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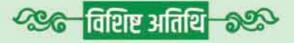
289 अभ्यथियों का नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण समारोह

राजस्व निरीक्षक | विधि सहायक | सेनेटरी सुपरवाईजर | सेनेटरी एंड फूड इंस्पेक्टर गार्डेन अधीक्षक | वेटरनरी ऑफिसर पदों पर नियुक्तियाँ



श्री हेमन्त सोरेन

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड



श्री राधा कृष्ण किशोर

मीननाय मेत्रा, वित्त विभाग, वााणज्य-कर विभाग, योजना एवं विकास विभाग, संसदीय कार्य विभाग

श्री संजय प्रसाद यादव

माननीय मंत्री, श्रम, नियोजन, प्रशिक्षण एवं कौशल विकास विभाग, उद्योग विभाग

माननीय मत्री, नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग, उच्च एव तकनीकी शिक्षा विभाग, पर्यटन, कला संस्कृति, खेलकूद एवं युवा कार्य विभाग



तथा रांची विज्ञान केंद्र, रांची के नव प्रवर्तन केंद्र का शुभारंभ समारोह एवं झारखण्ड अनुसंधान एवं नवाचार नीति-२०२५ हेतु राज्य स्तरीय कार्यशाला

दिनांक : 18 फरवरी २०२५ स्थान : प्रोजेक्ट भवन सभागार, धुर्वा, रांची

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार



CII and Tata Steel unite to boost rural sports development

¬ he Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in collaboration with Tata Steel, successfully organised a roundtable discussion titled "Vision 2036: Grassroots to Greatness -Advancing Sports Development in Rural India" at the Centre for Excellence (CFE), Jamshedpur.

Themed "Igniting a Thousand Fires," the event aimed to bring together key stakeholders to discuss strategies for nurturing grassroots sports and unlocking the potential of rural India in shaping the nation's sporting future.

The day-long event featured insightful presentations from leading sports foundations and service providers showcasing successful programs in rural areas. This was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Hemant Gupta, Head, Sports Academies,



Steel, which focused on preventing dropouts, promoting lifelong participation, and sharing policy insights to foster sustainable growth in rural sports. Special emphasis was placed on developing talent for the 2036 Olympic

Chanakya Chaudhary,

Vice-President, Corporate Services, Tata Steel and Chairman, CII National Committee on Sports 2024-25, was among the prominent speakers, along with N S Johal, CEO - TOPS, Sports Authority of India, Sunil Misra, Principal Advisor, CII,

Manager, HCL Foundation. The panel also included renowned sports personalities such as Purnima Mahato, Asmita Dorjee, Soma Barua, and Ankita Bhakat. The event saw participa-

tion from various organizations, including Bridges of

Academy, Dribble Academy, Tata Steel, Indian Youth Soccer Association, Yogeshwar Dutt Foundation, Great Goals Trust, Piramal Foundation, Development Foundation, Roundglass Foundation, Edusports, Roots Foundation, Pro Sports Development, and CEQUIN.

The program commenced with a visit to the JRD Tata Sports Complex and was folsports Complex and was followed by networking sessions. Delegates from cities like Delhi, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Chandigarh attended the

The roundtable served as a platform for collaboration between policymakers, corporates, and sports founda-tions to strengthen support for sports initiatives in rural India. CII and Tata Steel view this initiative as a crucial step in building a unified approach to advancing rural sports and nurturing future

Minister Kirti Vardhan reviews devp projects in Bokaro

PNS: BOKARO

Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, and Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, chaired a review meeting on Monday at Bokaro Parishadan auditorium. The session, attended by Deputy Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav and other district officials, focused on the progress of various initiatives under the aspirational district

Key discussions revolved around health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, infrastructure, financial inclusion, and skill development. Commissioner Vijaya Jadhav presented the district's composite score and delta ranking, highlighting measures to combat anemia and tuberculosis through awareness camps and treatment pro-

The minister commended the administration's efforts, particularly the ANC check-



and their transformation into learning museums. He also district's advancements in education and infrastructure, noting improvements in studentteacher ratios, smart classrooms, and school facilities.

In the agriculture and water resources sector, the minister stressed the importance of drip and sprinkler irrigation and promoted medicinal plant cultivation in hilly regions. He also held disChandra Prakash Choudhary and Bokaro MLA Shweta Singh to gather their perspectives on regional develop-The meeting saw the participation of several senior

officials, including Divisional Forest Officer Rajnish Kumar, DRDA Director Menka, Additional Collector Mumtaz Ansari, and other key officers from the health, education, welfare, and agri-

LONG WAIT FOR TRANSLOCATION OF NILGAIS TO CONTINUE IN PALAMU

PNS: DALTONGANJ

Translocation of Nilgais from the Medininagar forest division and north forest division of Garhwa district to the territory of the Palamu tiger reserve hangs in balance over the last more than five months. The wait for the translocation may further delay as logistics of it are

The translocation of Nilgais is under the Prey Base Augmentation programme of the state forest, environment and climate change department all for the benefit of the Palamu tiger reserve.

An order to translocate Nilgais from Medininagar forest division and north forest division of Garhwa district to the PTR was issued by the then principal chief conservator of forest and chief wild life warden M P Singh (now retired) on 30.8.24 under section 12 (bb) of the Wild life protection act 1972.

The order read "500



DFO Medininagar Satyam Kumar photo by PNS

forest division and again 500 Nilgais of the north forest division of Garhwa district will be translocated to the Mahuadanr range of the Palamu tiger reserve.

The translocation will be done through the BOMA truck that the PTR has with

Again the entire translocation of the Nilgais is to be done in strict observance of and not a single Nilgai has

the NTCA (national tiger conunder the guidelines of the IUCN (international union of conservation of nature). This newspaper has a copy of this order of the Nilgais.

Divisional forest officer of Medininagar forest division Satyam Kumar on being asked as to why it's already more than five months gone

been translocated from the Medininagar forest division to which DFO Satyam Kumar said "There is an order to this effect dated 30.8.24. It's true not a single translocation of the Nilgai has been

"Nilgai is the largest herbivore. It's heaviest too. The order reads this wild life is to be tranquilized properly and safely before being shipped.' explained this 2015 batch (Indian Satyam service)officer Kumar. Satyam Kumar went on to add"We have neither T gun (tranquilizing gun) nor its handler. Then how to go about it.'

This correspondent then spoke to the deputy director south division of PTR Kumar Ashish as the Nilgais numbering 500+500 are to reach Mahuadanr range which comes under the south division of PTR. "There is a serious crunch of prey base in the south division of PTR. The Nilgais on their arrivals here will augment the prey

base." Ashish added.

Shashi informed that in the outreach programme of the administration in the remote areas, villagers speak up about the menace of Nilgais narrating how Nilgais are devastating their vegetables and crops.

The last 45 days in Palamu have been quite a tragic one as here in these days a young biker was killed by a frenzied Nilgai whose horn pierced his heart on the

The bonnet of a luxury car was badly damaged again by the Nilgai which wanted to overtake the car on the NH 98. It's not only that human life was lost in the Nilgai bike collision. The Nilgai that had smashed the running car's bonnet too

Satyam Kumar said "It's not only the Nilgais. There is a great monkey menace. It's invading any area of human habitat. "We are raising pastures, leafy trees to retain animals right in the jungles so that animals don't spill over the human population'

Union Minister reviews environmental issues

Union Minister of State for Environment and External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, visited Bokaro where he reviewed various environmental concerns affecting the region. During his visit, Singh discussed issues such as dust emissions from the Bokaro Steel Plant's ash pond, chemical-laden wasteimpacting Damodar River, and contamination in the Garga River. He also addressed concerns raised by residents about black smoke emanating from Sudha Dairy's chimney in a nearby residential area.

Singh highlighted the



need for improved pollution control measures and assured that the matter would be examined further. The meeting was attended

Making ESG a Continuous Conversation,

by Giridih MP Prakash Chaudhary, local BJP leaders including Sanjay Tyagi and other senior

Not Just a Boardroom Agenda **ESG Review Process** transparency. While regula-Companies should move tory frameworks like the beyond the annual ESG board review and establish



Srijan Kishore

 ${f B}$ usinesses track their production and finances daily, but ESG per-formance? That often gets sidelined until the next board meeting. It's time to change this practice." An ESG Expert said these lines in one of classes which I attended at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs

As I have written elsewhere, Sustainability isn't just a corporate buzzwordit's shaping the future of business. ESG factors play a crucial role in long-term success, yet many organiza-tions still treat ESG as an occasional reporting exercise rather than an ongoing priority.

Why Regular ESG Reviews Matter?

Research shows that companies with strong ESG integration tend to perform better financially. Addressing ESG risks and opportunities proactively reduces investment risk and strengthens long-term resilience. To make ESG as integral as financial reporting, businesses need to identify the ESG factors most relevant to their operations and track them consistently.

Build a More Effective

structured, periodic reviews-ideally on a weekly or fortnightly basis. These reviews can involve key stakeholders

tainability managers, and subject matter experts, to ensure ESG goals remain on track Regular assessments can include data analysis, eval-

uating current initiatives, and addressing emerging risks or opportunities. Any underperforming ESG metric may be red flagged for immediate attention, ensuring that sustainability efforts remain proactive rather than reactive. Such indicators should be then rigorouslymonitored Strengthening ESG

Reporting and Benchmarking

Periodic ESG reporting is no longer enough. Organizations perhaps can integrate ESG metrics into their financial reporting, monitoring key indicators like energy use, water consumption, waste management, employee satisfaction, and board diversity on a monthly or atleast quarterly basis. This approach will improve internal decision-making and provide investors with a clearer understanding of the link between ESG performance and business growth.Benchmarking ESG performance against industry peers adds another layer of accountability Businesses that track their progress in comparison to competitors can identify areas for improvement and set more ambitious sustain-

ability targets. Trust is built through

Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework set minimum disclosure standards. companies must aim to go beyond compliance and ESG journey.Increasing the frequency and depth of ESG disclosures strengthens credibility with investors. customers, and other stakeholders. Businesses would consider incorporating ESG updates into quarterly earnings calls, making sustainability a core part of performance discussions. A dedicated section in the BRSR outlining future ESG nlans and initiatives can further enhance clarity and accountability.

Commitment for the Force for Good

The demand for ESG accountability is growing and companies essentially move beyond check-the-box compliance. Organizations that embed ESG into daily decision-making, rather than treating it as an annual reporting task, will be better positioned to navigate risks, capitalize on opportunities, and build long-term value for all stakeholders.If we make ESG monitoring a continuous practice, we facilitate businesses to move from passive compliance to active commitment-ensuring sustainability is not just a boardroom discussion but a core business priority!

KISHORE HOLDS A PGDM FROM XISS AND A DOC-TORATE IN STRATEGIC CSR FROM SANTINIKETAN. HE WORKS FOR HPPI NEW DELHI (VIEWS ARE

Gig Work: On the Path of Prosperity or Peril? Prevention of the revival of the Industrial Revolution What is Gig Economy?



The role and responsibilities of Gig Worker (GW) is different from traditional permanent employment. Payment is made based on the work completed, not on the basis of attendance. In another words, the gig economy is a labour market characterised by temporary contract rather than permanent positions. People earn money from providing ondemand work, services, or goods

A wide variety of positions fall into the category of a gig work. The work can range from managing short-term rentals, tutoring, writing code, to driving for delivery services.

The gig economy experienced significant growth in 2020. COVID-19 lockdowns forced people to work from home and rely more on purchasing goods and services online and these trends continued even after restrictions were lifted.

Trends show about 47% of the gig work is in medium-skilled jobs, about 22% in high-skilled jobs and about 31% in low-skilled jobs

This article focuses primarily on Gig Work pertaining to delivery of food and other materials for various platforms like Swiggy, Zomato, etc. Post-COVID 19 Discussions

Post Covid 19, there have been discussions among the academicians, think tanks and Society in general, on the relevance of Gig Work. Additionally, there is concern about the business model, which is largely one-sided, offering no social security or financial support. Some argue that gig workers should not become another group of people exploited to maximize profits for businesses, akin to the conditions seen during the Industrial Revolution, where exploitation was rampant and social security was minimal or non-existent.

Let's address these issues one by Growth and Future of the Gig

Economy in India

As per Niti Aayog, in India between 2020-2022, 77 lakh (7.7 million) workers were engaged in the gig economy and it is expected to grow to 2.35 crore (23.5 million) workers by 2029-2030.

Trends show that the concentration of workers in medium-skilled jobs is gradually declining while both low-skilled and high-skilled gig work is increasing. In the future, gig work across other skill sets, is likely to

The Gig Economy is sustainable and and will continue to grow, benefiting all stakeholders. For consumers, it has become an integral part of their daily life and is convenient, time-saving, and offers a wide variety of choices. It is, especially, useful for people like single mothers the elderly, those who are ill, etc. as it provides hassle free purchasing options that avoid being stuck in traffic or going shop to shop negotiating the rates and refundable options.

Although, few argue that it doesn't offer the same social experience as going out with friends or relatives to

enjoy the outdoors with their companv. It also limits the ability to see and experience things firsthand.

The manufacturers are also reaching a wider customer base which helps them evolve mechanisms to reevaluate their strategies like understanding the needs of various age groups in different locations and adjusting their product mix and pric-

ingt.
Maturing Gig Economy

The Gig Economy is still in the process of maturing. This is the right time to make it agile enough to face both current and future challenges. Roles played by platforms owners,

gig workers and Government There are three major parties involved besides the consumers i.e. platforms owners, gig workers and Government, each having a critical

Gig Workers: They have to improve their communication skills, technical abilities, professional mannerisms, etc. Employers must support gig workers in various ways. More Importantly, they have to work on improving working conditions/ services. Delivery points, such as malls and hotels, need to treat gig workers well, making their environment more comfortable and respectful. For instance, "Fresh Work", despite having \$1 billion in its account and planning a buyback, fired its workers with little

regard to their well being. overnment: Governments need to find ways to secure gig workers' livelihoods, ensuring their safety, financial security, etc. Existing labor laws that safeguard workers do not directly extend to gig workers, leaving them vulnerable and undermining the century-old efforts to secure such protections. The Code on Social Security (2020) recognized gig and platform workers for the first time, including provisions to frame social security schemes and establish a Social Security Fund.

Recently, the Central Government

has taken concrete steps to address the issue like Social Security, health insurance and pension. Karnataka Government also plans to introduce Bills its Assembly Session to impose a cess on aggregators, which will only apply to transport services and not the purchase of products. Similarly, states like Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and others are taking action to protect gig workers and provide financial support, health and safety measures, and even children's education benefits. However, these provisions need to

be implemented effectively and not remain merely on paper.

Platform Owners: Platform Owners need to take worker proptection more seriously. Despite ongoing conversations about the rights of platform workers, there are no substantial benefits provided to platformbased workers. While it may appear that extensive efforts are being made on their behalf, in reality, these workers continue to operate with minimal social protections and security

The Future of the Gig Economy

All stakeholders need to take one thing into consideration, that gig economy is a new economy, addressing new-world needs. Thus, utmost care must be taken while addressing specific issues since the same are cropping up under absolutely novel circumstance to address the needs of mainly the new generations. The traditional approach like existing laws, labour codes, Trade Union Rules etc. may not be suitable to address issues of gig workforce, nor should it be.

We must grow alongside the gig workers and not at their expense. We cannot return to the exploitative conditions under the Industrial Revolution.

CONSULTANT.

THE WRITER IS PRABHAT SHARMA, EX HEAD , TATA STEEL & The SDO spoke to the villagers about their INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT

SDO enquires about delivery of welfare schemes among people

NITYANAND DUBEY: GARHWA

The Sadar Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO), Sanjay Kumar, visited Bhadua, a tribal village near the Annaraj Dam, on Monday. He was sent by the Deputy Commissioner, Shekhar Jamuar, to check on the villagers'

lives and the benefits they were receiving from government schemes. He asked about

pensions, ration cards, healthcare, education, and other matters.

The villagers were happy to see the SDO and thanked the district administration for supporting their village. They particularly appreciated the efforts to promote fish farming in the Annaraj Dam.

The villagers told the SDO that they were happy with the 'Mamta Vahans' (ambulance services) and that they were now using hos-

pital deliveries

Established 1865 the moneer

RANCHI, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹3

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1ED FROM: DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

GYANESH KUMAR LIKELY TO BE NEW CEC OF INDIA

¬he selection committee by Pin... Narendra headed Minister Modi, which met on Monday evening, is learnt to have recommended the name of the chief election commissioner to President Droupadi Murmu. Election Commissioner Gvanesh Kumar, a senior most official of the three member panel, is expected to take over from Rajiv Kumar as Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. Kumar's term ends on February 18 on attaining the age of 65 years

This comes after the Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi asking the government to adjourn the meeting to select the new chief election commissioner until the Supreme Court hears on February 19 a petition on the constitution of the selection panel. The Congress' statement came soon after a meeting of the three-member selection committee.

Besides Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi are part of the panel which met here. Incumbent CEC Rajiv Kumar demits office on Tuesday on attaining the age of 65 years. Sources said the notification announcing the name of the next CEC could be issued "in the next few hours". The CEC's term can last up to six years from the date of appointment, though they must retire upon



turning sixty-five, regardless of whether their term has concluded.

This marks the first time a selection panel has been set up to appoint the head of the country's election watchdog. Earlier, there was no law passed by Parliament for the appointment of the CEC and ECs. The appointments were done by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister. Traditionally, the successor to the incumbent CEC has been the next senior-most Election Commissioner. Seniority was usually defined by who was appointed earlier to the Commission.

However, a new law on the appointment of the CEC and ECs came into force last year under which a search committee shortlists five names from among secretarylevel officers for consideration and finalisation by the prime minister-led panel. After Rajiv Kumar, Gyanesh Kumar is the

senior-most election commissioner. His tenure as Election Commissioner is until January 26, 2029. If Gyanesh Kumar is approved as the next CEC, a new EC could also be appointed to fill the vacancy created by his elevation. This marks the first time a

selection panel has been set up to appoint the head of the country's election watchdog. The Election Commission (EC) is a three-member body made up of one Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and two Election Commissioners. Although all three election commissioners are equal, the CEC, like the Chief Justice of India, is the first among equals

According to sources, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was learnt to have asked the government to defer its decision till the Supreme Court hearing on a petition challenging the composition of the selection panel.

Earthquake in Delhi causes panic and tremors

 $R^{\text{esidents of Delhi-NCR and several}}_{\text{parts of northern India were jolted}}$ early Monday morning as strong tremors shook high-rise buildings, prompting many to rush outdoors. Residents were terrified by the loud sound while the tremors were felt as they watched their buildings shake for a few seconds which lasted for 35 seconds. According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), the earthquake, measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale, struck at 5:36 AM IST with its epicentre located within Delhi's Dhaula Kuan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to raise concerns and urged residents to stay alert for any aftershocks, "Tremors were felt in Delhi and nearby areas. Urging everyone to stay calm and follow safety precautions, staying alert for possible aftershocks. Authorities are keeping a close watch on the situation," he said. The Dhaula Kuan area, which has a lake nearby, has been experiencing low-magnitude quakes once every two to three years. It recorded an earthquake of magnitude 3.3 in 2015.

Soon after the tremor, the Ministry of Earth Sciences warned the people of Delhi and surrounding areas of a possible "aftershock" hours after the city was rocked by a low magnitude but strong earthquake. Union Earth Sciences minister Dr Jitendra Singh has asked the people of Delhi to stay calm and exercise safety precautions and preparedness for the aftershocks. Following the earthquake tremors felt this morning in and around Delhi at about 5:36 AM, the authorities are keeping a close watch and professional experts as well officials in the Ministry of Earth Sciences are constantly monitoring. However, it is advised to stay calm and exercise safety precautions and preparedness for possible aftershocks, if any. Meanwhile, regular updates are being shared by the department through its different communication channels and social media handles," he wrote on X. Several political leaders mentioned



A man stands near an uprooted tree at Dhaula Kuan's Jheel Park, the epicentre of the earthquake that struck the Delhi-NCR

experiencing the earthquake tremors and prayed for everyone's safety. The Delhi Police also wrote on X, saying, 'We hope you all are safe, Delhi! For any emergency help, dial 112.

According to NCS official, a loud sound was heard when the earthquake hit Delhi-NCR. The rumbling sound heard during the earthquake could have been the result of the earthquake's shallow depth. It could have been due to movement in tectonic plates and several bursts of energy. Though a 4.0magnitude quake is considered moderate, its impact felt stronger than usual because of its shallow depth and close proximity to densely populated areas. Earthquakes with epicentres within a city result in more intense shaking since seismic waves travel a shorter distance before reaching structures, amplifying the tremors. The Delhi Police and the Delhi Fire

Service did not receive any calls about untoward incidents during the earthquake but the sudden tremors sparked concern among residents. Seismologists continue to monitor

aftershocks and have advised citizens to stay informed about earthquake preparedness measures.

Centre for However, National Seismology Director OP Mishra said, "The epicentre was at Jheel Park in

Dhaula Kuan, it was a 6.0 magnitude earthquake. It was in the depth of 5 km, it is called shallow depth, hence people felt the effect. People getting panicked was natural. Seismologically, it is not new region, earthquakes have happened earlier in the region. Earlier, there was 4.6 magnitude earthquake in 6 km periphery, but it was deeper, with 10 km depth. There is a difference. It was not a plate tectonic earthquake, it was due to in situ material heterogeneity, it was due to local effect. We can expect aftershock of around 1 or 1.2 magnitude." He said the Dhaula Kuan region has witnessed 420 shallow earthquakes and the national capital has remained safe from such incidents for the past several years.
"The epicentre of Monday's earthquake

was at Jheel Park in Dhaula Kuan, it was a 4.0 magnitude earthquake. It was in the depth of 5 km, it is called shallow depth, hence people felt the effect," Mishra said.

