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BHOPAL, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹2

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14 NAXALS KILLED IN BORDER OPERATION

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE RAIPUR/BHUBANESWAR

ourteen including a top leader of the CPI (Maoists) who was carrying a reward of Rs 1 crore, were killed in a joint operation by CRPF and State Police forces along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border. Union Home Minister Amit Shah Tuesday termed the encounter as "another mighty blow to Naxalism" asserted the Narendra Modi government's resolve for a Naxal-free India and the joint efforts of the security forces to eliminate the menace from the country. Gariaband

Chhattisgarh's district superintendent of police Nikhil Rakhecha said of the deceased, one has been identified as Jairam alias Chalpati, a central committee member of the CPI (Maoist). who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore. The identity of the remaining cadres was yet to be ascertained.

"Another mighty blow to Naxalism. Our security forces achieved major success towards building a Naxal-free Bharat. The CRPF, SoG Odisha, and Chhattisgarh Police neutralised 14 Naxalites in a joint operation along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border. With our resolve for a Naxalfree India and the joint efforts of our security forces, Naxalism is breathing its last today," Shah wrote on X.

Giving details of the incident, police said two women . Naxalites were killed during a joint operation on Monday along the Chhattisgarn-Odisha border. A large cache of firearms, ammunition and IEDs, including a self-loading



Four gangsters killed in gunfight with STF in Shamli

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

our notorious criminals, Fincluding a wanted gangster with a bounty of Rs 1 lakh, were killed in a latenight encounter with the Special Task Force (STF) of Meerut on Monday. The shootout occurred near the Udpur brick kiln in the Jhinjhana area of Shamli district after the STF intercepted the suspects' vehicle while acting on a tipoff about an impending robbery.

When the STF team attempted to stop a Brezza car, the occupants allegedly opened fire, leading to a fierce exchange of gunfire. Arshad, a member of the Mukim and



Mustafa alias Kagga gang from Gangoh, Saharanpur sustained bullet injuries and died on the spot. He was wanted in multiple cases of robbery and murder in Shamli, Saharanpur, and Panipat in Haryana.

Three of his associates, Manjeet from Sonipat, Satish from Madhuban in Haryana, and another unidentified man, also succumbed to injuries in the encounter.

Inspector Sunil Kumar was injured in the exchange of fire and has been admitted to a hospital in Gurugram. His condition is reported to be stable. Police recovered pistols and

country-made firearms from the scene. Investigations revealed that Manjeet, who had been serving a life sentence, was out on parole and had resumed criminal activities. The gang was reportedly planning a major robbery in the Jhinjhana area when they were intercepted by the STF.

Senior police officials, including DIG Ajay Sahni and Shamli SP Ramsevak Gautam, visited the site of the encounter and are supervising the ongoing investigation.

rifle, were recovered from the encounter site. A fresh exchange of firing took place late Monday night and it continued till early hours of Tuesday in a forest under the Mainpur police station areas (Chhattisgarh) along the Chhattisgarh-Odisha border, in which 12 more Naxalites were gunned down. With this. the total number of Maoists killed in the operation went up to 14, police said.

Intermittent exchange of firing in the area was underway on Tuesday too and the number of Maoist casualties may increase, they said. A joint team of security personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of the Chhattisgarh Police, CoBRA commandos of the Centra Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Special Operation Group (SOG) personnel from the Odisha Police were involved in the operation.

The operation was launched on the night of January 19 based on intelligence inputs about the presence of Maoists in the Kularighat reserve forest of Chhattisgarh, just 5 km from the border of Odisha's Nuapada district. Hailing the security forces, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said under the BJP-led double-engine government at the Centre and the state, Chhattisgarh will get rid of the menace by March 2026. He said strengthening the resolve of Prime Minister Modi and the union home minister to end Naxalism in the country by March 2026, the security forces have been continuously achieving success and moving rapidly towards fulfilling the target.



a hotal at a ski resort of Klartalkava in Bolu province, in northwest Turky PTI

At least 66 dead in hotel fire in Turkev

PTI ANKARA

fire at a hotel at a popular Aski resort in northwestern Turkey on Tuesday killed at least 66 people, Turkey's Interior Minister said. Ali Yerlikaya said at least 51 other people were injured in the disaster.

"We are in deep pain. We have unfortunately lost 66 lives in the fire that broke out at this hotel," Yerlikaya told reporters after inspecting the site. Health Minister Kemal Memisoglu said at least one of the injured was in serious condition.

The fire broke out at around 3:30 am in the restaurant of the 12-story Grand Kartal hotel in the resort of Kartalkaya in Bolu province, officials and reports said. The cause of the fire was under investigation. Two of the victims died after

jumping from the building in a panic, Gov Abdulaziz Aydin told the state-run Anadolu Agency. Private NTV television said some people tried to climb down from their rooms using sheets and blankets. There were 234

staying at the hotel, Aydin

Trump signs citizenship order



President Donald Trump talks to reporters as he signs executive orders in the Oval Office of the White House

AGENCIES ■ WASHINGTON

Donald Trump, the newly sworn-in US President, signed an executive order on Monday that would end birthright citizenship in the United States. Set to take effect on February 20, the order specifies that children born to foreign passport holders, even those legally residing in the country on tourist, student, or work visas, will no longer automatically acquire US citizenship. This decision is expected to have far-reaching implications, particularly for over one million Indians currently in line for green cards.

Speaking from the Oval Office, Trump criticised the current system, calling citizenship birthright "absolutely ridiculous" and claiming the US is the "only country in the world" that provides automatic citizenship to children born on its soil. He argued that this policy change is necessary and justified, citing "very good grounds" for the shift. The order outlines that

children born in the US after the effective date will not be granted citizenship unless the father is a US citizen or lawful permanent resident, and the mother's presence in the country is either unlawful or temporary. This includes individuals on student, tourist, or work visas.

The move has provoked strong opposition from civil rights groups and immigrant advocates, organisations such as the American Civil Liberties

Union (ACLU) filing a lawsuit challenging order's legality. Author and academic Vivek Wadhwa criticised the policy, warning that it would exacerbate the difficulties faced by highly skilled immigrants who are already trapped in a lengthy green card backlog. He argued that while excluding children of undocumented immigrants and tourists" might be one issue, the broader impact of excluding those legally contributing to the US economy and workforce could harm the country's

Mamata Seeks death for rape convict



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses the media in Howrah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Proportionate to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's "disappointment and shock" at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder convict not getting the death sentence, her government on Tuesday moved the Calcutta High Court, seeking the death penalty for Sanjoy Roy, the accused

This, while the parents of "Abhaya," the victim lady doctor who was raped and murdered in the wee hours of August 9, 2024, inside her own hospital premises, literally thrust aside Banerjee's "sympathy," requesting her to "keep off our daughter's matter and let us fight for justice." The Division Bench of Justice Debangshu Basak promptly allowed the matter to be filed after Advocate General Kishore Dutta moved on behalf of the State, seeking the death penalty for Roy

"I was aghast to see that the death penalty was not allowed in this matter... when someone turns a demon, can society be human? If someone commits a crime, should we forgive

them? This will encourage him to commit such crimes again," Banerjee thundered from a public meeting at Malda, asking, "How does the judgment say it is not the 'rarest of rare' (case)? I say it is rare, sensitive, and heinous." Banerjee had on Monday blamed the Central Bureau of Investigation for failing to prove their case in the Sealdah District and Sessions Court, praising her own State Police for ensuring speedy justice in similar other

Banerjee's statement was stoutly backed by Ghosh, who directly blamed the CBI for its "untidy investigation." He said, "It is for the CBI to explain how the convict eluded the death sentence as the case was being dealt with by them after it was taken away from the Kolkata Police and given to them... in fact, the Kolkata Police had arrested Sanjoy Roy before his custody was transferred to the CBI... the State Police during this period has cracked four cases at Farakka, Mathabhanga, Gurap, and Kultali and ensured the death sentence in all the cases.

However, the father of the victim rejected the State Government's approach and requested the Chief Minister to keep off the matter.

You have done enough... we need no more favors... please keep off the case... let us fight our own battle," the father of the victim said rather acerbically. "Had the Chief Minister been serious about the case, she would have acted with purpose when she was required to do so by properly directing the police not to allow tampering of the evidence so that the other bigger and more powerful people involved in the act could be arrested... she did not act while her own police administration was destroying evidence... Whatever the Chief Minister has done till date, she should not do any further."

BJP unveils welfare manifesto SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

s the Delhi Assembly As the Dellin Modelle, a delections approach, a shower of new freebies continues to pour down on the people of the national Capital with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Tuesday, promising a slew of welfare schemes, including free education for needy students from government institutions, a one-time assistance of Rs 15,000 for UPSC aspirants, and an insurance cover of Rs 10 lakh, along with a Rs five lakh accident cover for domestic helps and auto-taxi drivers, as part of the second phase of its 'Sankalp Patra." Former Union Minister and Lok Sabha MP Anurag Thakur presented manifesto which has eight poll promises including 'zero tolerance' for corruption. He that Special Investigation Team (SIT) will be formed to probe all 'irregularities and scams' of the AAP government if the party comes to power in Delhi. "As soon as the BJP government is formed, we will form an SIT to investigate the Mohalla Clinic scam, classroom scam, DTC bus scam, Delhi Jal Board scam," Thakur said. The manifesto includes a



Singh Bidhuri, Vijender Gupta during the launch of the second part of the party's 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections, in New Delhi, Tuesday Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneei

number of measures focusing on youth including a onetime financial assistance of Rs 15,000 and reimbursement

of fees and travel expenses twice for Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and state civil services examinations. also party that its

The assured Delhi 'Dr B government in would launch Ambedkar Stipend Yojna' to provide Rs 1,000 monthly aid Scheduled Caste (SC) students at polytechnic and skill centres in the national capital if voted to power. In a bid to counter AAP's

promise to provide insurance to auto-drivers, who have traditionally been a voter base of the ruling party, the BJP also promised to form

welfare boards for domestic workers auto-taxi and drivers once they form government. The senior BJP

leader added, "Besides, the boards will provide Rs 10 lakh of insurance and Rs 5 lakh of accident cover and offer scholarships to the children of domestic workers and autotaxi drivers." He also promised six months' paid maternity leave for the female domestic workers.

scheme for street vendors, the number of beneficiaries will be doubled, he said, citing the Sankalp Patra-2. Thakur alleged that the AAP government had failed to implement the Jal Jeevan Mission in the national capital, reiterating the BJP's commitment to improve infrastructure and welfare if ider the Ia Jeevan Mission, water comes from taps even at 17,000 feet in the mountains but the AAP-da (AAP) government did not implement it in Delhi," he claimed.

Under the PM SVANidhi

Former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal described the BJP's election manifesto as "dangerous for the country" The AAP convener alleged that the BJP plans to shut free education in government schools and dismantle free health services including the mohalla clinics if voted to

The first part of the BJP's manifesto for the Delhi polls, Sankalp Patra-1, was released by its president JP Nadda last week. The party has already promised Rs 2,500 per month to Delhi women under the 'Mahila Samriddhi Yojna' and assured that all public welfare schemes of the outgoing AAP government will continue in the future.

competitiveness.



76,000 75,500 ⊤ 12:00 pm 1 US\$ = 86.59 INR

Sensex tanks 1,235 pts to 7-month low

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Benchmark Sensex tanked 1,235 points to settle at more than seven-month low due to an across-the-board selloff triggered by global trade war worries after US President Donald Trump tariffs announced neighbouring countries on his inauguration day. The 30-share BSE Sensex

plummeted 1,235.08 points or 1.60 per cent to settle at 75,838.36 dragged by losses in ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries. During the day, the BSE benchmark the BSE benchmark plummeted 1,431.57 points or 1.85 per cent to hit an intraday low of 75,641.87. The broader NSE Nifty plunged 320.10 points or 1.37 per cent to close at 23,024.65. In the intraday trade, the

NSE Nifty plunged 367.9 points or 1.57 per cent to 22,976.85. Sensex shares, Among Zomato, NTPC, Adani Ports, ICICI Bank, State Bank of

India, Reliance Industries, Mahindra & Mahindra, Bajaj Finance, Tech Mahindra and Axis Bank were the major laggards. UltraTech Cement and HCL Technologies were the only gainers. European markets were

trading higher on Tuesday. In Asian markets, Tokyo and Hong Kong ended higher, while Shanghai and Seoul settled on a flat note on Tuesday. US markets were closed on Monday on the occasion of Martin Luther King Jr Day.

Saif returns home after attack

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Six days after he survived a murderous attack at his Bandra residence, Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan was discharged from the Lilavati Hospital here on Tuesday evening. Fifty-four-year-old Saif — dressed in a white shirt and a pair of denims - looked hale, hearty and cheerful, as he walked out of the hospital and briefly raised his arm to wave at his fans and media persons, before heading in a car towards his home. A few close aides and private security personnel accompanied him.

Saif was seen with friends and

neighbours, as he walked into

his "Satguru Sharan" building.

Minutes later, the actor returned to his 12th floor

apartment where he had

sustained six stab injuries,

including the one in his spine,

in a knife attack on him by an



way to home after he was discharged from Lilavati Hospital, in Mumbai PTI

intruder between 2 am and 2.30 am on Thursday last. The intruder -who has now identified as Bangladeshi national Shariful Islam Shahzad (30) is currently in the custody of the Mumbai police. he was brutally stabbed by the intruder after a failed burglary attempt, a

profusely

around 3 am.

himself

bleeding Saif

taken

autorickshaw and rushed to

the Lilavati Hospital at

R-Day rehersals choke traffic in Capital **STAFF REPORTER** NEW DELHI

Massive traffic congestion was seen in central Delhi due to the Republic Day parade rehearsals on Tuesday, leaving hundreds of commuters stranded on the road. Commuters also complained of long queues at metro stations due to heightened security checks ahead of Republic Day. Routes leading to Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg near the ITO, arterial roads of the Ring Road, between Ashram and IP Estate flyover, Man Singh Road, Rafi Marg, Janpath Road, Shahjahan Road, Akbar Road, Ashoka Road and other routes around the Kartavya Path were severely hit. A traveller shared videos and pictures of a traffic jam in Mundka following

which the Delhi Traffic Police said the

traffic control room has been

informed and the needful is being

done. "Don't feel like going out for work. The traffic in Delhi is horrible,"

another user on X said. Motorists blamed traffic personnel for not

regulating traffic properly and said



that there was no proper information hour on the road to reach their about the traffic diversions.

A user who shared a picture of online maps said, "All the roads leading to Central Delhi are fully jammed. People had to wait more than one The entire central Delhi is choked."

destination." Posting a picture of the heavy traffic near Kartavya Path, a user wrote, "Is it too much to ask Delhi Traffic Police to manage traffic?

While some users reported that they were late for work or didn't want to go to work due to Delhi roads being jamnacked. Heavy traffic congestion was also

reported in several parts of south Delhi. One of the commuters posted on social media that they were stuck in a traffic jam on MB Road for two hours.

