hierarchical way to categorise cognitive skills, including recall of information, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

as a "taxonomy", because it's simple and easy to apply. However, since it was devised it has fallen out of favour and has been discredited by Robert Marzano and indeed by Bloom himself.

In particular, it assumes there is a hierarchy of cognitive skills in which so-called "higherorder" skills are built upon "lower-order" skills. This does not hold on logical or evidencebased grounds. For example, evaluation, usually seen as a culminating or higher-order process, can be the beginning of inquiry or very easy to perform in some contexts.

ogist Benjamin Bloom and colleagues in 1956. It's not really The authors state they prefer this categorisation, also known

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

Islamabad (PTI): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday gave oath to Sarfraz Dogar as acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, a move that has drawn ire of judges and opposition parties. Dogar made headlines when he was transferred last month to the Islamabad High Court (IHC) from the Lahore High Court (LHC).

Judges, lawyers and opposition parties criticised the development as Dogar was 13th on the seniority list of the judges but rose to the second position in IHC.

He was tipped to rise to the top after the elevation of the IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq to the Supreme Court. Five other IHC judges opposed his rise and challenged Dogar's seniority. However, ignoring all concerns,

Dogar was sworn-in at a ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the official residence of the president of Pakistan.

The official notification read: "President of Pakistan appointed Justice Muhammad Sarfraz Dogar as Acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court with effect from the day he takes oath of his office till the appointment of regular chief justice."

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that
Abdul Rashid S/o Abdul Majid who is/are purchasing
the Built-up Third Floor, area measuring 100 XYards, Built on Property No. 895-A, out of Khasra
No. 1151/3min, Situated at Ward No. 8, Village
Mehrauli New Delhi from Mr. Jagdamba Pershad
Wahal S/o Mr. Shri Kali Pershad Wahal who was the

Weirfaul New Dein Horn III. Sugganita Ferba Wahal S/o Mr. Shri Kall Pershad Wahal who was the owner of property by virtue of Regd. General power of Attomey-Blood Relation dated 18.05. 2024 (Doc No. 2024/T/1/249) executed by Dr. Chander Kan Wahal S/o Late Shri Kall Fershad Wahal. Intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Shubham Housing Development Finance Company Limited. Death Certificate & Surviving Member Certificate of Mrs. Satyawati are waitable with Seller is. Mr. Jagdamba Pershad Wahal Sole Mr. Shri Kall Pershad Wahal. Seller affirm that they hold undisputed ownership of the property There are no existing claims, disputes, or encumbrances regarding the ownership of sair property. To comply the requirements of BANK, NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or

having any objection regarding ownership and/ creating mortgage of the said property is/are herel requested to intimate in writing to the undersigne within 07 days at below address. NCR LAW ASSOCIATES Advocate & Consultants

Mob. Nos. 9999721152/ 9999826427

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg. Residential Plot No. 9, area measuring 55 sq.yds. i.e. 20,90 sq.mtrs., "sala outlin" out of total area measuring 50 cq.yds., falling in Khasra No.939, Situated Adarsh Nagar Colony, Village Makanpur, argana Loni, Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad UP). (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

"Said Property").
Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Rajveet Singh & Mrs. Laxmi Singh (hereinafter called the "Purchaser") intend to purchase the said portion from Mr. Satya Prakash GPA of Mrs Mamta Devi (hereinafter called the "attorney-holder"). In this connection, the Attorney holder has informed the surphase

ttorney-holder has informed the purchas

Attorney-holder has informed the purchase hat he is the sole and absolute attorner holder in respect of the said portion vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS and Wi dated 13.12.2024 executed by Mrs. Mamta Devi in his favour. The Attorney holder has urther informed that Mrs. Mamta Dev

V). Thus, the Attorney holder is the sole an olute attorney in respect of the said tion. The Attorney holder has also formed the purchaser that the said portion s not mortgaged anywhere and there is n arge or dispute or any litigation pendir

Any person including Bank/s, Financianstitution/s, relative/s having any clainight, title or any interest of any natur hatsoever into or upon the said portion whatsoever into or upon the said portion hereby called upon to make the sam known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of the property of the

this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the attorney-holder in respect of the said portion shall be deemed to be clear of any

charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shal not bind our clients/Purchaser, in any

Adv. Umesh Sharma, Chamber No.09, Gali No. 01, District & Sessions Court, Surajpur,

G.B. Nagar, UP

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Smarable property of Swastika

Auction of movable property of Swastika Mahajan in physical possession with authorized officer Adv Umesh Sharma and

attached for recovery of outstanding rent of Rs. 36,65,342 towards Bhuwan Sahu as on 17.01.2025 vide order dated 08.01.2025 of Hon ble ADM (F/R) G.B. Nagar in case no. 1618/2024 titled Bhuwan Sahu Vs Swaetika Mahaian