Srijan Pal Singh, the former advisor to the 11th President of India and founder of Kalam Centre and Homi lab, also explained the phenomenon on X. He said that the residents felt "bigger tremors than ever before" because the epicenter was in Delhi itself. "This is how quakes feel at the epicenter," he

Student from Nepal dies by suicide at KIIT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

third-year Astudent of a private engineering institute hailing from Nepal died here allegedly by suicide in her hostel leading to tension in the campus, police said on Monday. Taking note of the incident, Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli said his government is working on this issue through diplomatic channels and is in touch with the authorities.

The deceased was identified as Prakriti Lamsal. She was a B-Tech third-year student of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), varsity Registrar said. The deceased's cousin lodged a complaint at Infocity police station in Bhubaneswar alleging that his sister hanged herself in her hostel room on Sunday.

75,600 75,400



MAX 28.6°C(+4.2)

SC to hear Places of **Worship case in April**



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

expressing displeasure over filing Expressing displeasure over a configuration of several pleas on the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, the Supreme Court on Monday said a three-judge bench will hear in April the pending post-notice petitions related to the 1991 law which mandates the religious character of a place to be maintained as it existed on August 15, 1947, except in Ayodhya's Babri Masjid -Ram Mandir case. The top court, however, granted liberty to the petitioners like Samajwadi Party leader and Kairana MP Iqra Choudhary, who have filed the pleas recently and notices have not been issued on them, to file applications for intervention in pending ones by citing new legal grounds.

Dismissing fresh petitions, on which notices were not issued yet, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said, "The writ petitioners can file an (intervention) application raising new grounds." "We are constrained this order after taking note of the number of fresh petitions filed. The pending writ petitions, which have no notices, stand dismissed with liberty to file an application raising additional grounds, if any. The new IA will only be allowed if there is any new point or new legal issue that has not been raised in the pending petitions," the bench said. "People keep on filing fresh petitions alleging that they have raised new grounds...It will become impossible for us to deal with the petitions besides whatever has already been filed," said CJI. The Bench then listed the batch of petitions and cross ones pertaining to the 1991 law in the week commencing April 1 before a three-

judge bench. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave agreed to the bench and said no fresh plea be allowed on the issue. Another senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for one of the old petitioners, raised the issue of nonfiling of the response by the Centre to the petitions and said the last opportunity be given to the government for this purpose. Earlier in the day also, the CJI expressed displeasure over filing of many fresh

Pitroda's China comment sparks row

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Congress Indian Overseas leader Sam Pitroda courted another controversy with comments negating Chinese threat to India which brought him in line of fire by ruling BJP while Congress distanced leader.

The Congress leader, whose comments have been a frequent fodder for the BJP's attacks on the opposition party, is reported to have said that he does not understand the threat India faces from China, claiming that it is often blown out of proportion. Congress distanced itself from Pitroda's remarks, saying these are not the views of the party and that China remains Îndia's foremost external security and economic

challenge. Addressing conference, BJP national spokesperson and MP Sudhanshu Trivedi sought to draw a link between USbased Pitroda's remarks, USbased groups funding for "voter turnout" in India and the ruling party's charges against Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi for his alleged links to Pakistan.

Trivedi claimed that Pitroda's comments should not be seen in isolation as he recalled



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's positive words in the past for China's growth story and the manner in which it tackled issues unemployment.

What Pitroda has said is a severe blow to India's prestige, diplomacy and sovereignty, he said, accusing the veteran Congress functionary of speaking as if it is India which is the aggressor in the conflict with China.

"All these things make clear the agenda of harming India. The 'mohabbat ki dukan' of the Congress is for anti-national forces be it George Soros or China," said Trivedi. The opposition party has nothing but a hateful agenda for India by pitting people against each other in the name of region, caste and language, he alleged. Pitroda, he said, has openly acknowledged the Congress agreement with China's ruling

reportedly views

expressed by Mr Sam Pitroda on China are most definitely NOT the views of the Indian National Congress," AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh, said in a social

media post. Another BJP spokesperson Tuhin Sinha said, "Those who ceded away 40,000 square km no threat from the Dragon.. No wonder Rahul Gandhi is in awe of China."

Pitroda's comments, Trivedi said, are an insult to Indian military and the sacrifices made by its personnel, invoking the Galwan clash in which 20 Indian Army personnel laid down their lives while an unspecified number of Chinese soldiers died too.

He said India wants good relations with every country, adding it will be, however, done by maintaining its prestige and security.

The BJP spokesperson also took up the issue of funding from the US-based ground into India for "voter turnout" and the ruling party's allegation against Congress MP Gaurav Ğogoi for links to Pakistan to hit out at the

opposition party.
Asserting that there is no ground left for the Congress to defend itself, he, however, demanded that the opposition party must come out with a clarification.



ecurity personnel manage passengers boarding a train at the New Delhi Railway Station

Rail minister promises action on Delhi stampede

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA NEW DELHI

Tn his first reaction, two days after Ithe tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station, which claimed 18 lives, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw while regretting the 'unfortunate' incident said that investigations are going on and responsibility shall be fixed.

Simultaneously, Vaishnaw who held a second round of meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, said action will be against the principle of natural justice till the time the inquiry report comes. "I have maintained a principle of 'We Fail'. So far as action is concerned, we have not taken any action against any official as we are waiting for the

inquiry committee to give its report. This is in line with the principle of natural justice," Vaishnaw stated. On a question on the time frame for the committee to give its report, the railway minister said no time period has been fixed as it will put undue

pressure on the committee members. Sources said that the Railway Minister and top brass was not given the correct status of the un-fateful day till two hours after the it happened on platform 14-15 on Saturday around 9 pm.

Well placed sources in Delhi Division of Northern Railway said that top officers of the division, including DRM, for more than an hour, maintained that the chaos was

Snow delays Khelo India Winter Games

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

In the absence of a thick blanket of snow at the famous Gulmarg Ski resort, the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council Monday decided to postpone the 5th edition of the Khelo India Winter Games, initially set for February 22-25, 2025. The Jammu and Kashmir

Council also Sports announced that a new assessment will be conducted once snow conditions improve, after which a revised schedule will be announced. According to official sources in the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council, around 300 athletes were set to compete in snow sports-ski mountaineering, alpine skiing,

snowboarding, and Nordic skiing-from February 22 to 25. "We have decided to postpone the event as key ski slopes lack sufficient snow," said Rauf Tramboo, president of the Winter Games Association of Kashmir. and Jammu Normally, the slopes receive seven to eight feet (about 2 meters) of snowfall, but this year's conditions have been unusually dry.

Several parts of Jammu and Kashmir have already witnessed a sudden rise in the day temperature by 2 to 4 degrees Celsius. However, the weathermen have raised hopes by predicting a fresh spell of rain/snow in parts of Kashmir between February 19-20. According to the forecast, "Weather is expected to



remain generally cloudy with light to moderate rain/snow at many places from the 19th evening till the 20th of "The Plains of February". Kashmir & Jammu may receive light to moderate receive 4-8 inches of fresh Rain/Thunder with gusty snow". Jammu and Kashmir is

winds at a few places. Higher reaches of Chenab Valley & South Kashmir may receive

moderate snowfall (6-10

inches) while higher reaches of

North & Central Kashmir may

witnessing currently prolonged winter dry spell with the Union Territory recording 79 percent rainfall deficit against the normal precipitation of 144 mm. In February so far, the UT has recorded just 29.8 mm rainfall as per official data. Baramulla has recorded a deficit between 70-79 percent this year. The dry spell has also taken a toll on Kashmir's water bodies,

with dozens of springs drying up, including one in the 17thcentury Mughal Garden in Achabal town, located south of Srinagar. Meanwhile, several parts of

Kashmir valley are already grappling with massive forest fires in the absence of adequate fire fighting measures in place.

UP school named after war hero renamed, locals protest

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The name of Param Vir Chakra awardee Shaheed Veer Abdul Hamid was removed from the main entrance of a primary school in Dhamupur village, sparking protests from his family and locals. Following their objections, the martyr's name was restored-but only on an external wall, not the main gate, leading to further

controversy. The school, previously known as 'Shaheed Abdul Hamid Vidyalaya,' was renamed 'PM Shri Hamid renamed Composite School' after a

recent repainting, according to officials. Jameel Ahmed, Hamid's grandson, stated that the name was erased during the repainting work four days ago. When the family raised objections, headmaster Ajay Kushwaha directed them to approach Basic Education Officer (BSA) Hemant Rao. Rao later assured the family

that Abdul Hamid's name had been inscribed on one of the school's external walls, but the entrance continued to bear only the new name. Dissatisfied with the response, the family lodged another complaint on Saturday, demanding

that the martyr's name be reinstated at the entrance. Despite assurances from officials that the matter be addressed would immediately, as of Monday, the name remained missing from the main gate, leaving the family "deeply hurt." Abdul Hamid is revered for his bravery during the 1965

Indo-Pak war, where he single-handedly destroyed three Pakistani Patton tanks, forcing the enemy to retreat. His valor earned him India's highest military decoration, the Param Vir Chakra, awarded posthumously to his wife, Rasoolan Bibi



State cops discuss security arrangement for Kumbh devotes

Instructions were issued related to strengthening security arrangements at various railway stations

PNS: RANCHI

Sanjay Anandrao Lathkar, Additional Director General of Police, Jharkhand held a review meeting to strengthen security arrangements at various railway stations of the state in view of the movement of passengers Mahakumbh mela.

Instructions were issued while reviewing the facts related to strengthening security arrangements at various railway station in view of the travel of passengers for the Prayagraj Mahakumbh Mela which will run till 26.02.2025. The directives includes---

coordinationshould be established with the District Police Control Room and the control room available at the local railway station so that there is direct coordination between the railway station and the District Police Control Room.

To ensure that information about all important trains arriving at the said station is available in the railway station control room and through it in the district police control

room, especially those going towards Banaras / Prayagraj

All Superintendents of Police Commissioners of the district will depute at least one Deputy Superintendent of Police level officer and magistrate at such railway stations where a large crowd is expected, who will be fully responsible for the security arrangements there. Ensure that the mobile number / WhatsApp number etc. of the said deputed officer-in-charge / magistrate is made available in the railway control room and district police control room, so that by establishing mutual coordination, assistance and law and order can be ensured to the passengers as soon as possible in an emergency situation. To control the crowd at railway stations, mutual coordination with the railways should be established and arrangements for miking should be made so that the crowd can be organized by making announcements as per

requirement.
Police officer/magistrate

or coming from there

should be deputed to manage the crowd of passengers while reviewing the entire traffic system at crowded railway

Adequate number of forces should be made available at all the gates/parts entering the railway station along with GRP/RPF so that unnecessary people or people without tickets do not enter the station during peak hours. The police officer/magistrate/force

deputed from the district level (who will be in charge of the entire security of the station) will have the responsibility to mark all the entry and exit points of the station so that if required, that place can be used to reduce the crowd. The deputed police officer/magistrate will remain in constant touch with the railway station so that information regarding the movement of trains can be

obtained and the crowd of

passengers boarding the

trains arriving at the station can be controlled.

The deputed police offi-cer/magistrate will review whether there is adequate CCTV coverage at the railway station or not. If so, then by establishing mutual coordination with GRP/RPF, they will keep an eye on crowded places through CCTV so that in case of any untoward incident, desired action can be

taken immediately.
The movement of passen-

gers for Prayagraj Maha Kumbh Mela is mainly happening through rail route, in which a large number of men/women/children/elderly people are eager to travel with their entire family in stations/trains, due to which excessive crowd gathers in the railway station/train and a stampede like situation is created by the passengers to catch the train. All arrangements should be strengthened before such a situation

The deputed police offi-cer/magistrate will establish mutual coordination with the railway station and must find out which train is cancelled and which train has been cancelled suddenly due to some reason.

The deputed police offi-cer/magistrate will coordinate with the railways and pay special attention to the foot over bridge constructed at the station for the movement of passengers so that a large crowd does not gather at the foot over bridge at the same time. When a large crowd gathers, a stampede situation arises among the

To deal with emergency situations, as far as possible, an ambulance should be deputed at the station along with paramedics' staff. First aid kits should be available with the local police personnel. The Deputy Commissioner will depute a doctor at his own level, this should also be ensured.

Intelligence about the maximum number of crowds coming for the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh Mela should be collected in advance so that when a large crowd gathers at the station, alternative arrangements for the road route for the passengers can be ensured smoothly so that there is less burden on the railways and it should also be ensured that caution is taken to prevent accidents on the roads used by the passengers.

All Senior Superintendents of Police / Superintendents of Police will ensure strict compliance of all the above points. All Regional Inspectors General of Police / Deputy Inspectors General ensure monitoring of all the above arrangements at their

In this meeting, apart from Sanjay Anandrao Lathkar, Additional Director General of Police, Jharkhand, Akhilesh Regional Inspector General of Police, Ranchi, Amol Vinukant Homkar, Inspector General of Police, Operations, Narendra Kumar Singh, Inspector General of Police, Railways, Priyadarshi Alok, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Railways, Vijay Ashish Kujur, Superintendent of Police, CTC Musabani were present physically and Tadasha Mishra, Additional Director General of Police, Railways, Jharkhand, all Regional Inspector Generals of Police/Inspector General of Police of RPF, all Regional Deputy Inspector Generals of Police/Senior Officers of Railways, Deputy Commissioners of Ranchi/Dhanbad/Deoghar/Pal amu/Koderma and other dis-Superintendents Police/Superintendents of Police (including Railways) and other officers were pres-

through

2nd Gumla literature festival concludes with high note



PNS: RANCHI

The three-day Second Gumla Festival 2025 organized by the Gumla administration under the aegis of Jharkhand Education Jharkhand Coal India Limited concluded with a grand finale.

This festival proved to be towards promoting the liter ary, cultural and intellectual Eminent litterateurs, environmentalists, lyricists, filmmakers and social reformers from across the country participated in this platform of dialogue on various topics like literature, environmental protection, cinema, tribal society, education and youth expression. In the first session of the festival, there was an in-depth discussion on environmental protection and wildlife. Eminent ornithologist, writer and conservationist Bikram Grewal and famous writer Chandrahas Chaudhary participated in this session.

Bikram Grewal emphasized on promoting bird watching and described it as a "precious way to see and

He said that this is a free activity and everyone should adopt it. He highlighted the efforts made towards bird conservation in Nagaland and told how 10,000 birds were hunted every day in the month of October, but through awareness campaigns it was reduced to 50-60. He said that if the balance of nature is not maintained, a serious crisis may arise in the future

Grewal also discussed opportunities in ornithology and said that maintaining natural balance is the basis of life". He also gave information about rare birds and emphasized that the existence of every living being helps in balancing our environment in some way or the

In the second session, National Award winning lyricist, writer and stand-up comedian Varun Grover shared his literary and cinematic journey. Yaduvansh Pranay asked him various questions and highlighted the untouched aspects of his life

Grover told how the habit of reading gave a new direction to his life. He said that "there should be a celebration of books in every field, because the habit of reading enhances our personality". He initial struggles, the work done for "Gangs of Wasseypur", "Masaan (2015)"

He described stand-up comedy as a powerful medium of expression and said that in comedy he can say those things which are difficult to say through other his film "All India Rank 1", which depicts the education system and the pressure of studies on students.

and other films.

In this session, there was an in-depth discussion on the role of writing on tribal socieand its problems. Maheshwar Soren, who is a pharmacy officer and a famous litterateur, told that he started writing from the fifth grade itself.

He said that "where superstition prevails, the power of literature is extremely necessary to bring about change" He informed about the efforts made to highlight the problems of tribal society and their

solution through his writings. Sanjay Kachhap, who started the library movement in the rural areas of Jharkhand, shared his experiences. He said that liquor shops easily reached the villages, but not the libraries. With this thought, he took the initiative to convert community buildings into libraries in

He said that the objective of his campaign is to ensure access to books in every village and every community. He appealed to the youth to develop the habit of reading and spread the light of knowl-

edge.
Uday Prakash said that every person is a novel and a story in himself". He said that "literature is not only for modern life, but stories written by connecting with nature and culture are more impres-

In this session, famous writer, actor and director Zeeshan Qadri talked about the process of filmmaking and his struggles. He said that "cinema is either good or bor-

He shared the story of the "Gangs Wasseypur", his struggle in the film industry and suggestions for new writers and directors. He said that "there is struggle in every field, but hard work definitely leads to

In the last phase of the program, an open mic session was organized, in which talented young poets, ghazal writers and storytellers of Gumla district presented their

creations Many district level officers including Commissioner Satyarthi, Superintendent of Police Shambhu Kumar Singh, Deputy Development Commissioner Gumla, Project Director ITDA were present in the festival.

THUNDERSTOR MS WITH RAIN LIKELY IN J'KHAND, **YELLOW ALERT ISSUED**

PNS: RANCHI

The weather is about to change in Jharkhand. There is a possibility of thunder, rain and thunder in the state. The weather center has issued a yellow alert regarding this. According to the weather center, the sky will remain cloudy from February 18.

It may rain in different parts till February 22. It may rain in the south-eastern part of the state on February 19. It may rain in the south and adjacent central part on February 20. During this time the maximum temperature can be between 28 to 29 degrees Celsius and the minimum temperature can be between 14 to 16 degrees.

The weather center has days regarding thunder and thunder. The weather centre report states that there is a possibility of rain, thunder and lightning in 12 districts of the state on February 19 and rain in 10 districts of the state on February 20.

There is a possibility of rain, thunder and lightning in East Singhbhum, West Simdega, Singhbhum, Seraikela-Kharsawan, Deoghar, Dhanbad, Dumka, Giridih, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur and Sahibganj on February 19. There is a possibility of rain, thunder and lightning in East Singhbhum, West Singhbhum, Simdega, Seraikela-Kharsawan Ranchi, Bokaro, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Ramgarh on February 20.

Govt to release 37 prisoners serving life sentence

PNS: RANCHI

The meeting of Jharkhand State Sentence Review Board held at Chief Minister's Residential Office at Kanke Road Ranchi today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Hemant Soren was concluded. In the meeting, a consensus was reached on the release of 37 prisoners serving life sentence in various jails of the state. In the meeting, along with new cases related to release, the cases of those prisoners were also reconsidered who were rejected in the previous meetings of Jharkhand State Sentence Review Board. Additional Chief Secretary

to Chief Minister Avinasȟ Kumar, Principal Secretary Home, Prison and Disaster Management Department Vandana Dadel, DGP Anurag Gupta, Inspector General of Prisons Jharkhand Sudarshan Prasad Mandal, Additional Law Advisor Law Department Neeraj Kumar, Probation Officer Shri Chandramouli, AIG Tushar Ranian Gupta. Jailor Mohd. Naseem and other officers were present in the meeting. In the meeting, Chief Minister Hemant Soren held in-depth point-wise discussions with the officials on the proposal to release 103 prisoners serving life sentence in various jails of the state in the light of the recommendation of the State Sentence Review Board.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren holds meeting with officials in Ranchi on Monday. PNS

The files of each prisoner recommended for release by the State Sentence Review Board were seriously considered. The Chief Minister took complete information about the criminal tendency of the prisoners and the opinion given by the courts, Superintendents of Police of the concerned districts, Jail Superintendents Probation Officers. sidering all the cases proposed for release between Chief Minister Hemant Soren and the officials, the Chief Minister gave his consent to

of 37 prisoners. Chief Minister Hemant Soren directed the officials to verify the social, economic and family background of the released prisoners. The Chief

the decision to release a total

Jharkhand to keep a track record of the released prisoners. The Superintendent of Police and other officers of the districts should keep a track record of the released prisoners as well as continuously monitor all activities. The Chief Minister directed the officers to ensure that the released prisoners are linked to the welfare schemes run by the government. The Chief Minister said

directed

Inspector General of Prisons

that arrangements should be made for income generation for the released prisoners so that their life runs smoothly. It is the responsibility of all of us to give a positive direction to the released prisoners by linking them to the main-

Panic in Ranchi station due to Maha Kumbh, 5 women fainted

uous delay. More passen-

trains going to UP than the

Jharkhand Swarn Jayanti

Express train reached

Ranchi station from Hatia

station full of passengers.

sleeper and AC bogies, pas-

sengers without tickets had

occupied them and the

bogie gates were closed.

From general bogies to

are boarding the



On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, a huge crowd of passengers is gathering at Ranchi, Hatia and other stations. Due to the huge crowd, five women fainted on Sunday. They were

cured by sprinkling water. Trains going to Uttar Pradesh are leaving from Ranchi station with contin-

Ranchi station, the passengers already in the train did not open the door, due to which there was chaos at the station. The RPF jawan tried to enter the bogie but the

When the train reached

crowd was so much that even the jawan could not go inside. Some passengers somehow entered the different bogies of the train. but during this some peo-ple started fainting. The group of 18 people who came from Delhi to Ranchi could not board the train. Five women in the group fainted due to the crowd. They were separated from the crowd by sprinkling water.

After this, the passengers protested in the station master's office and demanded permission to board the Rajdhani train or to add a bogie to the Rajdhani train. On this, the station master said that he cannot do anything in this

25 Kgs of explosives recovered. Naxal attack averted

PNS: JAMSHEDPUR

Recovery made by security forces has averted a potential attack as two powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) were discovered and neutralized during an extensive anti-Naxal operation in the Kyalko and Golkonda regions. The joint operation, led by Jharkhand Police and CoBRA 209 Battalion, along with CRPF units from 60 BN, 197 BN, 174 BN, 193 BN, 134 BN, and 26 BN, successfully dismantled a deadly plot planned by Naxal insurgents. The strategic and timely recovery included: One IED weighing 20 kg and another IED weighing 5 kg.

