



the pioneer

Established 1865

INSIDE

SPORTS 12
ICC ANNOUNCES PRIZE MONEY
FOR CHAMPIONS TROPHY



RANCHI, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

INDIA AND MODI RETURN WITH MUSCLE FROM THE USA

- Terrorist to be extradited
- Defence ties to be bolstered

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

In his remarks, Trump said he and PM Modi have

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

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

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

"We are also paving the way to ultimately provide India with F-35 stealth fighters," he added. The F35 jets are known as the most lethal, survivable and connected fighter aircraft in the world.

Trump also announced that India and the US will be working together like "never before" to confront the threat of radical Islamic terrorism across the world.

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

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



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

US CLEARS RANA'S EXTRADITION

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

More deportation flights to arrive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ CHANDIGARH

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

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

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

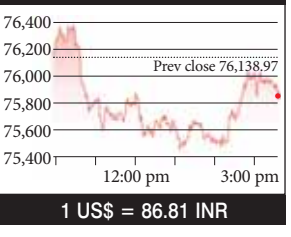
Another US plane carrying deportees is also expected to land on February 16.

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

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

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

MARKETS



WEATHER

AQI 131
MAX 24.8°C(+1.4)
MIN 10.7°C(+0.5)

BJP to swear in government in Delhi next week

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



MHA seeks sanction to prosecute Jain

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on Friday sought the President of India's approval to prosecute former Delhi minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain 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, amassed disproportionate assets between February 14,

Kerala ragging row turns political

KUMAR CHELLAPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

All the five students held by the police on charges of ragging belonged to the SFI. The video of the cruel ragging that went viral shows that geometry divider was used by the seniors to engrave pictures on the rear side of the victims. According to a member of the investigation team, dumbbells were placed on the private parts of the victim students.

While the victims were writing in pain and crying out loudly, the seniors poured some lotion into their mouths and were seen laughing out. Veena George, Kerala Minister for Health, told reporters that she could not watch the horrifying video. "The ideal punishment for them is to throw them out of the college once and for ever. Suspension is too small a punishment for the kind of crime they have done," said George.

VD Satheshan, leader of opposition and the chief minister in waiting, asked the CPI(M) to disband the SFI. "This outfit is responsible for all type of cruelties and anti-social activities happening in campuses in the State," said Satheshan.

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

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



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

Panel to name next CEC on February 17

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar set to demit office on February 18, a three member selection committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to meet on Monday to finalise the name of the next chief election commissioner, sources said on Friday.

The selection committee also comprises the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Committee will recommend a name from among the candidates shortlisted by a search committee. The president will then appoint the next CEC based on the recommendation.

Last month, the Union Law Ministry set up a search committee under Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal to shortlist names for the appointment of the next CEC.

The process of appointing the CEC from a panel of five as per the Chief Election Commissioner And Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service And Term of Office) Act, 2023, would be used for the first time, it was used to appoint ECs Gyanesh Kumar and Sandhu to fill the vacancies created by the retirement of Anup Chandra Pandey and the resignation of Arun Goel last year. Prior to the enactment of the law, the CEC was usually appointed by elevating the senior-most EC.

The selection process for the CEC would involve a panel of five names as per the Act. After Rajiv Kumar, Gyanesh Kumar is the senior-most election commissioner. His tenure is till January 26, 2029. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu is the other election commissioner.

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

The sources said the same set of candidates could also be used to appoint a new EC.

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

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

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

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

This will ensure that the official handle of the Chief Minister's Office is not misused in future and cannot be tampered with, the letter said,



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' and should be deactivated immediately," CMO said.

On Thursday, political controversy erupted on 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.

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



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Valentine'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 Vishva Hindu 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

occasion, Arun Kumar 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 ambience.

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 into their hands. Adequate police personnel have been deployed to ensure safety and a peaceful atmosphere." The city's prominent hotels, including

Hotel Sonnet and The Alcor, 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 the hotels.

In a heartwarming gesture, some residents of Jamshedpur celebrated love by visiting welfare homes. Sister Jacinta of RP Patel Cheshire Home in 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 volunteer added, "Bringing smiles to these children's faces is the best way we could spend our Valentine's Day."

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 of Indian 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 Centre, Delhi.

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

Their 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, and Integration—witnessed participation from leading IITs,

including IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Guwahati, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, and IIT Roorkee.

Speaking about the 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 three-round 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 environmental sectors.

8 trains connecting Ranchi cancelled

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

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 (18113/18114), and Hatia-Tatanagar-Hatia MEMU (68036/68035). Additionally, the Bardhaman-Hatia-Bardhaman 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 train services.