Date and Time of Auctior 22-02-2025, 11:00 A.M Place of Auction

no. 1018/2027 Swastika Mahajan DETAILS OF AUCTION

Shivkant Arora, Advocate M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,

New Delhi -110024

egarding the said portion

Mehmood Jahangiri, Babar Sattar, Sardar Ejaz İshaq Khan, and Saman Rafat, who consider his elevation as a violation of rules for determination of seniority of Leading opposition Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) also

opposed Dogar's new role as the party founded by jailed former prime minister Imran Khan fears

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client 1. Smt. Shanti Devi, 2. Miss. Jyoti Kumari, 3. Sh. Yash Arya, 4. Miss. Ritika Arya owner of the PLOT NO-28-A, AREA 505Q YARDS KHASRA NO.46/8,VILLAGE HASTSAL, HASTSAL EXTN, VIKAS NAGAR NEW DELHI-110059 and 1.5mt. Shanti Devi, 2. Miss. Yoti Kumari, 3. Sh. Yash Arya, 4. Miss. Ritika Arya Have Not Originals 1. Khatoni Ownership of 15 h. Laxmi Chand etc., 2. GPA, ATS and Will in favour of Sh. Ches Raj Yadav4, Avill in favour of Sh. Ches Raj Yadav4, Avill in favour of Sh. Rajender Kumar, 5. Death and survivor certificate of Sh. Bhuwan Kumar in favour of his legal heirs 1. Smt. Shanti Devi, 2. Miss. Jyoti Kumari, 3. Sh. Yash Arya, 4. Miss. Ritika Arya And It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

Sector 10 Dwarks New Delhi-75 o. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New I Mobile :- 9899013918

opposed by fellow justices that it would lead to manipula-Mohsin Akhtar Kayani, Tariq tion of cases related to Khan, his wife Bushra Bibi and other PTI leaders

> The appointment of Justice Sarfraz Dogar may impact the hearing of cases of PTI leaders," said PTI Senator Ali Zafar while speaking in the Senate

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large that my client ICICI Bank is advancing a loan to Mr. Vishal Anand S/o Mr. Ashok Kumar for LAP (Loan Against Property), the Freehold Property No. K.H-178, area admeasuring 200 Sq. Yds. Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, U.P. ("said property"). Mr Ashok Anand became the owner of the said property by virtue of Will executed by Mr. Khairaiti Lal Anand dated 12.05.2002. On the basis of the same, the property was mutated in the name of Mr. Ashok Anand. Pursuant to it, Mr. Ashok Anand executed a Registered Gift deed dated 03.08.2022 in favour of Mr Vishal Anand (Son), who has now approached Mr Vishal Anand (Son), who has now approache my Client for a Loan Against Property. If anybod has any claim or objection upon the said propert has any claim of objection upon up said property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession legal heirs, partners, encumbrance however or otherwise is required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this partners, the control of comments. After the otice with supporting documents. After the xpiration of notice period, the claim, if any of such erson shall be treated as null and void and be

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

Short Term E-Tender Notice for Sophisticated Equipments E-Tender Notice

Short Term E-Tenders are invited for the purchase of Universal Testing Machine, Archery Equipments and Naturally Ventilated Poly-House be submitted online latest by 1-03-2025 upto 4:00 p.m. Detailed information can be obtained from website www.eproc.punjab.gov.in. Any corrigendum/ Addendum related to these e-tender will be uploaded, required, on Punjab Govt. website: eproc.punjab.gov.in Director of Research

NA/12/28086/2023/41661 Dated CHD :- 2/14/2025



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT

CORRIGENDUM-1

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

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

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

OIPR-38001/11/0020/2425

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

For and on Behalf of RELIABLE DATA SERVICES LIMITED Sd/

SANJAY KUMAR PATHAK CHAIRMAN CUM MANAGING DIRECTOR (DIN: 00912040)

Reliable of

RELIABLE DATA SERVICES LIMITED

CIN: L72900DL2001PLC110145

Regd. Office: GF-22, Hans Bhawan, 1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002
Website: www.rdspl.com/ E-mail: cs@rdspl.com/ Phone no. 011-23378813

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

Sr.	Particulars	STANDALONE				CONSOLIDATED				
no.		QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED	QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED	
			31.12.2024 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2024 (Un-Audited)	31.12.2023 (Un-Audited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)	31.12.2024 (Un-Audited)	30.09.2024 (Un-Audited)	31.12.2023 (Un-Audited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)
1	Total Revenue from operations	2050.51	1396.11	1239.52	5226.09	3340.74	2370.99	2052.78	7937.90	
2	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period (before exceptional, extra- ordinary items and tax)	313.15	125.50	97.63	386.32	543.62	174.30	148.88	698.12	
3	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional, and extra-ordinary items)	313.15	125.50	97.63	386.32	543.62	174.30	148.88	688.12	
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional, and extra-ordinary items)	237.22	113.92	68.93	327.28	411.70	136.39	106.11	529.01	
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of Rs. 10/-each per share)	10320000.00	10320000.00	10320000.00	10320000.00	10320000.00	10320000.00	10320000.00	10320000.00	
6	Earnings Per Share (of Rs.10/-	2.30	1.10	0.67	3.17	3.99	1.32	1.03	5.13	

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as modified by circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016. The full format of the Unaudited Financial results are available of the Stock exchange websites i.e. www.bseindia.com, www.nseindia.com, and the company website www.rdspl.com

2. The above Financial Results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and have been approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors of the company at its meeting held on 14 February 2025.