Another commuter who commutes daily to his office in his car said, "Usually I start in the early morning to reach my office on time. But today it was a completely different situation. got stuck in traffic for more than two hours. I had to inform my seniors that I would be late for work. He further said that security has

also been increased due to Republic Day with the traffic police conducting vehicle inspections at every checkpoint which adds to the congestion. The snarls persisted despite the traffic police issuing an advisory on January 15, notifying the public about road closures in central Delhi.

Efforts to resolve JC Mill workers' dues in final stage

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav has stated that the government is working with full commitment to ensure the payment of dues to nearly 8,000 workers of JC Mill in Gwalior. The government's efforts have reached the final stage. He emphasized that, similar to the resolution of dues for workers of Hukumchand Mill in Indore and Vinod Mill in Ujjain, the government aims to ensure the dues of IC Mill workers are cleared at the earliest so they can celebrate Diwali with joy. CM Dr. Yadav shared these remarks during a critical meeting in Gwalior aimed at expediting the payment process. The meeting was attended virtually by Gwalior District In-Charge and Water Resources Minister Tulsiram Silawat.

person. Yadav said to High Courtappointed Liquidator Vyomesh Seth, via video conferencing, to evaluate the dues based on old and new claims and present the assessment before the High Court promptly. This, he said, would ensure a swift resolution of the pending court case related to JC Mill workers' payments and enable the disbursement of their dues. He also instructed Additional Chief Secretary Dr. Rajesh Rajoura and Principal Secretary for Industries Raghvendra Singh to prioritize actions concerning the workers' payments. In the meeting, CM Dr. Yadav

reviewed the ongoing efforts through discussions with ministers present both in-person and virtually, representatives of JC Mill workers' unions, the High Court-appointed liq-

Singh Tomar was present in uidator, senior officials from the State Government's Department, Industry Divisional Commissioner, and other authorities. He emphasized the need to accelerate the ongoing process for a timely resolution.

In the meeting held at the Divisional Commissioner's office auditorium, CM Dr. Yadav assured that the government would not only ensure the payment of dues to workers of JC Mill and other closed mills, like Sajjan Mill in Ratlam, but also establish new industrial units on these lands. These initiatives aim to generate employment for local res-

He announced that the upcoming industrial projects in Gwalior alone would provide employment for 80 thousand to 1 lakh people. CM Dr. Yadav highlighted the government's efforts in organizing a and the underprivileged.

series of regional industrial conclaves, seven of which have already taken place across the state, yielding significant investment proposals expected to create over 4 lakh jobs. Additionally, he shared that a world-class industrial summit is scheduled for February 2025, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi attending as the chief guest. This summit is anticipated to bring substantial investments to Madhya Pradesh.

district. Similarly, the pending payments of workers from the closed soybean factory in Ujjain will also be settled. Yadav shared that the state government has launched four missions focusing on the welfare of youth, women, farmers,

Yadav also assured that the

government would address the

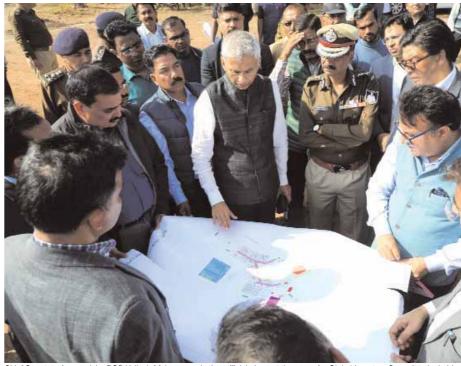
issues faced by workers of

Kailaras Sugar Mill in Morena

CM to interact with industrialists

Bhopal: Under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a preferred destination for investors. To further promote investment opportunities in the state, an interactive session is being organized in Pune on January 22. Chief Minister Yadav will directly engage with key representatives of the business community and investors during this session, focusing on the state's investor-friendly environment. The event will take place at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Pune.

Chief Minister Yadav aims to position Madhya Pradesh as a leading investment hub through investor-friendly policies, world-class infrastructure, and a skilled workforce. The state has already attracted investment proposals worth over Rs. 4 lakh crore.



Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, DGP Kailash Makwana and other officials inspect the venue for Global Investors Summit to be held in February at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya in Bhopal on Tuesday.

Jitu Patwari's remark on factionalism sparks political storm

Div Commissioner reviews parade preparations

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Energy Minister Pradyuman

v i s i o n a l Commissioner Sanjeev Singh, on Tuesday, inspected Republic Day preparations at Motilal Nehru Stadium at Lal Parade Ground and issued instructions for better coordination between various departments responsible for the

annual event. Singh underlined the need to step up work to ensure the timely completion of tasks and discussed seating arrangements, drinking water facilities, and other provisions with officials.

Director of Culture NP Namdev, Municipal Commissioner Harendra Narayan, and ADM Siddharth Jain were present. Rehearsals for the parade

Singh stressed the importance of ensuring guest comfort and instructed coordination between the Municipal Corporation and Public Works Department for better arrangements. Officials from multiple departments, including Revenue, Public Works, Police, and Electricity, attended the

inspection. The Republic Day programme will feature 22 tableaux from various departments, highlighting government schemes under the theme "Heritage and Development." Folk dance troupes will present Gond and Korku tribal dances, along with performances by 200 artists. The programme will also include Dhemsa

and march-past have already and Gadli-Susun dances from the Gond and Korku tribes.

The School Education Department will present performances by about 600 students, showcasing patriotic songs and themes on women's empowerment and gender equality. Selected tableaux will show-

case innovative schemes, focusing on women's empowerment, self-employment, Ratapani Sanctuary, cow protection, industrial investment, farmer welfare, cultural development, tourism, environmental awareness, the Chief Minister's January Kalyan Abhiyan, and nonconventional energy sources. These efforts aim to display the government's achievements and ongoing

Body found in Upper Lake

Bhopal: Panic prevailed in Sheetal Das ki Baghiya after a decomposed body of a young man was found in Upper Lake. The body was fished out from the water with the assistance of divers. Upon initial inspection, the police found no identification documents on the deceased, making it impossi-ble to identify him at the

scene. According to the Shyamala Hills Police, the body appeared to be about two to three days old. The man is estimated to be between the ages of 30 and 35. After recovering the body, it was sent for a postmortem to reveal the cause of death. The police have registered a case and are conducting an investigation to identify the man and determine the circumstances surrounding his death.

GIRISH SHARM BHOPAL

n a candid address to Congress workers in L Dharampuri, Dhar district, Congress Committee (MPCC) president Jitu Patwari openly acknowledged the deep-rooted factionalism within the party, describing it as a "cancer." His remarks have triggered a significant political debate. "Congress is afflicted with the cancer of groupism. We must eliminate this cancer, or it will destroy us. If we don't eradicate this factionalism, our party's future is doomed," Patwari stated during the gathering on Sunday. He further emphasized, "Whatever steps are necessary to end factionalism in our party, I will take them with courage and unity."

This is the first time Patwari has openly criticized factionalism within the party, drawing attention to an issue long acknowledged by senior leaders. Rajya Sabha member Digvijay Śingh had previously admitted to the presence of factionalism, arguing that it reflects internal democracy within the Madhya Pradesh Congress. Similarly, AICC general secretary Bhanwar Jitendra Singh recently described the phenomenon as a hallmark of the party's democratic ethos.

Patwari's remarks carry significant weight as they were made in Dhar district, as this is the district of Leader of the Opposition Umang Singhar. The district includes Gandhwani, the constituency of Singhar, who has been

a vocal critic of Patwari. Notably, Patwari has faced widespread criticism from party leaders, including Singhar, since the new Pradesh Congress Committee was formed last month.

The timing of Patwari's statement is also noteworthy, as the Congress gears up for its 'Jai Bapu, Jai Bhim, and Jai Samvidhan' rally in Mhow on January 27. His comments have added to the internal tensions within the party ahead of this key event. Reacting to Patwari's remarks, BJP spokesperson Narendra Saluja, a former Congress leader, told The Pioneer, "For years, the BJP has pointed out the rampant factionalism in Congress, but Patwari denied it. When

political affairs committee meeting, Patwari made Kamal Nath issue a false in Umang Singhar's home district, Patwari himself Meanwhile, the media department of the Madhya

tweet denying any rift. Now, admits that factionalism is a cancer within the Congress." Saluja also demanded that Patwari clarify who he holds responsible for this "cancer." Pradesh Congress has chosen to remain silent on the controversy, with spokespersons declining to comment. Patwari's statement has not only highlighted the internal challenges plaguing the party but has also provided fresh ammunition for the BJP to target the Congress in Madhya Pradesh's politically charged landscape.

Singh criticized him in the

Lamps lit up by the devotees at Ram Darbar on the eve of the first anniversary of the consecration of Ayodhya' Ram Temple, at Hanuman Temple, New Market in

WCR holds review meet to boost safety, infrastructure

PNS JABALPUR

coordination review meeting was held under the chairmanship of the General Manager of West Central Railway, Shobhana Bandopadhyay, in Jabalpur on Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by a host of senior officials, including Additional General Manager and Chief Mechanical Engineer Nitin Chaudhary, Chief Safety Officer Praveen Khurana, Chief Telecommunications and There was a special empha-

Manager Gurinder Mohan Singh, and others. Railway Divisional

Managers of Jabalpur, Bhopal, and Kota also participated via video conferencing. The meeting focused on key issues such as station redevelopment, Pioneer photo | capital expenditure



(CAPEX), and freight load-

Signalling Engineer Eknath sis on increasing originatthe Key Performance Indicator (KPI), and developing the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal (GST) and Private Freight Terminal

> Discussions also covered improving goods traffic and ensuring the safety of

train operations. The availability of safety equipment for railway staff and the installation of train protection systems (Kavach) were also reviewed. Bandopadhyay directed

Kamal Nath and Digvijay

authorities to accelerate railway projects and station redevelopment works. She emphasised compliance with safety and security guidelines set by the Railway Board.

She also focused on train punctuality, safety improvements, and optimising capital expenditure (CAPEX) across all divisions. Continuous monitoring of lighted.

She reviewed progress on infrastructure projects, particularly Kavach installation, and reiterated that safety remains the railway's top priority. She instructed officials to speed up progress across all divisions.

CM greets on Foundation Day of Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur

STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

hief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav has **⊿** greeted and extended good wishes on the Foundation Day of Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.

CM Yadav said that Tripura is renowned for its unique natural beauty blessed by the grace of Maa Tripursundari Ji and Manipur is celebrated for its distinctive art and rich culture.

The natural beauty of along with Meghalaya is also amazing. CM Dr. Yadav said that these states should always progress by creating new dimensions of development, this is my wish from Baba Mahakal that there should be prosperity in the lives of the cit-

HC rejects Saif Ali Khan's petition over Bhopal property dispute

individuals who moved to

Pakistan during the parti-

tion of India and renounced

their Indian citizenship would

have no claim over such prop-

erties. The Pataudi family's

link to the designation stems from Abida Sultan, the

daughter of Nawab Hamidullah Khan of Bhopal,

who chose to settle in

Pakistan post-independence.

Saif Ali Khan had secured a

stay on the properties in 2015

by filing a petition in the High

Court. However, the stay was

lifted following the court's recent dismissal of his plea.

With this ruling, the Madhya

Pradesh government may

soon assume control of the

properties, marking a signif-

icant legal setback for the

Pataudi family.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

he Madhya Pradesh High Court has dis-missed Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan's petition challenging a government notice that designated his family's ancestral properties in Bhopal as "enemy property." The ruling paves the way for the state government to take possession of the properties, reportedly valued at ?15,000

Justice Vivek Agarwal delivered the verdict on December 13, 2024, rejecting Saif Ali Khan's plea and permitting him to appeal to the Appellate Tribunal. However, neither Khan nor his family has pursued further legal action so

The disputed properties, extending from Koh-e-Fiza to Chiklod in Bhopal, have been under the possession of the Pataudi family, including Saif Ali Khan and Sharmila Tagore. These assets were declared "enemy property" in 2014 by the Custodian of Enemy Property Department. The legal contention arose from a 2016 ordinance by the Government of India, which clarified that descendants of



STAFF REPORTER BHOPAL

solo exhibition of paintings by senior Lucknowbased artist Sushma Agarwal began on Tuesday at the Multi-Art Centre, Bharat Bhavan. The exhibition, held at the Rang Darshini gallery, is being organised by the Roopankar Art Division. As part of the "Roopabh" paint-

ing exhibition series, 19 of Sushma's paintings are on display. Created in watercolours and acrylics, these paintings are in abstract form. The 80-year-old artist, Sushma

Agarwal, shared that this is the first time her exhibition has been held in Bhopal and at Bharat Bhavan. She explained that in her paint-

ings, she has attempted to depict the emotions of the mind's consciousness through colours on canvas. The exhibition will continue until January 25.

The octogenarian says, "I wish that artists create works of art that bring knowledge, joy, and solutions to people." She further added, "The brush and colours have their own power, which brings life to a painting. Through painting, the feeling of vitality is created, inspiring others." She mentioned that painting has its own rules, laws, and soul

EPFO launches self-update feature, members can edit profiles

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

aunching a new self update feature for those ⊿with a valid Universal Account Number (UAN), the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has further simplified the process for updating member profiles.

Under the revised procedure, members whose UAN have been validated through Aadhaar will be able to update their profiles themselves.

The self update fields include details such as name, date of birth, gender, nationality, father/mother's name, marital status, spouse's name, date of joining, and date of leaving, without the need to upload any documents. However, UANs issued prior

to October 1, 2017, the updates will require certification from the employer. The consistency and accuracy of EPF members' personal data in EPFO's database are critical to ensuring seamless service delivery and minimising the risk of errors or fraudulent fund payments. Previously, members needing to correct or update their

details could file requests online by uploading the required documents. These requests had to be endorsed by the employer and then forwarded to EPFO for final approval. Out of the 800,000 correction requests received by EPFO via employers during the financial year 2024–25, nearly 45% of such requests can now be selfapproved by members without requiring verification or approval from their employ-

This change will reduce the average 28-day delay caused by employers' approval of Joint Declarations (JDs). For EPF account holders without complete e-KYC, around 50% of requests will still need employer-level approval but will not require EPFO's

direct involvement. This revision will immediately benefit approximately 390,000 members whose requests are currently pending at various stages. Members eligible for selfapproval who have already filed requests pending employer action can now delete those requests and approve them themselves under the simplified process.



Bank of Maharashtra opens new branch in Jabalpur

Senior Congress leader and former MP Meenakshi Natrajan talking to media persons at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Tuesday

PNS JABALPUR

the opening of a new branch at Dhanwantari Nagar in Jabalpur expands the Bank of Maharashtra network to over 2547 locations around the country

Several city luminaries attended the inaugural ceremony chaired by Prof Dr Navneet Saxena from Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Medical College. Established in September 1936 in

Pune, the bank has grown into a strong and respected institution providing banking services to its customers nationwide through an ever expanding network of branches. The bank has consistently remained committed to building strong relationships with its customers under its vision of "One Family, One Bank."

With the opening of the new branch, the bank takes another step towards providing enhanced services and facilities to its customers in Jabalpur and the surrounding areas. The branch offers all modern banking features, including digital banking, deposits, withdrawals, and other specialised services.