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

PNS : RANCHI

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 micro-alloyed 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

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Bansal Classes, Jamshedpur has announced the excellent 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 leading coaching institute in the region.

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



96.56, Muskan Raj 95.23, Mahesh 97.37, Srishri 97.37. Also, all the students were honored with a bouquet of flowers, along with the direc-

tor of the institute, Manish Singh said that all the students will be prepared for JEE Advanced free of cost.

Bansal Classes has been

giving All India Rank One many times in Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for the last 43 years. 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) students.

Bansal Classes Jamshedpur Director Manish Kumar Singh felt proud of the success of his students and

said that this is the result of their hard work, determination and dedication of our experienced teachers, "Our students are consistently performing excellently in competitive examinations, and we are committed to give them even greater success in the future."

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.

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 sweating and restlessness Thursday evening. These are the unmistakable signs of cardiac congestion.

He was deputed at Saraideeh police picket. The picket comes under the Naudeeha Bazar police station.

Officer in charge of the Naudeeha Bazar police station Ameet Kumar Dwivedi said "The havildar had profuse sweating and restlessness. He was rushed to the sub divisional hospital Chhaterpur last night."

Deputy superintendent of the sub divisional hospital Chhaterpur Dr Rajesh Agrawal told "Chotan Ram 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 condition.

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 later.

Cops in the rural landscape 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 situation.

EESL and DVC join hands for advance energy efficiency

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a JV of PSUs under Ministry of Power, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) on the Day 4 of India Energy Week 2025 (IEW 2025) in New Delhi.

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

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 and 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-lights.

It will also drive energy efficiency in buildings through the deployment of energy-efficient fans, super-efficient air conditioners, chillers, and industrial 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. Smart metering solutions will be implemented for improved energy management, and trigeneration projects will be advanced to ensure efficient energy utilisation.

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



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

PNS : RANCHI

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.



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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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'.



Former telicomm minister A Raja

abusing official position, criminal misconduct by public servant and taking bribes. Aside from Raja and Kanimozhi, the special court acquitted former telecom secretary Siddharth Behra, 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 Pipra and Hari Nair - in the CBI case.

The 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 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".

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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 solutions to numerous global challenges.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses 'SAMVAD' programme in Thailand via video conferencing.

trusteeship, as advocated by Mahatma Gandhi, and emphasised 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

unites them. Citing Buddha, he said the principle of moderation remains relevant today, offering guidance in addressing global challenges. He mentioned the vibrant partnership across multiple sectors between the two countries, and said India's 'Act East' policy 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 Dhammapadam, which states that everyone fears pain and death. 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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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.



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

had constructed a yoga and meditation centre in Coimbatore district's 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 Shivraj, 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 Shivraj. On December 14, 2022, holding that the facilities set up by Isha Foundation in 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 percentage share in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls since its introduction in 2013, according to data shared by the Election Commission (EC). The option was implemented in a Lok Sabha poll for the first time in 2014. 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 engagement. 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 region.

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

Experts share tips on healthy eating, sleep for exam success

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Adequate sleep, eating home-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.



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

Padhega India" initiative, foodfarmer and health and nutrition 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 said. "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.

BJP hails PM Modi's US visit as landmark, 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. In 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 Shah Nawaz 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-

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, Modi at a joint media briefing 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 leaders of two countries never discuss such individual issues," he said.

Union Minister Athawale supports project 'Atmanirbhar' by Rotary Club

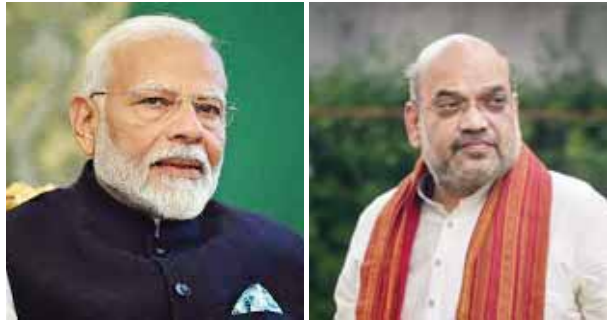
STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Union Social Justice Minister Ramdas Athawale extended his support to Project 'AtmaNirbhar', an initiative by Rotary Club of Delhi Imperial aimed at empowering individuals with physical challenges through prosthetic limb donation, training, and rehabilitation. As part of its launch, 400 prosthetic limbs are to be distributed in the first phase. The initiative, led by President of Rotary Club of Delhi Imperial Rtn. Rajesh Aggarwal is being well supported by the members. Project 'AtmaNirbhar' is not just about prosthetic limb donation - it is a movement for self-reliance. The initiative goes beyond charity, focusing on identifying the right beneficiaries, and equipping them with the skills, confidence, and resources needed to rebuild their lives with dignity. The project aims to transform at least one life every single day over the coming year, ensuring that losing a limb does not mean losing a future. 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 '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 Police 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 post. 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

