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नियुक्तियों का बढ़ता कारवां...

नगर विकास एवं आवास विभाग के अंतर्गत विभिन्न पदों पर कुल

289 अभ्यर्थियों का नियुक्ति पत्र वितरण समारोह

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गार्डन अधीक्षक | वेटेनरी ऑफिसर पदों पर नियुक्तियाँ

मुख्य अतिथि

श्री हेमन्त सोरेन

माननीय मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

विशिष्ट अतिथि

श्री राधा कृष्ण किशोर

माननीय मंत्री, वित्त विभाग, राष्‍ट्रिय-कर विभाग,
योजना एवं विकास विभाग, संसदीय कार्य विभाग

श्री संजय प्रसाद यादव

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

श्री सुदिव्य कुमार

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

छात्रोपयोगी
वेब पोर्टल्स का
अनावरण

तथा रांची विज्ञान केंद्र, रांची के नव प्रवर्तन केंद्र का शुभारंभ समारोह एवं
झारखण्ड अनुसंधान एवं नवाचार नीति-2025 हेतु राज्य स्तरीय कार्यशाला

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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

It 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 AI-based crowd control systems could have definitely helped in such 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.

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PICTALK



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

Delhi High Court reinstates fraud claims against Reliance



PRASHANT TEWARI

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

The 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 policy-making. 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 exchequer. Details of Judgement The Delhi High Court's single judge judgment in Union of India vs. Reliance Industries Ltd. examined the allegations of unjust enrichment, 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 entitlement.

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 RIL-led consortium, was "contrary to public policy" in India. This decision marks a significant legal setback for RIL, as it reinstates the gov-



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 government bodies, dispelling claims of crony capitalism.

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 abysmally woeful performance of the RIL legal team in defending the case. Furthermore, the ruling reassures investors about India's commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that legal processes remain transparent and evidence-driven. By challenging the political narrative of undue favouritism towards industrialists, the judgment reinforces the integrity of India's governance, corporate regulations, and media responsibility in shaping public discourse.

commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that legal processes remain transparent and evidence-driven. By challenging the political narrative of undue 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 high-stakes 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 its democratic ethos.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 guest from which I was witnessing the

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

management and passenger safety. The railway administration should anticipate potential crowds during major events and pilgrimages and make appropriate arrangements in advance. 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 a 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 can prevent such incidents.

R K Jain | Barwani

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 global markets-but for India's MSMEs

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-ready.

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 Sagar | Pune

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India advances carbon market reforms following COP 29

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

The 29th Conference of the Parties (COP 29) under the United Nations 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, including Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) and Energy Saving Certificates (ESCs), 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 environmental compliance. Similarly, ESCs promote energy efficiency by enabling designated energy-intensive

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 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 footprints. 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 long-term sustainability goals.

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



ATUL AGRAWAL

FIRST COLUMN

RAISING GEN ALPHA AND GEN BETA

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



SHAINY SHARMA

The 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/guardians 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 screen-free 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 fast-paced 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 AI-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 individuals.

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 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

Nature, 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 decomposing organic matter.

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 Gurban thrive in fertile, wet conditions where water and nutrients



accumulate. On the other hand, the hardy Casuarina is well-suited to coastal environments, where the salty conditions pose a challenge for many other species, including Karanj (Pongamia). Similarly, along riverbanks, trees like Jamun and Arjun flourish in the constantly wet conditions, highlighting how plant life reflects the local ecosystem. Just as plant life reflects environmental conditions, rock formations provide a window into the geological history and processes that have shaped the land. Sedimentary rocks, often rich in marine fossils such as shells, corals, and fish, indicate that the region was once submerged underwater. 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 climate conditions, such as periods of drought or heavy rainfall. For instance, fine-grained sediments suggest calm, shallow waters, while coarser sediments point to more turbulent conditions.

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 wetlands 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 intervention.

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 nation.

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 from the Tibetan Himalayas, meanders through Northeast India, 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 bird calls may indicate a coordinated 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 are their own)



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,

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

The 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 travellers.