Place : New Delhi Date: 14/02/2025

FEDDERS HOLDING LIMITED FEDDERS

(Formerly known as IM+ Capitals Limited) Regd. Office: C-15, RDC, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001 (U.P.) > HOLDING LTD CIN: L74140UP1991PLC201030, Email: imcapitalscompliances@gmail.com

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

	Particulars	Standalone				Consolidated			
SI.		Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended	
No.		31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.12.2024	31.12.2023
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)
1.	Total Income from operations	42.88	133.41	179.28	623.22	9,343.92	19,287.36	33,874.86	42,193.54
2.	Net Profit/(Loss) from ordinary activities after tax	8.16	87.19	(28.74)	415.25	403.39	4,186.28	3,108.81	8,146.35
3.	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Extraordinary items)	8.16	87.19	(28.74)	415.25	403.39	4,186.28	3,108.81	8,146.35
4.	Total Comprehensive Income/ (Loss) for the year [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the year (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income/ (Loss) (after tax)]	8.16	87.19	(28.74)	415.25	239.71	4,190.85	3,022.28	8,158.77
5.	Equity paidup share capital	1,483.00	891.76	1,483.00	891.76	1,483.00	891.76	1,483.00	891.76
6.	Earnings per share (Not annualised) :								
	Basic (₹)	0.01	0.10	(0.19)	0.47	0.27	4.69	2.10	9.14
	Diluted (₹)	0.01	0.10	(0.19)	0.47	0.27	4.69	2.10	9.14

The above results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee & approved by the Board of Directors at their respective meetings held on 13th Feb 2025. The Statutory Auditors have conducted a limited review of the above Financial Results.

The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Quarterly Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Ott Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the unaudited standalone and consolidated Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchan websites, www.bseindia.com and on the company website www.imcapitals.com

By order of the Board

DIN: 03518795

verka

Village-Plot no.-177 Khairpur Gurjar, Near Numed hospital, Greater Noida, U.P. Numed hospital, Greater Noi Reserve Price

5,00,000/-Earnest Money (EMD)

DESCRIPTION OF MOVABLE PROPERTY
Old and used household items including sofa 7 seat, coffee table 2, side table 2. Center table 1, Curtains 20, Dining table with 8 chair, Double Bed 3, (TV Samsung 55"&32"), home theater 1, microwave OTG 1, Chair 4, fridge, washing machine craft material, other related

AUCTION TERMS AND

AUCTION TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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

2. The persons interested to participate in the auction to purchase the said movable property shall deposit earnesh money (FMD) of twenty-five thousand by way of Cash/Demand Draft drawn in favor of "Bhuwan Sahu" and deposit the same with the Sahu" and deposit the same with the Authorized officer before commencement of Auction by contacting authorized office on mobile number 7011341712 during of on mobile number 7011341712 during of-ficer hours (10am to 5pm) on working days 3. The property shall not be sold below the Reserve Price set by the Authorized officer 4. The said property will be sold in single lot to the bidder who offers highest price. 5. The successful bridder/purchaser will have to deposit 25% of the bid amoun with the authorized officer immediately or with the adultion and the balance amoun within 2 days.
6.If the 25% bid amount is not paid on the

same day or the balance amount is not paid within 2 days of auction, the earnest money will be forfeited and authorized officer wil

will be fortested and authorized officer will be at liberty to sell the said movable property again without any notice.

7.The successful bidder must remove the movable property from the place of auction within 2 days of auction at his own cost.

8.Authorized officer reserves its rights to cancel or postpone the auction without assigning any reasons.

Date: 13.02.2025 Sd/-

Date: 13.02.2025 Place:Noida AUTHORISED BY Adv. UMESH SHARMA THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 Notice Inviting Tender

www.verka.coop e/ Sealed tenders are hereby Invited for the purchase and supply of following items No. Qty For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Annual/5085 No's For Verka Chandigarh Dairy Annual Lids for ice cream cones (125ml). 8.7 Lacs b) e-tenders:-8500 kg 17000 kg 20 MT Krisp refined palm kernel oil iii. Mango pulp concentrate iv. Ice cream cones with foil wrappers (125ml),(butterscotch, chocolate Cookie delight).