Żonal Manager Mohammad Shaizib, and other senior officials participated in the inaugural event. Bank of Maharashtra remains dedicated to contributing to the country's development through its resilience, trust, and excellent services

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High drama at Bhopal Collectorate, man torches vehicle in protest

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

hopal Collecorate wit-Bnessed a dramatic and tragic incident on Tuesday when a man, frustrated by alleged inaction in a property dispute, attempted self-immolation and set his vehicle on fire outside the district collectorate. The act, meant to pressure officials into resolving his grievance, caused panic and chaos in the area.

According to police, the man poured petrol on a vehicle parked at the collectorate gate, filled it with straw, and set it ablaze. The fire quickly engulfed the car, reducing it to ashes. Eyewitnesses reported that the man climbed onto the burning vehicle, attempting to harm himself, but was

अवर शहीद हेमू कालावी

विचार मंद्र

Eyewitnesses reported that the man climbed onto the burning vehicle, attempting to harm himself, but was removed by bystanders before sustaining serious injuries. The fire brigade was called and the blaze was extinguished in 20 minutes

removed by bystanders Sheelabai, claimed they before sustaining serious injuries. The fire brigade was called and managed to extinguish the blaze within 20 minutes.

The man, identified as family from Barkheda submit a complaint about a property dispute. The family, including Shakkarbai,

were being denied justice in their ancestral property case. However, it was later revealed that the matter was under a High Court stay, and a district court Hotam Singh, was part of a ruling had gone against them. Despite this, the fam-Nathu village who had ily reportedly retained pos-come to the collectorate to session of the disputed

The incident occurred during a public hearing chaired Rai Singh, Chandabai, and by Zila Panchayat CEO

Rituraj Singh. When the fire broke out, ADM Siddharth Jain, who was in a meeting, rushed to the scene and attempted to control the fire with a fire extinguisher. The commotion disrupted the hearing and prompted officials to secure the area. Nearby vehicles, including those of officers, were immediately moved to prevent further damage. Kohefiza police detained

the family members involved and brought them to the station for questioning. A plate found on the burned vehicle identified it as belonging to a local organization, "District General Secretary Maharana Pratap Yuva Sangathan Bhopal.' Collector Kaushalendra Vikram Singh confirmed the incident, stating that

legal proceedings related to the property dispute were ongoing in both the SDM court and the High Court in Jabalpur. He assured that all actions would be taken in compliance with court directives. Eyewitnesses also mentioned that a young man danced on the bonnet of the burning vehicle before being restrained. While one person suffered minor burns, there were no serious injuries reported.

The Bharatiya Kisan Sangh was also present at the col-lectorate on Tuesday to submit a memorandum, and police deployment in the area likely averted a larger tragedy. The incident has raised concerns about public safety and the extreme measures people resort to in seeking justice.

BMC collects over Rs 1.5L in fines



identified as Hautam Singh of Barkheda Nathu village was upset over not getting justice in a land dispute by the district administration authorities.

methods, condoms, contraceptive

Mother-in-law and daughter-in-

law meetings are being organised

to raise awareness about the

importance of family planning

and the methods available.

Awareness rallies and vans are

pills, and pregnancy test kits.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

ontinuing with an ongoing drive, Bhopal M u n i c i p a l Corporation (BMC) collected Rs 1,54,150 in fines from 1,073 cases of civic negligence spread across 21 zones in the state capital.

These fines were levied for violations including improp-er waste disposal, lack of dustbins, improper waste segregation, public urination, and the use of banned plastic.

Additionally, the corporation imposed Rs 29,900 in fines for 15 cases involving construction and demolition (C&D) waste, particularly for spilling construction materials on roads and failing to use green nets at construction sites.

The BMC is enforcing stringent regulations to tackle issues such as C&D waste and air pollution. Health department teams are conducting city-wide surveys to identify and penalise violators failing to meet sanita-tion and pollution bench-Some of the major fines

were collected from Zone 10, which raised Rs 27,600 from 42 cases, and Zone 12, which gathered Rs 19,100 from 91

The corporation has urged builders to comply with guidelines for using green nets and minimising the impact of construction activities on air quality. Non-compliance will result

in continued penalties and enforcement actions, the BMC warned

methods and procedures, such as sterilisation, IUDs, the Antara injection, oral pills, Chhaya pills, and condoms.

As part of the initiative, newlywed couples are being given the 'Nayi Pahal' kit. The kit includes beauty products for women, information on family planning

Bhopal: To raise awareness and

acceptance of family planning

services, the Mission Family

Development Fortnight is being

observed in the state capital to

provide both permanent and temporary methods to target

Health workers are educating

beneficiaries about contraceptive

couples.

also spreading information about family welfare services in rural areas. Information is being shared about optimal family planning timings, including having the first child two years after marriage and the second three years later, followed by sterilisation. ASHA workers are compiling lists

of couples interested in sterilisa-tion and facilitating their partic-

Family Planning Campaign targets newlyweds in District ipation in sterilisation camps at nearby health centres. Sterilisation services are being provided daily at district hospitals, and Antara injections are also available. Family planning services, includ-

ing both permanent and tempo-

rary methods, are available daily

at Dr Kailashnath Katju Civil Hospital, Civil Hospital Bairagarh, and other health institutions, including private ones. CMHO Dr Prabhakar Tiwari said efforts are being made to inform newlywed couples and those with two children about the

family welfare programme to encourage active participation at the right time.

Demand Notice Date of

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

AHFL for an amount as mentioned herein under with interest thereon.

Name of the Borrower(s)/

Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069

Vidisha Branch: 1st Floor, Gaurav Business Square, Opposite Adani Wilmar Plant, Sanchi Road, Vidisha - 464001 (M.P.)

POSSESSION NOTICE Appendix IV (for immovable property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, Demand Notice(s) issued by the Authorised Officer of the company to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) mentioned herein below to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s) 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 the Section 13 of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the Security nterest Enforcement rules, 2002. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of

ı	N.	Co Borrower(s) (Name of the Branch)	(Immovable Property)	Date & Amount	Possession	
		(Loan Code No. 07600001088 / Vidisha Branch) Narendra Sahu (Borrower) Rani Sahu (Co-Borrower)	All that part & parcel of property bearing, PO Kh No.2574 2 1 1 Ward No 37 Mohalla Puranpura Gali No 5 Ma Vaishnav Colony Sagar Bhopal Bypass, Vidisha, Madhya Pradesh - 464001 Boundaries: East- Balaji Paradise, West - Road, North-Land of Seller, South - Land of Seller	10-04-2024 & ₹ 4,12,087/-	18-01-2025	
i	DI					

Description of Secured Asset

Place : Madhya Pradesh Date: 22-01-2025

Authorised Officer **Aadhar Housing Finance Limited**

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL

797-II, Shanti Kunj, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur 482001 (M.P.) Case No.: RC 58/2024 in O.A. No.7/2020

INDIAN BANK VS SHRI AJAY KUMAR MISHRA E-AUCTION NO. 16/2025

Under mentioned properties will be sold by "on line e-auction" through website https://www.bankeauctions.com for recovery of a sum of Rs.78.48.342.00 (Rupees Seventy Eight Lakh Forty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Forty Two only) payable by you/him in respect of Recovery Certificate in 0.A. No.7/2020 issued by the Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Jabalpur with interest at 12.00% p.a. with simple Interest from 07-12-2019 and costs payable as per recovery certificate till realization.

Date and Time of E-auction: 28-02-2025 Between 12.00 Hours and 13.00 hours. SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPERTIES PUT FOR SALE

Agriculture Land bearing Khasra No. 115, 12, 13, 106, 18, 19, 10/1, 10/2, 105/1, 105/2, 14, 15, 78, 114, 116 and 20 total area admeasuring 12.85 hectare, N.B. No. 763/773, Patwari Halka No. 42/39, situated at Mouza Harrai, Patwari Halka- Nigri, Tehsil & District- Jabalpur (M.P.); property in the name of Shri Ajay Kumar Mishra, CEO of

M/s Sonika Estate & Coloniser. Upset Price: Rs.1,40,60,000.00 (Rupees One Crore Forty Lakh Sixty Thousand only) Conditions of Sale: (1) Intending bidders must hold a valid digital signature certificate. For details contact M/s. C-1 India Pvt.Ltd. website: https://www.bankeauctions.com; Helpline No. 01244302020/21/22/23/24. for help a bidder in eauction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1india.com or E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com (2) Intending bidders are advised to go through website https://www.bankeauctions.com for

auction bid form and details, terms and conditions of sale before submitting their bids. (3) Bids should be submitted only online in the prescribed form along with a copy of identity document as an attachment to the bid form (refer detailed terms and conditions). Bidder should satisfy them self with regard to correctness, measurement, encumbrances etc by their own sources (Govt. Office) also later on DRT will not be responsible for this. (4) 10% of the upset price i.e. EMD/Bid price Rs.14,06,000.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Six Thousand only) must be remitted towards EMD through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the credit of Account no. 20020210000380 in the name of Recovery Officer, E-auction account, DRT Jabalpur with UCO BANK, NAVYUG COLLEGE BRANCH, JABALPUR. (IFSC Code:UCBA0002002) and the remittance must be clearly mentioned in the bid form. (5) Bids should be submitted on or before 17.00 Hours on 25-02-2025 online. (6) A copy of the bid form along with its enclosure submitted online should be sent to Recovery Officer, DRT, Jabalour, 797-II, Shanti Kuni, South Civil Lines, Jabalpur so as to reach at the earliest. (7) Online bidding will commence from the highest bid quoted among the bids and the minimum increase for each bid will be Rs.1,41,000.00 (Rupees One Lakh Forty One Thousand only). In case of bid received before closure of Auction window, there shall be an automatic extension of 5 minutes in Auction time by the system. (8) The refund of EMD of the unsuccessful bidders will be remitted to the same account from which the payment has been made and no inquiry in this regard will be entertained, After deposit of EMD by intending bidder they cannot withdraw the EMD amount until they are declared as "Unsuccessful bidder" otherwise the amount will be forfeited. (9) In the case of immovable property listed in the schedule below, the successful bidder shall remit 25% of the bid amount (less EMD) on the next day on declaration, if the sale is knocked down in his / her favour through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer to the Account No. 20020210000380 mentioned in SL. No. 4 and in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be put up again and resold and amount deposited as EMD will be forfeited. (10) The successful bidder shall remit balance 75% of the sale amount along with poundage of 1% of sale amount plus Rs. 10/- for each property separately within 15 days of auction, to the Account No. 20020210000380 mentioned at SL. No. 04 through RTGS/NEFT/Money Transfer, exclusive of such day, or if the 15th day be a Sunday or other holiday, then on the first office working day after 15th day. In default of payment within the period mentioned above, the property shall be resold after the issue of a fresh proclamation of sale. The deposit will be forfeited to the Government and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold. (11) Property will be sold <u>"As is Where is and No Complaint basis".</u> (12) The properties can be inspected on 18-02-2025 between 12.00 Hrs. to 16.00 Hrs. (13) Properties will not be sold below the upset price. (14) Recovery Officer have the absolute right to accept or reject the bid or postpone/cancel the sale without assigning any reason. (15) Intending bidders are advised to peruse copies of the title deed available with Indian Bank, Wright Town, Jabalpur Branch, Shri Bhabatosh Sahu, Chief Manager, Mob. No. 8457973494 and also check the identity and correctness of the property details and encumbrances etc. from their own sources also. DRT will not be responsible for correctness etc. (16) Details regarding e-auction shall be obtained from M/s. C-1 India Pvt. Ltd., website: https://www.bankeauctions.com; Helpline No. 0124-4302020/21/22/23/24, for help a bidder in e-auction contact to Mr. Mithalesh Kumar on Mob. No. 7080804466; E-mail id- mpcg@c1indian.com or E-mail ID: support@bankeauctions.com (17) Further property details if any required shall be obtained from **Indian Bank, Wright Town, Jabalpur Branch, Shri Bhabatosh Sahu, Chief Manager,** Mob. No. 8457973494. (18) The bidders may participate in the e-auction by quoting / bidding from their own offices / places of their choice. Internet connectivity shall have to be ensured by each bidder himself. DRT / Bank / Service Provider shall not be

held responsible for the internet connectivity, network problems, system crash down, Power failure et Ms. Priti Desai Place: Jabalpur Date: 06-01-2025 Recovery Officer II, DRT Jabalpur (M.P.)

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav pays tribute to Shaheed Hemu Kalani on his death anniversary in Ujjain Complete liquor ban to be imposed | Patients bear brunt of protests, mismanagement at Hamidia

in Ujjain and other religious cities **STAFF REPORTER** ■ BHOPAL

hief Minister Mohan Yadav paid tribute to ✓ revolutionary freedom fighter Amar Shaheed Hemu Kalani on Tuesday by garlanding his statue in Sindhi Colony, Ujjain. Yadav noted that the occasion marks Hemu Kalani's Balidan Diwas, honouring his sacrifice for the country's freedom at only 19 years.

Chief Minister Yadav highlighted the immense contributions of Hemu Kalani and other revolutionaries, whose tireless efforts ended nearly a thousand years of foreign martyrs born in every century who defended Indian culture and upheld the say-

Janmabhoomishcha Swargadapi Gariyasi.' Dr. Yadav emphasized how British invaders looted India's wealth and acknowledged the ultimate sacrifices of freedom fighters, who expelled the British and stopped this exploitation. Chief Minister Yadav stated

that from the time of Prithviraj Chauhan (1192) to 1947, India's history has been enriched by brave martyrs and warriors.

He underlined the continuous struggles of Maharana Pratap, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the Gond Empire, Bajirao Peshwa, the Scindia Empire, the Holkar Empire, and others against foreign invaders. Dr. Yadav noted the repeated attacks by Mughals and other invaders on India's temples and culture but

emphasized the timely responses that preserved Sanatan culture. He also mentioned restoring significant temples, including Chintaman Ganesh, Bada Ganpati Maharaj, Kalbhairay, Mangalnath Maharaj, and Siddhnath Maharaj.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced plans for a complete prohibition of liquor in Ujjain and other religious cities of Madhya Pradesh to uphold the faith of devotees. He emphasized the government's focus on promoting religious, natural, and cultural tourism, which will create employment opporholistic development of the

Amar Shaheed Hemu Kalani: Brave son of **Mother India**

Hemu Kalani, a revolutionary from Sukkur, Sindh, dedicated his life to India's freedom struggle. Inspired by patriotism from a young age, he urged people to boycott foreign goods and support Indigenous products. An active participant in the Quit India Movement of 1942, Hemu Kalani and his companions undertook daring acts against British rule, including a plan to derail a train carrying weapons. Captured by the British, he was sentenced to death, making the ultimate sacrifice for India's independence. During the event, MLA Anil Jain Kaluheda, Mayor Mukesh Tatwal, Chairperson Kalavati Yadav, along with other public representatives

and citizens, were present.

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

aulty elevators, a shortage of medicines, and limited access to drinking water continue to afflict Government Hamidia Hospital, where services remained disrupted due to an ongoing employee protest that entered its sixth day on Tuesday.

Patients and their families bear the brunt of the protests, which erupted last October over delayed wage payments to workers at the hospital.