The explosives were carefully planted near the Goak and Rosako Road, a known vulnerable zone, aimed at targeting security patrols and causing mass casualties. Security forces displaying exceptional vigilance and tactical expertise, detected the hidden IEDs and safely defused them, preventing any poten-

The operation was launched following credible intelligence inputs about the movement of top Naxal leaders, including Milsi Besra, Anmol, Monu, Ulhas, Ajay Ekka, and Sakso Vangaria. who were suspected of orchestrating violent activities in the region. Acting swiftly, a coordinated security team was deployed, covering the rugged terrains and dense forested areas surrounding the Goak Police Station and extending into the Golkonda region.

To counter the imminent threat, an integrated security force was mobilized, including: Jharkhand Police, CoBRA 209 Battalion and CRPF Units from 60 BN, 197 BN, 174 BN, 193 BN, 134 BN, and 26 BN

The joint task force launched a meticulous combing operation, systematically covering sensitive pockets and potential hideouts to ensure comprehensive area domination and

11 new fire stations to be built in Jharkhand



The Central Government has approved an amount of 147 crore to the Jharkhand Fire Department for modification and renovation. The department will 11 new fire stations, a State level training center and a state level fire fighting control room with the approved amount.

Apart from this, fire brigades, small fire tenders and motorcycle fire tenders will also be purchased.

This amount has been

received under the 15th Finance Commission and it will be used to modernize

Dhanbad Department faces many problems due to lack of fire stations and resources. But now with new fire stations and resources, the department will have ease in its work

the fire department.

DG Home Guard and Fire Department Anil Palta said that applications are being taken for the reinstatement of Home Guard jawans and the reinstatement process

Palta also said that this fund has been received under the 15th Finance Commission, which has to be spent before March 31, 2026. With this amount, 11 new fire stations will be built, a state level training center and a fire fighting control room will also be set up. Apart from this, small and big fire tenders, motorcycle fire tenders and hydraulic platforms will also be purchased.

DG Home Guard said that the process of recruitment of Home Guard jawans is going on fast. The process of filling the form has started and the restoration will be done soon. This will further strengthen the fire department, he added. 'The fire department in

Dhanbad was short of resources, but now it will improve. Recently Dhanbad had received foam tenders, which are capable of quickly extinguishing fires caused by gas, short circuit and oil. However, there was a shortage of hydraulic platforms to extinguish fires in highrise buildings, which will now be fulfilled. New arrangements are expected to be implemented before the onset of summer, which will help in controlling fire incidents quickly,"

Ram mandir becomes third highest-earning religious shrine in India

A yodhya, the city of Lord Ram, is witnessing an unprecedented surge in the number of pilgrims and tourists, setting new records

The Ram Temple has now emerged as the third-highest revenue-generating religious shrine in India, surpassing famous temples like the Golden Temple, Vaishno Devi, and Shirdi Sai Baba Temple in annual earnings. Since the consecration of Ram Lalla on January 22, more than 130 Million devotees and tourists have visited Ayodhya. The temple's annual revenue has now crossed ₹700

Ayodhya's rapid transformation is playing a significant role in boosting not just the economy of Uttar Pradesh but also the nation's economy. Currently, the daily influx of devotees and tourists ranges between two to five lakh, creating challenges in providing seamless darshan and accommodation. The surge in visitors has propelled the Ram Temple into the list of India's top ten religious shrines in terms of donations, securing the third position.



Chairman of the Temple Construction Committee of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust Nripendra Misra visits the Ram Temple, in Ayodhya

A large number of devotees in Andhra Pradesh is expected offer donations in cash as well as gold and silver to the temple. According to Prof Vinod Srivastava, General Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand Economic Association, a study and estimation indicate that in the financial year 2024-25, the Tirupati Venkateswara Temple

to generate annual donations of approximately ₹1,500-1,650 Crore. The Sri Crore. Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala holds the second posi-

lions of devotees have been flocking to the Ram Temple. On an average day, around four lakh tion, with an estimated annual devotees offer prayers at the temple, a trend that has contincollection of ₹750-850 Crore. The surge in pilgrims arriving ued since Makar Sankranti in Ayodhya has also led to Prakash Gupta, the in-charge of the temple trust office, stated that the trust's ten donation counters are collectively receiving contributions exceeding ₹10 Lakh per day. Estimates suggest that in just one month of the Maha Kumbh, over ₹5 Crore has been collected in donations, including offerings made in the six donation boxes placed

before Ram Lalla. "With the rising influx of devotees, Ayodhya is on its way to becoming one of India's most significant religious and tourist destinations, solidifying its status as a spiritual and economic powerhouse," Anil Mishra, Trustee of the Ram Janmabhoomi Nayas, said.

India's Top Revenue-Generating Temples (Annual Revenue in Crores)

1. Tirupati Venkateswara Temple, Andhra Pradesh -₹1,500-1,650 Crore

2. Padmanabhaswamy Temple Kerala - ₹750-850 Crore

3. Ram Temple, Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh - ₹700 Crore

4. Golden Temple, Punjab 5. Vaishno Devi Temple,

Jammu & Kashmir - ₹600

6. Shirdi Sai Baba Temple, Maharashtra - ₹500 Crore 7. Jagannath Temple, Puri,

Odisha - ₹400 Crore 8. Akshardham Temple, New Delhi - ₹200-250 Crore

9. Somnath Temple, Gujarat -

₹150-200 Crore

Harjinder Singh Dhami steps down as SGPC president

SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhami addresses media regarding his resignatior

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

The president of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), Harjinder Singh Dhami, resigned from his post with immediate effect on Monday. Dhami's resignation came days after Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh strong-ly condemned the dismissal of services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Damdama Sahib by the

Dhami said he is always committed to the Akal Takht, the highest temporal seat of Sikhs. Referring to a February 13 Facebook post of Jathedar Raghbir Singh on the termination of services of Giani Harpreet Singh, Dhami said he wrote that removing the latter was "highly condemnable" and "unfortunate". "I being 'pardhan' (president of SGPC) take responsibility and resign from the post on moral grounds with immediate effect," he said while addressing the media in

making," Athouba said. A full-fledged assembly ses-

sion needs to be convened to

formulate necessary legal and

administrative measures for

resolution, he said.
"The COCOMI also sought

immediate measures to pro-vide security for all affected

villages and amnesty for their

civilian village defence forces,

for opening of national high-

ways and ensuring smooth

transportation of essential commodities" Athouba

added.

Dhami also said he has written to the Akal Takht Jathedar to relieve him from his position in the seven-member committee formed to supervise the new membership drive of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD).

On February 13, Giani Raghbir Singh in a Facebook post condemned the dismissal of services of Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Takht Šri Damdama Sahib in Bathinda. In the post, he said Giani Harpreet Singh's removal was "highly condemnable" and "unfortunate" which will harm the independent existence of the 'Takht Sahibs'. On December 10, the SGPC had dismissed the services of Giani Harpreet Singh as the jathedar of Takht Sri Damdama Sahib in Bathinda. The decision was taken during an executive committee

The committee accepted a report by a three-member committee formed to probe the allegations against Giani Harpreet Singh in an 18-yearold domestic dispute matter.

meeting of the SGPC.

Adhikari, four others suspended from Bengal Assembly

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

 $F_{ ext{scenes inside}}^{ ext{ollowing alleged unruly}}$ Assembly Speaker Biman Bandopadhyay on Monday sus-pended Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari and three other MLAs for the rest of the Budget Session or for 30 days "whichever is earlier," leading the entire battery of the saffron legislators to stage a walkout on the

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leadership said that if the Speaker would not withdraw his suspension then the party would boy-cott Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's speech in the House. Banerjee is scheduled to deliver her speech on Tuesday.

"If there is no Opposition Leader in the House then, the BIP will boycott the Chief Minister,"

Adhikari said adding in that case he would deliver his speech at the gate of the Assembly. The other legislators who were suspended are Agnimitra Paul, Bankim Ghosh and Biswanath Karik. The Opposition Leader subsequently said that Karik was suspended though he was not

present in the scene. The Monday's fracas started after an adjournment motion brought by BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul to highlight the incidents of disruption of Sarswati Puja at many places in the State earlier this

After Paul read out her speech the BJP demanded discussion on the matter alleging at many places the organisers had received threats for organising Saraswati Puja and in some places either they even had to perform the Pujas with police protection after obtaining order from the Calcutta High Court.

When the Speaker disallowed the discussion the BJP MLAs descended in the well shouting slogans and they even tore off the minutes, inside sources said.

The Speaker subsequently suspended the four MLAs. This is the fourth time when Adhikari has been suspended. Referring to the disruption of

Sarswati Puja -which organised throughout the State every year on Basant Panchami day -Adhikari referred to how the students of the Jogesh Chandra Chaudhuri Law College in South Kolkata had to perform the Puja

was obtained through an order of the Calcutta High Court. A former Trinamool Congress Chatra Parishad leader Shabir Ali had allegedly threatened the students of JCCLC with dire con-

with police protection which

sequences if they performed the Puja inside the college leading the students to move the High Court seeking police protection. A similar situation allegedly occurred inside a school in South 24 Parganas where the headmaster of the school had to abandon the Puja after receiving threats from

record-breaking donations. Following their holy dip at the

Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, mil-

the local toughies.
The BJP had been raising the issue for the past several days. A section of the TMC leadership however said that the faceoff in the ICCLC had no communal angle as it was an affair between the two groups of the party's students' arm. "Shabir backed by

a local MP wanted to control the affairs of the Puja himself while the rival group backed by another TMC leader wanted to retain its sway this led to the faceoff," said a professor, adding "it is only about controlling the huge money that is raised from the Puja and has nothing to do with any communal angle. Meanwhile, the BJP is planning to take out processions against

the Speaker's order, sources said.

Four dead as SUV heading to Maha Kumbh overturns in MP Pradesh's Sidhi district in the wee hours of Monday, police



PTI SIDHI (MP)

 $F_{\text{and}}^{\text{our persons were killed,}}_{\text{ as many others}}$ sustained injuries after an SUV heading for the Maha Kumbh Prayagraj overturned in Madhya Singrauli

the Amahia police station limits around 2 am when the SUV was going towards Prayagraj from Waidhan in district, Superintendent of Police (SP) Ravindra Verma said. He said the vehicle carrying pilgrims was crossing Mudha Pahad when it overturned, killing four persons.

The accident occurred under

Four other passengers were seriously injured and are undergoing treatment at a hospital, the official said. Prima facie, it appears that the driver lost control of the vehicle while negotiating a

MP CM urges urban bodies to boost revenue

PTI ■ INDORE

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav ly self-reliant and said that if their revenue increases, the government's public welfare programmes can be imple-

A comprehensive initiative must be undertaken to identify, dismantle, and evict all illegal villages that have sprung up across the state, threatening its demographic and environmental integrity, Athouba said. "All violent activities and

unauthorised movement of armed groups must be brought to a complete halt to ensure peace and stability," He said.

The organisation also demanded that the administration implement NRC in the state and dismantle camps of militant groups

on Monday stressed that urban bodies must become financialmented better. Addressing a meeting of the state unit of the All India Council of Mayors here

through video conference, Yadav said urban bodies play an important role in strengthening democracy, and the state government will take every possible step for development based on suggestions of the mayors. 'We will be happy when urban bodies stand on their feet (financially) and run on their systems," he said, adding that urban bodies will have to find new sources of income to

increase their revenue. The chief minister said if urban bodies become financially selfreliant through revenue increase, the government's public welfare schemes can be implemented better. He also praised the Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) for raising

₹244 Crore to construct a solar power plant by introducing green bonds as a public issue, urging other urban bodies to adopt this step as a model. Yadav said the number of seats

is likely to increase in the upcoming delimitation of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies, and the process will also affect the urban bod-

State Urban Administration and Housing Minister Kailash Vijayvargiya said mayors will have to take "bold steps" to make urban bodies financially

self-reliant. He asked mayors to present the details of income and expenditure of their urban bodies in a transparent manner to the cit-

He said full recovery of dues



Gurugram RERA imposes ₹50 Lakh fine on Birla Estates

STAFF REPORTER **GURUGRAM**

The Real Estate Regulatory (RERA) Authority, Gurugram, has imposed a heavy penalty of ₹50 Lakh on real estate promoter M/s Birla Estates Private Limited for violation of Section 3 of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act 2016. Section 3 of the Act states

that no promoter shall advertise without registering the project. The promoter had applied for

the registration of its upcoming real estate group housing colony namely Birla Akira located at Sector 31 and 32-A, Gurguram under Section 4 of the RERA Act 2016.

The advertisement was published by the promoter while documents of the project were still under scrutiny at the Authority and registration certificate was awaited. The Authority order said,

"The registration certificate (RC) shall be issued after submission of remaining deficiencies, online DPI and deposit of ₹50 Lakh penalty for violation of Section 3 of the Act, 2016.

The Authority repeatedly warned the promoter of legal consequences and had issued a show cause notice to the promoter for violation of the

"The promoter M/s Birla

allow any other entity for sale of units in unregistered projects failing which legal consequences shall follow," said the Authority order. The Authority also penalised

Properties LLP, Signature Global Homes Private Limited, Shine Buildcon Pvt Ltd and AMB Infraventures Pvt Ltd for non-compliance of timeline provided under

It is worth noting Section abide by its declarations.

Crore. RERA Authority Gurugram is committed to protecting the interests of homebuyers and ensuring the timely completion of real estate projects. The authority will continue to take strict action against developers who fail to meet their obligations under the

Estates Pvt Ltd is again advised not to indulge in or

Godrej Developers and Section 4(2)(l)(C) of the Act 2016 of ₹25 Lakh each.

4(2)(l)(C) of the Act clearly states that the promoter shall

For non-compliance of RERA registration conditions, the Authority also ordered the forfeiture of security deposits of six promoters such as M/s 1000 Trees Housing Pvt Ltd, M/s Keystone World Pvt Ltd, M/s JMK Holdings Pvt Ltd, M/s TARC Ltd, M/s Mapsko Builders Pvt Ltd and M/s Aviana Green Estates Pvt Ltd totalling and amount of ₹2.25

RERA Act.

Meitei body appeals for restoring democratic rule in Manipur ernment within this month to ensure democratic gover-nance and effective decision-

PTI IMPHAL

 $T_{\text{Committee on Manipur}}^{\text{he Coordinating Committee on Manipur}} \\ \text{Integrity (CCOMI), an umbrella body of several} \\$ Coordinating organisations of the Meiteis, on Monday urged Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla to help establish a "duly elect-ed government within this month" in the state which is under President's Rule.

In a memorandum to the governor, the COCOMI sought his immediate intervention to address the ongoing crisis that has severely impacted the political, social and economic stability of the

President's rule was imposed in Manipur and the assembly put under suspended animation on the evening of February 13, days after Chief Minister N Biren Singh resigned from his post.

Biren Singh, who was heading the BJP-led government in Manipur since 2017, resigned as chief minister after nearly 21 months of ethnic violence that has claimed over 250 lives so far since May 2023.

The people of Manipur are in dire need of clarity and assurance from the highest consti-

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ AGRA

What was supposed to be a memorable trip to the Taj

Mahal turned into a heart-

breaking ordeal for Dipayan

and Kasturi Ghosh of Gurugram. Their beloved pet

dog, a Himachali Desi Grey

Hound, went missing from their hotel, plunging the cou-

ple into days of despair and

relentless searching. After 104 days of unwavering hope and

effort, their beloved pet was

Dipayan, an Air India officer,

and his wife Kasturi, original-

ly from Vasant Kunj, Delhi,

arrived in Agra on November

1, 2024. They checked into

Hotel Taj View on Fatehabad

Road with their two beloved

pet dogs. On November 3, they left for Fatehpur Sikri,

finally found.



The members of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity

tutional authority of the state regarding the current political and constitutional status," COCOMI Convenor K Athouba after meeting Bhalla, told reporters in front of the

entrusting their pets to the hotel staff. However, tragedy

struck when their native breed

Grey Hound went missing at

The devastated couple accused

the hotel management of neg-

around 11:30 AM.

Rai Bhavan. He said that during the meeting, they requested the governor to convey an official message to the citizens, outlining the government's immediate

ligence and immediately

launched a search operation.

Posters were pasted across the

Tajganj area, CCTV footage

plan to restore normalcy and uphold law and order. We submitted a memorandum to the governor in which COCOMI urged him to establish a duly elected gov-

Hound was visible.

was reviewed, and a case was registered at Tajganj Police Station. Despite offering a Hours later, at around 4 PM, the Grey Hound cautiously emerged. Overwhelmed with

On Saturday, the couple rushed

to Mehtab Bagh. Volunteers

and hotel staff joined in the

search, but the dog remained

hidden in the thick bushes.

Undeterred, they waited

patiently at a nearby tea stall.

Lost dog finds way back home to Agra family after 104 days reward of ₹50,000 for any clues, emotion, Kasturi called out to the dog remained missing for it. The dog hesitated at first but, over three months. recognizing his owners, ran

With heavy hearts, the couple towards them. eventually returned home, but their search never ceased. They Tears streamed down their faces as they saw the dog's frail visited Agra every week, praycondition-it had grown thin, its ing for their pet's safe return. bones visible from days of star-Then, a breakthrough came after 104 days-a local guide spotted a dog resembling theirs roaming in Mehtab Bagh. He shared a video, and to their amazement, their beloved Grey it back to health.

More than just a pet

it is family. Kasturi had rescued it a decade ago when it was sick and abandoned. Since then, it had been their loyal companion, sleeping beside them and sharing their joys and sorrows. Losing it felt like losing a part of themselves.

vation. But the reunion was nothing short of a miracle. The couple immediately took the Grey Hound to a vet for a check-up and vowed to nurse For Dipayan and Kasturi, their Grey Hound is not just a dog-

izens.

should be done by imposing appropriate taxes on the public.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Heart-wrenching

The New Delhi Railway Station stampede exposes administrative lapses and highlights the need for better crowd control

■ t is as heart-wrenching as it is unfortunate. The stampede at New Delhi Railway Station has shocked the Capital. At least 18 people, including five children, lost their lives, and over a dozen sustained injuries in a horrific stampede at the Station on Saturday night. The tragedy unfolded on the foot-overbridges connecting platforms 14 and 15, as a sudden surge of passengers waiting to board trains for Prayagraj resulted in a deadly crush. The incident raises critical questions about mismanagement, infrastructural inadequacies and lapses in crowd control that led to the catastrophe. The primary trigger of the incident appears to be a confluence of factors, including excessive passenger load, misleading announcements and poor crowd management. The surge of pilgrims traveling to Prayagraj for the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela significantly increased the footfall at the station. Reports indicate that around 1,500 general tickets were being sold every hour. Sources suggest that a wrong

announcement regarding a change of platforms may have led to confusion among passengers.

In the ensuing rush, some individuals slipped while descending the foot-overbridge stairs, triggering widespread panic. Besides, extended waiting periods for departing trains may have resulted in a bottleneck effect. While overcrowding was an expected challenge, poor planning and mismanagement turned it into a disaster. Given the predictable surge of passengers, railway authorities failed to deploy adequate personnel to regulate the movement of people. Despite previous incidents highlighting the risks of overcrowding, no significant upgrades had been made to ensure

smoother pedestrian movement. Moreover, the response from railway officials and security personnel was reportedly delayed. A more robust system to alert and manage surging crowds could have prevented the incident from escalating into a full-fledged disaster. Could this have been prevented? Surely. Deployment of additional railway police and personnel during peak travel periods could have averted the disaster. Besides, real-time monitoring of passenger density using surveillance cameras and Al-based crowd control systems could have definitely help in such a situations. This stampede must jolt the authorities from their deep slumber as this is not for the first time such a tragedy has happened. Expansion and widening of foot-overbridges to accommodate high passenger traffic must be done on priority. Clear and accurate digital signage to minimise confusion is also very important. Besides, there must be a system to cap the number of the general tickets issued per hour, especially during mega events, While accountability is being fixed, the focus must remain on implementing long-term solutions to prevent such tragedies in the future. The railway authorities must ensure that infrastructure, security and operational protocols are robust enough to handle high footfall scenarios safely.



A flock of ibis flying over a paddy field, in Nagaon

Delhi High Court reinstates

fraud claims against Reliance



The Delhi High Court quashes an international arbitration award that had dismissed government claims of 'insidious fraud' and 'unjust enrichment' against Reliance Industries

he resounding victory of the Central Government's legal team, led by the Attorney General of India A.R. Venkatramani reinforced by the active participation of the eminent jurist and the former Attorney General of India KK Venugopal, under the astute administrative guidance of Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, in the Delhi High Court verdict against Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), has decisively dismantled allegations of favouritism levelled against the Modi government.

This landmark ruling categorically refutes opposition claims that the government promotes select business houses, reaffirming its commitment to transparency, fairness, and the rule of law in corporate governance and policymaking. In a landmark judgment dated February 14, 2025, the Delhi High Court delivered a decisive verdict in the case of Union of India vs Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), addressing long-standing allegations of crony capitalism and favouritism towards major industrialists by the current government.

This 79-page judgment not only exonerates the government from accusations of bias but also underscores the integrity of India's judicial system and the competence of its political and legal leadership. Background of the Case The dispute centres around the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) executed between the Union of India and Reliance Industries Ltd. in 2000, about the exploration and extraction of natural gas in the Krishna-Godavari basin.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas alleged that RIL had engaged in "unjust enrichment" by extracting and selling gas that had purportedly migrated from fields operated by the state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) to RIL's adjacent block. The government sought compensation, contending that RIL's actions resulted in significant financial losses to the state excheier.Details of Juagementine Delhi High Court's single judge judgment in Union of India vs. Reliance Industries Ltd. examined the allegations of unjust enrich-RIL, as it reinstates the gov-

ment, contractual breaches, and fraud against RIL, ultimately dismissing them due to a lack of concrete evidence.