c) Advertisement Material Glow Sign Board, Non Lit Board, Sun Board, Standee, Umbrella, Poster, Dangler etc. d) Hiring of three Refrigerated Vehicles for supply of Ice Crear For Verka Sangrur Dairy a) Pest Control Services 31.03.2026 April 2025/1500 MT c) Outsourcing activities i.e. packing of products, Loading/ unloading Annual d) Milkbar PGI Ghabdar For Verka Ferozepur Dairy a) Hiring of insulated road milk tankers for transportation from verka Cap. 10000kg-05 Ferozepur dairy to various Milk plants in Punjab or to any oth Cap. 15000kg-02 Cap.25000 kg-02 b) Hiring of Mahindra Pickup/ Max Pickup etc. to lift the Cattle feed from various sub store of Milk Union Ferozepur to MPCSs as transport 02 No's For Verka Jalandhar Dairy Hiring of insulated vehicles for supply of packed milk and fresh milk products in Jalandhar, Kapurthala and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar district and Verka Amritsar, Ludhiana Dairy. b) Hiring of vehicles for procurement section, accounts sections, sale depot section, marketing section & quality assurance section.
 i. Car swift dzire, Toyota Etios or equivalent or Sub compact SUV. 01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026 09 No's Bolero Jeep 01 No ii. Bolleto Seep For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy a) Hiring of car(dzire) for marketing section (Sedan vehicle only) Cap.250 LPD-25 No's Cap. 300 LPD b) Supply, Installation and Commissioning of solar water heater at ferent sites under Verka Gurdaspur Dairy

For Cattle Feed Plant, Bhattian(Khanna) Pest/ Rodent Control service

1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in 2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only

NA/12/28104/2023/41680 Dated CHD :- 2/14/2025

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

16 No's

Annua

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD. (Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)

45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal- 462 011, Madhya Pradesh, CIN: U45203MP2004SGC016758 MPRDG Ph. No.: 0755-2527290, 2765205, Fax: 0755-2572643, Website: www.mprdc.gov.in NIT No.: 14762/665/MPRDC/Procu/2025 Bhopal, Date: 14.02.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) Bhopal invite online tender for following Work.

S. No.	Name of Work	Value (in	(EMD) (in INR Lakhs)	Document	Completion Period (I/c Rainy Season)		
1.	Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Ingoria- Depalpur Road in two lane with Paved shoulder in the state of Madhya Pradesh.	195.01	50.00	50,000/-	24 Months		
2.	Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Ingoria- Unhel Road in two lane with Paved shoulder in the state of Madhya Pradesh.		50.00	50,000/-	24 Months		
The dates for purchase, submission, etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be							

purchased online only upto 15:30 hrs. on 24.03.2025 from website www.mptenders.gov.in. The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only. The Addendum/Corrigendum (if any) shall only be published on the website of www.mptenders. gov.in only. If holiday is declared by Govt. of M.P. on the date of opening, the same will automatically be shifted to subsequent working days. MPRDC reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason

MANAGING DIRECTOR M.P. Madhyam/118820/2025

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

CIN NO. L17100HR1983PLC033460, Phone: 0124-4200274, Email: teamunited83@gmail.com

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

				(Ru _l	pees in Lakhs
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31/12/2024 3 Months ended (31-12-2024)	Preceding 3 Months ended (30-09-2024)	Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (31-12-2023)	Current Year ended 31Mar 2024
		Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Un-Audited	Audited
1.	Total Income from Operations	229.87	172.94	244.44	719.58
2.	Net Profit for the period (before tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.64	14.22	13.60	8.39
3.	Net Profit before tax for the period (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.64	14.22	13.60	8.39
4.	Net Profit for the period (after tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	4.64	14.22	13.60	8.39
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period (after tax) and other Comprehensive Income (after Tax)	_	_		_
6.	Equity Shares Capital (Face value Rs.10/- Per equity share)	300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
7.	Earnings Per Share of Rs. 10/- each (for continuing and discontinued Operations) Basic and diluted	0.15	0.47	0.45	0.28

- The above Financial Results were reviewed by the Members of Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective Meeting held on 14th February, 2025. The Statutory Auditors of the company have carried out a Limited Review of the Financial Results for these financials.
- The Company has adopted Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) notified by Ministry of Corporate Affairs from 1st April 2017, with a transition date 1st April 2016 and accordingly these financial Result have been prepared in accordance with the companies (Indian Accounting Standard) Rules, 2015 prescribed under section 133 of the Companies Act 2013 and other accounting principles generally accepted in India.
- Figures for the prior period have been regrouped and / or rearranged wherever considered necessary as per the revised format prescribed by SEBI under SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 and amended as per the Schedule III of the Companies Act, 2013 For United Leasing & Industries Limited

ASHISH KHANNA MANGING DIRECTOR DIN: 01251582

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under CIRP)

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

Email Id.: compliances@atsgreens.com; Website: www.atsgreens.com **ANNEXURE I**

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

(Amounts in INR Lakhs, unless otherwise stated)