Family members were seen wheeling rickety stretchers around the sprawling campus, which resembles a highsecurity zone, with uniformed guards posted every few hun-

The heavy security presence is unnerving, especially as the guards refuse to assist visitors

Patients have complained about declining services at the hospital, a situation worsened after administrators decided to sack 400 workers, citing overstaffing during the Covid pan-

The hospital management has remained silent over the issue despite warnings from an association of junior doctors about the negative impact the sackings would have on health ser-

While the employee agitation has exacerbated the situation, patients claim poor management, a shortage of medicines, and non-functional amenities have long plagued the hospital, which has recentunaergone makeover.

In Block B, only one of the four elevators was functioning on Tuesday, forcing visitors to

use the stairs or wait in long queues to fetch medicines or

In an example of poor planning, only two drinking water dispensers were operational in the building, one on the ninth floor and the other on the

Patients in the Out-Patient Department (OPD) said hospital staff often directed them to medicine stores outside the campus for basic supplies like Betadine solution and even paper for the ECG machine. The hospital rarely has all the prescribed medicines in stock, and patients say they are fortunate if the hospital can provide eight out of ten medicines on their prescriptions.

escalating complaints for fear of reprisal and prefer to suffer silently, attributing their visits



Students take part in a rally during a traffic awareness campaign "Parvaah" under Road Safety Month-2025 launched by traffic Pioneer photo

Selfie Stops: Bhopal's new traffic challenge

KISHAN SINGH RANA BHOPAL

lame it on vanity or social Bmedia fixations, but growing 'selfie stops' along busy roads are proving to be a bane for officials managing vehicular traffic in the state cap-

Additional Superintendent of Police (Traffic), Basant Kaul, agrees that selfie stopping poses a significant challenge for the traffic department, as motorists park in the middle of high-traffic zones around city landmarks, causing snarls and posing safety hazards.

The situation is especially bad around the Cable Bridge at Kamla Park and the Raja Bhoj Statue on VIP Road, where haphazardly parked vehicles are an everyday headache for both motorists and traffic mar-

With a spiralling number of

people making such stops, a police patrol vehicle has been assigned the task of clearing the area of motorists stopping to click selfies during peak traffic

Administrators say the seemingly harmless traffic misdeanour impacts policing in the city, as resources are deployed to deter people from making these stops, which are contrary to common sense and

traffic rules. VIP Road is an accident-prone area, accounting for scores of

deaths since it opened around the turn of the millennium. Indian Road Congress bench-

marks make it mandatory for roadsides in high-traffic zones to remain free of distractions so drivers can focus on the road

month passes without the grow-High parapet walls on the Veer ing craze for social media and Savarkar Bridge are a case in gaming claiming young lives.

point. Side walls on the flyover have been raised near railway underpasses to deter people from making middle-of-theroad stops to take selfies and prevent distractions and road According to statistics, Bhopal

recorded over 5,000 accidents in 2023, resulting in 439 fatalities. Most of the victims were under the age of 30. If stopping in non-designated

zones to click selfies is bad, posing for pictures in moving vehicles is even worse. Only last week, two of three youngsters died while driving in the Kolar area of the city. Investigations into the fatal car crash revealed that the trio was taking a selfie when tragedy struck. This is not the first incident of

its kind in Bhopal, where not a

Thar rams into truck Bhopal: A major accident

occurred late Monday night near Holy Family School on Airport Road, when a speeding Thar SUV collided with a loading truck, causing the truck to overturn.

In the incident, which took place around 12 in the night on Tuesday a speeding SUV Thar was going from Parvaliya towards Gandhi Nagar. The driver of the Thar lost control and rammed into the rear of the truck, leading to the violent collision. The impact was so severe that the truck was pushed onto the divider and flipped over, while the Thar sustained significant damage as

No one involved in the accident sustained life-threatening injuries. The four youths in the Thar, who were injured in the crash, were quickly taken to a private hospital for medical

BJP slams Kejriwal, accuses him of misquoting Ramayan

The Bharatiya Janata Party 1 (BJP) slammed Kejriwal on Tuesday accusing him of misquoting the Ramayan and "insulting" Lord Ram and Sita, with its Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva holding a fast as a mark of absolution. In response, Kejriwal said the BJP was protesting against him in the honour of demon king Ravana and accused the party leaders of having "demonic tendencies". The two parties are indulged in an intense war of words, a blame game over a range of issues with Delhi Assembly polls just around the corner.

Kejriwal found himself under fire from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after his remarks

Vishwas Nagar, Delhi, on Monday, comparing the BJP to the "golden deer" in the

In a major gaffe while referencing Ramayana, Kejriwal said, "I want to warn the slum dwellers that these days they (people of BJP) are staying in slums, they do not love you, they love your vote and will sell all your land after the elections. Lord Ram was exiled for 14 years, so one day he went to the forest to arrange for food, left Mata Sita in the hut and told Laxman that you will protect Sita Maa. Meanwhile, Ravan came in the form of a golden deer. Sita said to Laxman that I want this deer... Laxman went and Ravan kidnapped Sita Maa. These BJP people are

not get involved in their trap. Kejriwal's remarks drew the ire of the BJP, who accused him of insulting Sanatan Dharma and misinterpreting the sacred text of Ramcharitmanas, labelling him a "Chunavi Hindu". Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, who started his fast after a visit to Prachin Hanuman temple, called Kejriwal a "Chunavi Hindu" and sought forgiveness for "dis-respect" shown by him to Sita-

Sachdeva visited the Hanuman Temple at Connaught Place this morning to pay respects to Shri Ram Darbar, Lord Hanuman, and Saint Tulsidas. He sought forgiveness for the AAP chief for sharing a misrepresentation of the Ramayan, and hurting



the sentiments of millions of Hindus. Sachdeva has also decided to observe a symbolic fast on Tuesday as an act of prayer while continuing with his regular activities. He started his fast after a visit to Prachin Hanuman temple, called Kejriwal a "Chunavi Hindu" and sought forgiveness for "disrespect" shown by him to Sita-Ram. "It is regret-

due to ignorance," he said. Kejriwal in an election meeting on Monday, quoted Ramayana saying Sita was abducted by Ravan who appeared as a golden deer, when Lord Ram went out in search of food. The BJP leaders objected to it, alleging Kejriwal misquoted the Ramayan story and pointed out that it was another character in the epic, 'Mama Marich" who distracted Lord Rama as a

Arvind Kejriwal mention

deities in their election rallies

but hurt Hindu sentiments by

narrating inaccurate stories

"I said yesterday that Ravan took the form of a golden deer. The BJP leaders are sitting

golden deer when Ravan

abducted Sita.

for why I insulted Ravan," he claimed. They have so much love for Ravan, they have "demonic tendencies", he charged and added, "I want to warn the slum dwellers and poor in Delhi that they will devour them if they come to Sachdeva hit out at Kejriwal

saying he was the same leader who previously quoting his grand mother tried to create an "anti-Ram Mandir" narrative and advocated hospitals and schools in place of the temple.

"The Hindu community will never forgive Kejriwal for hurting their sentiments," he said. Senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia also attacked the BJP over the issue in a post on X, saying the party leaders were

"defending" Ravan as if they were also "descendants" of the demon king. He alleged the BJP's politics stooped so low that its leaders were using sym-

bols like Ravan to justify their false statements. BJP spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari launched a scathing attack on Kejriwal, calling him

a "Chunavi Hindu" for misquoting Ramayana and said his true face had been exposed in front of the people of Delhi and the country. Bhandari remarked that appeasement runs in the veins of Kejriwal and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and that the AAP supremo was "irritated" with the slogan of 'Ek hain toh safe hain' and Lord Shri Ram's temple in Ayodhya and wants to

give lands of Delhi to Waqf.

Rahul Gandhi criticises Modi Government for its economic policies

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday criticized the Modi government for its economic policies and asserted that real development is when everyone progresses, there is a fair environment for business, a fair tax system and the income of workers increas-

In a social media post in Hindi, he said, "The truth of Modi Ji's developed India: Your hard work, whose profit? The wheel of the country's economy is turning with your sweat and blood, but are you getting your fair share in it? Just think.

The share of the manufacturing sector in the economy has gone down to the lowest level in 60 years and due to this, people are struggling for employment, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said.

Wrong policies in the agriculture sector have worsened the condition of farmers and farm labourers, Rahul Gandhi said,



adding they are barely able to make ends meet. The real income of workers has either remained stagnant or decreased

in the last five years, he said. "The harmful GST and income tax have made life difficult for the poor and the middle class, while corporate loans are being waived off," the former Congress chief said. Due to skyrocketing inflation, now not only the poor but also the salaried class is forced to take loans for their needs, he said. "Real development is when everyone progresses - there is a fair environment for business, there is a fair tax system and the

Only this will make the country prosperous and strong," Rahul Gandhi asserted.

He had announced on Sunday the launch of a 'White T-shirt Movement, championing the rights of the masses. He had accused the Narendra Modi government of turning its back on the poor. Gandhi had announced the launch in a social media post and urged people to be a part of it.

"If you believe in economic justice, oppose rising wealth inequalities, fight for social equality, reject all forms of discrimination, and strive for peace and stability in our country, wear your white T-shirts and join the movement," said the video voiceover posted by Rahul Gandhi on social media. The Congress has been attacking the government over its handling of the economy, claiming the issues of rising prices, decreasing private investment and stagnating wages are hitting the common

Demand for NRI representation in Parliament at panel meeting

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

A suggestion to give non-resident Indians representation in Parliament was made on Tuesday at the meeting of the parliamentary committee on external affairs due to their growing numbers and unique issues concerning the diaspora interest.

Sources said Congress MP Deepender Singh Hooda cited examples of countries such as Italy, which has reservation in legislature for its citizens residing abroad, to pitch for NRI representation in Parliament to cater to their issues in a better way.

The standing committee headed by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor discussed a number of issues concerning the Indian diaspora. As millions of NRIs reside in foreign countries, they deserve to have representation in Parliament, Hooda is learnt to have said. Some NRI groups in the past

have demanded seats in Parliament. As of now, NRIs cannot even vote from abroad



and are required to come to India to exercise their franchise. A bill to allow them to vote through a proxy in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections was introduced in Parliament in 2018 but lapsed later. NRIs are officially described as "overseas elec-

Tharoor said after meeting members had a very detailed and thorough discussion with four organisations working with the diaspora. The MPs were very engaged. It was a lively and full discussion with a lot of questions and answers, he added.

Sources said the organisations participating in the meeting made some good proposals, including one from isations could skill people depending on the needs of any foreign country.
This will streamline the

immigration of skilled workers and curb undesirable activities, including desperate attempts by people to reach foreign destinations, at times illegally, an MP said after the meeting.

The organisations that attended the meeting were Norka Roots from Kerala; the Punjab government's Department of NRIs Affairs; People of Indian Origin Chamber

Commerce and Industry, Delhi; and the Centre for Diaspora Studies, Central University of Gujarat. The Ministry of External

Affairs informed the committee in an earlier meeting that a bill focusing on emigration issues was under the government's consideration. haroor said the ministry had informed the panel that the bill was under preparation and discussion. One of the requests from state governments is that they should also be consulted, he added.

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya takes oath as Chief Justice of Delhi HC



PNS NEW DELHI

Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya on Tuesday took oath as the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena administered the oath to the judge at a ceremony in Raj Niwas. The ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including Chief Minister Atishi and judges of the Delhi High Court.

Justice Upadhyaya, who was the chief justice of Bombay High Court, was appointed to the post on January 14. The Supreme Court Collegium on January seven recommended his transfer.

Born on June 16, 1965 at Muskarai, UP, Justice Upadhyaya enrolled as an advocate in May 1991 after completing his LLB from Lucknow University.

He was appointed as a judge of the Allahabad High Court on November 21, 2011, and took oath as its permanent judge on August six, 2013. He took oath as the Chief Justice of Bombay High Court on July

After the elevation of Justice Manohan to the Supreme Court, Justice Vibhu Bakhru was serving as acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

Ten years of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative celebrated with nationwide events

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T^{\text{he government will organise weeks-long celebrations}}$ anniversary of the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative, the Union women and child development ministry said on Tuesday. Beginning on Wednesday, the celebrations will continue till March eight, observed as International Women's Day.

The inaugural event in Delhi on Wednesday will feature Union ministers J P Nadda, Annapurna Devi and Savitri Thakur, alongside senior women officers from the armed forces, paramilitary forces and the Delhi Police.

Officials from central ministries, Anganwadi workers, student volunteers and representatives from international organisations such as UNICEF, UN Women and the World Bank will also participate.

The occasion marks the beginning of nationwide celebrations reflecting the scheme's trans-



decade, according to a ministry statement. The celebrations will include events at the state and the district levels.

Special programmes will be held on Wednesday, Sunday (January 26), and March eight, engaging communities through rallies, cultural performances, and felicitation ceremonies for women achievers.

The ministry has also announced sustainability initiatives, including a nationwide plantation drive, and will run awareness campaigns across print, digital and social media to further amplify the message of gender equality

Launched on January 22, 2015, initiative was created to address imbalance and declining child sex ratio.

and empowerment.

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Haryana's Panipat, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao the critical issues of gender Over the years, the initiative

has driven significant progress. The national sex ratio at birth improved from 918 in 2014-15 to 930 in 2023-24, and the gross enrolment ratio of girls at the per cent to 78 per cent during the same period.

Institutional deliveries rose from 61 per cent to 97.3 per cent, and first-trimester antenatal care registrations surged from 61 per cent to 80.5per cent, reflecting the programme's far-reaching impact. The scheme has gone beyond numbers to drive cultural and social change.

Initiatives such as the Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav returned more than a lakh out-of-school girls to education while programmes like the Yashaswini Bike Expedition showcased the empowerment of women in action.

The scheme has also utilised creative campaigns, including collaborations with television shows, to address societal issues such as girl child abandonment and to spread awareness about the value of daughters

WHO expresses regret over US withdrawal from global health body

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T_{\text{Organisation(WHO)}}^{\text{he World Health}}$ President Donald Trump's announcement of the US withdrawal from the global health body as it hoped the country would reconsider its decision and engage in a constructive dialogue to maintain the part-

Soon after his swearing-in on Monday, Trump signed an executive order beginning the process of withdrawing America from the WHO. This is the second time in less than five years that the US has ordered the withdrawal from

the world body.
Trump has long been critical of the WHO and sought to pull out the US from the UN body during his first term Presidency, but his successor Joe Biden reversed Trump's decision. The executive order signed by Trump said the president was sending a presidential letter to the United



Nations secretary-general to formally notify him of the US plan to withdraw.

World Health The Organization regrets the announcement that the United States of America intends to withdraw from the organization," the apex global health body said in a statement.
"We hope the United States

will reconsider and we look forward to engaging in constructive dialogue to maintain the partnership between the

USA and WHO, for the benefit of the health and wellbeing of millions of people around the globe," it stated. The statement said WHO plays a crucial role in protecting the health and security of the world's people, including Americans, by addressing the root cause of diseases, building stronger health systems and detecting, preventing and

responding to health emer-

gencies, including disease outbreaks, often in dangerous

places where others cannot go. The United States was a founding member of WHO in 1948 and has participated in shaping and governing its 193 other member states, through its active participation in the World Health Assembly and Executive Board, the statement said.