The court upheld the findings of the international arbitration tribunal, reaffirming that RIL operated within the bounds of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) and could not be held liable for natural gas migration beyond its control. However, the Division Bench of the Delhi High Court has quashed an arbitral award that had dismissed the Central government's claims against Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and its foreign partners. The government had accused the conglomerate of "insidious fraud" and "unjust enrichment" amounting to over \$1.729 billion by allegedly extracting natural gas from deposits beyond its entitle-

The Bench, comprising Justices Rekha Palli and Saurabh Banerjee, overturned the ruling of a single judge, who had, in May 2022, set aside the Petroleum Ministry's allegations. The court determined that the international arbitration award dated July 24, 2018, which had favoured the Kil-led consortium, was "contrary to public policy" in India. This decision marks a significant legal setback for



THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS ALLEGED THAT RIL HAD ENGAGED IN **'UNJUST** ENRICHMENT' BY EXTRACTING AND SELLING GAS THAT HAD PURPORTEDLY MIGRATED FROM FIELDS OPERATED BY THE STATE-OWNED

OIL AND NATURAL GAS CORPORATION (ONGC) TO RIL'S ADJACENT BLOCK

ernment's claims concerning unauthorised gas extraction. The ruling also strengthens the government's position in regulatory disputes within the oil and gas sector. With the arbitral award nullified, the matter may now proceed further in Indian courts, potentially leading to fresh legal battles over financial liabilities and resource allocation in the country's hydrocarbon sector. Beyond the legal nuances, the judgment serves as a crucial precedent for future contracts, emphasising the importance of precision in drafting and adherence to arbitration mechanisms for dispute resolution. It underscores the independence of the judiciary in adjudicating disputes involving powerful corporate entities and govern-

The case also highlights the competence of the central government's legal representation, particularly the diligence of Attorney General AR Venkatramani and Union Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in defending the government's stance. It further reflects the adysmally woeful periormance of the RIL legal team in defending the case. Furthermore, the ruling reassures investors about India's

ment bodies, dispelling claims

of crony capitalism.

commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that legal processes remain transparent and evidence-driven.

By challenging the political narrative favouritism towards industrialists, the judgment reinforces the integrity of India's governance, corporate regulations,

and media responsibility in shaping public discourse. Conclusion The Delhi High Court's latest judgment in Union of India vs Reliance Industries Ltd. is a testament to the robustness of India's legal system and its capacity to adjudicate highstakes disputes impartially. It dispels allegations of governmental bias towards prominent industrialists, affirming that decisions are

grounded in evidence and legal merit. The ruling also underscores the importance of adhering to contractual obligations and the role of arbitration in resolving intricate commercial conflicts. As India continues to navigate its path towards economic growth, this judgment reinforces the principles of fairness, transparency, and the rule of law as cornerstones of

(The writer is a prominent columnist and Public Policy Expert; the views expressed are personal)

its democratic etnos.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India advances carbon market reforms following COP 29



ATUL AGRAWAL

India, already a leader in renewable energy, reinforced its commitment to climate action by proposing a unified carbon market

he 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) under the United Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan, on November 24, 2024. While key expectations regarding climate finance remained unmet, significant progress was achieved in carbon market regulations. A landmark agreement on carbon trading rules was reached, aiming to accelerate climate action by enabling countries to meet their emission reduction goals efficiently and cost-effectively. Under its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the country initially aimed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emission intensity by 33-35 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030, later revising this target to 45 per cent in 2022. India has launched multiple initiatives to combat climate change.

On the supply side, renewable energy generation helps mitigate carbon footprints, while demand-side initiatives like Perform-Achieve-Trade (PAT), star labeling, energy conservation building codes, and improved lighting solu-



tions further reinforce India's climate commitments. Existing frameworks, includ-Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts), serve as a foundation. These were introduced under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 and have been successfully traded on Indian power exchanges.

RECs drive renewable energy adoption by allowing obligated entities to purchase either renewable energy or its certificates. One REC equates to 1 MWh of renewable energy generated from sources like solar, wind, hydro, and biogas. This system benefits both electricity generators and buyers, ensuring environ-

mental compliance. Similarly, ESCerts promote energy efficiency by enabling industries to either enhance energy savings or buy corresponding certificates. One ESCert represents a

reduction of 1 million tonnes of oil equivalent energy. Currently, 13 key industrial sectors, including aluminum, cement, power distribution, and railways, participate in this program, covering nearly 50 per cent of India's primary energy consumption. Since their inception, RECs and ESCerts have driven significant emissions reductions, saving over 73 million tonnes of CO2 through REC trading and preventing 106 million tonnes of CO2 emissions via ESCerts. Recognising the need for a unified carbon market, India proposed a comprehensive system merging RECs and ESCerts into a single, internationally aligned framework. The regulatory foundation was set with the amendment of the Energy Conservation Act in January 2023, followed by the notification of the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme, 2023.

The scheme designates the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission as the market regulator and power designated energy-intensive exchanges as trading plat-

forms, while the Bureau of Energy Efficiency oversees compliance mechanisms. India's carbon market will consist of two segments: a compliance market and an offset market. The compliance market will impose emission caps on obligated entities, allowing overachievers to sell surplus carbon credits to underachievers. The offset market will enable voluntary participation by non-obligated entities aiming to reduce their carbon foot-

Carbon credit certificates will be traded through a regulated bidding process. The transition from existing REC and ESCert markets to a unified carbon trading system is expected to be seamless, given India's well-established power exchanges and transaction mechanisms. With this development, India moves closer to integrating its climate action efforts into global carbon markets, reinforcing its commitment to reducing emissions and achieving longterm sustainability goals.

(The writer works with Indian Institute of Management, Sirmaur; views are personal)

US CRITICISES EUROPEAN LEADERS Madam — At the 61st Munich Security

Conference, American Vice President JD Vance left no stone unturned in reprimanding and threatening the European leaders. He has launched a monstrous attack on Europe, in which he has accused its leaders of failing to give free speech, restricting illegal migration, and living in fear of religious ideology. He has put the biggest threat to Europe's security on the European countries themselves. Along with this, he also said that the European countries do not pay the full price for their security. America will no longer provide security to Europe with closed eyes. This simply means that Donald Trump has indicated that if the NATO organisation has to be run, then it will have to be run on Trump's terms, or else America will

leave that organisation. America has also indicated that it wants to see Russia back in the G-7 countries' organisation. The White House has already announced that it will impose additional tariffs on goods imported from countries around the world. Now the rest of the world, especially the European Union, will have to decide without any delay how they will learn to live without America. Before America leaves NATO, the campaign to expel it will have to be intensified. Also, every possible help will have to be given to Ukraine to save it from the clutches of Russian terrorism. Because Trump is completely determined to hand over the reins of Ukraine to the Kremlin.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

HOPES HIGH FOR TROPHY

Madam— This refers to your caption in Sunday Pioneer, "Rohit, Kohli lead Team India for Champions Trophy." Indeed, it was a brilliant century from skipper Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli against Bangladesh in the ICC Champions Trophy opener while I occupied the studio box as a special

Stampede at New Delhi Railway Station



The stampede incident at New Delhi Railway Station claimed 15 innocent lives, but it also serves as a warning that the time for change has arrived. Chaos, lack of crowd control and failure of security measures led to this tragedy. It is now essential that we learn from this incident and take steps to prevent such occurrences in the future. This disaster has made it clear that the railway must adopt modern strategies for crowd

match. The entire box was surrounded by the players' family, and I can see all the cheers in Anushka Sharma and Rohit's wife.

The recent rule of restrictions has not permitted the player's family to join them for this tour. When my opinion about Rohit and Virat has been changing while watching them play, there came a strong pat behind my back, which brought me to reality. Oh, it all happened in my dreams that I woke up to my wife's call and went for a quick shower and to get ready to start at my office. Hitman and Kohli thus became the dream object in fans lives, and I am also one among those impacted much by their failures. One hopes that both will come good in the upcoming

Champions Trophy.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

MSMES MUST REINVENT TO SHINE

Madam — The US's push for reciprocal tariffs, framed as a 'fair trade' corrective, has sent shockwaves through guest from which I was witnessing the global markets-but for India's MSMEs

management and passenger safety. The railway administration should anticipate potential crowds during major events and pilgrimages and make appropriate arrangements in By utilising new technologies, entry and exit points should be better organised to ensure smooth passenger movement. The government has expressed condolences over the incident, and Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav has ordered high-level inquiry.

However, beyond this, we must take proactive steps with a positive mindset to prioritise passenger safety. By improving traffic management, deploying adequate police forces and making the information system more effective, we prevent such incidents. R K Jain | Barwani

industry, this moment could be less about survival and more about reinvention. Critics argue that this move will spark a trade war, hobbling economic growth and benefiting no one. However, for India's MSME sector, this moment could be a catalyst for transformation. By upgrading to world-class standards at affordable costs, Indian MSMEs can tap into vast export markets and become more competitive, resilient and export-

This would require a multi-pronged approach, involving government incentives, technology transfers, and skill development programmes. By doing so, India can turn a potential trade threat into a transformative opportunity, ultimately boosting its economic growth and global trade prospects and proving that even in the midst of tariff wars, MSMEs can shine as stars of innovation and growth.

Shruti Saggar | Pune

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN RAISING GEN ALPHA AND GEN BETA

To ensure their well-being, parents must strike a balance between traditional values and modern approaches



he 21st century has introduced new challenges and opportunities in parenting. As we raise Generation Alpha (born 2012-2024) and Generation Beta (born 2025-2039), it is crucial to adapt parenting strategies to their digital upbringing, rapid technological advancements and changing societal norms.

Ensuring these children grow up healthy, happy, and disciplined requires a balance of traditional values and modern approaches. There is no denying that, unlike previous generations, Generation Alpha and Generation Beta are growing up with easy access to technology, which affects their lifestyle habits.

It is of utmost importance that parents/quardians take proactive steps to ensure their children's well-being such as providing balanced nutrition such as a diet rich in proteins, vitamins, and fibres while limiting processed foods and sugary snacks; reducing screen time and promoting physical activities such as cycling, swimming, and team sports to improve fitness and social skills; setting screenfree bedtime routines to ensure quality sleep, which is crucial for the cognitive and emotional development and encouraging children to spend time offline by engaging in hands-on activities like painting, gardening and DIY projects.

Not only these, but in an era of social media influence and fastpaced lifestyles, parents/guardians need to support their children by creating a strong emotional connection; encouraging resilience and a growth mindset; guiding them in reducing digital overload, and engaging them in mindful activities such as yoga, meditation, journaling, or simple relaxation exercises to help them cope with stress. Above all, what matters the most is the art of discipline. With instant gratification becoming a norm in the digital age,



parents/guardians must realise that these generations will grow up in an Al-driven world, requiring skills beyond academics. Parents/Guardians can help prepare them by encouraging critical thinking and creativity and providing problem-solving challenges, STEM activities, and artistic outlets along with proper guidance on responsible internet usage, cybersecurity, and online ethics followed by developing social skills in a hybrid world. Raising healthy, happy, and disciplined Gen Alpha and Gen Beta children requires a thoughtful blend of love, guidance, and adaptability.

Parents/Guardians must embrace new-age parenting by integrating digital awareness with traditional values while fostering emotional resilience and self-discipline. By prioritising wellbeing, education and strong moral foundations, one can ensure these generations grow into responsible, fulfilled, and future-ready individ-

Also, by providing proper nutrition, encouraging physical and mental well-being, fostering social skills, and setting positive examples, parents/guardians can create an environment where children thrive for it is aptly said that a happy and healthy child is not just the result of luck but of consistent efforts, care, and understanding from those who nurture them. By promoting healthy habits, setting strong moral foundations, and nurturing adaptability, parents can equip their children for a fast-evolving world. Ultimately, a happy and well-rounded child is shaped not by chance, but by consistent love, guidance, and understanding

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

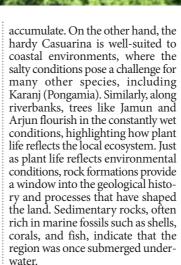
Unlocking nature's secrets: A

ature, in its boundless complexity, holds countless wonders and mysteries. A walk through the forest offers a unique opportunity to engage deeply with the natural world, observing its intricate details and uncovering its hidden stories. Every tree, rock, and animal track contributes to the landscape's rich history, revealing the dynamic processes that have shaped it over time. The towering trees, with their rings cataloguing centuries of climatic shifts and environmental changes, stand as silent witnesses to the passage of time. A noticeable absence of middle-aged trees, for example, often points to a past forest fire. These fires, while natural and sometimes devastating, selectively eliminate younger trees while leaving behind older, more resilient ones. India, with its diverse ecosystems ranging from coastal regions to mountain valleys, offers a unique opportunity to observe the intricate relationships between flora, fauna, and their environment. Even the soil beneath our feet, a mosaic of organic matter, testifies to the endless cycle of life and decay that sustains the ecosystem. The contours of the land, the steepness of slopes, the presence of valleys and ridges - these are not mere accidents of geography. They are the fingerprints of geological forces, millennia in the making. The Himalayas, Western Ghats, and Vindhya ranges are iconic examples of such geological artistry, showcasing the dynamic processes that have shaped the nation's landscape and influenced its biodiversity. The forest is a timeless classroom, where nature's lessons unfold with every step. But to truly unlock these secrets, requires more than a casual glance; it demands a mindful approach and willingness to slow down and truly engage with our surroundings. As you walk through the forest, you'll notice the forest floor is covered with a thick layer of leaves, twigs, and decompos-

This layer, known as the leaf litter, plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling and provides a habitat for many small creatures. The type and distribution of vegetation provide insights into the region's climate, soil conditions, and water availability. Lush rainforests, like those in the Western Ghats and Northeast India, thrive in areas with abundant rainfall. These verdant ecosystems boast a rich variety of plant species, from towering trees to intricate understory plants, each adapted to thrive in the humid, water-rich environment. This dense vegetation supports a wide range of wildlife, contributing to the region's biodiversity and ecological stability.

In contrast, the arid deserts of Rajasthan present a landscape where life has remarkably adapted to survive with minimal water. Vegetation here is sparse, but highly specialized, with species like cacti, acacias, and thorny bushes dominating the terrain. These species are equipped with unique adaptations, such as water-storing tissues and deep root systems, allowing them to conserve and access water efficiently and ensuring their survival in such harsh conditions.

The intimate relationship between plants and their environment becomes even more evident when observing specific species in particular areas. For instance, in floodplains, trees such as sycamore, Gular, and ash Gurjan thrive in fertile, wet conditions where water and nutrients



These rocks may also display ripple marks or mud cracks, further supporting the presence of ancient water bodies. For example, the fossil-rich Shivalik Hills provide a glimpse into prehistoric times, showcasing the variety of life forms that once thrived in the area. The types of sediment and their layering can also offer insights into past KILOMETRES ing can also offer insights into past climate conditions, such as periods ACROSS of drought or heavy rainfall. For instance, fine-grained sediments suggest calm, shallow waters, while coarser sediments point to more

SUPPORTING Igneous rocks, formed from cooled magma, reveal the area's volcanic history, while metamorphic rocks provide evidence of the intense transformations that occur deep within the Earth. Understanding the geology beneath the surface, which shapes the land, is equally important, and soil reveals much about this. For example, limestone regions, where rock weathering creates caves and stone pillars, typically have alkaline soils high in calcium. Conversely, granite-dominated areas, where rock breakdown leads to acidic soils, often develop wet-

lands due to poor drainage. Soil colour offers further clues: Dark brown soil, rich in organic matter, supports diverse ecosystems; grey soil suggests wetter conditions; yellowish soil may indicate nutrient depletion. Dramatic shifts in soil colour often point to human influence. For example, in Karnataka and

Odisha, vibrant red and ochre hues reflect historical iron ore mining. In Rajasthan and Gujarat, white caps on the soil signal high salt levels from over-irrigation. Physical signs in the landscape—such as fissures or cracks in the soil—can indicate instability, caused by factors like erosion, seismic activity, or human In hilly regions like the Western

Ghats or Himalayas, slipping or bending tree bark may signal shifting ground, a clear indicator of potential soil movement. Recognizing these signs is crucial for the safety of campers and hikers. Water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and wetlands, are vital components of India's ecosystems and are deeply intertwined with the land's geology. Major rivers such as Ganges, Brahmaputra, and Godavari are true lifelines for the

The Ganges River, revered as sacred, flows over 2,500 kilometres across northern India, supporting numerous aquatic and terrestrial species. Its waters irrigate fields that feed millions, and it is a critical source of drinking water for countless communities. Similarly, the Brahmaputra River, originating rom the Tibetan Himaiayas, meanders through Northeast Índia, sustaining rich floodplain ecosystems and supplying water for agriculture and hydropower.

The Godavari, often called the "Dakshin Ganga," flows through central India, nourishing one of the largest river basins in the country and supporting diverse habitats. India's wetlands, such as the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest, span the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta and are a haven for Bengal tigers, crocodiles, birds, and other wildlife, while its mangroves protect the coastline from storms and floods. As we explore these natural habitats, subtle signs like paw prints, droppings, and other traces offer glimpses into animals' presence and activities.

Each animal leaves a distinct signature reflecting its unique anatomy and behaviour. For example, cats,

with their stealthy grace, leave tracks showcasing the soft pads of their paws, devoid of sharp imprints of their retractable claws, hinting at their elusive nature.

Rabbits, in contrast, leave bounding tracks with hind legs landing ahead of their forelegs, showcasing their hurried movements and vulnerability. Understanding these signs provides deeper insights into wildlife behaviour and habitat preferences. Like us, animals are drawn to places that offer the essentials of life: food, water, and shelter. A patch of trees followed by an open field and a water source, such as a lake or pond, indicates a popular spot for wildlife. However, animals in these areas are often cautious and aware

of their surroundings.
They possess an innate ability to detect and avoid human presence long before we notice them, typically only breaking cover to make a quick escape. Birds, in particular, use vocalizations to mark territory and alert others to predators.

For instance, the sudden flight of pigeons on a quiet woodland path can trigger a group warning system, notifying nearby animals—deer, rabbits, and foxes—of a potential threat. Similarly, a chorus of noisy dira calls may indicate a coordinat ed defence against a predator, such as a crow mobbing an owl. Birds also emit sharp alarm calls, like the high-pitched "seet," specifically designed to warn others of a bird of prey overhead. It is in paying close attention to these subtle cues that we begin to truly understand the richness of the natural world. The next time we find ourselves amidst the whispers of the woods, let us listen closely.

The forest invites us to unlock its wisdom, learn from its resilience, and contribute to its legacy. By embracing the profound lessons found within the diverse elements of the forest, we not only enrich our own lives but also ensure that this invaluable library remains open for generations to come.

(The writers are former principal chief conservator of Forests, UP and Maharashtra; views

journey through India's forests Nature is an open book, rich with stories waiting to be uncovered. There are intricate connections between land, life, and time, write BKP Sinha & Arvind Jha

GANGES RIVER,

REVERED AS SACRED, FLOWS OVER 2,500 NORTHERN

NUMEROUS AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL SPECIES. ITS WATERS IRRIGATE FIELDS THAT FEED MILLIONS.

The rise of religious realty: How India's infrastructure push is transforming spiritual tourism This emerging sector is transforming pilgrimage sites with upscale hospitality and commercial developments, meeting the needs of faith-driven travelers demand for quality real estate easier access to low-cost ty. From residential develop-

≺he Indian economy has witnessed a significant push towards infrastructure, real estate and tourism, especially spiritual tourism especially in the 2025-26 Union Budget. The government's focus on urban redevelopment, affordable housing, and tourism-friendly policies has positioned India as a global hotspot for real estate and hospitality investments. Among the most prominent emerging trends is the rise of religious realty—an intersection of real estate, hospitality, and spiritual tourism, where projects are developed to cater to the growing number of pilgrims and faith-driven trav-

With disposable incomes on the rise due to tax relief mea sures—such as no income tax



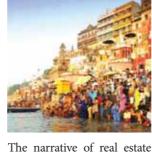
up to Rs 12 lakh under the new tax regime—India's middle class is set to invest more in homeownership and travel. Additionally, the introduction of the Rs 15,000 crore SWAMIH Fund 2 for affordable and mid-income housing will fast-track stalled projects, ensuring homebuyers see the fruition of their investments. Simultaneously, India's hospitality sector is poised for an both pilgrims and high-end

exponential rise, with 50 toptier tourist destinations being developed with state partnerships, reinforcing the nation's status as a must-visit destination for both spiritual and leisure travellers. The Rise of Religious Realty:

A New Era in Development India's spiritual destinations have long been major attractions for domestic and international tourists. However, what was once a fragmented market with limited infrastructure is now being transformed into a sophisticated segment within the hospitality and real estate industries. The religious tourism boom has led to a surge in demand for premium hotels, commercial complexes, and mixed-use developments that cater to travellers. The Solitaire Group has been at the forefront of this evolution. Recognising the immense potential in religious reality, it has strategically invested in prime pilgrimage destinations such as Ayodhya, Varanasi, Prayagraj, and Haridwar Its flagship development in

Ayodhya—a luxury Taj hotel in partnership with the Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL)—exemplifies its commitment to redefining spiritual tourism. The 300-key Taj Ayodhya, spanning 7.2 acres, will feature high-end villas, luxury accommodations, wellness facilities, and state-of-theart banqueting spaces to cater to both pilgrims and travellers seeking opulent experiences.