Fourth Country | Fourth Country | Fourth Ver

s.	Bortindore	For the Quarter Ended	For the Quarter Ended	For the Year ended			
No.	Particulars	31.12.2024	31.12.2023	31.03.2024			
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited			
1	Total Income from Operations	106.49	0.39	4.26			
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	18.82	(7.07)	(49.47)			
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	18.82	(7.07)	(49.47)			
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	17.82	(5.23)	(527.83)			
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	17.82	(5.23)	(527.83)			
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital	1.00	1.00	1.00			
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(3,346.92)	(2,767.78)	(3,267.57)			
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-			
9	Net worth	(3,345.92)	(2,766.78)	(3,266.57)			
10	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	233,446.74	236,920.59	233,446.74			
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-			
12	Debt Equity Ratio	69.77	(71.82)	(71.47)			
	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) -						
13	1. Basic:	178.24	(52.26)	(5,278.33)			
	2. Diluted:	178.24	(52.26)	(5,278.33)			
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-			
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve	-	-	-			
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	0.0001	(0.0006)	(0.0002)			
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	-	(0.050)	(1.180)			
Note:							

Place: Noida

Date: 13.02.2025

a)The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly/annual financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarterly/annual financial results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity

b) For the other line items referred in the Regulation 52 (4) of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to the Stock Exchange(s).

c)# - Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items adjusted in the Statement of Profit and Loss in accordance with Ind AS Rules / AS Rules whichever is applicable

> Santosh Kumar Kashinath Jha sd/sd/-

> > Director

Gaurav Katiyar

Director

Interim Resolution Professional

Reg. No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409

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

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

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

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

The statement further said that both sides committed to senior representatives to advance

these negotiations and to ensure that the trade relationship fully reflects the aspirations of the Catalysing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce and Technology (COMPACT).

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

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

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

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

In 2023, the US and India



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

to America was \$36.33 Billion in 2023, while imports were Communications Technology

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

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

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

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

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

strategic minerals like lithium and rare earth.

The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM)

aims to build a resilient

value chain encompassing

mining, beneficiation, processing and recovery from end-of-life products, Mining body FIMI said.
"NCMM also seeks to encourage Indian public encourage undertakings and

sector undertakings and

private companies to acquire critical mineral

assets abroad and enhance

trade with resource-rich

TRUST will greatly help to achieve the objectives of NCMM," said R K Sharma,

Special Advisor at Federation of Indian

Mineral Industries (FIMI).

The two sides will also work

together on economic

infrastructure under the

India-Middle East-Europe

Economic Corridor (IMEC)

mineral

mining,

countries.

exploration,

beneficiation,

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

The two sides will also work together to increase trade in agricultural goods.
It added the two leaders

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

industries.

They welcomed ongoing by. investments Indian companies worth about \$7.35 Billion, such as those by Hindalco's Novelis in finished aluminium goods at their state-of-the art facilities in Alabama and Kentucky, JSW in steel manufacturing

operations at Texas and Ohio, Epsilon Advanced Materials in the manufacturing of critical battery materials in North Carolina, and Jubilant Pharma in the manufacturing of injectables in Washington. These investments support over 3,000 high-quality jobs for local families, the statement said.

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

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

when it comes to tariffs. Earlier also, he has termed

India as "tariff abuser" and "tariff king". According to experts, Trump's announcement on imposing reciprocal tariffs has created

uncertain environment between India and the US, though the plan for a major trade deal could help promote two-way commerce. The bilateral trade between India and the US was around

\$130 Billion last year and the

trade gap stands at around \$45 Billion in New Delhi's favour. In 2024, India's main exports to the US included drug formulations, biological (\$8.1 Billion), telecom instruments (\$6.5 Billion), precious and semi-precious stones (\$5.3 Billion), petroleum products (\$4.1 Billion), gold and other precious metal jewellery (\$3.2 Billion), ready-made garments of cotton including accessories (\$2.8 Billion), and products of iron and steel

(\$2.7 Billion). Ìmports included crude oil (\$4.5 Billion), petroleum products (\$3.6 Billion), coal, coke (\$3.4 Billion), cut and polished diamonds (\$2.6 Billion), electric machinery (\$1.4 Billion), aircrafts, space crafts and parts (\$1.3 Billion), and gold (\$1.3 Billion).

eases to 2.31 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Their prices have been hardening amid growing uncertainty around the impact policies.
This would exert an upward

pressure on the WPI non-food component.

Wholesale price inflation | India-US TRUST initiative to boost NCMM



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

minerals materials Critical

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump have agreed on the TRUST initiative, to emphasis on creating strong advanced

pharmaceuticals. As per a joint statement

Centre invites applications for NFRA Chairperson

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he government has invited}}_{\text{applications for the posts of }}$ chairperson and three full-time members in the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).

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

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

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

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

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

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

The appointees cannot be associated with any audit firm, including related consultancy firms during their tenure and for two years after demitting office. The term of office for both Chairperson and full-time members will be three years or until they attains the age of 61 years, whichever is earlier, with the possibility of reappointment for one more

Girlyveda launches 'Harmo Balancer' for women

PNS NEW DELHI

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

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

Girlyveda aims to serve as a reliable, safe, and effective way to assist Indian women in managing this condition. PCOS ranges from four percent to 21 percent, 20-29 and in India, the prevalence powerful herbs Kachnaar,

varies from two percent to 35 percent. Harmo Balancer is a unique Ayurvedic blend of Gudmar, Shatavari, and Ashoka that balances hormones, regulates menstrual cycles, improves insulin sensitivity. Speaking about the new Kumar product, Danny Meena, Founder, Girlyveda, said, "Women's health is overlooked, and conditions like PCOS are still not widely understood. At Girlyveda, we believe in providing chemical-free, Ayurvedic solutions that empower women to take control of their health naturally. Harmo Balancer is designed hormonal balance, promote menstrual health, and help manage the symptoms of PCOS without any harmful

Rupee rises 12 paise to close against USD

PTI MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

in nearly two years.