For over seven decades, WHO and the USA have saved countless lives and protected Americans and all people from health threats. Together, we ended smallpox, and together we have brought polio to the brink of eradication. American institutions have contributed to and benefited from membership in WHO," it said

With the participation of the United States and other member states, WHO has over the past seven years implemented the largest set of reforms in its history, to transform our accountability, cost-effectiveness, and impact in countries," the global health body

Need to see gravity of contempt on tree felling in Delhi Ridge: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it needed to see the gravity of contempt after a plea alleged tree felling in Delhi Ridge area for widening of a road in violation of its orders.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh, reserved its verdict on the contempt plea filed by one Bindu Kapurea, who alleged trees were cut despite top court's last year's March 4 order denying permission to the DDA. He said the fact of tree felling was suppressed from the court.

"We need to see the gravity of contempt in this matter. Whether the trees were felled for widening of road to the hospital, meant for paramilitary jawans, who serve in remote areas like in jungles or in Leh, where there are minimal medical facilities. Or, were the trees felled to widen the road for the

benefit of affluent persons of the area," said the bench.

It added the court needed to take a fresh look of the entire matter and wouldn't be swayed by previous orders passed by different benches of the apex court on the issue.

"We need to take an independent approach on this issue. So, that we are not swayed by the earlier orders of the court or the view taken by the court. We would like to form our own view and finish off this matter," the bench said.

Senior advocate Vikash Singh, appearing for Delhi Lieutenant Governor, said he had filed an affidavit and was not aware of court's embargo on tree felling in the area.

He said irrespective of what had happened, the authorities would plant around 70,000 saplings to purge the contempt instead of the mandated 5,340

The bench said it would consider what needed to be done



on the issue.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for Delhi Development Authority (DDA) vice-chairman, had said there was a 7.5-feet wide road but it was supposed to be widened to 15 feet to enable vehicles ferrying soldiers a hassle-free entry into the hospital.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for Kapurea, said the contempt was not as simple as being projected and there was a deliberate violation of court orders apart from the suppression of

crucial information about trees already being felled when the DDA sought court's permis-He alleged there were already

three roads for the hospital but the authorities wanted to benefit the affluent residing near the hospital. Sankaranarayanan submitted

a map of the area to claim the alignment of road was changed to enter into the forest area which led to felling of trees for widening of the road. The bench said it would exam-

ine all the aspects and pass the order on the issue. In December last year, the top court asked for a list of afflu-

ent persons, who reportedly benefited from illegal tree felling in Delhi's Ridge area and sought to know the site plan for afforestation. The ridge is an extension of Aravalli Hill range in Delhi and

a rocky, hilly and forested area.

It is divided into four zones -

- south, south-central, central

and north -- for administrative reasons. four zones make up a total of about 7,784 hectares.

Sankaranarayanan had referred to a Forest Survey of India report stating a total of 1,670 trees were cut, but the DDA claimed it was only 642

The top court had issued a contempt notice to the DDA vice-chairman Subhasish Panda for felling of trees for the construction of an approach road to the hospital and directed Lieutenant Governor and DDA Chairperson V K Saxena to file a personal affidavit detailing actions against erring officials for allegedly illegally felling around 1,100 trees in Delhi Ridge area in February,

The tree felling drive was purportedly done for widening the road going towards Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences (CAP-FIMS) Hospital.

Construction work of RRTS from Delhi to Shahjahanpur to begin soon: Minister

PNS GURUGRAM

Union Minister Rao Inderjeet Singh said that the construction work of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) from Delhi to Shahjahanpur will start soon. He said that before the Union Budget, he has talked to Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal over phone on this matter and requested to complete all the formalities regarding this project as soon as possible. Rao told that Union Urban

Development Minister told him that the project will cost around Rs 22,000 crore and the project will start soon. Rao said that this project will prove to be a milestone for the region in the field of public transport and the people here will be able to travel to Delhi and Rajasthan easily.



While giving this information, Singh also disclosed that earlier this project was revised and a proposal was given by the officials to do it in the first phase from Delhi to Dharuhera.

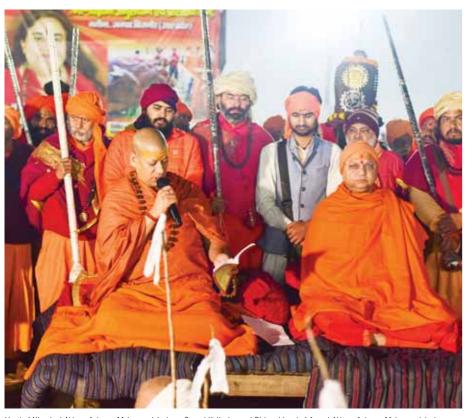
When people gave him this information during the Lok Sabha elections, he talked to the then Union Urban Development Minister Hardeep Puri and requested him to extend it only till

Rao asserted that Union Minister has also agreed to the proposal to extend it only from Delhi to Shahjahanpur in the first phase. Rao said that in the first phase of Delhi-Shahjapur, the train will go to Shahjahanpur

via Gurugram, Manesar, Bilaspur, Dharuhera, Rewari, Bawal Neemrana on this route of about 100 kilometers. "22 stations are proposed on this route, for which an action

plan is being prepared. Earlier the approval of this plan was to turn from Mahipalpur in Delhi and go through Old Delhi Road Signature Tower in Gurugram, but later it was revised and a proposal was made to take it along the highway through the Delhi Jaipur National Highway via Sarhaul Border," the Minister

Shaktidham: A melting pot of foreign spiritual leaders



Head of Niraniani Akhara Acharva Mahamandaleshwar Swami Kailashanand Giri and head of Anand Akhara Acharva Mahamandaleshwa Swami Balakanand Giri during 'Diksha' ceremony of the newly initiated 'Naga Sadhus' of Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani during Maha

Among the myriad spiritual centers at the ongoing Kumbh Mela, Shaktidham Ashram in Sector-17 holds a distinctive place. It is the only ashram Mahamandaleshwars, the highest spiritual leaders of the

institution, are foreigners. While most of them are not fluent in Hindi, they astound visitors with their eloquent of Sanskrit recitation scriptures, showcasing their deep connection to Indian spirituality. The nine Mahamandaleshwars come from diverse countries, including the United States, Israel, and Japan.

Out of the nine, seven are men, and two are women, each having fully embraced Indian culture and traditions. "We may have been born in different parts of the world, but Sanatan Dharma has made us one with this land," said Anant Das Maharaj, a devotee from the United

Anant Das Maharaj shared his spiritual journey, describing how his path to Sanatan

Dharma began with a chance meeting with Sai Maa in the United States. "I attended one of Sai Maa's discourses and mesmerized. teachings on Sanatan Dharma opened my eyes to a profound way of life," he said. Inspired by her philosophy, he decided to dedicate himself to the path of spirituality. He later joined Sai Maa's ashram and eventually became part of Shaktidham in Varanasi, where he was conferred the title of Mahamandaleshwar. "Being responsibility

Mahamandaleshwar is not just an honor but a commitment. It is my mission now to use education and yoga to introduce more people, especially from abroad, to the principles of Sanatan Dharma," he added. What makes Shaktidham even more remarkable is the deep cultural transformation undergone by Mahamandaleshwars. Despite their international origins, they have adopted Indian attire, customs, and spiritual practices as their own. "When

first arrived in India, I

thought the culture would feel

foreign, but now it feels like home," said a Japanese Mahamandaleshwar, adding,

"The teachings of the Ganga, the wisdom of the Vedas, and the energy of this sacred land have transformed my soul." The spiritual leaders of Shaktidham believe that Sanatan Dharma's universal values have the power to transcend geographical and cultural boundaries. "Spirituality knows no nationality," said one of the female Mahamandaleshwars, originally from Israel. "What matters is the soul's journey, and India is where I found my true calling." Shaktidham Ashram is not just a center for meditation and learning but also a bridge between the East and the West

and the West. foreign Through Mahamandaleshwars, exemplifies how the essence of Indian spirituality has the power to unite people from diverse backgrounds under a shared spiritual umbrella. The ashram continues to inspire thousands of pilgrims at the Kumbh Mela, standing as a testament to the inclusive and transformative power of

inauguration, Pumpkin's

founder, Manveer Godara,

said, "We are thrilled to launch the Pumpkin brand

from the holy land of Kumbh. This is just the

beginning. Soon, we plan to expand to other spiritual cities like Kashi, Mathura, and Ayodhya. Our aim is to

offer hygienic, delicious, and affordable food to

devotees visiting these

The restaurant's menu is priced keeping the budget of

common pilgrims in mind.

sacred sites.



CM Yogi to hold special Cabinet meeting in Prayagraj on January 22

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Yogi government is set to hold a special Cabinet meeting in Prayagraj on Wednesday, January 22. All 54 ministers of the Uttar Pradesh cabinet have been invited to this meeting, which is expected to approve several significant proposals and schemes for the state. Following the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, along with the entire cabinet, will take the holy dip in the sacred waters of the Triveni Sangam.

This isnot the first time CM Yogi has led his cabinet to the Sangam. In 2019, during the Kumbh Mela, he took a ceremonial dip along with his ministers, Akhada Parishad President Narendra Giri, and other saints.

The cabinet meeting will be held at the Triveni Sankul in pilgrims visiting

Initially, the meeting was planned Authority Auditorium, but concerns over VIP security disrupting. movement led to the shift in venue.

After the meeting, the ministers will travel from the Arail VIP Ghat to the Sangam by motorboats. At the Sangam, CM Yogi

and the cabinet members will perform the worship rituals and take the holy dip in Sangam.

As per reports, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, along with Cabinet Ministers Suresh Kumar Khanna, Surya Pratap Shahi, Swatantra Dev Singh, Baby Rani Maurya, Jaiveer Singh, Laxmi Narayan Chaudhary, Dharampal, Nand Gopal Nandi, Anil Rajbhar, and all 54 ministers, including those with independent charge and state ministers, will take the holy dip in the Sangam after attending the

Kalpavasa: A sacred tradition at the Sangam



ccording to religious beliefs, Athe entry of the Sun into Capricorn (Makar Rashi) marks the beginning of the sacred month-long Kalpavasa at Prayagraj, offering devotees spiritual rewards equivalent to an entire kalpa (a day of Brahma). Ancient scriptures such as the Mahabharata and

Ramcharitmanas also mention itual significance.

During Kalpavasa, pilgrims, known as Kalpavasis, live on the riverbanks, sleeping on the ground, eating only one meal a day or fasting entirely, and bathing in the holy waters of the Ganga thrice daily. As per the Mahabharata, the spiritual merit attained through a century of penance without consuming food equals the

merit of observing Kalpavasa during the auspicious month of Magha at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati

It is believed that in the month of Magha, all sacred pilgrimage sites converge at Prayagraj to pay homage to their spiritual king. Bathing at the confluence (Sangam) during this time is said to bestow eternal blessings, making Kalpavasa a sacred tradition that attracts millions

and Kalpavasa is unique to Prayagraj and Haridwar. Historians trace the first documented mention of the Kumbh Mela to the Mughal-era text Khulasat-ut-Tawarikh in 1665. However, many scholars dispute this, citing ancient scriptures and Vedic texts to argue that the Kumbh Mela has existed for millennia

Double-decker bus restaurant opens in Kumbh Media Cente

BISWAJEET BANERJEE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Tn a unique addition to the Longoing preparations for Maha Kumbh 2025, Uttar Pradesh's first double-decker bus restaurant, named Pumpkin, was inaugurated at the Media Center in Prayagraj on Monday. The innovative eatery not only offers a glimpse of the grand Maha Kumbh through its design and ambiance but also serves pure vegetarian and sattvic meals, making it a popular attraction for pilgrims and visitors.

Γhe two-level restaurant is ingeniously designed, with the lower level housing a fully functional kitchen and the upper level serving as a



cozy dining area with a seating capacity of 25 people. Pumpkin promises a culinary experience that

to all, including caters special meals for observing fasts.

'We have carefully designed the menu to ensure that everyone, from pilgrims to journalists, can enjoy good food without feeling a pinch in their pockets," Godara

Arail, starting at 12 noon. The location was changed to avoid inconvenience to

Timely medical intervention saves over 100 devotees who suffered heart attacks

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The ongoing Mahakumbh in Prayagraj stands as a remarkable blend of spirituality and exceptional healthcare under the Yogi government. So far, over 100 devotees who suffered heart attacks have The tradition of Ardh Kumbh received ICU care, and 580 minor surgeries successfully performed. Additionally, 170,727 blood tests have been conducted, and 100,998 people have availed OPD services so far. Equipped with state-of-theart technology, the Central Hospital at Mahakumbh is providing world-class medical care to ensure the safety and well-being of millions of devotees. Dr. Gaurav Dubey, Nodal Officer



of the Mahakumbh Medical Establishment, shared that devotees from across India and abroad are receiving exceptional healthcare in Mahakumbh Nagar. Highlighting recent cases, he said, Two devotees from Madhya Pradesh, who experienced chest pain, were successfully treated at Central Hospital. Under the guidance of Dr. SK Pandey, both were admitted to the ICU, underwent examinations, and received prompt treatment. Now, they are fully healthy and have expressed their gratitude to CM Yogi Adityanath and the medical

Dr. Pandey explained that ECGs were conducted for both patients, leading to effective treatment and recovery. Among other cases, 105-

vear-old Baba Ram Jane Das from Hanumanganj, Phulpur, sought treatment at Central Hospital for stomach pain. Praising the advanced medical facilities, he thanked Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for ensuring such excellent healthcare at the Mahakumbh.

doctors is providing healthcare services at the Central Hospital, including experts in general medicine, orthopedics, dental orthopedics, gynecology, pediatrics, and child care.

The hospital is equipped with a 10-bed ICU for critical cases. Additionally, AI-based cameras are being utilized to monitor patients, ensuring advanced and efficient

First trial run on Sealdah-Esplanade stretch | RSS affiliates on ground in strife-torn Manipur, says a book of east-west Kolkata metro successful

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **KOLKATA**

The first trial run on the 2.63 km Sealdah-Esplanade stretch of East-West Metro in Kolkata was conducted successfully on Tuesday. A Metro Railway Kolkata

statement said that through the west-bound tunnel of the Green Line, the first trial run was conducted successfully in the presence of Metro Railway Manager Chairman of Kolkata Metro

Reddy and other senior officers. The general manager was in the motorman's cabin during the trial run which began at 11.20 am from Sealdah Metro station, reached Esplanade Metro station at 11.31 am. Reddy congratulated everyone for the successful trial run and held a meeting with Metro Railway and KMRCL officers at the Esplanade Metro station. This stretch, once commissioned, would enable people of Kolkata

Rail Corporation Limited and the suburbs to reach (KMRCL) P Uday Kumar different parts of the city and different parts of the city and adjoining areas from the Sealdah and Howrah terminal stations of the railways through the Esplanade underground metro station, where they can interchange. The Howrah Maidan to Sector V corridor the entire 16-km stretch of East-West Metro - is expected to become operational by this year. Currently, East-Metro trains run between Howrah Maidan-Esplanade Sealdah-Sector V stretches.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Anew book has revealed rise of the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) through its various affiliates in Manipur even while "militants killing several of its functionaries". 'India's New Right: Powering the Current Wave of Nationalism and Civilisational Revival' claims that the RSS functionaries faced violent backlash from militants for "combating drug addiction and extremism" in Manipur,

BJP-backed "While government rules Manipur, the

groundwork in the state was also laid with much blood and sacrifice," said the book, which documents the rise of rightwing nationalism in various spheres and regions. It gives an example of Madhumangal Sharma from Imphal who was "the first mining engineering graduate from Manipur. He retired as the additional director of the state industry department and joined the BJP. His grassroots work for the RSS, VHP, and other organisations began far earlier. He would sometimes travel 75 km on his bicycle to the remote areas of

his state, combating drug addiction and extremism.