NTCA urges priority village relocation from tiger reserves for conservation

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 Bhupendra Yadav said green growth should be achieved through mitigation strategies in buffer and corridor areas while core and critical tiger

habitats made "inviolable", according to tiger management principles. Yadav, who is also the NTCA chairman, "emphasised" that "voluntary relocation of villages from core or critical tiger 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 following 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, 2006. 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 "inviolable" for the purpose of tiger conservation. The buffer areas, in contrast, permit sustainable human activities alongside wildlife conservation.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

US U-turn on Ukraine war

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

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



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

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

PICTALK



A foreign devotee during the Mahakumbh Mela 2025, in Prayagraj

Kumbh Mela: The catalyst for Gandhi's freedom struggle



RAJDEEP PATHAK

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SAJJAN KUMAR CONVICTED IN SIKH RIOTS

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

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

Jai Prakash Gupta | Ambala Cantt

US BANS ASSOCIATED PRESS

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

New Income Tax Bill simplifies taxation



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

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

Vishal Mayur | Tumakuru

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

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

Jai Prakash Gupta | Tirunelveli

RAGGING MUST STOP

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

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

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

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

WazirX hack exposes crypto risks: A call for stringent regulations

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

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



This need for both domestic and global regulatory frameworks is exemplified by the recent WazirX case, which underscores the urgency of addressing vulnerabilities in the crypto ecosystem. WazirX, one of India's leading cryptocurrency exchanges, suffered a cyberattack in July 2024 by the North Korean hacker group Lazarus. This has been confirmed by a joint statement issued by the governments of the United States, Japan and South Korea and the three countries have pledged to collaborate to counter this. In India, the attack has raised concerns about cybersecurity risks and the reliability of custodial exchanges. Custodial exchanges, where assets are held centrally pose significant risks, as evidenced by this cyber-attack. This episode has exposed broader systemic risks and has revived the con-

versation about a regulatory intervention into the entire crypto ecosystem in the country. Approximately 4.4 million users were affected.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



NIRUPAMA SOUNDARARAJAN



FIRST COLUMN

SHAPING INDIA'S AI FUTURE

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



KUMARDEEP BANERJEE

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

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



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

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

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

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

Palestine in ruins: The unbearable cost of war

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



K C TYAGI

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

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

Using satellite data, the United Nations estimated last month that 70 per cent of structures in Gaza have been destroyed, including more than 245,000 residential buildings. The World Bank estimated losses of \$18.5 billion in the first four months of the war—an amount nearly equal to the combined economic output of the West Bank and Gaza in 2022. Major roads have been turned into deep trenches, essential water and electricity infrastructure has been destroyed, and most hospitals are no longer functional due to being targeted during the bombings. According to the United Nations, more than 50,000 people have died in Gaza, 44 per cent of whom are children. The children who have survived are suffering from sickness, stress, insomnia, depression, and fear. They are terrified of every stranger. The children of Gaza have lost the will to live. Amidst the devastation, 96 per cent of children express a desire not to live, and 49 per cent say they would have preferred to die. Among those who feel this way, 72 per cent are boys and 46 per cent are girls. A Netherlands-based organisation, War Child Alliance, has collected shocking and heartbreaking data. The alliance gathered this information from 500 parents or caretakers, including families whose children were crippled in the war or separated from their families. Their findings revealed that 92 per cent of the children surveyed are unable to accept the reality of war. The smell of gunpowder lingers in Gaza's atmosphere. The situation is so dire that 79 per cent of children experience nightmares, and 73 per cent have become so overwhelmed that their behaviour has turned aggressive. Many scream and moan in their sleep. These children have witnessed their homes and schools reduced to rubble. Their young minds are shattered, unable to comprehend why they are being punished and what crime they have committed.

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



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

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

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

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

year, with the possibility of further downgrades shortly.