Mineral Mission (NCMM),

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

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

nerves. 'Persistent outflows by FIIs may pressurise the rupee further. However, any further intervention by the RBI may support the rupee

giving its trading partners surging 66 paise, witnessing take cues from retail sales some relief. the highest single-day rise and industrial production data from Choudhary said, adding the "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 86.60 to 87.10'

> The domestic unit has been facing extreme volatility for the past few months due to several global m a croeconomic uncertainties.

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

RBI supersedes board of New India Co-op Bank

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

and I2IJ2 meworks

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

A large number of bank's customers had gathered at its branches on Friday following RBI's restrictions, which included a bar on issuing new loans and suspension of deposit withdrawals for six months. The bank has 28 branches, mostly located in the Mumbai region. In a statement, the RBI said it has appointed Shreekant, a former chief general manager of State Bank of India (SBI) as

'Administrator' to manage the affairs of the bank. The Board of Directors of New

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

The action is necessitated due to certain material concerns emanating from governance standards observed in the bank," it said. On Thursday, the RBI had imposed several restrictions on

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

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

"Considering the bank's present liquidity position, the bank has been directed not to allow withdrawal of any amount from savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor," the RBI said while imposing the restrictions. The lender, however, has been allowed to set off loans against deposits subject to the conditions stated in the RBI directions.

BSES launches toll-free support for consumer issues

PNS NEW DELHI

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

The toll free numbers and Whatsapp numbers for 19123 and 8800919123, while for BYPL, the numbers are 19122 and 8745999808, respectively. According to State Load Despatch Centrer (SLDC)

data, the city's peak power

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

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

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

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

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

war rooms enable swift decision-making response. Additionally, BSES field

teams remain on high alert, ready to address ensuring an uninterrupted exigencies promptly.

Modi, Trump advance India-US civil nuclear cooperation

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

In their talks at the White House on Thursday, the two leaders decided to significantly expand energy cooperation. The civil nuclear deal changed India's overall engagement with the US as it paved the way

for building the bonds of a

strategic partnership, especially

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

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

in areas of high technology and hurdles in moving forward in the implementation of the civil nuclear deal.

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

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

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

side effects."



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

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

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



he pioneer

VIVacity 11



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

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

Day 1: Conversations That Stayed

The festival opened with a speech about something that hit home, how, in a world of 15-second videos and endless scrolling, we are forgetting how to The listen.

morning was reserved for school children and honestly? Watching them sit, eyes wide, completely absorbed in stories was proof that no matter how much the world changes, a good story will always find its audience.

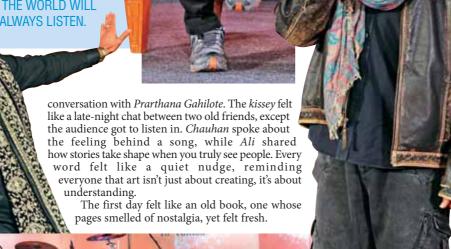
The evening, however, was when the magic truly began. Kutle Khan Manghaniyar took the stage, his hypnotic Rajasthani folk beats turning the space into a desert courtyard under the open sky. Then came Mohit Chauhan and Imtiaz Ali, in

AS LONG AS THERE

ARE STORIES, THERE

WILL BE STORYTELLERS. AND AS LONG AS THERE ARE STORYTELLERS THE WORLD WILL

> conversation with Prarthana Gahilote. The kissey felt like a late-night chat between two old friends, except the audience got to listen in. Chauhan spoke about the feeling behind a song, while Ali shared



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

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

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

Day 3: The Last Page Turns Slowly

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

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

written, they are lived.



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

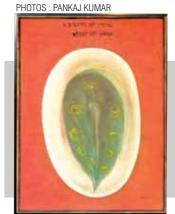


moving about seeing these works gathered in one space. They hold a quiet urgency, a sense of voices that have waited too long to be heard. Some pieces feel meditative, drawing you in with intricate patterns and balanced compositions. Others disrupt that stillness, shifting perspectives and challenging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

The Sanskrit term Samvega refers to an aesthetic shock, a moment of deep realisation that transforms perception.

Some of the artists in Samvega have inherited these traditions through generations of training, while others have forged their own paths, develop-ing styles in quiet dedication. Their works reflect a world where mathematics and mysticism, structure and spontaneity, come together in visual form. Samvega is the culmination of that journey, ensuring these artists receive the recognition they deserve.

This is the kind of exhibition that stays with you. It is a reminder that art is not simply something to be admired from a distance, but something to be felt.