Unlocking the Potential of Tier II and III Cities



growth in India is no longer limited to metro cities. Government-backed infrastructure projects, improved regional connectivity under the modified UDAN scheme, and growing investor interest are propelling the development of Tier II and III cities.

Cities with religious and cultural significance are seeing an influx of premium residential and commercial projects, as Master List (HML), ensuring

soars. The Solitaire Group has been a pioneer in this domain. Its developments in Prayagraj, including the city's first and largest township, are a testament to its vision of creating world-class urban spaces beyond metro hubs.

Through strategic land acquisitions and partnerships, the Group aims to bridge the infrastructure gap in smaller cities and deliver projects that enhance both living standards and economic prosperity.

Hospitality Meets Spiritual Tourism India's push for religious and

spiritual tourism has been acked by key government initiatives, including hotels in pilgrimage hubs being added to the Infrastructure Harmonised

financing, streamlined e-visa services and visa fee waivers for select international tourists to encourage global arrivals, and MUDRA loans for homestays to support budget travel and rural tourism.

This structured approach to hospitality growth has enabled developers like the Solitaire Group to envision and execute projects that cater to a diverse range of travellers. The focus remains on integrating worldclass amenities into heritagerich locations while maintaining the cultural and spiritual essence of these sites.

Building a Legacy of

Since its inception in 2005, the Solitaire Group has established itself as a leading player in real estate and hospitaliments in emerging urban centres to luxury hotels in religious destinations, its portfolio reflects its commitment to innovation, sustainability, and excellence.

With the Indian government's ambitious push for infrastructure, tourism, and real estate reforms, the opportunities in religious realty are boundless. Indian leading players would continue this transformative journey, crafting spaces that offer both spiritual fulfilment and contemporary luxury. The focus be on delivering exceptional living experiences and fostering economic growth in the communities that are being served.

(The author is the founder and CEO of Solitaire Group. Views expressed are personal)

Top Russian officials will hold talks with US in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday

Zelenskyy says Ukraine won't take part in talks this week as they would 'yield no results'

PTI MOSCOW

¬op Russian officials will hold talks with US counterparts on restoring ties, negotiating a peaceful settlement to the war in Ukraine and preparing a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump, the Kremlin said Monday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov will fly to the Saudi capital later in the day to take part in the talks set for Tuesday. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will lead the US

delegation. Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff told Fox News Sunday that he and national security adviser Mike Waltz also will take part in the talks.

Peskov said the talks will be primarily focused on "restoring the entire complex of US-Russian relations, as well as preparing possible talks on the Ukrainian settlement and organizing a meeting of the two presidents?

Speaking to journalists on a conference call from the United Arab Emirates on Monday, President Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy said his country won't take part in the talks this week, adding that they would "yield no results,"

given the absence of any Ukrainian officials. European governments have also demanded a role.

The talks follow last week's telephone call between Trump and Putin in which Trump said they "agreed to have our respective teams start negotia-tions immediately." The call upended years of US policy, ending the isolation of Moscow over its Feb. 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine. After the call with Putin, Trump phoned Zelenskyy to inform him about their conversation.

Trump on Sunday told reporters that Zelenskyy "will be involved," but did not elaborate. Zelenskyy said he would travel to Turkey on Monday and to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, but that his trip to the Arab nation was unrelated to planned US-Russia talks there on Tuesday. Andriy Yermak, a top

Zelenskyy adviser, said earlier Sunday there was no possibility of Ukrainian and Russian representatives meeting directly in the immediate future. In a Telegram post, Yermak said the Ukrainians weren't planning to do so "until we develop a plan" to end the war and bring about a "just peace."

Speaking on Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" program, Witkoff said he and Waltz will be "having

meetings at the direction of the president," and hope to make "some really good progress with regard to Russia-Ukraine." In his TV interview, Witkoff didn't directly respond to a question about whether Ukraine would have to give up a "significant portion" of its territory as part of any negotiated settlement.

Those are details, and I'm not dismissive of the details, they're important. But I think the beginning here is trust-building. It's getting everybody to understand that this war does not belong continuing, that it should end. That's what the president has directed us to do,

army accused Shaheen of "recently planning terror attacks, directed and funded by Iran, from Lebanese territory against the citizens of the state of Israel." Footage circulating online showed a car engulfed in flames. The strike occurred

> point and Sidon's municipal sports stadium. The original withdrawal deadline was in late January, but under pressure from Israel, Lebanon agreed to extend it to February 18. It remains unclear whether Israeli troops will complete their withdrawal by

An Israeli drone strike in Southern Lebanon on Monday killed the head of the

militant Hamas group in the

country, Israel's military said.

The strike came on the eve of

the deadline for Israel's full

withdrawal from southern

Lebanon under the ceasefire

agreement that ended the 14-

Hezbollah.

Since the ceasefire, Israel has continued airstrikes in southern and eastern Lebanon, saying it is targeting military sites containing missiles and combat equipment. Israel and Lebanon have exchanged accusations of violating the ceasefire agreement.

Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Israel issued a tender for the construction of nearly 1,000 additional settler homes in the occupied West Bank, an anti-settlement

watchdog said Monday. Peace Now says the development of 974 new housing units would allow the population of the Efrat settlement to expand by 40% and further block the development of the nearby

month war between Israel and The Israeli military said it killed Mohammad Shaheen, the head of Hamas' operations department in Lebanon. The Palestinian children walk amid the rubble of homes, destroyed by the Israeli army's air and ground offensive against Hamas in in Bureij refugee camp, central Gaza Hagit Ofran, who leads the home to some 3 million group's settlement monitoring, near a Lebanese army check-

said construction can begin after the contracting process

and issuing of permits, which could take another year at Israel captured the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for their future state and view the

settlements as a major obstacle

to peace, a position with wide

Israel says drone strike kills

Hamas chief in Lebanon

international support. President Donald Trump lent unprecedented support to the settlements during his previous term. Israel has also steadily expanded settlements during Democratic administrations, which were more critical but rarely took any action to curb

Israel has built well over 100 settlements across the West Bank, ranging from hilltop outposts to fully-developed communities that resemble small towns and suburbs, with apartment blocks, malls and

them.

Over 500,000 settlers live in the occupied West Bank, which is

Palestinians. The settlers have Israeli citizenship, while Palestinians live under military rule with the Western-backed Palestinian Authority administering population centers.

Major human rights groups have described the situation as apartheid, allegations rejected by the Israeli government, which views the West Bank as the historical and biblical heartland of the Jewish people and is opposed to Palestinian statehood.

Peace Now, which favors a negotiated two-state solution to the conflict, accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government of pressing ahead with settlement construction while dozens of hostages captured in Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack languish in captivity in

the Gaza Strip. 'While the people of Israel (set) their sights on the release of the hostages and an end to the war, the Netanyahu government is operating on steroids' to establish facts on the ground that will destroy the chance for peace and compromise," it said

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Mohammad Afrid Ali S/o Mohammad Sultan R/o 14/448, I Block, Military Road Bapa Nagar Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005 hereby declare that Mohammad Afrid Ali and Afrid Ali both are one and same person.

I, Dhanalaxmi W/o Sanampudi Ramesh Babu R/o 00, Sankaranagaram, Revuru, P.O -Revuru, Sub District-Ananthasagaram, District-A.P-524303, Presently Residing At Qtr-129, Type-2, Sector-9, R K Puram, New Delhi-110022 have changed my name to Sanampudi Dhanalaxmi.

Í, Mutum Bhabini Devi, W/o 9425118N, L/Hav Mutum Dhanabir Singh, 1/11 Gorkha Riffle (Bravest of the Brave) change my name Mutum Bhabini Devi to Kongkham Bhabini Devi (as per Aadhar card).

PD(1523)C Indu Devi W/o-No.14681733K Nk Shravan Pal, R/o- Vill & Post- Souri, Saidpur, Dist-Ghazipur, U.P.- 275205, have changed my name from Indu Devi to Indoo Pal, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1524)C I, Punam Singh W/o-

No.160125531 Hav Amod Singh, R/o- Pure Nokhey Ray, PO- Behta Kalan, Dist-Raebareli, U.P- 229201, have changed my name from Punam Singh to Poonam Singh, affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1525)C

I, Raj Kumari, W/o-No.16013275P Hav Hariom Singh, R/o- Vill- Nagla Shyam, Post- Akola, Teh & Dist- Agra, U.P.- 283102, have changed my name from Raj Kumari to Rajkumari, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1526)C I, Kiran W/o- No.6949197M Nk Gaud Sunil Kumar Shyam Kumar, R/o- Gokul Nagar, Lilanagar Road, Kodiyarnagar, Ahmedabad City, Gujarat- 382350, have changed my name from Kiran to Gond Kiranben, affidavit 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1527)C I, Rajput Sumersingh, F/o-No.15705449L L/NK Rajput Dashrath Singh, R/o-Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Ahmedabad, Gujarat-282375, have changed my from Rajput Sumersingh to Rajput Sumersingh Sugansingh, affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary

Public Delhi.

PD(1528)C

I, Rajput Omkavar, M/O-No.15705449L L/NK Rajput Dashrath Singh, Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Gujarat-Ahmedabad. 282375, have changed my name from Rajput Omkavar Rajput Omkavar Sumersingh, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1529)C I, Bichaiah, Father of-No.15453767N Sep/Amb Asst Jetturi Anjilaiah, R/o- Vill & PO- Bandayelkcherla, Teh & Kulkacherla, Dist-Vikarabad. Telangana-501502, have changed my name from Bichaiah to Jetturi Bichaiah, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1530)C I, Nazeer P K, Father of No.14867692K Sep/MT Sajeer P K, R/o- Panikkarkandy (H), Bazar Koyilandy (Teh), Kozhikode (Dist), Kerala- 673525, have changed my name from Nazeer P K to Nazeer, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

I. No.15786949A HAV(DMT) PO- Danapur, Teh- Telhara, Dist- Akola, Maharashtra-444108, have changed my daughter's name from Akshita to Akshita Vilas Hage, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1532)C I, Amruathamma, Mother of-No.15453767N Sep/Amb Asst Jetturi Anjilaiah, R/o- Vill & PO- Bandayelkcherla, Teh & Kulkacherla, Dist-Telangana-Vikarabad, 501502, have changed my name from Amruathamma to Jetturi Amruathamma, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1533)C I, Gulab Kanwar, W/o-No.15705449L L/NK Rajput Dashrath Singh, Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Gujarat-Ahmedabad. 282375, have changed my name from Gulab Kanwar to Gulabkanwar Dashratsinh, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1534)C I, hitherto known as C.V. Srikanth S/o Shri Vasudevan Chedarampet Shyambunathan, residing at E-107, Narwana Appartments, I.P. Extension Delhi - 110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Chedarampet Vasudevan Srikanth. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. C. V. Srikanth

PD(1535)C I, Rajeev Kumar S/O Inder

Goyal R/O H.No 418-19, G-30, Sector 3, Rohini, Raja Pur Kalan, Rohini Sector-7, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Rajeev Goyal And in my 10th marksheet my Father Name has been written Inder Goel But actual Name is Inder Goyal.

PD(1536)C | Administration staffers were let |

US 'gravely backpedaled' on Taiwan, says China

China's Foreign Ministry took issue Monday with a revised US government fact sheet that removed a line on American opposition to independence for

The United States has "gravely backpedaled" on its position on Taiwan and sent the wrong message to "separatist forces" on the island, ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said. Taiwan and China split in 1949

during the civil war that brought the communists to power in China. The defeated Nationalists fled to Taiwan and set up a rival government there. Taiwan has its own government and military but has never declared formal independence from China.

'We urge the US to ... stop emboldening and supporting Taiwan independence and avoid further damaging China-US

relations and the peace and stability of the Taiwan Strait," Guo said when asked about the revision at a daily media briefing. The Taiwan Strait is a narrow waterway that separates the island of Taiwan from China's east coast. The US State Department

removed the phrase "we do not support Taiwan independence" from the fact sheet last week. The document on America's relations with the self-governing island is posted on its website. Taiwan's government welcomed the move, though a statement sent to The Associated Press on Monday did not mention the language specifically.

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has noted that the US State Department updated the Current State of US-Taiwan Relations' page ... with text that is positive and friendly toward us, reflecting the close and amicable partnership between Taiwan and the United States," it said. It's not the first time the State Department has removed the phrase. It did so in May 2022 but restored it a few weeks later after a strong protest from The government in Taiwan is

worried that Trump might not be as steadfast a supporter of the island as his predecessor, former President Joe Biden. The US does not recognise

Taiwan as a country but is its strongest backer and biggest arms supplier. Trump said last week that Taiwan, a leading maker of semiconductors, had taken the

chip business away from the US and that he wants it to come back. China, which says that Taiwan must come under its control, has stepped up military exercises around the island of 23 million people in recent years.

Trump admn tries to bring back fired N-weapons workers in DOGE reversal

PTI WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has halted the firings of Hage Vilas Pandurang, R/o- At hundreds of federal employees who were tasked with working programmes, in an about-face that has left workers confused and experts cautioning that DOGE's blind cost cutting will put communities at risk.

> Three US officials who spoke to AP said up to 350 employees at the National Nuclear Security Administration were abruptly laid off late on Thursday, with some losing access to email before they'd learned they were fired, only to try to enter their offices on Friday morning to find they were locked out. The officials spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation. One of the hardest hit offices was the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, which saw about 30 per cent of the cuts. Those employees work on reassembling warheads, one of the most sensitive jobs across the nuclear weapons enterprise, with the highest levels of clear-

> The hundreds let go at NNSA were part of a DOGE purge across the Department of Energy that targeted about 2,000 employees.

> 'The ÓOGE people are coming in with absolutely no knowledge of what these departments are responsible for," said Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, referencing Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency team. "They don't seem to realise that it's actually the department of nuclear weapons more than it is the Department of Energy."

> By late Friday night, the agency's acting director, Teresa Robbins, issued a memo rescinding the firings for all but 28 of those hundreds of fired staff members. This letter serves as formal notification that the termination decision issued to you on February 13, 2025, has been rescinded, effective immediate-"," said the memo, which was obtained by AP. The accounts from the three officials contradict an official statement from the Department of Energy, which said fewer than 50

National Nuclear Security

go, calling them "probationary employees" who "held primarilv administrative and clerical roles". But that wasn't the case. The firings prompted one NNSA senior staffer to post a Department employees who

"This is a pivotal moment. We must decide whether we are truly committed to leading on the world stage or if we are content with undermining the very systems that secure our nation's future," deputy division director Rob Plonski posted to LinkedIn. "Cutting the federal workforce

may be seen as reckless at best and adversarily opportunistic at

worst." While some of the Energy ciency and the effects of climate change, issues not seen as priorities by the Trump administration, many others dealt with nuclear issues, even if they didn't directly work on weapons programmes. This included managing massive radioactive waste sites and ensuring the

responsible for these functions material there doesn't further contaminate nearby communi

> That incudes the Savannah River National Laboratory in Jackson, South Carolina; the Hanford state, where workers secure 177 high-level waste tanks from the site's previous work producing plutonium for the atomic bomb; and the Oak Ridge Reservation in Tennessee, a Superfund contamination site where much of the early work on the Manhattan Project was done, among others.

Dissanayake govt unveils first budget, projects 5 pc growth for Sri Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

The Sri Lankan economy is expected to grow at 5 per cent in 2025, President Anura Dissanayake said Monday while presenting the budget for this year.

This is the first full-year budget presented by the National People's Power (NPP) government, which came to power in November last year.

Introducing the budget, Dissanayake said a budget is a "reflection of the government's approach to building the economy and overall pol-

He added that this year's budget intends to set a foundation of an economy where "all citizens are active participants, active stakeholders, and active beneficiaries," news portal Adaderana.lk reported.

"We expect the 2025 economic growth to be around 5 per cent," said Dissanayake, also the island nation's Finance Minister.

He asserted that all fiscal measures would be directed towards the commencement of repaying the external debt from 2028.

...Growth in non-debt creating inflows along with robust economic growth and a primary budget surplus of 2.3 per cent of GDP will ensure Sri Lanka is well placed to meet the gradual increase in debt service payments from 2028 onwards," the report quoted the president as say-

Last year, under then-president Ranil Wickremesinghe, Sri Lanka received capital grace periods on bilateral loan payments until 2028.

Dissanayake also said a budget deficit of 6.7 per cent of the GDP or SLR 2.2 trillion was expected in 2025, down from the previous year's 6.8 per cent. În line with the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) pro-

gramme targets, tax revenue

is expected to be increased to

senting the budget. 'We propose to increase the minimum monthly basic salary from SLR 24,250 to 40,000 by 15,750. The current ad-hoc interim allowance and special allowance will be integrated into the basic salary giving a net increase of SLR

3,250 in the minimum salary,

2025, he said.

less economy.

reforms.

approval.

he said.

Dissanayake said the govern-

ment would prioritise digitis-

ing government services and

would move towards a cash-

Despite his pre-election state-

ments to review the IMF pro-

gramme of his predecessor

Wickremesinghe, he has con-

tinued to steer the economy

within the global lender's

Since the IMF and Sri Lanka

entered a USD 2.9 billion

bailout in March 2022, three

tranches of over USD 330

million have been disbursed.

The fourth tranche of the

four-year facility is expected

to be materialised soon after

the IMF executive board's

The president also announced

a phased wage hike for state

sector employees while pre-

"Of the total net salary increase, SLR 5,000 and 30 per cent of the balance amount will be paid starting from April 2025, with the remaining 70 per cent being paid in equal portions beginning in January 2026 and January 2027," he said. 15 per cent of the GDP in



Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Britain's Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex, attend the indoor rowing competition at the 2025 Invictus Games, in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Downloads of DeepSeek's Al apps paused in South Korea over privacy concerns

PTI ■ SEOUL

DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial intelligence start-up, has temporarily paused downloads of its chatbot apps in South Korea while it works with local authorities to address privacy concerns, according to South Korean officials on Monday. South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission said DeepSeek's apps were removed from the local versions of Apples App Store and Google Play on Saturday evening and that the company agreed to work with the agency to strengthen privacy protections before relaunching the apps. The action does not affect users who have already downloaded DeekSeek on their phones or use it on personal computers. Nam Seok, director of the South Korean commission's investigation division, advised South Korean users of DeepSeek to delete the app from their devices or avoid entering per-

sonal information into the tool until the issues are

Many South Korean government agencies and companies have either blocked DeepSeek from their networks or prohibited employees from using the app for work, amid worries that the AI model was gath ering too much sensitive information. The South Korean privacy commission, which began reviewing DeepSeek's services last month, found that the company lacked transparency about third-party data transfers and potentially collected excessive personal information, Nam said. Nam said the commission did not have an estimate on the number of DeepSeek users in South Korea. A recent analysis by Wiseapp Retail found that DeepSeek was used by about 1.2 million smartphone users in South Korea during the fourth week of January, emerging as the second-most-popular AI model behind

	samtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersig bidders must be enrolled in <u>www.assamtenders.gov.in</u> . Name of work	Approximate Time of		Tender Earnest Money Depos		
no.		value of work (in lakh)		fee	General category	Reserved category
Group-1	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Janata High School in Barpeta district 2) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Patacharkuchi Vidyapith HS School in Barpeta district 3) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1	132.79	6	2656	265580	132790
Group-2	Library at PM-Shri Adarsha Vidyalaya, Ganakuchi, Barpeta in Barpeta district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools:	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820
310up-2	1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Navasakti Girls High School in Barpeta district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Chata Anchalik High School in Barpeta district, 3) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Gobardhana High School		6	2276	22/640	113620
Group-3	(Amal) in Barpeta district Strengthening of existing PM-Shri schools construction of 4 additional classroom at Lengtisinga HS School in Bongaigaon district	75.88	6	1518	151760	75880
Group-4	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Judhisthir Saha HS School in Cachar district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Satkarakandi High School in Cachar district	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820
Group-5	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Art & craft room at PM-Shri Dekargaon High School in Darrang district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Kharupetia HS School in Darrang district	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820
Group-6	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 2 Additional classroom and 1 Science laboratory at PM-Shri Gogamukh HS School in Dhemaji district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Puspadhar Pegu Memorial	94.85	6	1897	189700	94850
Group-7	High School in Dhemaji district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Gutimara High School in Dhubri district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Sapatgram Bengali HS School in Dhubri district, 3) Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Dhubri Govt.	151.76	6	3035	303520	151760
Group-8	Girls HS School in Dhubri district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory, 1 Library at PM-Shri Sital Pathar High School in Golaghat district, 2) Construction of 2 Additional classroom and 1 Biology laboratory at PM-Shri Kuralguri HS	94.85	6	1897	189700	94850
Group-9	School in Golaghat district Strengthening of existing PM-Shri schools construction of 1 Physics laboratory, 1 chemistry laboratory and 1 biology laboratory at PM-Shri Abdul Hasib HS School in Hojai district	56.91	6	1138	113820	56910
Group-10	Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Govt Girls HS and MP School in Jorhat district, 2) Construction of 2 Additional classroom and 1 Science laboratory at PM-Shri Mihi Ram	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820
Group-11	Saikia High School in Jorhat district Strengthening of existing PM-Shri schools construction of 1 Physics laboratory, 1 chemistry laboratory and 1 biology laboratory at PM-Shri Damdama HS School in Kamrup	56.91	6	1138	113820	56910
Group-12	district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Marjat Kandi Public HS School in Karimganj district, 2) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Budhan HS School in Karimganj district, 3) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at PM-Shri Lakshmi Bazar High School in Karimganj district, 4) Construction of 1 Science laboratory and 1 Library at Chorgola Public HS School in	151.76	6	3035	303520	151760
Group-13	Karimganj district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Library, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Ghilamara High School in Lakhimpur district, 2) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Lakhimpur Govt HS School in	113.82	6	2276	227640	113820
Group-14	Lakhimpur district Strengthening of existing PM-Shri schools construction of 4 additional classroom at PM-Shri Khanamukh HS School in Sonitpur	75.88	6	1518	151760	75880
Group-15	district Strengthening of PM-Shri schools: 1) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory, 1 Chemistry laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri RBP HS School, South Salmara in South Salmara ManKachar district, 2) Construction of 1 Biology laboratory and 1 Physics laboratory at PM-Shri Janata HS	94.85	6	1897	189700	94850
Group-16	School in South Salmara-Mankachar district Major repairing of PM-Shri Dhupdhara High School under Rongjuli block in Goalpara district	86.931	6	1739	173862	86931
Group-17	Major repairing of PM-Shri Abdul Hasib HS School under Hojai-Municipality block in Hojai district	60.183	6	1204	120366	60183
Group-18	Major repairing of PM-Shri Boko High School under Boko block and PM-Shri Bamunigaon High School under Chaygaon block in Kamrup district	66.87	6	1337	133740	66870
Group-19 Group-20	Major repairing of PM-Shri Borjuri R.K.S High School under Bajiagaon block in Nagaon district Major repairing of PM-Shri Barpatradole High	33.435 86.931	6	669 1739	66870 173862	33435 86931
510up=20	major repairing of Fivi-Still parpatragole High	00.301	٥ ا	1139	173002	00931



RANCHI | TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 18, 2025



Indian-origin leader fined for lying to parliamentary committee in Singapore

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's Indian-origin Leader of the Opposition Pritam Singh was on Monday fined SGD 14,000 after a district court found him guilty on two counts of lying under oath to a parliamentary com-

Singh was fined a maximum of SGD 7,000 for each of his two charges.