The book said that he was shot unidentified gunmen belonging to one of Northeast's many militant groups in 1995. "Imphal's autowallahs formed a strong information network for insurgents. Undeterred by the dangers, grassroots workers of the RSS bodies continued their focused, quiet work..." added the book

Since 2014, there has been a significant increase in the number of RSS shakhas in Manipur, with more than 120 shakhas and mandalas now

active. Across the Northeast, the RSS and its affiliated organisations ran about 650 educational units in 1995. This number has grown to more than 6,000 today," added the book authored by senior journalist Abhijit Majumder.

The book states that "there are more than 3,000 ekal vidvalavas or single-teacher schools in the region while education has been one of the focus areas of the Sangh Parivar in the Northeast". "Its many

such organisations, Sewashram, ekal vidyalayas, VKA, Sewa Bharati, Kisan

Sangha, ABVP, Vidya Bharati, Friends of Tribal Society or Van Bandhu Parishad, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Bharatiya Jan Seva Sansthan, Bharat Kalyan Pratishthan, Bal Sanskar Kendra, and the Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh, run educational institutions across Manipur and most other northeastern states," added the book.

The book argued that the RSSrun "centres are not only cultivating a new generation of nationalist students but also exerting significant influence

Kerala's festival of colors draw hundreds of wannabe painters

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

VARNOLSAVAM (Malayalam for Festival of Colors), a painting competition for children in the age group of five to fifteen has become Kerala's biggest cultural event if the number of participants and quality of their work are any indication. The national capital was once synonymous with Shankar's International Painting Competition for Children, launched by cartoonist Shankar. But over the years, the mega event lost its charm and has become almost defunct. But VARNOLSAVAM, held in connection with the annual Ernakulam International Book



Festival, is going from strength to strength every year. The main attraction of the 27th edition of the EIBF turned out to be the recently held competition which drew nearly 800 kids from across the State. "It was a visual treat and words

may not be sufficient to describe the happiness and freedom enjoyed by the children," said Dr Radha Meera, poetess and teacher in St Xavier's College, Aluva. She had travelled across five districts in the State to select children who are passionate about colors and painting. Our mission is to bring out the best from the kids who has a passion for painting," said

While children in the age group of five to nine were free to paint and draw whatever they feel

like doing, the "seniors" (10-15) were given topics to exhibit skill, said E N Nandakumar, organizer of the EIBF and the painting competition.

The six-hour long competition made the children sit glued to the canvas and try different color combinations to bring to reality their dreams and imaginations. Villages of Kerala, the State's fragile ecology, wild life facing threat from all walks of life and even the social life turned out to be topics of the children's brushes

and paints.

"There is no need to have canvas or paints or high-end drawing instruments to make the paintings lively. Even charcoal and walls can act as canvas for these children. Children without any basic training in painting and drawing thrilled us with their outputs," said Dr Meera.

Nandakumar is happy that despite a fall in the reading habit of grown up persons, present-day children hold great promises for the future. "They are good readers and have a passion for colors. There is life mobile phones, films and video beyond cartoon games," said Nandan.

Deepu from Kannur and Lakshmi from Thiruvananthapuram, both

aged 12, would eclipse professional painters and artists. "What I found was that children without any initiation or coaching in these art forms excel their peers. Their works based on the topic which we gave at the spot turned out to be exhilarating, " said Dr

Meera. scientist-turned-Marine painter Dr Ratish Menon describes drawing and painting as powerful tools for cognitive, emotional, and social development. "Art encourages children to think outside the

box, experiment with colors,

crayons, brushes, and other art tools strengthens hand-eye coordination and prepares children for writing and other tasks. It is a non-verbal way for children to express their feelings, thoughts and Creating experiences. something beautiful can boost a child's self-esteem and sense of accomplishment," said Dr Menon. According to Aisha Foucik

shapes and textures and develop unique ideas. Holding

Kadukkapilly, a poetess cum motivational speaker, the and drawing painting competitions have the potential to increase a kid's creativity and aesthetic sense.

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Pak army calls the shots

Former Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan gets 14-year jail sentence but it won't fix Pakistan politics

ormer Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan's recent conviction and 14-year prison sentence mark a critical juncture in the country's turbulent political history. Accused of corruption in a high-profile case involving illegal acquisition of land through a deal with property tycoon Malik Riaz, Khan's sentencing further diminishes his political standing. This development not only underscores the enduring influence of Pakistan's military establishment but also raises concerns about the country's democratic trajectory. The accountability court verdict found Khan and his wife, Bushra Bibi, guilty of illegally obtaining plots of land worth billions of rupees in exchange for facilitating Riaz's laundering of \$239 million. While Khan received a 14-year sentence and a fine of 1 million Pakistani rupees, his wife was handed a seven-year sentence. The Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has condemned the sentence, labeling it a politically motivated attack. Khan has consistently dismissed the charges



as a "witch hunt" orchestrated by his rivals, particularly Pakistan's powerful military, which he accuses of engineering his ouster and imprisonment. Khan remains one of Pakistan's most popular leaders. with a dedicated following that views him as a symbol of resistance against entrenched corruption and military dominance. His imprisonment, however, presents significant challenges for his party and supporters. PTI's ability to mobilise mass protests and maintain its political momentum is constrained by the increasing crackdown on its members and leaders. For Pakistan's political system, Khan's conviction deep crisis. It highlights the judi-

ciary's perceived partiality and its use as a tool to settle political scores. Moreover, the case illustrates the broader struggle between civilian leaders and the military establishment that has long dominated Pakistan's political landscape. Despite Khan's claims of standing against dictatorship, his tenure as prime minister (2018-2022) was marked by a close alliance with the military, which eventually soured. His falling out with the military's top brass, particularly after accusing them of plotting his assassination, set the stage for his political downfall. The military's role in orchestrating Khan's ouster and subsequent legal troubles underscores its continued dominance. For decades, the military has acted as Pakistan's ultimate power broker, influencing elections, judicial proceedings, and policy decisions. This has impeded the growth of democratic institutions in the country. Khan's case reaffirms that no civilian leader can challenge the military's authority without facing severe consequences thus subverting the democracy. The implications of Khan's conviction extend beyond his personal political future. It sets a precedent for the use of legal mechanisms to neutralise opposition and raises concerns about the erosion of democratic institutions. Pakistan, indeed has a long way to go on the road to democracy!



Devotees celebrate 'Komuravelli Mallanna Jathara' festival, at Komuravelli in Siddipet

Why new generation may

force change in Thai politics

The nation grapples with economic challenges, political turbulence and the enduring influence of its old guard monarchy-military alliance

he tourist-undiscov-ered jewel is Siracha in the Gulf of Thailand, 90 km southeast of Bangkok and 30 km north of Pattaya. Ascott Group's Oakwood Hotel is your strategic compass to assimilate Siracha as I am doing. Blissfully quiet alongside a park caressing the sea, it caters to all: Koreans who come in droves to play golf even while their president was being arrested; Japanese with corporate interests are also in plenty; soon Chinese will descend for the Year of Snake but hardly any Indians though 200 of them are building an oil refinery close by. Koh Sichang island 40 minutes in a steamer is worth getting lost in as King Rama V loved to do 200 years ago.

Ripened Sirachans belt their favourite melodies in the park as joggers and wanderers freeze to a halt when the national anthem plays in the mornings. Unlike in fading monarchies elsewhere, the Royals are ubiquitous: pictures of the present King Maha Vajiralongkorn, the Queen, the highly respected late king and the King's sister are familiar sights in the Kingdom of Thailand which escaped being colonised.

But lately political parties like now in its third avatar, the People's Party led by the Harvard-educated Pita Limjaroenrat and the past nemesis of the old guard, Pheu Thai party led by old fox Thaksin Shinawatra, have tried to unseat the old guard consisting of the monarchy-military alliance. In the 2023 elections, these parties sought a review of the crime of lese majeste (Royal Defamation) which is a seditious law to repress dissent and reforms in the military but the coalition could not unite. The old guard maintains its authoritarian indirect rule through the unelected constitutional court and a 250-member Senate (Upper House) formed by the Army after the 2014 coup. Incidentally, Thailand holds the dubious record for the maximum number of attempted and successful coups (30).

A military-backed government of will not be allowed to form a former Army Chief Gen Prayut onan O'Snea became Prime Minister- from khaki to Savile Row suit -from 2014 to 2023 when his Palang Pracharath Party (PPP) was overwhelmed by the



Shinawatra's return from exile in August 2023 and rehabilitation in politics was the result of a royal pardon as part of a deal to maintain the status quo with the old guard calling the shots. Unlike in Nepal where two adversarial political parties have formed a coalition government (after nearly two decades of musical chairs) for political stability, Thailand is subjected to a wobbly government led by an inexperienced Shinawatra scion remotely controlled by the patriarch. Peoples Party and Pheu Thai coalition by vested interests. The big challenge for the government is the economy which has declined from a growth rate of 4.5 per cent in 2000 to 1.6 per cent between 2014 and



THE OLD GUARD **MAINTAINS**

AUTHORITARIAN INDIRECT RULE THROUGH THE UNELECTED CONSTITUTIONAL **COURT AND** A 250-MEMBER **SENATE** (UPPER HOUSE) FORMED BY THE ARMY

2023. The government has not been able to fulfil its promise of giving Thaibaht 10,000 (around Rs 25,000) for all 45 mn Thais to boost consumption, though, in September 2024, it did provide some of the dole in Phase 1. On January 27, 2025, four elderly will receive Thaibaht 10,000 to trigger the economy. Other steps proposed to revive the economy are negotiating additional Free Trade Agreements and implementing infrastructure projects. Thailand's most ambitious project is the land bridge connecting the Andaman Sea in the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea in the Pacific Ocean across the Isthmus of Kra costing USD 35 bn which will be a shorter alternative route through the Malacca Strait - China's historic dilemma for its sea trade. China will be the leading investor in the strategic project that will alter the economic dynamics for Thailand and the region, especially China.

Thailand holds the magic wand for tourism. As targeted, foreign travellers in 2024 crossed 35 mn increasing the country's revenue by 34 per cent over the previous year. Integrated entertainment is the new siogan and includes gambling in casinos while visa-free long-term entry has been extended. Chinese are by far the largest number of visitors followed by Malaysians and Indians. Saarc countries especially Nepal have much to learn about integrated tourism. India and Thailand have enjoyed fruitful relations, especially the religious connection with Hinduism Buddhism. Thailand is part of Bimstec and as part of ASEAN closely involved with Track I and Track II meetings on locating a political resolution of Myanmar's civil war in which India as a neighbour is a key stakeholder. Myanmar's Generals envy the old guard's hold over power but they have no King to invoke divinity. Thailand relies heavily on China (14 per cent population is of Chinese origin) while having good relations with the West, especially the US. Thaksin Shinawatra is again under the scanner booked for an old case of lese majeste. The old guard has perfected all tricks of the trade to check the growing aspirations of the new generation represented by Pita's reincarnated People's Party (and other parties) whose slogan for the 2027 elections is "government of change". That should worry the

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence *Staff. The views are personal)*

old guard, not Siracha.

THE EDITOR

AFTER THE

2014 COUP

ISRO's space docking: A new era for India's space exploration



DHARMAPALAN

This pioneering feat showcases India's growing expertise in advanced space technologies and paves the way for ambitious space odysseys

⊣he Indian space research landscape has consistently been characterised by a combination of resilience, ingenuity, and ambition. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which has consistently advanced the frontiers of science and technology, recently accomplished another significant milestone with the successful completion of its docking experiment. This accomplishment represents a pivotal moment in India's space exploration endeavours, emphasising the nation's expanding capabilities in sophisticated space technolo-

The process of docking, which is an essential and difficult manoeuvre in space operations, entails two spacecraft coming together in orbit and securing their attachment to one other. This technology serves as the basis for several advanced space missions, such as the construction of space stations, the exploration of space with crews, and interplanetary missions. ISRO's successful docking experiment demonstrates its capability to manage precise manoeuvring and nents can be launched inde-

synchronisation of spacecraft in space—a complex technological feat. India has joined the select group of spacefaring nations that possess docking skills because of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) suc-

cessful demonstration of this

capacity.

To establish permanent human settlements beyond Earth, space colonisation necessitates the development of sophisticated capabilities, including the ability to construct space habitats, transfer resources between spacecraft or from Earth, and manage maintenance and logistics in space. Docking technology is essential for these activities as it facilitates the construction of large modular structures, such as space stations or habitats. This capability guar-

antees that multiple compo-

orbit, thereby reducing the complexity and cost of the mission. Additionally, docking enables the exchange of resources and the transfer of crew members, which are both critical for maintaining long-term missions and developing self-sufficient systems in space. ISRO is estab-lishing the foundation for India's involvement in humanity's endeavours to become a multi-planetary species by mastering docking technology. ISRO's success in docking technology positions India as a significant player in global space exploration and enhances its strategic importance in the space

By demonstrating its capability to execute complex space manoeuvres, India strengthens its ability to develop Indigenous space infrastructure, including modular space habitats and stations. The Gaganyaan mission, India's inaugural human spaceflight program, is one of the immediate beneficiaries of this accomplishment. Critical functionalities, including the assembly of modular space

habitats and the execution of

pendently and assembled in in-orbit refuelling, will be facilitated by docking technol-These capabilities will guaran-

tee mission flexibility and efficiency, which are essential for the long-term preservation of human existence in space. Furthermore, the success of docking technology will expedite the fulfilment of India's vision of having its space station, "Bharatiya Antriksh Station," by 2035. Docking proficiency augments ISRO's potential for intensified engagement with international space agencies. As the International Space Station (ISS) approaches the end of its operational lifespan, there is a worldwide initiative for next-generation orbital platforms

India's proven docking capabilities position it as a significant partner for collaborative missions, potentially enhancing its influence in global space governance and diplomacy. This scientific achievement enhances India's standing in the burgeoning space

(The writer is the Dean-Academic Affairs, at Garden City University, Bangalore. views are personal)

UPROAR OVER JUDGEMENT

Madam — It is with reference to the news "Justice for murderers most foul"-January 21. The Sealdah Court in Kolkata has ordered Sanjay Roy, the convict in the rape and murder case of a trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar medical college and hospital, to life imprisonment until death and noted that it was not in the rarest of rare categories. Also, the court has ordered Sanjay Roy to pay a 50,000-rupee fine and directed the West Bengal government to pay 17 lakh rupees as compensation to the victim's family. Though the Court convicted Sanjay Roy, the convict, on different sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, it refrained from imposing the death penalty for raping and murdering a young doctor on a hospital campus itself. It is unfortunate.