STEP INSIDE AND

LET THE WORKS

SPEAK. THE

ARTWORKS

CAPTURE ESSENCE

THROUGH SACRED

GEOMETRY, COSMIC

SYMBOLISM OR

INTENSITY,

INVITING

CONTEMPLATION

AND CONNECTION





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

At the heart of the show is the exchange of influences, both direct and indirect. Anupam Sud's etching At Sunset presents a quiet, introspective moment, where shadowy figures dissolve into

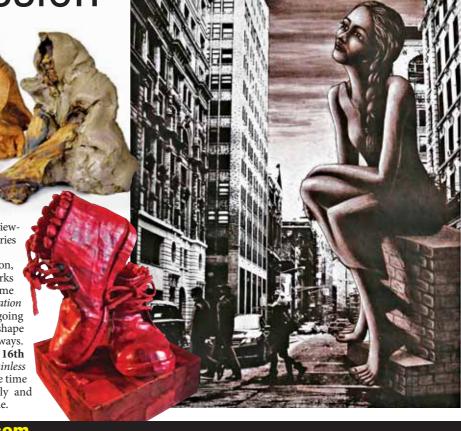
their surroundings. Madhur Sen's ceramic sculpture Cold Winter *Night* captures the weight of silence in its smooth, muted textures, evoking a sense of time suspended. Ananda M Banerji's

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

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

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

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



Get in touch at vivacity@dailypioneer.com

ICC announces prize money for Champions Trophy Injury rules out Ben Sears

PTI DUBAI

of the u p c o m i n g
Champions Trophy (CT) will walk away with a whopping \$2.24 Million cash reward after the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced a 53 per cent hike in its prize money pool for the eight-team tournament starting February 19. The winners' purse would be

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

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

Each group stage win would



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

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

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

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

However, India will play all their matches in Dubai owing to security concerns related to travelling to Pakistan.

Rohit Sharma's men will

begin their campaign on February 20 against

Bangladesh. The Pakistan leg will feature games in Karachi,

Lahore and Rawalpindi. The 2025 edition features eight teams split into two groups of four, with the top two from each group advancing to the semi-finals. "The ICC Men's Champions Trophy 2025 represents a pivotal moment for cricket pivotal moment for cricket,

reviving a tournament that highlights the pinnacle of ODI talent, where every match is critical," the ICC chairman emphasised in his statement. "Beyond the financial incentive, this tournament

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

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

The women's Champions Trophy will make its debut in 2027 in the T20 format.

from Champions Trophy

PTI CHRISTCHURCH

hamstring injury, a significant setback for New Zealand ahead of the ICC event which kicks

off on February 19. New Zealand Cricket (NZC) has named Jacob Duffy as Sears' replacement.

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

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

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

late stage, and it's especially tough in Ben's case given it would have been his first major ICC event," said New Zealand

head coach Gary Stead. 'The timeframes for Ben to be fit to play again meant he would likely miss the majority of the group stage, and given the short nature of the tournament, we felt it was appropriate to bring in a player who is fully fit and ready to go. "Ben is a player with huge potential and given the short rehabilitation timeframe, we're sure he'll be fit and raring to go for the home series against

Pakistan Zealand.

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

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

be experiencing his first senior ICC event, so it will be an exciting few weeks ahead for



India lose to Japan 0-3 in quarterfinals of BAMTC

PTI ■ QINGDAO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mivazaki vs N Miyazaki, leading the newlook Japanese team, was sharp and precise, quickly surging to an 11-3 lead after Malvika hit

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

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

However, two mistakes from the Indian allowed the Japanese to take the first game. The second game was more competitive as Malvika took a 5-3 lead, engaging in tight rallies. She managed a slim 11-10 advantage after Miyazaki went long. Malvika stayed sharp, not

allowing her opponent to play her usual drops freely, moving

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

against

World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev on Friday expressed concern over the rising number of injuries among Indian cricketers, attributing it to the demanding schedule that keeps players in action for almost 10 months each year. National Academy in Bengaluru has turned into a rehabilitation hub, with players spending more time recovering than

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

a back injury.

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

Mohammed Shami, India's top wicket-taker in the 2023 ODI World Cup (24 wickets), suffered a leg injury post-final and underwent surgery. His 14-month recovery ruled

Indian men's hockey team captain Harmanpreet Singh

on Friday said his team's target

is to win every FIH Pro League

match and finish on top of the

league to earn a direct ticket to

India will open their FIH Pro

League campaign against

Spain on Saturday in

They will next play Spain again

the next day, followed by

matches against Germany on February 16 and 19 in the

"Our training is going well from Hockey India League, we

have been preparing for

months, have learnt a lot from

HIL. We have been able to

maintain our fitness as well," Harmanpreet said ahead of the

opening leg of the India tour.

PTI BHUBANESWAR

the 2026 World Cup.

Bhubaneswar.