Speaking to reporters after the hearing, the Leader of the Opposition said he will be running for the general election which is due in November this year.

The Constitution states that a sitting MP will lose his seat and be disqualified from standing for election if he is

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Nitin Bhati owner of a Residential House, area measuring 79.42 Sq. Mtrs out of Total area 158.85 sq. Mtrs. Out of Khasra no. 455, situated in Village Salarpur Khandar, Pargana and Teshil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. Through Registered Gift Dated 26.10.2024 executed Mr. Ravindra Bhati S/o Mr. Chandar Vide Reg. No. 14033 at SR-1 NOIDA U.P. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. If any person/ bank/financial institution having any claim / right, lien, any objection whatsoever in rega telain/right, lien, any objection winasseever in legal to the above property, should notified to the undersigned / Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 7 days from the date of publication bjection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv lishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that my client Deepak Jethwani and Deepa Jethwani are in process to purchase the Entire First Floor (without roof inglist), built-up property bearing no. L-7, area measuring 100 sq. yards, studed in the colony known as Laipat Nagar, Il. New Delhi - 1100/24 from Gurven Kaur Suri, having acquired the said property by virtue Sale Deed dated 2/5/20/22 (Dic. no. 2473) executed by Manjit Kaur Salf for self and as attorney of Arundeep S. Kakkar and Tarundeep S. kakk

In the matter of M/s. A.K.G. Securities and Consultancy Limited (CIN- U74899DL1994 PLC059006), having its Regd. Off. at 3776/310, 311 & 312 Nirmal Market, Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002, India,

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the company had been granted an NBFC Certificate (bearing Registration Number B-14.00812) by the RBI on 13th Cotober, 2000.The Company lost the said original certificate during the shifting of its registered office from Karkardooma Delhi to Darya Ganion 17.06.2022 and in that regard an FIR Ganjon 17.06.2022 and in that regard an FIR was registered vide LR No:2548241/2025.

was tegistered vide LR 100.249624172023.
In case if you find it at any place, please get it delivered at the Registered Office of the company situated at 3776 / 310, 311 & 312 Nimal Market, Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002.

Information is provided in this regard that the said certificate is untraceable and a statutory warming is hereby given to the general public, not to misuse it. Otherwise, civil and criminal case shall be registered against that person

> JAI KUMAR RAI (Director) DIN - 09089858 Email: akgsecurities1@gmail.com Contact No. 9717099472

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED Manishavnan

POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(1)

Whereas the Authorized officer of ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd., a (hereinaftar referred to as "MBHF") MBHF, which has duly been Authorised by the Central Government, vide a notification dated 17.06.2021, to be treated as a Financial Institution, for the purposes of the "The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, having its registered office attact and Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi- 110049, under the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 OF 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "Act") and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002 issued a Demand Notice to the following borrowers and co-borrowers to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section (4) of Section 13 of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on as per under mentioned Date. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "MBHF" and interest other charges thereon. The attention of the Borrower is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

Name & Address of Borrower/Co-Borrower: 1. Sarita W/O Ram Niwar Singh, 2. Ram Niwas Singh S/O Surhpal, 3. Ravinder Kumar, 4. Sukhpal S/O Shree Bheera, All At-House No. 194, Village Afzalpur Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201003, Also At: Horticulture Officer Assitant Department Of Foreign Languages Jamia Millia Islamia Jama Nagar (Nika) New Delibi-110025

Details of Property: Residential House Number-194, Which Is A Single Storeyed House Total Area 300 Square Yards I.E. 250.83 Square Meters, In Which Six Rooms, One Tolic And Bathroom And One Staircase Are Built, Whose Total Covered Area Is 250 Squar Yards I.E. 209.02 Square Meters, I, The First Party/Donor Dadalai, Am The Owne Occupant And Possessor Of The "Andaroon Aabadi Village Alzalpur" Pargana And Tehs Loni District Ghaziabad. Measuring 300 Sg. Yds, Means 250.83, Internal Populatio Situated At Village-Afjalpur Loni Ghaziabad, U.P., Direction Of The Said House: East Hous Sunil Kumar, West House Kishan Lal, North House Salek Chand, South-Rasta 25 Ft Wide

Date: 12.02.2025, Place: Ghaziabad Authorised Officer, ManiBhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd

Demand Notice Dated: 14.11.2024, Date of Possession: 12.02.2025

nount of Demand Notice : Rs. 14,55,724.72/- as on 04.11.2024

jailed for at least one year, or fined at least SGD 10,000.

However, Elections Department confirmed on Monday that the sentence imposed on Singh does not reach the threshold to disqualify him as an

MP. It said disqualification is based on the sentence imposed for a single offence.

In a Facebook post, Singh said that he has instructed his legal team to file a notice of appeal and to look into the written judgment in closer detail.

Fielding questions from the media at the State Courts after the sentencing, Singh said that he intends to contest the upcoming General Election which is due November this

Deputy Principal District Judge Luke Tan convicted Singh on two charges of lying in the house relating to another lying case of a fellow

former party mem-ber and MP

Raeesah Khan in

Singh, 48, was found to have given false testimony to a parliamentary committee that was looking into the conduct of former Workers' Party MP Raeesah Khan, who had admitted to making up a story about accompanying a sexual assault

2021.

victim to the police station. Singh is secretary-general of the opposition Workers' Party and was convicted on Monday. "The court must send a message on the importance of giving truthful information

when under oath," the judge said in sentencing.

Judge Luke Tan agreed with both the prosecution and the defence that a jail term was not warranted in Singh's case.

Singh was accused of willfully giving two false answers to the COP during its inquiry into Khan's case on December 10 and December 15, 2021. He was charged with falsely

testifying in two cases. On one occasion, he had said that after an August 8, 2021 meeting between him, Khan and WP leaders Sylvia Lim and Muhamad Faisal Abdul Manap, he wanted Khan to clarify that she had lied in Parliament on August 3.

On two other occasions, he had said that during a meeting with Khan on October 3, 2021, he had asked her to come clean about her lie if the issue was brought up in the House on October 4, 2021.

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi TENDER NOTICE Date: 18.02.2025

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following job from all bidders Estimated | Cost of | Due Date & Time | Date & Time **Brief Item Description** EMD (₹) Cost (₹) of Submission of Opening CMC/BR/25-26/ SUPPLY OF 200 NOS. PRECAST PLINTH IN ₹ 1.14 ₹ 2.28 10.03.2025 10.03.2025 FK/CR/SS/1250 BRPL 15:15 Hrs

Cost of each Tender Document: ₹ 1.180/-

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tende documents etc. Please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com

Head (Contracts & Materials

Known to all that my client M/s. Madina Builders through its Proprietor Mr. Rejaul Mondal owner of the THIRD FLOOR, BACK SIDE, WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, PLOT NO. 68. AND 68-A, AREA 165 SQ. YDS., KHASRA NO. 13/9/1, VILLAGE DADRI, COLONY SITA PURI, BLOCK-D, NEW DELHI and. M/s.Madina Builders through its Proprietor Mr. Rejaul Mondal purchase property from Kamlesh Vashista vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will dated 14.09.2023 Now M/s.Madina Builders through its Proprietor Mr. Rejaul Mondall

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Prakas Chander is the owner of Property Bearing No. RZ 10-A, area measuring 85 Sq. Yds., out of Khasr No. 295, Situated in the area of Village Binder Colony known as Pratap Garden, Block-A, Uttar Nagar, New Delhi through Sale Deed date 30.06.2023 as Dox No. 16958 executed by Mrs Pushpa Devi in favour of Mr. Prakash Chander I respect of Sale Property.

Notice is hereby given to the

of our society, Indian Network on Participatory Irrigation

registered under the Societies Registration Act. 1860 & Registration No. 32596 of 1998

is proposed to be changed to Indian Network on Agriculture

and Irrigation Management

(IndiaNAIM). Any person having any objection to the proposed

change may submit their

objection in writing to the

concerned authority within 7

days from the date of this notice.

If no objections are received

within the stipulated time, the name change will proceed as

Gopesh Shrivastay, General

Secretary - Indian Network on

Participatory Irrigation Management (IndiaNPIM),

Tele: 8920912961,

Email : indianpim24@gmail.com

per the legal provisions.

the

name

(IndiaNPIM)

that

public

Management

PUBLIC NOTICE

No.57-B,First Toor, Juningir Colony, real Delhi has online applied for conversion of Flat bearing No.57-B,on First Floor, under Lic category, situated at Sunlight Colony, New Delhi from lease hold to free hold in DDA vide Application ID No.DDAHCA89242780. The and person at above address/phone No 9899274422 within 15 days from the date o publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write Dy. Director (IAB) H or Director (IH)-1,D Block 3rd Floor,Vikas Sadan,INA,New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, Sudershan Nangia wife of Shri Rakesh Nangia R/o DDA LIG Flat No.57-B,First Floor,Sunlight Colony,New

Since Mrs. Monika seeking a Home Loan from Can Fin Homes Ltd. for the property i.e. Plot Area Measuring 100 Sq. Yards part of KhewatKhata No. 408-409-410, situated at Waka Siwana Mauja Farukh Nagar, Tehsil Farukh Nagar and Dist. Gurugram, Haryana; That, Mrs. Monika has made us to understand that previous owner Mrs. Pal Rala bas lost or implaced acties. Sale bist. Garugriam, ratyaria, Tinat, wirs. winowama has made us to understand that previous owner Mrs. Raj Bala has lost or misplaced earlier Sale deed no 3024 dated 18.01.2011 executed by Mrs. Savita Sharma W/o Mr. Tej Pal Sharma Through GPA Mr. Tej Pal Sharma So Mr. Shiv Kumar in favour of Mrs. Kalawati W/o Mr. Ishwar Singh somewhere, which are not traceable or cannot be found. Now, I would like to announce to eneral public that any cerson who is outled and moved forth accordingly.

M/S PASS & ASSOCIATES LLF
B-132, L.G.F, Malviya Nagai
v Delhi-110017, Mob: 9991119392

Tender Notice Reference No. PGSC/Admin/ Mobile Digita Planetarium/ 2025/01 Pushpa Gujral Science City invites online bids for the following

PUSHPA GUJRAL SCIENCE CITY Online bids are invited for Supply, Installation, Integration, Testing and Commissioning of Mobile Digital Planetarium Projection System with hardware and software packages, interfaces, tools at Pushpa G ujral Science City, Kapurthala with 3 (three) years on -site comprehensive warranty. Interested tenderers can submit online bids through https://eproc.punjab.gov. in by 10.03.2025 (1500 Hrs).

Note: PGSC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the process at any time, without any liability and assigning any reason thereof.

Closing date & time: 10.03.2025 (1500 Hrs)

will be published online

NA/12/28123/2023/41713 Dated CHD :- 2/17/2025

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

Manighaynam
**NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND EMPORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer, under the provision of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, of VarialBhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited having its Registered Office at 2nd Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-1, New Delhi-110049, (hereinafter referred to as "MBHF"), which has duly been Authorised by the Central Government, vide a notification dated 17.06.2021, to be treated as a inancial Institution, for the purposes of the "The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Issets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, hereby issue you the following notice:

1. Mrs. Rameshwari WO Mr. Kishan Pal, 2. Mr. Deepak Pal S/O Mr. Kishan Pal, 3. Mr. Kishan Pal S/O Mr. Nirotan, All At - Village Sainthly, Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar, Dadri, Chholas, Uttar Pradesh-203207. Also At: H. No. 17, Sainthali, Village Saithali, Distf. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-203207. Also At: India Yamaha Motor Pvt Ltd, Village Sainthly, Dadri Chholas, Gautam Budh Nagar-203207. Loan A/c Numbers/Date: LP0000000010016 / 31.03.2024,Loan Amount Availed: Rs

3,00,000/- , Date of 13(2) Notice : 28.01.2025, NPA Date : 09.Jan.2025 mand Date and Amount as Per Sec. 13(2) Act. Notice: Rs. 9,44,661.57/- as on 23.01.2025

Mortgage Properties: All Piece And Parcel Freehold Residential House Situated In Andar Purani Abadi Village Sainthli Pargana And Tehsil Dadri District Gautam Buddh Nagar, From Khasra No. 542dh Of Andar Abadi, The Donated Area Of 200 Sq. Yard LE. 167.22 Sq. Meter Out Of Which Total Covered Area Is 40 Sq. Yard I.E. 33.44 Sq. Meter Which Is Gutter Plate Second Class Construction And Rest Of The Area Is Vacant, And The Same Is Bounded Under:- East-Plot Rohtash, West-The Path Is 10 Feet Wide, North - Plot Pitam, South Plot Sonu.

Concert- Last-Plot Kohtash, West-The Path Is 10 Feet Wide, North - Plot Pitam, South Plot Sonufurther with reasons, we believe that you are evading the service of demand notice, hence this
publication of demand notice. You are hereby called upon to pay MANIBHAVNAM HOME
FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED within a period of 60 days of date of publication of this
demand notice the aforesaid amount alongwith further interest, cost, incidental expenses,
charges etc., failing which MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED will take
necessary action under all or any of the provision of Sec. 13(4) of the said Act against all or any
one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of this secured assets of the
borrower/s. Further you are prohibited U/S 13(13) of the said Act from transferring either by
way of sale/lease or in any other way the aforesaid secured assets.Please note that no further
demand notice will be issued.

Date - 18.02.2025, Place - GBN Authorized officer, MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

Sivasagar district

School under Gaurisagar block and PM-Shri Banmukh HS School under Sivasagar block in

Cont.....

Online mode of submission for both technical and financial bid is mandatory.

- There are 20 groups and one bidder can participate in more than one group. But no bidder will be awarded more than 2 groups of work, even if their financial bids rank at L1.
- A hard copy of the technical bid submitted online is also to be submitted at the office of the undersigned on or before 11-03-2025 upto 14:00 hours for evaluation purpose. For any discrepancy between the online bid and the hard copy of the bid, the online bid will govern and will be considered for evaluation.
- Along-with the hard copy of the technical bid, the following documents must also be submitted on or before 11-03-2025 up to 1400 hrs:a. Original Power of Attorney for signing the bid, if any,
- b. Copy of bid security/ EMD submitted online at www.assamtenders.gov.in.
 - c. Copy of tender fee submitted online at www.assamtenders.gov.in,
- 5. Bidders are advised to scan their original technical papers at a resolution of 100 dpi (in colour mode) in ".pdf' format for multiple pages with maximum file size of 25 MB. If the file size exceeds 25 MB, the bidders are advised to create multiple files and upload the same in "Upload Additional Document* stage.
- In the event of date of bid opening being a holiday, the activities will take place on the next working day.
- All the interested bidders are requested to read the bid document carefully before submission of their bid.

Janasanyog/CF/3674/24/18-Feb-25

Mission Director Samagra Shiksha, Assam Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

🔃 समग्र शिवा Samagra Shiksha

Profit booking leading FIIs to sell Indian equities: FM

Seeking to assuage concerns over Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) selling Indian equities lately, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday attributed the action to profit booking.

Speaking to reporters in the financial capital, Sitharaman said the Indian economy is one where the investors are bagging better returns which leads to profit booking.

FIIs also go out when they are able to or in a position to book profits. Indian market today, Indian economy today, has an environment investments are also yielding good returns and profit booking is also happening," she

It can be noted that FIIs have sold over ₹1.56 Lakh Crore of stocks since October last year, including nearly ₹1 Lakh Crore



sharp correction on the indices Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey said FIIs are not moving from one emerging market to other, and added that

like the one being witnessed and wiping out investor wealth. right now, they tend to go back to the country of origin, which is mostly the US.

He also hinted that these shifts may be temporary, and added

in 2025 itself, which has led to a in times of global uncertainties that Indian markets are resilient. Explaining that apart from demand-supply issues, growth prospects also influence investor behavior, Pandey said India remains the fastest growing large economy and

that the recently announced Budget has a slew of growth-oriented measures. have faced global headwinds in the past, and will continue to face them. But I think India is in a strong position to handle it," he added. Ajay Seth, Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, dismissed any idea of a government interference in the market because of the heavy sell-offs, stating that such a move can be carried out only if there is any evidence of market failure, which is not the case at present. Seth said equities do not

function on government policies alone, and added that foreign investors go to developed or bigger markets in periods of uncertainties. . He said that while India has

shown resilience when it comes to world events in parts, it is not fully de-coupled either.

Experts intrigued by inclusion of electoral bonds in Income Tax Bill

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 E^{xperts} are intrigued by the new Income Tax Bill, 2025 retaining provisions related to electoral bonds, which were rendered unconstitutional by the Supreme Court last year, saying it could be because of legislative oversight or the government's intention to bring it back in some other

Electoral bonds have been mentioned in the new Income Tax Bill's Schedule VIII which deals with 'Income not to be included in the total income of political parties and electoral trusts'. In a judgement passed on February 15 last year, the Supreme Court had scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme of anonymous political funding, calling it "unconstitutional" as it was 'violative" of the right to freedom of speech and expression and right to Under the existing Income Tax Act, 1961, donations received from companies and individuals through electoral bonds are exempt in the hands of political parties.

The government has brought in a new Income Tax Bill to replace the 64-year old I-T Act. The 622-page Bill is a simplified version of the existing Act which has become complicated over the years because of over 4,000 amendments.

About the electoral bond related provisions in the new I-T Bill, AMRG and associates senior partner Rajat Mohan said the mention of electoral bond provisions in the new Income Tax Bill could be because of a legislative oversight, or a deliberate move to keep the door open for a modified version of the scheme in the future. "While the Supreme Court

had strong and justified grounds for striking down

highlighted can be addressed through structured dialogue and expert consultations. The government still retains the legislative authority to reintroduce a donation political framework, provided it aligns with constitutional principles and ensures transparency in electoral funding," he said.

the scheme, the concerns it

Mohan said mentioning of the electoral bond in the new Bill may be a strategic decision by policymakers to leave room for future electoral financing reforms. Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas and Co Partner Rohit Garg said the changes in the new income tax bill are merely structural in nature. There have been no major changes in the substantive provisions and the charging sections. Every provision which was not rendered obsolete has been

carried forward into the new

IPO-bound NSDL profit jumps 30 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National Depository Securities Limited (NSDL) on Monday reported a 30 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹85.8 Crore for three months ended December 2024.

The depository registered ₹66.09 Crore profit in the year-ago period.

The total income rose 16.2 per cent to ₹391.21 Crore in the October-December quarter of the current financial year (FY25) against ₹336.67 Crore in the same quarter preceding fiscal, NSDL said in a statement

For the nine months ended December 2024, NSDL posted a 32.6 per cent year-on-year growth in net profit to ₹259.82 Crore and a 13.3 per cent yearon-year increase in total

income to ₹1,141.4 Crore. NSDL is India's first securities depository to reach ₹500 Lakh Crore (\$6 Trillion) in value of assets held in custody in September 2024

In October, NSDL received markets regulator Sebi's goahead to launch an initial

public offering (IPO). The proposed IPO is complete offer for sale (OFS) of more than 5.72 Crore equity shares by shareholders, including National Stock Exchange of India (NSE), State Bank of India (SBI), and HDFC Bank, as per the draft herring prospectus

Since the public issue is completely an OFS, NSDL will not receive any proceeds from

NSDL is a SEBI-registered market infrastructure institution offering a wide range of products and services to the financial and securities markets in India. Following the introduction of the Depositories Act in 1996, NSDL pioneered the dematerialisation of securities in India in November 1996. This will become the country's second publicly traded depository to list on the after bourse, Central Depository Services (CDSL), which got listed on NSE in 2017.

Udaan secures \$75 million in funding round

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $O_{\text{business}}^{\text{nline}}$ business-toplatform Udaan has closed a Series G equity funding round of \$75 Million, led by M and G Plc, according to people in the know.