MAYANK JAISWAL

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 fruiting of their investments. Simultaneously, India's hospitality sector is poised for an

exponential rise, with 50 top-tier 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 both pilgrims and high-end

travellers. The Solitaire Group has been at the forefront of this evolution. Recognising the immense potential in religious realty, 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-the-art banqueting spaces to cater to both pilgrims and travellers seeking opulent experiences. **Unlocking the Potential of Tier II and III Cities**



The narrative of real estate 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

demand for quality real estate 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 backed by key government initiatives, including hotels in pilgrimage hubs being added to the Infrastructure Harmonised Master List (HML), ensuring

easier access to low-cost 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 world-class amenities into heritage-rich locations while maintaining the cultural and spiritual essence of these sites. **Building a Legacy of Excellence**

Since its inception in 2005, the Solitaire Group has established itself as a leading player in real estate and hospitali-

ty. From residential developments 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 is 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

Top 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.

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."

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 negotiations immediately."

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.

meetings at the direction of the president," and hope to make "some really good progress with regard to Russia-Ukraine."

Israel says drone strike kills Hamas chief in Lebanon

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

An Israeli drone strike in southern Lebanon on Monday killed the head of the militant Hamas group in the country, Israel's military said.



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 Strip on Monday.

Hagit Ofan, who leads the group's settlement monitoring, said construction can begin after the contracting process and issuing of permits, which could take another year at least.

home to some 3 million Palestinians. The settlers have Israeli citizenship, while Palestinians live under military rule with the Western-backed Palestinian Authority administering population centers.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

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.

PD(1521)C I, Dhanalaxmi W/o Sanampudi Ramesh Babu R/o 00, Sankaranagaram, Revuru, PO -Revuru, Sub District- Ananthasagaram, District- Nellore, 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.

PD(1522)C I, Mutum Bhabini Devi, W/o 9425118N, L/Hav Mutum Dhanabir Singh, 1/11 Gorkha Rifle (Bravest of the Brave) change my name from Mutum Bhabini Devi to Kongkham Bhabini Devi (as per Aadhar card).

PD(1523)C I, Indu Devi W/o No.14681733K Nk Shrivani Pal, R/o- Vill & Post- Souri, Teh- 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- Raebareilly, U.P.- 229201, have changed my name from Punam Singh to Poonam Singh, vide 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, Kodyarnagar, Ahmedabad City, Gujarat- 382350, have changed my name from Kiran to Gond Kiranben, vide affidavit dated 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 name from Rajput Sumersingh to Rajput Sumersingh Sugansingh, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1528)C

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

PD(1529)C I, Bichaiiah, Father of No.15453767N Sep/Amb Asst Jetturi Anjilaiah, R/o- Vill & PO- Bandyalkcherla, Teh & PS- Kulkacherla, Dist- Vikarabad, Telangana- 501502, have changed my name from Bichaiiah to Jetturi Bichaiiah, 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), Kayanna Bazar (PO), 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.

PD(1531)C I, No.15786949A HAV(DMT) Hage Vilas Pandurang, R/o- At PO- Danapur, Teh- Telhara, Dist- Akola, Maharashtra- 444108, have changed my 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- Bandyalkcherla, Teh & PS- Kulkacherla, Dist- Vikarabad, Telangana- 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, R/o- Parsottamnagr, PO- Odhav, Ahmedabad, Gujarat- 282375, have changed my name from Gulab Kanwar to Rajput 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 Apartments, 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 Goyal

PD(1536)C

US 'gravely backpedaled' on Taiwan, says China

PTI ■ BEIJING

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

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 Jiakuan said.

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.

cable 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 China.

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

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Trump administration has halted the firings of hundreds of federal employees who were tasked with working on the nation's nuclear weapons 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 hundreds let go at NNSA were part of a DOGE purge across the Department of Energy that targeted about 2,000 employees.

"The DOGE 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.

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.

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

"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.

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 AI 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.

responsible for these functions may be seen as reckless at best and adversariously opportunistic at worst.

While some of the Energy Department employees who were fired dealt with energy efficiency 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.

material there doesn't further contaminate nearby communities.

That includes the Savannah River National Laboratory in Jackson, South Carolina; the Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington 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.

"...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 saying.



2025, he said. Dissanayake said the government would prioritise digitising government services and would move towards a cashless economy.



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.