We want to win every FIH Pro League match: Harmanpreet

him out of the BGT series which India lost for the first time in a decade. Shami's absence left Bumrah without a reliable bowling partner. "The only thing that worries

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

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

supporting each other rather than dwelling on injured

'Why talk about someone who is not in the team? It's a team game, and the team has to win, not individuals. This is not badminton, tennis, or golf; we are playing a team sport in the Champions Trophy. If we play as a team, we will definitely win," said the 66-year-old.

"You never want your main players to get injured, but if it happens, you can't do We are trying our best.'

14 to 30 in Wavre, Belgium and

Harmanpreet, regarded as one of the best dragflickers in the world currently, praised HII's

top-scorer Jugraj Singh for his

flicking abilities and said the

Amstelveen, Netherlands.

anything about it. Good luck

anything about it. Good luck to my Indian team -- go and play well," he added.
India will begin their Champions Trophy campaign against Bangladesh in Dubai on February 20.
Kapil said he's excited to see so much rising talents in the Indian cricket team these

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

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

Tell everyone to play golf. If they are not playing cricket, they should come and play golf. If they do, their performance will be better. There is a lot of fun in golf." Emphasising on the importance of infrastructure for young golfers, he said: "If young players get the right facilities, they will improve.

We have seen some good

domestic players in HIL. It was

an opportunity for youngsters

and they performed well," he

"Jugraj was the top-scorer and

he was brilliant. I am happy for

him and it is beneficial for the

Harmanpreet, however, was in

no mood to take Spain lightly.

"Spain is a good team, we can't take them lightly. Our focus is

to give our best and win the match," he said.

India's chief coach Craig Fulton said the FIH Pro League is a

"building phase" for the side.
"It's a building phase for us. We

will look to try out things and

see what best suits us. We will

national team as well."

the national side.

We trained plenty for India tour: McCullum

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

"We've trained plenty right throughout, and guys have come from a lot of cricket as well. I think it's an easy thing to have as a throwaway line that guys don't train enough when the results aren't right. While England had trained before the first match in Nagpur, they opted against formal sessions ahead of the second and third ODIs in Cuttack and Ahmedabad.

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

a 1-4 drubbing by India in the T20I rubber. McCullum also pointed out like to use our players' HIL rise of next generation of experience and integrate their domestic players augur well for learning into the team," he said.

the injury setbacks to Jacob Bethell (hamstring) and Jamie

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

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

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

despite recent setbacks. results... From our point of view, we've got to strip away the fear of failure that results can bring," he said.

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

come out?" he asked. England will be in UAE for a short break before beginning their Champions Trophy campaign against Australia in Lahore on February 22. McCullum said the squadbuilding will continue over the

next week as well.
"We'll give the guys a freshenup in Abu Dhabi, make sure all the bodies are fit and ready to go, and have a full squad to pick from come that first game

against Australia," he said.

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

FIH Pro League opener.

added.

"We just wan to play good

hockey, all players in good

shape and the target is to win

every game (in Pro League)

looking at the World Cup," he

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

PTI ■ LONDON

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

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

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

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

tiebreaker of goal difference. Anderlecht had finished 10th, only missing out on automatic progression to the last-16 by goal difference. Fenerbahce took the lead in

the 11th minute Thursday. Anderlecht failed to clear a corner and the ball was put back to the area where Yusuf Akçiçek nodded it on for Dusan Tadic to head into the

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

third with a powerful header in the 57th minute and Fenerbahce missed several chances to extend its

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

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

Key Roma forward Paulo Dybala limped off in the first half of the match in Portugal with a knee injury. Dybala had yelled out in



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

defeat. Roma took the lead with practically the last kick of the first half, with defender Zeki Celik scoring his first goal for the club. Porto leveled against the run of play in the 67th minute through Francisco Moura's deflected shot. Roma midfielder Brvan

Cristante was sent off five minutes later following a second booking. **Teenager scores for Ajax**Ajax won 2-0 at Union Saint-

Gilloise, with 16-year-old Jorthy Mokio netting his side's second goal. Mokio scored in the 71st

minute. A corner was cleared but only as far as the Belgium Under-21 international on the edge of the area and he volleyed it in for his first goal for the senior Ajax team. Mokio, aged 16 years and 350 days, became the youngest player to score in a knockout

stage match in the Europa

League, UEFA said.

netted the opener in 59th. Elsewhere, Real Sociedad won 2-1 at Midtjylland and Ferencearos beat Viktoria Plzen 1-0. Romanian team FCSB came from behind to win 2-1 at PAOK and a stoppage-time penalty saw Twente beat Bodo/Glimt by the same scoreline.

Another goalscorer record

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

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



Late Jhari Modi, Address-Jamuataud, P.O.- Kakomath, Thana-Katras, District-Dhanbad, Jharkhand. My name is recorded as Dundi Devi in my Aadhar card which is wrong. By affidavit number 15149, dated- 29.12.2022, my correct name is Dhaniwala Devi which is recorded in the service book of my husband Late Jhari Modi. Dhaniwala Devi and Dundi Devi both are the same person who is me myself.

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