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

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

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

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

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

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

India stands on the brink of an AI-driven revolution

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

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

AI is no longer a futuristic concept—it is an immediate reality reshaping India's digital landscape. Projections sug-

gest that AI will contribute \$500 billion to the Indian economy by 2025, accounting for 10 per cent of the national GDP. The technology is revolutionising industries, from agriculture to healthcare and revitalising cultural and linguistic heritage. India is not merely adopting AI; it is actively leading the revolution through ambitious government initiatives, collaborations with tech giants and extensive investment in AI infrastructure. The Indian government has launched several initiatives to position the country as a leader in AI. The IndiaAI Mission and the establishment of India's first AI University in Maharashtra reflect a strong commitment to technological leadership. Partnerships with global tech



VINAY PATHAK

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

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

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



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

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

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

endangered languages such as Toda and Gondi.

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

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

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

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

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

Sarfaraz 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 Sarfaraz 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 Sarfaraz Dogar as Acting Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court with effect from the day he takes oath of his office till the appointment of regular chief justice."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA COMMERCE & TRANSPORT (TRANSPORT) DEPARTMENT CORRIGENDUM-1

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

RELIABLE DATA SERVICES LIMITED Regd. Office: GF-22, Hans Bhawan, 1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002

Table with 7 columns: Sr. No., Particulars, Standalone (Quarter Ended, Year Ended), Consolidated (Quarter Ended, Year Ended). Rows include Total Revenue from operations, Net Profit/Loss, etc.

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

Table with 5 columns: S. No., Name of Work, PAC Value (in INR Cr.), Bid Security (EMD) (in INR Lakhs), Bid Document (in Rs.), Completion Period (l/c Rainy Season). Rows include Rehabilitation and Upgradation of Ingoria-Depalpur Road, etc.

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

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Particulars, Quarter ended 31/12/2024 (3 Months ended (31-12-2024)), Preceding 3 Months ended (30-09-2024), Corresponding 3 months ended in the previous year (31-12-2023), Current Year ended 31Mar 2024. Rows include Total Income from Operations, Net Profit for the period, etc.

Notes: 1. The above Financial Results were reviewed by the Members of Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their respective Meeting held on 14th February, 2025. The Statutory Auditors of the company have carried out a Limited Review of the Financial Results for these financials.

Public Notice Information is given to general public at large that Abdul Rashid S/o Abdul Majid who is/are purchasing the Built up Third Floor, area measuring 100 Sq. Yards, Built on Property No. 895-A, out of Kharsa No. 11/3, Sector 10, Gurgaon, Haryana, India.

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

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

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

ATS HEIGHTS PRIVATE LIMITED (Under CIRP) Regd. Off.: 711/92, Deepali, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019

Table with 4 columns: S. No., Particulars, For the Quarter Ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited), For the Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited), For the Year ended 31.03.2024 (Audited). Rows include Total Income from Operations, Net Profit, etc.

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

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

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 Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-

Table with 4 columns: S. No., Particulars, For the Quarter Ended 31.12.2024 (Unaudited), For the Quarter Ended 31.12.2023 (Unaudited), For the Year ended 31.03.2024 (Audited). Rows include Total Income from Operations, Net Profit, etc.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION Auction of movable property of Swastika Mahajan in physical possession with authorized officer Adv Umesh Sharma and attached for recovery of outstanding rent of Rs. 36,65,342 towards Bhuwan Sahu as on 17.01.2025 vide order dated 08.12.2025 of Hon'ble ADM (F/R) G.B. Nagar in case no. 1618/2024 titled Bhuwan Sahu Vs Swastika Mahajan

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

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

Place: Noida Date: 13.02.2025 Kashinath Jha sd/ Director Gaurav Katiyar Interim Registration Professional Reg. No.: IBB/IPA001/IP-P00209/2017-18/10409



Stories That Felt Like Home

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



PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR

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

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

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 listen. The 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 ALWAYS LISTEN.



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

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



Day 2: Music Felt, Words Heard

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

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

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

Day 3: The Last Turns Slowly

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

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

A FORGOTTEN ART WORLD



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



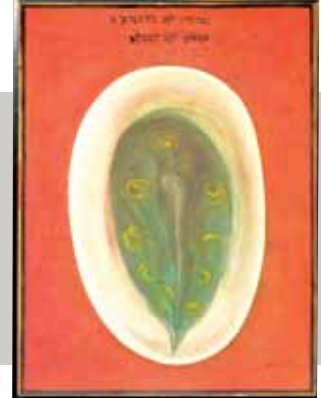
What does it feel like to stand before a work of art and sense something shift inside you? To encounter colours, patterns and forms that seem to hold centuries of wisdom? To realise that an artist whose name you have never heard has created something that speaks to you across time? *Samvega: Aesthetic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

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

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

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

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



Layers of Shared Expression

BY SAKSHI PRIYA

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

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



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

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

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

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