AP/PTI

DETAIL NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

No. PM-Shri/CW/Tender/24-25/86/2025/109 Date : 17.02.2025

The Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha, Assam invites bids for the following building and repairing works from registered appropriate class of contractor under PWD (Building), Assam having experience of similar nature of work in Assam.

Table with 7 columns: Group no., Name of work, Approximate value of work (in lakh), Time of completion (in months), Tender fee, Earnest Money Deposit (General category, Reserved category). Contains 20 groups of work items.

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 committee.



Pritam Singh, leader of the Indian-origin opposition in Singapore, is seen here.

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.

PUBLIC NOTICE Known to all that my client Sh. Chandan Kumar owner of the PLOT BEARING NO-12/A/1 & 12-B/1 PORTION OF 12-A & 12-B AREA 70 SQ YARDS KHARSA NO.511 MIN. VILLAGE MASULIABAD, KANAI ENCLAVE, NAJARGARH NEW DELHI-110043 and. Sh. Chandan Kumar purchase property from Smt. Kunjan Ahuja vide Notarized GPA, ATS and will dated 23.09.2023 Now Sh.Chandan Kumar wants to sell aforesaid property. And it is informed that any deal with said document by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void if any person, by any means, in said property then he may contact and handover the same and approve his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION Ch. No. 760 - Dwarka Court Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-75 Mobile :- 9899013918 PUBLIC NOTICE My client Nitin Bhatt owner of a Residential House, area measuring 79.42 Sq. Mtrs out of Total area 158.85 sq. Mtrs. Out of Khata no. 455, situated in Village Salarpur Khandar, Pargana and Teshil Dadi, District Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. Through Registered Gift Dated 26.10.2024 executed Mr. Ravindra Bhatt S/O Mr. Chandar Vide Reg. No. 14033 at SR-1 NOIDA U.P. The above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. If any person/bank/financial institution having any claim, right, lien, any objection whatsoever in regard to the above property, should notify 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 of this notice failing which any claim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have been waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092, Mobile Number 9811215181

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 rights), built-up property bearing No. L-7, area measuring 100 sq. yards, situated in the name of Late Nagesh Kumar, N. New Delhi - 110024 from Gurveen Kaur Suri, having acquired the said property by virtue of Sale Deed dated 25/02/2022 (Doc. No. 2673/2022) executed by Gurveen Kaur Suri as her attorney and Gurveen Kaur Suri, Gurveen Kaur Suri and her brother Gurpreet Prasad Singh Suri as her attorney holder vide SPA dated 30/8/2024 (Doc. No. 2024/91/1268) to sell the said property to my client for which said property will be mortgaged with Late Capital Housing Finance Limited against the loan facility as availed by my clients. All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said property or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, partition, tenancy, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise, however, are hereby requested to notify them in writing, with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahalaxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vashi, Gb., U.P., Mob. 9810065351

In the matter of M/s. A.K.G. Securities and Consultancy Limited (CIN- U74999DL1994 PL200006), having its Regd. Off. at 377/301, 311 & 312 Nirmal Market, Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002, India. Applicant 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 October, 2000. The Company lost the said original certificate during the shifting of its registered office from Karkardooma Delhi to Darya Ganj on 17.06.2022 and in that regard an FIR was registered in the name of the Applicant in case if you find it at any place, please get it delivered at the Registered Office of the company situated at 377/310, 311 & 312 Nirmal Market, Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002. Information is provided in this regard that the said certificate is untraceable and a statutory warning is hereby given to the general public not to misuse it. Otherwise, civil and criminal case shall be registered against that person. For A.K.G. Securities and Consultancy Ltd. Sd/- JAI KUMAR RAI (Director) DIN - 09089858 Email: akgservices1@gmail.com Contact No. 9717099472

MANIBHAVNAM HOME FINANCE INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED POSSESSION NOTICE (Appendix IV) Rule 8(1) Whereas the Authorized officer of Manibhavnam Home Finance India Pvt. Ltd., a (hereinafter 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 at 2nd Floor, N-2, South Extension Part-I, New Delhi-110049, under the provisions of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (SARFAESI Act, 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 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 the Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 as per under mentioned. 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 sub-section (5) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured asset.