Company Co-Founder and CEO Vaibhav Gupta announced the round's closure to employees on Monday, and mentioned that the company is in advanced discussions to close an additional equity round of \$25 Million from potential investors in the "coming guarter".

The Series G funding round, led by M and G Plc and supported by existing investors like Lightspeed existing Venture Partners, comes after a \$340 Million fundraise in December 2023. A query to the company did not elicit any response till the filing of this story. Udaan intends to use the

newly acquired capital to improve customer experience, expand market reach, strengthen partnerships with vendors, and bolster long-term capabilities in supply chain



and credit, sources said. Last month, The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) gave a green light the sources said. Founded in 2016, Udaan for Udaan to merge its multiple business entities into one - Hiveloop

The unification of its business under a single umbrella strengthens Udaan's operating model as it prepares for a potential IPO in 2026.

Ecommerce Pvt Ltd.

The company is on track to achieving profitability, with

a 65 per cent revenue growth and over 70 per cent increase in daily transacting buyers,

enables technology-based supply chain and logistics operations, focusing on B2B trade.

It operates across diverse categories, including FMCG, staples, fruits and vegetables, and pharma. It claims to hold about 70

per cent market share in India.

Airtel completes landing of SEA-ME-WE-6 submarine cable

PTI NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel on Monday said it has completed the landing of the new Southeast Asia-Middle East-West Europe-6 or SMW6 (SEA-ME-WE 6) submarine cable system

The company recently landed the SEA-ME-WE 6 cable in Mumbai on December 30,

"The cable landing, both in Mumbai and Chennai, will be fully integrated with Airtel's data centre arm, Nxtra by Airtel, at its large facilities in the respective cities with an aim to enable global hyperscalers and businesses in the country to seamlessly international access connectivity and data centre services," Bharti Airtel said in a release.

These cable landings were completed by SubCom, a leading supplier of subsea fibre optic cable data systems responsible for engineering, manufacture and installation of SEA-ME-WE-6. Cable landing stations connect submarine cable systems with land-based networks. According to the release, the

21,700 route kilometres (Rkm) submarine cable system connects India to Singapore and France (Marseille) crossing Egypt through terrestrial cables.

With this, Airtel has further enhanced its network presence with diversified capacity in the submarine cable system, globally.

Sharat Sinha, Director and CEO of Airtel Business, said this new investment and milestone would further improve the company's secure, diverse and scalable global network. "We are delighted to further

strengthen our global connectivity by landing one of strengthen the largest cable systems into facilities. complements our existing strength network 400,000Rkms across countries," Sinha said, adding that the move underlines Bharti Airtel's commitment to Digital address India's growing demand for global connectivity and data with

additional routes, diversity

and capacity.
As a key member of the consortium of the SEA-ME-

WE-6 cable system, Airtel has invested in the core cable and has additionally co-built a private network of four Fiber Pairs between Singapore, Chennai and Mumbai. This cable system will bring a whopping 220 terabits per second (TBPs) of global capacity to India. Airtel's global network spans

five continents. The company has investments in 34 cables globally with some of the recent ones, including two Africa, Southeast Asia-Japan Cable 2 (SJC2) and Equiano. Apart from these cables that connect India to key regions like Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East and US, Airtel's investments also include large cable systems like i2i Cable

global subsea Network (i2icn), Europe India Gateway (EIG), IMEWE, SEA-ME-WÉ-4, AAG, Unity, Gulf EASSy, Bridge International (GBI) and Middle East North Africa Submarine Cable (MENA

Rupee falls 16 paise against USD | Sensex, Nifty eke out gains in volatile session

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 16 paise Leto close at 86.87 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, weighed down by significant foreign fund outflows and a recovery in the US dollar index from intraday lows.

Forex traders said the Indian rupee is trading with a negative bias as foreign banks went on a dollar-buying spree and importers scrambled to secure dollars, as they feared further depreciation amid global uncertainty. At the interbank foreign exchange,

the rupee opened at 86.70 and touched the high of 86.68 against the greenback during intraday. It also touched the low of 86.88 before ending the session at 86.87 (provisional) against the dollar, logging a loss of 16 paise from its previous

On Friday, the rupee extended its recovery and settled 21 paise higher at 86.71 against the US dollar.

"Indian rupee declined today on a weak tone in the domestic markets and a recovery in the US dollar index from intraday lows. However, weak tone in crude oil prices and a decline in US



said Anuj Choudhary - research analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

Traders may take cues from speeches by Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) members.

"We expect the rupee to trade with negative bias amid weakness in the domestic equities and FII outflows. Overall strength in the US dollar may also

weigh on the rupee. However, any further decline in the US treasury yields or any further intervention by the RBI may support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.14 per cent higher at 106.85.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.12 per cent to USD 74.83 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 57.65 points, or 0.08 per cent, to settle at 75,996.86, while the Nifty rose 30.25 points, or 0.13 per cent, to 22,959.50 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,294.69 Crore in the capital

markets on a net basis on Friday, according to exchange data.

Meanwhile, India's forex reserves jumped by \$7.654 Billion to \$638.261 Billion in the week ended February 7, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

This is the third consecutive week of a jump in the kitty, which had increased by \$1.05 Billion to \$630.607 Billion for the week ended January 31.

PTI MUMBAI

Stock markets snapped the eight-day losing run in a volatile session on Monday with benchmark Sensex closing higher by 57 points on the back of value buying in blue-chip stocks HDFC Bank and Reliance Industries

Helped by fag-end buying, the 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 57.65 points or 0.08 per cent to settle at 75,996.86. During the day, the barometer tanked 644.45 points or 0.84 per cent to 75,294.76.

The NSE Nifty rebounded 30.25 points or 0.13 per cent to 22,959.50. Reports that the US and India will meet soon to decide on broad contours of a trade agreement for reducing tariffs supported buying in metal, pharma and financial shares, analysts said.

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, Bajaj Finsery, Power Grid, IndusInd Bank, Adani Ports, UltraTech Cement, HDFC Bank, Zomato and Tata Motors were among the major gainers. Mahindra and Mahindra,



Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys, ICICI Bank, and ITC were the biggest laggards.

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) offloaded equities worth ₹4,294.69 Crore on Friday, according to exchange data. The total outflow by FPIs has reached ₹99,299 Crore - near ₹1

Lakh Crore - in 2025 so far, data with the depositories showed. FPIs pulled out ₹21,272 Crore in the first two weeks of this month, driven by global

tensions after the US imposed tariffs on imports. This came following a net outflow of ₹78,027 Crore in January.

"Markets eked out modest gains in late recovery in a highly volatile trade, but most importantly it managed to halt the eight-session losing streak. "Positive Asian and European indices aided sentiment, while gains in select banking, oil and gas, metal and power stocks helped local benchmarks recover from their early lows,"

IL&FS Group initiates ₹5,000

Crore interim payout to creditors

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd,

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.51 per cent, while smallcap index declined 0.56 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, healthcare jumped 1.14 per cent. energy (0.89 per cent) cent, energy (0.89 per cent), services (0.82 per cent), metal (0.76 per cent), power (0.75 per cent), oil and gas (0.74 per cent).Consumer Discretionary,

industrials, telecommunication, auto, teck and BSE Focused IT were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled in the positive territory while Hong Kong ended lower.

European markets were trading higher. US markets ended mostly lower on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent higher at USD 74.90 a barrel. The BSE benchmark dropped 199.76 points or 0.26 per cent to settle at 75,939.21 on Friday The Nifty declined 102.15 points or 0.44 per cent to 22,929.25.

Bajaj Consumer Care to acquire Vishal Personal Care

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Care Limited will acquire}}^{\text{MCG firm Bajaj Consumer}}$ rival Vishal Personal Care, which owns hair and skin care brand Banjara's, at an enterprise value of ₹108.3 Crore to deepen its penetration in the South Indian market

The board of Bajaj Consumer Care Ltd (BCCL), which operates in the personal care space and owns the Bajaj Almond Drops brand, in its meeting held last Friday, approved the acquisition 100 per cent stake in Vishal Personal Care in two tranches a 49 per cent in the first followed by remaining 51 per cent in the second tranche. "The estimated transaction

value stands at ₹120 Crore, with enterprise value of approximately ₹108.3 Crore," BCCL said in a statement. This move aligns with BCCL's vision to expand its footprint across Indian markets, leveraging the growing demand for natural and Ayurvedic personal care products, it added Banjara's, founded in 1991 in

Hyderabad, has a diversified product portfolio, including facial kits, herbal powders, aloe vera gels, shampoos, and hair care powders. Its products have a retail presence of over 70,000 outlets across the five South markets through Indian cosmetics stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, and grocery chains. "With the acquisition of Vishal Personal Care, BCCL range for further expansion."

will be leveraging Vishal's extensive distribution network to deepen their penetration in South India," BCCL said, adding that it "will also introduce brand Banjara's products in its stronghold Hindi-speaking markets (HSM), effectively doubling its reach in both the regions.' BCCL Managing Director Jaideep Nandi

'Acquisition of Vishal Personal Care Pvt Ltd is a strategic step in strengthening BCCL's in strengthening footprint in the five southern markets. The addition of Banjara's to our portfolio enhances our ability to serve the evolving consumers across India, while complementing our product

insurance limit above ₹5 Lakh

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The government is "actively considering" raising the deposit insurance limit beyond the current ₹5 Lakh, a top finance ministry official said on Monday.

Days after the New India Cooperative Bank scam came to light, Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju announced that such a proposal is in the works. "The point about increasing

insurance. That is under active

consideration. As and when the

government approves, we will

notify it," he said at a press

conference in the presence of

Sitharaman. He, however, declined to speak

Centre considering raising deposit

on the crisis at New India Cooperative Bank, saying the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is seized of the matter. A deposit insurance claim gets

triggered when a lender goes down, and over the years, the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has paid out such claims. The body collects premiums from banks for the cover it offers, and a majority of the claims have had to be done in case of cooperative lenders.

It can be noted that following

the PMC Bank scam, the

Finance Minister Nirmala DICGC insured limit was raised to ₹5 Lakh from ₹1 Lakh

Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth said the cooperative banking sector is well regulated under the RBI's watch and termed the overall health of the

sector as strong. A crisis at one entity should not lead anybody to cast doubts on the overall sector, he added, pointing out that it is the job of the regulator to take actions against errant entities.

As per reports, 90 per cent of India Co-Operative Bank's 1.3 Lakh depositors will have their entire sums covered under the DICGC. distribution of ₹5,000 Crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The IL&FS Group on Monday said the company has initiated ₹5,000 Crore interim payout to eligible creditors as part of ongoing resolution mandate.

Post this payout, the company said that the aggregate debt discharged will stand at approximately ₹43,000 Crore, which is over 70 per cent of the estimated total debt resolution target pegged at ₹61,000 Crore. "IL&FS Group companies have initiated an interim

Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) units and ₹1,500 Crore in cash to eligible creditors as part of the Group's ongoing resolution efforts," the statement said. The interim distribution is largely being initiated by

Crore

₹3,500

three holding companies Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS), IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), and Transportation Networks (ITNL) - that collectively hold the majority of the Group's debt and nests large creditors and public funds.

Liverpool continues its charge with a 2-1 win against Wolverhampton

iverpool continued its charge toward the Premier League ✓title with a 2-1 win against Wolverhampton. For Manchester United, it just keeps getting worse after a 1-0 loss at Tottenham.

The fortunes of England's two most successful teams could hardly be more contrasting. Victory for Liverpool saw the club

restore its seven-point lead over Arsenal at the top of the table and move ever closer to equaling Man United's record haul of 20 league

United, meanwhile, lost for the 12th time in the league this season and is 15th in the standings after James Maddison's first-half strike for Spurs.

It is turning out to be another miserable campaign for the club that dominated English soccer under former manager Alex Ferguson. That is a distant memory now, with United's wait to end its title drought set to extend to 12 years this season.

United has not been champion since Ferguson's final campaign in 2013. Ruben Amorim is the sixth permanent coach since then to be charged with the responsibility of restoring its supremacy, but his There could yet be a fourth

early tenure has been fraught with

I am not worried. I understand our fans, what the media think about it. I hate to lose, that feeling is the worst," Amorim said. "I am here to help my players. I understand my situation, my job, I am confident on my work and I just want to win games. The place in the table is my worry, I am not worried about me."
CLASH OF CLUBS IN CRISIS

This was Amorim's ninth defeat in 21 games in all competitions since taking over in November. He has only overseen four league wins in that time.

He already claimed in January that this could be the worst United team in the club's storied history and there is little sign of improvement.

Against a Spurs team that is also struggling in the wrong half of the table, Maddison's goal in the 13th minute at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was enough to settle this clash of clubs in crisis. Some Tottenham fans are so dismayed by the state of their club that they staged a pre-match protest against chairman Daniel Levy. But this was the third time their team had beaten United this season.



encounter if both teams continue to advance in the Europa League. But the Premier League is Amorim's primary concern right now — even if a relegation fight remains unlikely. Despite being just three places above the drop zone, United is 12 points above the

That is little to shout about with and Mohamed Salah secured the United eight points off the top

NERVOUS LIVERPOOL

Liverpool had to withstand a fightback from Wolves, which included a brilliant long-range goal from Matheus Cunha. know that can be one of the most dangerous results in football. We goal from Matheus Cunha.

win for Arne Slot's team, but an unconvincing performance after the break saw the home team fail to register a single shot on target as Wolves dominated the chances. "Obviously 2-0 at halftime, we

had to come out and we had to start well – and we didn't quite do that," said Liverpool defender Andrew Robertson. "When they scored, everyone gets nervous. The players get nervous, the crowd get nervous - of course that's only natural. But it's a massive win for us and another game down."
Diaz bundled the ball over the line

from close range in the 15th minute to give Liverpool the lead. And Salah doubled the advantage from the penalty spot in the 37th after Diaz was brought down.

It was the Egypt international's 28th goal of an outstanding season and extended his current scoring streak to six straight games.

But if the home crowd was expecting a routine victory against 17th-placed Wolves, it was anything but.
Liverpool conceded a goal in

stoppage time to draw 2-2 with Everton on Wednesday and was pushed again.

Cunha's drag-back and curled finish from around 20 yards (meters) in the 67th came after a sustained period of pressure from the visitors.

Before that Marshall Munetsi was denied when through on goal — it took a crucial block in front of goal from Jarell Quansah to prevent

"In a season where you want to achieve something, you need to have wins like this as well," Slot

INJURY CRISIS

United named eight teenagers on the bench who had never played a senior game for the club following an injury crisis at Old Trafford. Amad Diallo is likely to miss the rest of the season with an ankle injury and Lisandro Martinez has already been ruled out with cruciate ligament damage

Amorim was also without Leny Yoro, Kobbie Mainoo, Manuel Ugarte and Toby Collyer through injury or illness at Spurs.

It meant the United coach waited until the first minute of time added on to make a substitution replacing Casemiro for debutant Chido Obi.

FANS PROTEST

Tottenham fans protested outside the stadium before kickoff, calling for chairman Daniel Levy and

owner ENIC to go.
Giant banners read "Profits before glory" and "We want our club back" as supporters let their feelings be known.

The protest was organised by a fans' group called "Change for Tottenham".

Frankfurt beats Kiel 3-1

 $E_{\text{snapped its run of three}}^{\text{intracht}}$ Frankfurt draws and consolidated third place in the Bundesliga with a

3-1 win over relegation-threatened Holstein Kiel. Hugo Ekitiké saw a penalty saved and had a late goal ruled out for offside, but others stepped up to score the goals that showed Frankfurt can live without Egypt forward Omar Marmoush. Marmoush, Frankfurt's top-scorer with 15 league goals

this season, joined Manchester City for a reported 70 million euros (\$73 million) during the winter transfer period and scored a hat trick for his new scored a hat trick for his new team on Saturday.

"We sent an extremely young team onto the field, one that played with confidence, composure and maturity," Frankfurt coach Toppmöller said.

"We've finally won again and now gone seven league games in a row without defeat," he said. "The table looks nice, but there are still many games to play. We have to stay confident."

Toppmöller's team moved five points clear of fourth-placed



Leipzig, which occupies the last place for Champions League qualification after 22 of 34 rounds.

Goal gift

Hugo Larsson broke the deadlock with his knee in the 18th minute, and Brazilian defender Tuta was left free at the back post to score Frankfurt's second in the 37th after Kiel failed to deal with a Ekitiké had the chance to

make it 3-0 before the break but Thomas Dähne dived the right way to push away the French forward's penalty. Frankfurt was later gifted the third goal anyway. Can Uzun Hoffenheim came fre gratefully took David Zec's behind to win 3-1 at Were botched backpass to score his Bremen in the early game.

fourth goal of the season in the 59th

Kiel's Finn Porath scored at the third attempt in the 73rd after Kevin Trapp saved his first two efforts but it wasn't enough to stop Kiel dropping to last place after this round of games. Bochum climbed off the bottom by defeating Borussia Dortmund 2-0 on Saturday.

Kiel could take some solace from Heidenheim's 2-0 loss at home to Mainz in Sunday's late game. Heidenheim stayed on 14 points, ahead of Bochum on goal difference, and just a point above Kiel. Hoffenheim came from behind to win 3-1 at Werder

Tejas Dhingra retains Show Jumping title

PNS NEW DELHI

Tejas Dhingra Defends National Championship Title at NEC Show Jumping 2024-25Tejas Dhingra of Beeya's Riding Facility successfully defended his National Championship title at the National Equestrian Championship (Show Championship (Show Jumping) 2024-25, held at Modi Equestrian Academy in Meerut on Sunday. The reigning champion secured victory in the Championship victory in the Championship Tour with 16 points, finishing ahead of joint runners-up Amar Sarin from Tarc Equestrian Centre and Ashray Butta of EGC Stables. Meanwhile, Yashaan Zubin

Khambatta of Equestrian Centre achieved remarkable double a remarkable double triumph, dominating both the Novice and Medium Tours. In the Medium Tour, Sehaj Singh Virk and Abhishek Chopra shared second place, while in the Novice Tour, Narayan Singh secured the runner-up secured the runner-up position, joining Yashaan on the podium after the latter impressively claimed the top



Saturday, Preliminary Tour Individual Final saw Avik Bhatia of Modi Equestrian Stables clinch the gold medal with a flawless performance and a time of 31.02 seconds. Major Ritika Dahiya of Team ASC delivered a strong showing to secure second place, while Dushyant Nagar finished third.

A standout moment of the competition was the performance of 13-year-old Sravya Vohra, the youngest participant. She impressed with her composure and skill, finishing fifth overall. In recognition of her remarkable effort, the Modi Equestrian Academy and the Equestrian Federation of India awarded her a Special Appreciation Prize.

Indian women aims to return to winning ways against Spain

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Indian women's hockey team will be eager to get back to winning ways when it faces a confident Spain in the doubleheader

After a promising start with a thrilling 3-2 victory over England in their opener, the India narrowly missed out on a bonus point in their second game, losing 2-1 in a dramatic shootout after the match ended 2-2 in regulation time. Despite showing resilience, India currently sit in eighth place in the standings with four points from two games and will be looking to climb higher in the points table as they face a confident Spanish side on Tuesday and Wednesday.

India's performance against England offered glimpses of their potential, particularly in penalty corner conversions, where they scored twice from three attempts in their opening match. However, they failed to replicate that success in the second game, unable to convert any of their



three penalty corners. 'Spain is a tricky team, and we know it's going to be a challenging contest. However, we are ready for the challenge," India captain India captain Salima Tete said. 'We've analysed

performances against England and identified the areas where we need to improve, especially in converting penalty corners. We are focused on tightening our defense and making the of our scoring most opportunities."

Spain, on the other hand, arrives on the back of two consecutive victories against

They secured back-to-back 2wins over the Germans, boosting their confidence. Despite their strong recent performances, Spain has had a mixed run overall, with just two wins and one shootout

victory in six games. Currently placed fourth in the points table with eight points, Spain will be looking to further consolidate their position. Patricia Alvarez has been their standout player, scoring twice to lead the team's goal tally.

Match starts 5:15 PM on
Tuesday and 7:30 PM on

Wednesday.

Leonard wins Chubb Classic for first PGA Tour Champions victory

ustin Leonard won the Chubb Classic for his first PGA Tour Champions victory, overcoming a slow start with a back-nine charge on Tiburon's Black Course. Leonard birdied five of the last seven holes for a 4-under 68 and a four-stroke victory over Billy Andrade. The 52year-old Texan won in his 45th start on the 50-andover tour, his first victory since the last of his 12 PGA Tour titles in the 2008 St. Jude Championship.

"It's been a long time since I've won, and I tell myself all the time that I have won." Leonard said, fighting back tears on the 18th green. "But it's easy to kind of forget a little bit, and say, 'Well, you know, is it going to be?

"I just put a lot of work in. ... I mean, last year was so bad it was good. It was good for me. Made some changes with my golf swing. ... It's just so fun to finally be here because I always felt like I would be. But it's nice to finally get it

After a bogey on 10 dropped him to 1 over for the day, Leonard scrambled for a key par on the 11th, then birdied the next three. He scrambled again for par on the par-3 16th, then got a

30-footer to catch the right edge for birdie on the par-4 17th and got up-and-down from a greenside bunker on the par-5 18th for one last

"I just kept telling myself that I was still in it," Leonard said. "I felt like my best golf was ahead of me. I played



OK the first 10 holes. Eleven, the end of it was good, but it just wasn't my best golf. I kept telling myself to just own the last seven holes. Once I got a little bit of momentum I felt like I could

Leonard finished at 15under 201. He shot 65 on

Saturday to take a one-stroke lead and set himself up for the breakthrough victory in his return to competitive golf after a long run as a television analyst.