As per the Indian legal system, the CBI, which investigated the case, has the right to challenge the sentencing order and seek enhancement of the sentence to death before the High Court. Many people, including the CM of West Bengal, are not satisfied with the sentence awarded to the convict Sanjay Roy. The incident led to nationwide outrage and prolonged protests by junior doctors in West Bengal demanding justice for and stronger security measures in government hospitals. At the same time, a court in Kerala has awarded a 24-year-old woman the death penalty for the sensational murder of her boyfriend in 2022 by administering him with a concoction laced with lethal herbicide, a planned murder

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

ISRO'S MILESTONE ACHIEVEMENT

Madam— Apropos to "A Giant Leap in Space," published on January 21. Former President of India, late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, would have been the happiest person had he been alive today as ISRO scripted another history in space. India has entered into the niche club along with the US, China, and Russia. It is a huge

Trump begins his second term



onald Trump is all set to write the new world order with his second term as the 47th President of America. The inauguration ceremony of Mr. Donald Trump is jam-packed with the tech titan guest list from all around the world; interestingly, Indian industry tycoon Mukesh Ambani is also part of the delegation. The reign of Donald Trump is already a matter of

technological milestone that underscores our ambitions to expand our share, which is just 2 per cent now, in the 400 billion USD global space market. Space docking is a stepping stone in our desire to build a space station or other various complex missions like Chandrayaan-4 and Gaganyaan. Along with other payloads, eight cowpea seeds were sent to space, which germinated within four days of the mission launch, which demonstrates that food can be grown in long space missions. China-our hostile neighbour-whose ambitions of becoming a space power are not hidden from anyone-so India must continue to develop cutting-edge capabilities to safeguard its space assets. Further, the GoI has approved the setting up of a third launch pad at Sriharikota, which will further boost ISRO's space ambitions and future projects.

HOSTAGES RELEASED IN GAZA

Madam — Apropos "Gaza ceasefire

begins, handover of hostages started,"

Bal Govind | Noida

'America First' commitment, he is making a comeback with MAGA, i.e., Make America Great Again. His inauguration speech will act as the ultimate trailer as for the whole world,

deep discussion, speculation and sen-

sitivity for the whole world. After his

he highlight his commitment and plans for the upcoming four years, and the way he want to shape the future world order. Now that Mr. Trump has officially begun his presidency 2.0, we all have to wait and watch what churning will come out for the rest of the countries of the world from the presidency of Donald Trump. India also has to closely test the new avatar of Mr. Trump, wishing for more strategic cooperation and proximities in the years to come. Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

published on January 20. The ceasefire between Israel and Hamas raises hopes for a possible end to a devastating 15-

month conflict. The ceasefire, agreed upon after a year of intensive mediation by the United States, Qatar and Egypt, is the first step in a long and fragile process aimed at winding down the war. Interestingly, Qatar, punching above its weight, has set itself up as the world's leading mediator, which is probably because the West Asian nation wants to establish its own security in an unstable region, analysts say. Global relationships are key, and Qatar is known for its wide and varied network of contacts. Meanwhile, the ceasefire does mark the start of a new chapter for Palestinians, particularly those in Gaza, and Israelis. While ceasefires are not legally binding, they can perhaps best be thought of as a type of contract between

warring parties. Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

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FIRST COLUMN THE MATERIALISM **DILEMMA**

How Gen Z can break free from consumer-driven values and have a life of their own



n a world that is increasingly driven by consumerism, the rise of materialistic values among Generation Z, or Gen Z as it is often abbreviated has become a topic of growing concern. Gen Z as defined as the age group between the mid-1990s and early 2010s, has grown up in an era that is undoubtedly dominated by social media, influencer culture, and hyper-connectivity.

While technological advancements have brought undeniable benefits, they have also fostered a culture that often equates self-worth with possessions and appearances. Gen Z must reassess these values and prioritise more meaningful aspects of life. The rise of social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and many more have created an environment where materialism thrives. The relentless exposure to idealised lifestyles and extravagant displays of wealth has fostered feelings of inadequacy and pressure to conform or compete.

Today, social media influencers, often incentivised by brands showcase expensive products as symbols of success and happiness which has reinforced a cycle where material possessions are viewed



as essential for validation and social status. The pressure to abide by these standards is so overpowering, especially for young individuals who are still forming their identities resulting in profound psychological effects. Recent studies have examined the spending behaviours of Gen Z, highlighting a complex relationship with materialism. Various studies have also shown that individuals who prioritise material wealth and possessions often experience increased anxiety, reduced life contentment, and higher rates of

Gen Z which is already grappling with a mental health crisis, the fixation on materialism exacerbates the problem as it shifts focus away from intrinsic values such as personal growth, relationships, and community involvement, which are far more fulfilling and enduring sources of happiness. There is no denying that materialism has significant environmental repercussions.

The fast fashion industry, a key driver of consumerism, is notorious for its unsustainable practices, contributing to pollution, waste, and the exploitation of labour. Gen Z, which is often touted as the most environmentally conscious generation, faces a paradox and their inclination toward materialistic consumption undermines their efforts to combat climate change.

While materialism has been ingrained in modern society, it is not an inevitable path for Gen Z. By recognising the pitfalls of this mindset and striving for a more balanced and intentional approach to life, they can pave the way for a healthier, more sustainable future. It is time for Gen Z to redefine success, not as the accumulation of material possessions but as the cultivation of meaningful relationships, personal growth, and contributions to the greater good. In conclusion, Gen Z has the opportunity to break free from the traps of materialism and redefine success by prioritising intrinsic values such as personal growth, meaningful relationships, and sustainability. By embracing a more intentional and balanced approach to life, they can shape a healthier, more fulfilling and environmentally conscious future

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Dangers of China's mega-dam plans on the Yarlung Tsangpo



With the Tibetan region's seismic vulnerability due to tectonic plate activity, such mega-dam projects could exacerbate risks to life, biodiversity and regional stability

arth quake of 7.1 magnitude on the Richter scale on January 7 in Tibet killed 126 people and injured 188 making rescue and relief difficult as the temperature dropped to -60 Celsius. Tremors were also felt in Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian states of Ribar and West Rengal. The originators Bihar and West Bengal. The epicentre of the quake was Tibet's Tingri County, 75 km north of Mount Everest, the World's highest mountain. The quake brings focus on China's latest plan to build the World's biggest dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, very close to the Indian territory of Arunachal Pradesh. Tibetan region and its fringe areas in China are seismically quite active.

This is the area where the Indian and Eurasia plates clash and the force generated can be strong enough to cause uplifts and increase the height of the Himalayan peaks. In Sichuan province alone earth earthquake of 7.9 magnitude was struck in May 2008 killing 90,000 people, another of 7.1 magnitude was struck in May 2008 killing tude in April 2013 killing 196 people, and the third one of 6.8 magnitude in September 2022 killing 93 people has been recorded. Qinghai province has also seen two major earthquakes of 7.1 magnitude in April 2010 and 6.2 magnitude in December 2023 killing 2698

and 126 people respectively.

Two earthquakes have also struck
Gansu province in July 2013 and December 2023. A report released after the 7th January earthquake in Tingri, Tibet, NASA has brought out that the speed of earth rotation has slowed down after the water was impounded in three gorges dam (607 meters in height and 2 km long) on the River Yangtze in China. The report further says that the earth takes .06 microseconds more to complete a rotation about its axis, post-construction of the dams. Earth rotation is linked to interplanetary activities, and can influence activities from Sun as well as the

The dams make the region seismic prone increasing the vulnerability of the population. More such dams in the region would increase the vulnerability further. Seismic activities have the potential to damage large dams too. If any such dam bursts in an earth quake, a large quantity of water would outflow through human areas washing away lives and properties.

This can be catastrophic in the region. The world's mightiest river Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet, which becomes Brahmaputra as it flows in Arunachal Pradesh has several gigawatts of energy stored as it runs down the steep mountains. China has projected 60 gigawatts of power by damming this river in Tibet at the cost of \$137 billion. The power output of this project is two and half times the output of the Four Gorges Dam, along the river's upper and middle reaches. These are Dagu dam (640 megawatts), Zangmu Dam (510 megawatts), Jiacha Dam (320 megawatts) and Jiexu Dam (300 megawatts). The Zangmu dam project is the only one among these that has been operational so far. The other three projects are still in the construction stage and are marred by logistical and technical challenges posed by steep





WITH THE LEVEL

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS, THE COUNTRY

PROJECTS WILL ALSO BE A REALITY AND EVENTUALLY, VERY LITTLE WATER WILL BE ALLOWED TO FLOW IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA IN THE LEAN **PERIOD** mountains and deep gorges. China being an upper riparian state should not work on such projects in secrecy and put lower riparian states like India and Bangladesh to a disadvantage.

It is irresponsible and aggressive posturing of China that it plans to change the flow of water in the Brahmaputra River during lean as well as peak seasons. Data suggest that the total annual outflow of Yarlung Tsangpo in China is significantly lower than the Brahmaputra in India. Brahmaputra, therefore enjoys a much bigger catchment in steep mountains than Yarlung. This is when only the Zangmu dam project is operational. The chal-POSSESSES, THE completing other projects in the middle reaches are not unsur-

With the level of technological advancements, the country possesses, the remaining dam projects will also be a reality and eventually, very little water will be allowed to flow in the Brahmaputra in the lean period. This is likely to hurt biodiversity conservation and agricultural production in India and

For more than a decade China has been dumping the maximum amount of greenhouse gases nearly 14 gigatons annually into the atmosphere. The US is the distant second with 8 gigatons

With the warming Sea surface huge amount of moisture is dumped in the atmosphere having the potential to bring heavy downpours for one or two days.

In such circumstances, 400 mm of rain in 48 hours is not uncommon these days. It would result in unprecedented flooding and the authorities would be forced to release water from the dams, to save the lives and livelihood of the population.

The Brahmaputra in India during the rainy season always swell. It has more disadvantages than advantages. While the floodplains of Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh and Assam become fertile when the water recedes and leaves silt behind, the flooding brings misery to people and biodiversity. Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO hotspot, is world world-famous site for biodiversity conservation. It is one of the best conservation sites for endangered single-horn rhinoceros. Though Kaziranga is a tiger reserve, but state of Assam gives first preference to rhinoceros conservation. Poachers kill this huge animal for a single horn. Forest personnel sacrifice their life to protect it. During the flood, many species of even big mammals get washed away with the flow of water.

The Forest department of the Assam government has made several arrangements including the construction of high-rise embankments using earth, to ensure that wild animals take shelter on these embankments

during peak flooding.
The release of any additional quantity of water from the Chinese dams will cross the threshold and wash away wild animals in even bigger numbers. Though there is no formal water

treaty between the two countries, the Chinese plan for the dam without consulting riparian states and UNESCO is morally inap-propriate. Since China won't listen to anyone on earth, India must take certain actions in its interest. We should enhance our monitor-

ing system and record the volume of flow of water in different seasons in rivers flowing from China. Satellite imagery should also be used in mapping and forecasting flood risk. More storage facilities should also be created so that the flood water can be diverted into them, whenever the river crosses the high flood level mark. While selecting sites for flood storage structures, local and ecological factors must be taken into consideration. Further seismic activities must also receive proper consideration. State governments and the centre must boost navigation activities in the Brahmaputra basin. The central government has already prioritized investments in inland waterways. Brahmaputra Waterway 2 has direct access to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh and Haldia in West Bengal.

It can be a very good economic corridor for trade with south-east Asian countries. In the absence of a water treaty, we should flag the issues relating to climate change, wetland conservation, and biodiversity conservation on all forums where both India and China are signatories.

(The writer is retired principal chief conservator of forests, head of Forest Force, Karnataka.

Maha Kumbh 2025: A timeless 'sangam' of faith, mythology and modernity

the event reaffirms its status as an intangible cultural heritage, blending ancient mythology and lived religious practices to embody the unity in diversity of Indian spirituality

ark Tully, the well-known former BBC correspondent depicted the 1989 Maha Kumbh at Parayag as an enigmatic and enchanting interplay of time and timelessness. Navigating the kaleidoscopic unfolding of saints from Akhadas, pilgrims called Kaplvasis, stakeholder communities such as Prayagwals and Ghatiya priests, Kewats and Khatiks, and overall householders and renouncers, Tully reported on the mythology and history aimed at a greater common goal, the spiritual uplift of the participating humanity. The religion of the Hindus at Maha Kumbh wrote Tully, is a 'religion beyond the reality of history, a religion of the imagination which goes beyond reason'.



The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur is engaged in reviewing the Prayag Maha Kumbh of 2025, enabling a fresh perspective on the interplay of time and timelessness surrounding the intangible heritage. At various levels, the

tation. The enormity of Mahakumbh is not merely in the formidable statistics on the whopping number of participants or even the scale of the organisation. The numbers have increased over the decades and the organisation has entered an art of state level. In the past Mahakumbh was spotted by the Indian Space Research Organisation space satellite as one of the most jawdropping visuals.

The 2025 version has ensured that more elaborate facilities for the pilgrims and sadhus, diverse categories of accommodations on three sides of Sangam, and the latest technology for the upkeep of hygiene are in place. The administrators of the Kumbh district have intangible heritage seems to seemingly left no stone have found tangible manifes- unturned to ensure highly

ported services. Yet the most significant is the power of mythology, history and social embeddedness of the Hindu religion, the Sanatan dharma. No wonder UNESCO had to declare Kumbh as an intangible heritage of India in 2017. But the intangible and abstract have very tangible and concrete expressions in the Kumbh, the latest addition being an up-marketed Akshaya Vat, a mythical tree adjoining the precincts of the fort of emperor Akbar. Even though Maha Kumbh is conceived and communicated through abundant textual references, it is a manifestation of lived religious tradition and collective memory of India. The ancient texts of the Rigveda, Yajurveda, Atharva

efficient, technologically sup-



Veda, Matsya Purana, Skanda Purana, Vishnu Purana, and the epics such as Valmiki's Ramayana and Ved Vyas's Mahabharata provide ample references to the religious congregation, premised on the origin myth of Hindu mythology. Gods in collaboration with demons conducted a churning of the ocean, the sagar-manthan. The boatmen tell us that the sagarmanthan shall contin-

ue in our minds. Of the fourteen priceless outcomes of the churning one was a Kumbh of Amrit, a pitcher filled with immortality nectar.