Leonard has starred at all

levels, winning the 1992 U.S. Amateur and 1994 NCAA title for Texas to cap his

amateur career, then taking the 1997 British Open at

the 1997 British Open at Royal Troon and making the winning putt in the 1999 Ryder Cup at Brookline. "I didn't think about anything in particular today, but just knowing I've been there," Leonard said. "Even though it might have been 10, 20, 30 years ago, I've been able to do it before." able to do it before."

Andrade also shot 68. Darren Clarke was third at 10 under, also shooting 68. Fred Couples had a 66 to tie for fourth at 9 under with Richard Green (68), Heath Slocum (70) and Paul Stankowski (71).

Ernie Els, a stroke behind Leonard entering the day, shot a 75 to finish 11th at 7 under. Bernhard Langer closed with a 70 to tie for 12th at 6 under.

India look to continue winning momentum against German hockey

PTI BHUBANESWAR

Their campaign back on track after a jittery start, India will look to continue the winning momentum when they take on Paris Olympics silver medallist Germany in their next men's FIH Pro League match on Tuesday. India had a woeful start to their home leg matches of the Pro League, losing 1-3 to

Spain in their opener. But the hosts bounced back strongly to tame Spain 2-0 in the return match on Sunday.

With three points from two games, India are currently sitting in eighth place in the standings and will be desperate to climb up the table. After a relatively off day

on Saturday, the Indians star performer Jugraj Singh looked a completely different side on Sunday, dominating for most part of the match and scoring two field goals through Mandeep Singh (32nd minute) and Dilpreet Singh (39th) to pocket all

three points. While the strikers shone bright in the second game, India's chief coach Craig Fulton would be a bit concerned about penalty corner conversions.

Despite winning seven penalty corners across their two games, India failed to convert a single chance. In the absence of India captain Harmanpreet Singh,

who was rested for the second

match, Hockey India League

cut a sorry figure from set pieces. The forwardline comprising Dilpreet , Mandeep and Sukhjeet Singh have each netted a goal for India so far in the team and will be

in the tournament and will be looking to add to their tally against Germany. The Indian defence produced a much-better display in the second game, and were able

to absorb pressure from the Spanish strikers. Germany, who will be playing their first match of the India leg, are placed just above

India in seventh place with four points from as many and will be games determined to turn their fortunes around

Cricket fever grips Pakistan ahead of Champions Trophy

PTI KARACHI

ricket fever has gripped Pakistan Champions Trophy unfolds with fans eagerly waiting for the action to begin here on Wednesday and businesses related to the game too picking up before the tournament opener between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand.

However, many in the country are disappointed that India are not playing their matches in Pakistan.

"It is disappointing because generally there is so much admiration for the Indian team and players, especially Virat Kohli, in our country," shopkeeper Moiz Ahmed said

at the famous Zainab Market in the heart of Karachi's bustling Saddar area. Moiz is surprised at the demand for the Indian shirts among the cricket fans along with the Pakistan team.

'Virat Kohli definitely has a big fan following in Pakistan," he said as youngsters mingled in the shop choosing different team shirts.

Kashif, a college student, said he had always admired Kohli as a player and also because of his humility. 'He is so down to earth in his

behaviour from what we see in the media," he said. in Zainab Shopkeepers market, which is famous for selling original licenses and at copies of the team shirts whenever a big cricket or football event happens, are

clearly happy that the Champions Trophy is being held in Pakistan. "I have sold nearly 4 to 5000 shirts in the last three days of the Pakistan and Indian teams," Javed Pakhali, a tournament.

shopkeeper, said.

Even in the enclosures during matches fans are not shy to wear or display pictures of Kohli and wear shirts with his name printed on them.

The Champions Trophy fever is also evident when one visits the match venue, National Stadium, as many fans are moving around the main gate to catch a glimpse of their favourite players as they come and go from the stadium.

On Monday, with the Pakistan team having a practice session the stadium's high performance centre, fans clamoured to see them in action. sales online and Ticket

Pakistan team to do well in the

winning the demand for will keep through booths have also increasing," he said. The fact that a ICC event is picked up according to a Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) being held in Pakistan with some matches in Karachi is official who now just wants the

"I am sure if the team keeps on up around the city announcing

evident from the

colourful banners, posters put

the staging of the event. It is after 29 years that Pakistan is holding a proper multi team event although it hosted some matches of the Asia Cup in 2023 but the excitement didn't reach the levels being

witnessed now.

Although the PCB and ICC held a low-key opening ceremony, without the teams at the Lahore Fort on Sunday night, in Karachi clearly the tempo is growing.

Former captain Javed Miandad praised the PCB for bringing the ICC event to Pakistan "I think the next few weeks are

a celebration of the passion for cricket we have as a nation," Miandad said. Miandad said that it is after a

long time cricket fans will get to see top international players in action in their backyard. PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi also said at the opening ceremony that the tournament was a platform for Pakistan to showcase its hospitality and love for

For 10 years, no top team Naqvi also said they would be visited Pakistan after the trying to get more ICC events

militant attack on the Sri Lankan team bus in Lahore in March 2009 Pace great Waqar Younis said

having the Champions Trophy in the country was a big step forward for Pakistan cricket. "I think it means a lot to everyone that we have shown how resilient we were as a cricket nation and how much our people love cricket even when for 10 years no top team played in Pakistan."

Waqar, also a former captain and who was head coach when Pakistan were their home matches in UAE, said there was a big difference between playing at home and your home series in UAE.
"I think this Champions

Trophy will only increase the cricket passion and talent in the country," he added.

in Pakistan.

He said, hopefully, Pakistan would also host the women's World Cup qualifiers later this security for the

tournament is unprecedented and with Naqvi himself heading the federal interior ministry, no chances are being taken for the visiting teams. Senior police official SSP Muqadas Haider said that the PCB and security agencies had planned things in such a way that visiting players also got a chance to go out and see

Pakistan play New Zealand in the tournament opener and everyone expects a full house despite the ticket prices being on the higher side.

The provincial government has also declared a public holiday on Wednesday for a religious festival.

India hope for Shami's wrist magic to reclaim Champions Trophy

PTI ■ BENGALURU

ohammed Shami's right hand has more sleight than a magician. A simple cock of his wrist can outfox the best batters in the world. But can he unlock the sorcery and help India reclaim the ICC Champions Trophy (CT) after 12 years?

The fans will certainly expect Shami to hit his strides straightaway in the marquee event because India's primary strike weapon Jasprit Bumrah has been ruled out due to an injury.

But there are multiple concerns as well about Shami's readiness for an event of this magnitude. India start Champions Trophy campaign on February 20 against Bangladesh in Dubai.

The 34-year-old is coming back from an injury. Even though he has played a few matches at various levels and formats since his re-entry into cricket late last year, delivering in a high-pressure tournament is an altogether different proposition.

Another reason for the trepidation surrounding Shami is the absence of Bumrah, his trusted ally in the last six years or so at the other end. In the Champions Trophy, Shami

is all set to partner Arshdeep Singh. But for all his skills and promise, Arshdeep is not yet at Bumrah's level.

So, can Shami drag the train forward all by himself?

Former India pacer Laxmipathy Balaji found no reason to believe otherwise.

"Actually, he had out-bowled Bumrah in the 2019 (50-over World Cup) and in the last World Cup (2023). Bumrah is the champion bowler across formats. But Shami has experience and, before Bumrah's arrival, it was Shami who carried India's attack all through," Balaji, now a reputed pace bowling coach, said.

Bumrah's unavailability makes it imperative for Shami to strike upfront consistently. underlined that factor.

"I think it's very important. If India has to do well, then Shami has to come good with the new ball. The kind of impact he can make in his first six overs with the new ball, it will play a crucial role for India.

"Old ball is anyway... It is a defensive game now. If he can make early inroads regularly that will give a huge booster to India,



But can he find his optimal and ideal running speed, because Shami's effectiveness totally depends on his rhythm.

Balaji thought it was not a task

"Since that (ankle) injury has happened, there was a little bit of slowness, maybe. It's natural. But there is nothing you can do about it. It's part of any sportsperson's

"He has the experience to get over it and he will do it as he bowls more. It's just about accepting the (physical) condition and continuing his best practices," he

However, Shami's duty will not be just restricted to taking wickets, as the senior bowler will also have to guide understudies like Arshdeep and Harshit Rana during the course of the Champions Trophy.
Balaji felt the body of work that Shami has built over the last 12 years makes him an ideal candidate for it.

Shami is the leader of the pack right now. I mean, he has been the leader of the pack for a long time now. If you see what Shami has done in 12 years of cricket and, especially, in Test cricket, it has been humongous.

"Now, if he starts striking with the new ball the confidence it gives to other bowlers will be huge," he

It could be a blessing for Shami that India is playing $t\bar{h}eir$ matches in Dubai, a venue where pacers found appreciable help in the past. "He keeps attacking the stumps, a quality that is very critical in a place like Dubai, where batsmen may get a little bit more assistance," said Balaji.

How does Shami manage to be so effective with the new ball?

"Shami has one of the best wrist positions in the game, helping him bring all of his variations. See, conditions in Dubai will more or less be similar to India, so he just needs to follow his methods there, he added.

So, what are those methods? 'What Shami does is hit the seam

and move the ball off the deck. It is dangerous as batsmen will not be able to guess easily which way the ball is going to move.

"It also brings into the equation the LBWs and clean bowled dismissals. The away movement ensures that slip cordon too will be in the mix," said Balaji.

"And he also bowls closer to the stumps, which allows him to explore those subtle angles. So, he will always be among the wickets," he added.

But Shami will have another reason to go full tilt in the Champions Trophy.

Despite achieving so much in his career, the Bengal man is yet to win a global trophy, the status brag for any cricketer. And already closer to the dog days of his career, Shami might not get another chance to do it either. It might give him that extra dose of

motivation to run in hard in Dubai heat, snap his wrists, before batsmen walk out with a confused stare at the splayed stumps.

Geraint Thomas to retire from cycling

PTI ■ LONDON

Geraint Thomas, the former Tour de France champion who also won gold medals in track cycling for Great Britain at the Olympic Games in 2008 and '12, announced Monday that this will be his final year as a professional.

Thomas, a loyal teammate with a tremendous appetite for victory who transformed into a leader in his own right over his almost two-decade career, said he will focus on the Tour this summer with Ineos Grenadiers.

Aged 38, Thomas told the BBC that he will ride in trained him as a British team support of the team's ambitions and "may win a stage but just enjoy the race" that he won in 2018.

"Since I was a kid I dreamt of riding the Tour and being part of the Olympics and winning was obviously a dream as well, but to achieve that was just nuts," he told BBC Breakfast

"I think now the decision is official, you do start to reflect because when you're in it, it's just one thing after the next, year after year, so you don't really appreciate it. Í guess at the time you enjoy it but I don't think you sit back and reflect and think, so there will be a bit of that this year."

For a long time, Thomas had a reputation as a party boy, always up for a few pints of beer while watching a rugby match. But his longevity at the highest level speaks about

dedication and balanced

lifestyle. "He is a true fighter," said Dave Brailsford, the man who masterminded Britain's successes at the Olympics and Tour de France.

Growing up on the outskirts of Cardiff, Wales, Thomas started bike racing at 10, and his exceptional qualities did not remain unnoticed for

"I first saw him when he was about 13 or 14 and he joined me at 17," recalled Rod Ellingworth,

performance director at Team Sky when Thomas won the Tour, who also coach. You co

he was just flying round the track, he was pretty good. As he joined the junior program, you just knew he was going to be pretty talented."

Thomas's first successes came on the track. In 2006, he was the youngest member of the British pursuit team that competed at the world championships. In 2008, he won the Olympic gold medal alongside Bradley Wiggins. Four years later in London, with a second gold medal secured in the same event, Thomas left track cycling to

focus on road racing. Thomas had already showed immense skills on the road from winning the Paris-Roubaix junior race in 2004. His initial ambitions on the road were to perform at oneday classics, then he rode the

Malewar, Shorey lead Vidarbha to 308/5 against Mumbai

Danish Malewar's gritty 79 and opener Dhruv Shorey's attractive 74 made up for a gritty batting show by hosts Vidarbha as they reached 308 for 5 against defending champions Mumbai on the first day of their Ranji Trophy semi-final here on Monday. Karun Nair, who is back in

contention for a Test team berth, scored a chiselled 45 before he seemed distinctly unhappy with a caught behind decision of Shivam Dube's bowling although he had opted for DRS. While the two-time champions didn't have a big

partnership, they had enough middling stands to see them cross 300-run mark after Mumbai had sent down 88 overs in the day. Mumbai bowlers were also guilty of bowling as many as

13 no balls during the course of the opening day.



the day as he got appreciable bounce and some amount of purchase from the Jamtha

Dube (2/35 in 9 overs) also had a couple wickets but one of them was more so because of a splendid one-handed diving catch by Suryakumar Yaday in the slip cordon. That Mumbai failed to make

more inroads was because the two new ball bowlers Shardul Thakur (0/57 in 14 Left-arm spinner Shams overs) and Mohit Avasthi Mulani (2/44 in 18 overs) (0/61 in 14 overs) were way was easily the best bowler on off the mark with both new

ball and second new ball at the fag end of the day.

The morning session belonged to Shorey, who capitalised on the half-volleys provided by Avasthi, who simply doesn't have the required pace to trouble batters if he doesn't get to swing the new ball.

As far as Shardul is concerned, he fed Shorey on the legs and got whipped. It was left-armer Royston who got

second wicket with left-hander Parth Rekhade (23), who was out just before lunch trying to drive Dube but Surya standing at third slip showing brilliant reflexes to pouch it one-handed. Malewar, who has been Vidarbha's find of the season,

opener, who hit nine boundaries, added 54 for the

blended caution aggression after lunch, dominating in his 51-run stand with Shorey. Shorey, who looked good for

a three-figure mark, was finally gone when Mulani got one to jump off length and it turned enough to carry the edge which Mumbai skipper Ajinkya Rahane gleefully accepted.

Nair, who is in fantastic form this season, looked effortless while tackling both Mulani and off-spinner Tanush Kotian en route his 78-run fourth wicket stand with breakthrough with a delivery that climbed on left-hander They were ready to use their

Atharva Taide (4) as the batter tried to shoulder arms. Shorey, a former Delhi Mulani, who was otherwise in full control. Nair, who had hit six

boundaries, looked control before a delivery from Dube in the post-tea session moved a shade and was taken by keeper Akash Anand. While on-field umpire gave it

out after some deliberation, Nair asked for review and the decision was upheld. Malewar's 159 ball knock

ended when he tried to play forward defence to a Mulani delivery that kissed the outside edge into keeper Anand's gloves.

However the bespectacled pair of left-handed Yash Rathod (47 batting) and skipper Akshay Wadkar (13 batting) added 47 for the unbroken sixth wicket to take the total past 300-run mark. **Brief Scores**

Vidarbha 308/5; 88 overs (Danish Malewar 79, Dhruv Shorey 74, Karun Nair 45; Shams Mulani 2/44, Shuvam Dube 2/35) vs Mumbai.

Pakistani's Haris Rauf resumes bowling in nets

PTI KARACHI

Dakistan's injured fast bowler Haris Rauf said on Monday he has resumed bowling in the nets and was feeling comfortable, adding that it was up to the team management to decide on his selection for the Champions Trophy (CT) opener against New Zealand. 'Î have started doing exercises

a few days back and also resumed bowling since yesterday," Haris told reporters at the National Stadium. 'I am feeling comfortable and

my body is okay now the team management will decide about my playing in the opening match," he said.

Haris, who remains one of Pakistan's key fast bowlers with his express pace and ability to take wickets in the middle overs, sustained a muscular strain in his lower chest wall in the first match of

the recently-held three-nation

Kane Williamson joins Middlesex for 2025 season | Australian team arrives in

Former New Zealand captain Kane Williamson has signed a two-year contract with Middlesex Cricket to play in the T20 Blast and County Championship, while also captaining London Spirit in this year's edition of The Hundred.

Regarded as one of the greatest modernday batters, Williamson, who previously played for Gloucestershire (2011-2012) and Yorkshire (2013-2018), will be available for at least 10 of Middlesex's 14 T20 Blast group fixtures and a minimum of five County Championship matches in the second half of the season.

"I've played a bit of county cricket in the past, but not for a number of years now, so when this opportunity arose with Middlesex it was a really exciting prospect," Williamson, the all-time leading Test run-scorer for New Zealand, said in a release

*To be able to play for Middlesex – a fine club with a rich heritage - is really exciting and something that I'm really looking forward to being a part of. To play at Lord's, the Home of Cricket – which is



one of my favourite grounds in the world for so many different reasons - is something I'm especially looking forward

'There's a good balance of youth and experience in the Middlesex squad, which is great, and I'm really excited to join up with the team, meet the players in the squad and helping out wherever I can." Williamson, who will make Lord's his home in 2025 from May through to the

end of September, has become one of the

first-ever direct signings for The Hundred.

London Spirit secured his services outside of the draft process, and he will lead the team under the guidance of newly appointed head coach Justin Langer.

Fraser Stewart, General Manager of London Spirit, said: "We're thrilled to have Kane on board for this summer. For us to be able to make a direct signing of this calibre is truly exciting for London Spirit, and I am sure that he will be looking forward to captaining our talented side?

A veteran captain in all formats for New Zealand, Williamson has accumulated over 18,000 international runs, including 47 centuries.

He boasts an impressive average of 54.88 in Tests, 49.65 in ODIs, and 33.44 in

Williamson is a familiar face in the world's top franchise leagues, having played for Gujarat Titans and Sunrisers Hyderabad in the IPL, Barbados Tridents in the Caribbean Premier League, and Durban's Super Giants in the South African T20

Pakistan for Champions Trophy

PTI I LAHORE

The Australian cricket team arrived in Pakistan on Monday to participate in the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy. The tournament begins with a match between hosts Pakistan and New Zealand in Karachi on Wednesday. Pakistan are also the defending champions having won the last edition of the tournament in 2017 in the UK where they beat India in the title clash.

'The Australian cricket team has arrived in Lahore for the @ICC #ChampionsTrophy 2025! They will play their first match of the tournament on 22 February against England at the Gaddafi Stadium," the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) posted on X. The team landed in two separate groups. The first batch, which included captain Steve

Smith, coaches, and support staff, arrived from Colombo via Dubai. The second group, comprising 15 players and two additional members of the support staff, followed the same route and reached Lahore later the same day. Like India, who will be playing

all their matches in Dubai as per the hybrid model agreement, the Australian team will also not feature in any warm-up matches, as they were very recently involved in a twomatch ODI series against Sri Lanka, which they lost 2-0.

After their opener against traditional rivals England, Australia will play their second match against South Africa on February 25 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, followed by a final group-stage outing against Afghanistan on February 28, again at Gaddafi Stadium.

No success without failure, embrace hard work: Mary Kom, Lekhara, Suhas

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

There is no success without failure and perseverance always pays was the message from boxing great M C Mary Kom and Paralympic stars Avani Lekhara and Suhas Yathiraj when they offered stress-management tips to school students as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Pariksha pe Charcha' initiative.

The three athletes also gave advice on overcoming failure, staying focused, embracing challenges during the special session conducted annually since 2018 for students preparing for board examinations.

"They say failure is the opposite of success. But I think failure is the biggest part of success. No success comes without failure," said two-time Paralympic champion in shooting Lekhara, who was Oparalysed from waist down after suffering a car accident as In a shift from the traditional

Prime Minister opted for a more informal setting, taking the students to Delhi's picturesque Sunder Nursery for his annual interaction ahead of board exams. He also brought on board

town hall format, this time the

eminent personalities from different walks of life to answer questions from students in an

episodic format starting with himself on February 10.

Mary Kom, a six-time world champion and a London Olympics bronze-medallist, spoke about the challenges she faced while pursuing boxing, underlining the importance of resilience.

The 42-year-old struggled to keep her composure while recalling the many challenges she overcame to become a boxing great, which included opposition of her father early on and physical challenge of continuing a high-risk contact after embracing motherhood.

"Boxing is not a women's game. I took up that challenge "In your life, if you want to take because I wanted to prove to



the country that we can do it, and I went on to become a world champion several times," overcome

strong from within. Initially, I faced many challenges. I was often discouraged and had to numerous obstacles,"

Manipuri said fighting back

"Every field is difficult. There are no shortcuts; you have to work hard. If I can do it, why can't you?" she added.

Two-time Paralympic silvermedallist in badminton Suhas, who has a congenital deformity in his left ankle that affects his mobility, also stressed on the need to be persistent.

Good things don't come easily. Your journey must go on. If you are willing to shine like the sun, you must be willing to burn like it," he stressed.

The questions from students were focussed on tackling diminutive anxiety, pressure and the many distractions that make up the modern life. The athletes gave them just the pep talk to deal with all these issues. Suhas spoke about how

eliminating the fear of failure helped him secure a historic gold at t Championships. the

"Your mind is your greatest friend as well as your enemy. In 2016, I represented India at the Asian Championships, and I got so scared that I lost the first game and was trailing in the second.

"During the 30-second drinks break, I said to myself, 'You have come this far; the worst that could happen is that you might lose. So, lose the fear of losing and play your natural

I not only won that match but went on to win six more, becoming the first ever unseeded player to win a gold medal in China at the Asian Championships. The lesson is, if you lose your fear, you will play your natural game. Never think about who is in front, just give your best."

A computer engineer-turned-IAS officer, Suhas urged students to keep three things in mind when they pursued their ambitions.

"Consider whether you can achieve a position among the top three-five per cent in your chosen field, and whether you have the passion for it that comes from your heart."

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