Many versions of the myth and tales inform that some drops of nectar fell in the confluence of rivers, Ganga, Jamuna and mythical Sarasvati. On certain celestial occasions, the nectar in the confluence becomes available for the pilgrims, who stay by the confluence and observe a daily life of austerity, piety, and spiritual practices, called Kalpwaas, aimed at transforming the body and

Unlike the modern historians' dispute about the origin of Mahakumbh, many travellers, chroniclers and intellectuals from ancient to modern times

Chinese Buddhist scholar Hsüan Tsang attended a Kumbh in the 7th century CE in which the emperor of Kannauj Harshavardhan participated and gave away his wealth. In the 9th century CE, the Hindu reformer saint and scholar Adi Shankar transformed the Mahakumbh into a more pan-Hindu event. Much later Mughal emperor Akbar constructed ghats and fortifications by the Sangam contributing to the infrastructure of the Kumbh Mela, as described by Abu Fazal in Akbarnama. In modern India Mahatma Gandhi had more critical comprehension of the

Mahakumbh He mentioned in his biography that self-realisation was not a hostage to the pilgrimage in have found it mystical. The the Kumbh, yet in 1915 he

attended the Kumbh at Haridwar. Jawaharlal Nehru, however, fondly remembered in The Discovery of India, "What was the tremendous faith, I wondered, that had drawn our people for untold generations to this famous river of India"? A microcosm of India, Maha Kumbh represents unity in diversity and lived religion described in Dhananjay Chopra's book published in 2024 by the National Book Trust of India. Perhaps that ensures an interplay of time and timelessness and thus a long future of the Maha Kumbh. (The author is Associate

Professor of Sociology at South Asian University and is a member of the Mahá Kumbh review team of IIT Kanpur; views are

Administration must also

review sensitive intelligence

related to those concerns and

evaluate the sufficiency of

mitigation measures TikTok

has taken to date," Trump said

section 2(a) of the Act — one

day before I took office as the

47th President of the United

States — interferes with my

ability to assess the national security and foreign policy implications of the Act's prohibitions before they take

This timing also interferes

with my ability to negotiate a

resolution to avoid an abrupt

shutdown of the platform

while addressing national security concerns," he added.

effect," he said.

in the executive order. The unfortunate timing of

Trump pardons Jan 6 defendants, including violent rioters US President signs executive order

 $P^{\rm resident\ Donald\ Trump\ on}_{\rm Monday\ pardoned,\ com-}$ muted the prison sentences or vowed to dismiss the cases of all of the 1,500-plus people charged with crimes in the Jan 6, 2021, US Capitol riot, including people convicted of assaulting police officers, using his clemency powers on his first day back in office to undo the massive prosecution of the unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy.

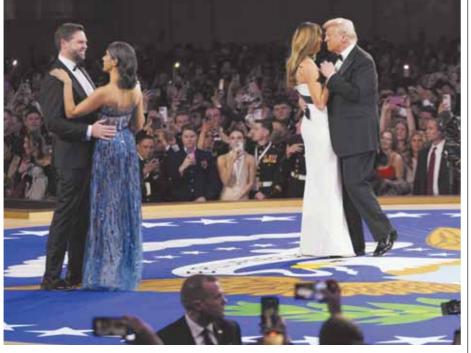
Trump's action, just hours after his return to the White House, paves the way for the release from prison of people found guilty of violent attacks on police, as well as leaders of farright extremist groups convict-ed of failed plots to keep the Republican in power after he lost the 2020 election to former President Joe Biden.

The pardons are a culmination of Trump's yearslong campaign to rewrite the history of the Jan 6 attack that left more than 100 police officers injured as the angry mob of Trump supporters — some armed with poles, bats and bear spray - overwhelmed law enforcement, shattered windows and sent lawmakers and aides running into

While pardons were expected, the speed and the scope of the clemency amounted to a stunning dismantling of the Justice Department's effort to hold participants accountable over what has been described as one of the darkest days in the

country's history.
Trump also ordered the attorney general to seek the dismissal of roughly 450 cases that are still pending before judges stemming from the largest investigation in Justice Department his-

Casting the rioters as "patriots" and "hostages," Trump has claimed they were unfairly treated by the Justice Department that also charged him with federal crimes in two cases he contends were politically motivated. Trump said the pardons will end "a grave national injustice that has been perpetrated upon the American people over the last four years" and begin "a process of national reconciliation." The pardons were met with elation from Trump supporters and lawyers for the Jan. 6 defendants. Trump supporters gathered late Monday in the cold outside the Washington jail, where more than a dozen defen-



President Donald Trump, from right, with first lady Melania Trump and Vice President JD Vance, from left, with his wife Usha Vance, dance at the Commander in Chief Ball, Monday, in Washington, during the 60th Presidential Inauguration.

dants were being held before the

"We are deeply thankful for President Trump for his actions today," said James Lee Bright, an attorney who represented Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes, who was serving an 18year prison sentence after being convicted of seditious conspiracy and other crimes. It's unclear how quickly the

defendants may be released from prison. An attorney for Enrique Tarrio, the former Proud Boys national chairman who was sentenced to 22 years in prison for seditious conspiracy, said he expected his client to be released from prison Monday night.

"This marks a pivotal moment in our client's life, and it symbolizes a turning point for our nation," attorney Nayib Hassan said in a statement. "We are optimistic for the future, as we now turn the page on this chapter, embracing new possibilities and opportunities." Democrats slammed the move to extend the pardons to violent rioters, many of whose crimes were captured on camera and broadcast on live TV. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called it "an outrageous insult to our justice system and the heroes who suffered physical scars and emotional trauma as they protected the Capitol, the Congress and

Trump signs order to withdraw from Paris climate agreement

PTI WASHINGTON

President Donald Us President Trump on Monday signed an executive order to withdraw from the ambitious Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a fulfilment of a campaign promise. "I am immediately withdraw-

ing from the unfair one-sided Paris climate accord," Trump said before signing the executive order at an inauguration event at Washington's Capital One arena here.

Notably Trump had with-drawn from the Paris Agreement immediately after his first inauguration in January 2017. Joe Biden reversed that decision later. The Paris Agreement places unfair economic burdens on American workers, businesses, and taxpayers. It hampers the economic and national security of the United States while allowing the world's leading polluters such as China to continue to pollute, according to the Trump team. Describing it as a one-sided agreement, Trump said the United States will not sabotage its own industries while China pollutes with impuni-

ty. "China, I mean, look, they use a lot of dirty energy, but they produce a lot of energy and when that stuff goes up in the air, you know, it doesn't stay there," he said.

"It's not like you got a wall. We love walls, don't we? Not like you have a wall around and it floats into the United States of America after three and a half to five and a half days. It floats across the oceans and it comes right over your neighbourhood and it falls into your neighbour-hood. So, they all say we have to fight for cleaner air, but the other dirty air is dropping all over us, so what the hell are they talking about," Trump said. "Unless everybody does it, it just doesn't work.

We had the cleanest air and the cleanest water that this country has ever had under the Trump administration, stop jobs and stop production," he added.

US President Donald Trump on Monday

signed an executive order

that extended the operations

of TikTok, the Chinese con-

trolled video short sharing platform, by 75 days, during

which he plans to pursue a resolution that protects

national security while saving a platform used by 170 mil-

"I am instructing the attorney

general not to take any action to enforce the Act for a peri-

od of 75 days from today to

allow my Administration an

opportunity to determine the

appropriate course forward in

an orderly way that protects

national security while avoid-

ing an abrupt shutdown of a

lion Americans.

The executive order says that the United States Ambassador to the United Nations shall immediately submit formal written notification of its withdrawal from the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change. The US will consider its withdrawal from the Agreement and any attendant obligations to be effective immediately upon this provision of notifi-

"It is the policy of my Administration to put the interests of the United States and the American people first in the development and negotiation of any international agreements with the potential to damage or stifle the American economy. These agreements must not unduly or unfairly burden the United States," the executive order says. Observing that the US must grow its economy and

and we didn't do anything to maintain jobs for its citizens, the executive order said over decades, with the help of sensible policies that do not encumber private-sector activity, the United States has simultaneously grown its economy, raised worker wages, increased energy production, reduced air and water pollution, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. The United States' successful track record of advancing both economic and environ-

extending TikTok ops for 75 days

order signed by Trump. Signed into law by Joe Biden

in April last year, the bill passed by wide bipartisan

majorities in the House and

the Senate gave TikTok's par-

ent company ByteDance 270

days to divest from the app or

face a ban from US app stores.

The popular video sharing

app went dark on January 18,

but it restored its services after Trump promised to extend its deadline a day

During this period, the

Department of Justice shall

take no action to enforce the

Act or impose any penalties

against any entity for any

noncompliance with the Act,

communications platform including for distributing, used by millions of Americans," said the executive enabling the distribution,

maintenance, or updating) of

any foreign adversary con-

trolled application as defined in the Act," said the executive

order. Trump, in his executive order said, he has the unique

constitutional responsibility

for the national security of the

United States, the conduct of

foreign policy, and other vital

ties, I intend to consult with

my advisors, including the

heads of relevant departments

and agencies on the national

security concerns posed by

TikTok, and to pursue a res-

olution that protects national security while saving a platform used by 170 million

executive functions. 'To fulfil those responsibili-

mental objectives should be a model for other countries, it

'In recent years, the United States has purported to join international agreements and initiatives that do not reflect our country's values or our contributions to the pursuit of economic and environmental objectives. "Moreover, these agreements steer American taxpayer dollars to countries that do not require, or merit, financial assistance in the interests of the American people," said the executive

Senate confirms Marco Rubio as secretary of state, first cabinet member for US Prez

Washington (PTI): The Senate quickly confirmed Marco Rubio as secretary of state Monday, voting unanimously to give President Donald Trump the first member of his new Cabinet on Inauguration Day. Rubio, the Republican sena-

tor from Florida, is among the least controversial of Trump's nominees and vote was decisive, 99-0. Another pick, John Ratcliffe for CIA director, is also expected to have a swift vote. Action on others, including former combat veteran and Fox News host Pete Hegseth for defence secretary, is expected later in the week.

'Marco Rubio is a very intelligent man with a remarkable understanding of American foreign policy," Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the seniormost Republican, said as the

chamber opened. It's often tradition for the Senate to convene immediately after the ceremonial pomp of the inauguration to begin putting the new president's team in place, particularly the national security

During Trump's first term, the Senate swiftly confirmed his defence and homeland security secretaries on day one, and President Joe Biden's choice for director of national intelligence was confirmed on his own Inauguration Day With Trump's return to the White House, and his Republican Party controlling majorities in Congress, his outsider Cabinet choices are more clearly falling into place, despite initial scepticism and opposition from

Senate Majority Leader John Thune moved quickly Monday, saying he expected voting to begin "imminently" on Trump's nominees. Democrats have calculated it's better for them to be seen as more willing to work with

both sides of the aisle.

Trump, rather than simply mounting a blockade to his nominees. They're holding their opposition for some of his other picks who have less support, including Tulsi Gabbard for director of national intelligence and vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for health secre-

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said his party will "neither rubber-stamp nominees we feel are grossly unqualified, nor oppose nominees that deserve serious consideration."

Rubio, he said, is an example of "a qualified nominee we think should be confirmed quickly.

Senate committees have been holding lengthy confirmation hearings on more than a dozen of the Cabinet nominees, with more to come this week. And several panels are expected to meet late Monday to begin voting to advance the nominees to the full Senate for confirmation.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee advanced Rubio's nomination late Monday. The Committee and Senate Intelligence Committee, respectively, advanced the nominations of Hegseth and

Ratcliffe. Rubio, a well-liked senator and former Trump rival during the 2016 presidential race, has drawn closer to the president in recent years. He appeared last week to answer questions before the Foreign Relations Committee, where he has spent more than a

decade as a member. As secretary of state, Rubio would be the nation's top diplomat, and the first Latino to hold the position. Born in Miami to Cuban immigrants, he has long been involved in foreign affairs, particularly in South America, and has emerged as a hawk on China's

Major influx of aid into Gaza on Day 2 of ceasefire: UN

PTI UNITED NATIONS

aza has received a major Ginflux of aid and goods, with 915 trucks crossing into the territory on the second day of the ceasefire, the United Nations said.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said colleagues in Gaza informed the UN that 915 trucks — significantly higher than the 600 trucks called for in the ceasefire entered Gaza on Monday, based on information from Israeli authorities and the guarantors of the ceasefire agreement.

UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher said Sunday the

needs in Gaza are staggering and his office said Monday that aid workers are ramping up the delivery of food, clean water, shelter materials and other essential supplies. The UN Office for the

Coordination Humanitarian Affairs reported that the more than 2 million people in Gaza, about half of them children, depend on this aid, Haq said. The World Health Organization, meanwhile, has a 60-day plan to increase beds and deploy overseas health workers to Gaza hospitals, but some 30,000 Palestinians have lifechanging injuries and need specialised care, Haq said.

'2 Americans freed in Af prisoner exchange'

Athe United States and Afghanistan's Taliban freed two Americans in exchange for a Taliban figure impris-oned for life in California on drug trafficking charges, officials said Tuesday.

The deal came as President Joe Biden, who oversaw the chaotic US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, handed power over to returning President Donald Trump. The Taliban praised the swap as a step toward the "normalisation" of ties between the US and Afghanistan, but that likely remains a tall order as most countries in the world still don't recognize the militants' rule.

The Taliban's Foreign Ministry in Kabul confirmed the swap, saying two unidentified US citizens had been exchanged

The family of Ryan Corbett, one American held by the

Taliban, confirmed he had been released in a statement. Corbett, who had lived in Afghanistan with his family at the time of the 2021 collapse of the US-backed government, was abducted by the Taliban in August 2022 while on a business trip.

"Our hearts are filled with overwhelming gratitude and praise to God for sustaining Ryan's life and bringing him back home after what has been the most challenging and uncertain 894 days of our lives," the family's statement said. They thanked both Trump and Biden, as well as many government officials, for their efforts in freeing

Corbett's family also praised

and for their visits to Ryan as the United States' Protecting Power in Afghanistan."

Energy-rich Qatar, which hosted negotiations between the US and the Taliban over the years, did not immediately respond to requests for

comment. Before Biden left office, his administration had been trying to work out a deal to free Corbett as well as George Glezmann and Mahmood Habibi in exchange for Muhammad Rahim, one of the remaining detainees at Guantanamo Bay. Glezmann, an airline mechanic from Atlanta, was taken by the Taliban's intelligence services in December 2022 while traveling through the country. Habibi, an Afghan American

businessman who worked as a

for Khan Mohammed, who the Middle East nation of contractor for a Kabul-based was sentenced to two terms of Qatar for "for their vital role telecommunications company, Taliban has denied that it has Habibi. It wasn't immediately clear if either of the two men was the other released Officials in Washington did not respond to requests for comment early Tuesday after Trump's inauguration the day before. The Taliban called the exchange the result of "long and fruitful negotiations" with the US and said it was a good example of solving problems through dialogue. The Islamic Emirate looks positively at the actions of the United States of America that help the normalization and development of relations between the two countries," it said. The Taliban has been trying to make inroads in being recognized, in part to escape the economic tailspin caused by its takeover.

10 dead, 32 injured in hotel fire at ski resort in northwestern Turkiye

PTI ANKARA

fire at a hotel at a ski resort Ain northwestern Turkiye on Tuesday killed at least 10 people and hospitalised 32 others, officials said. The fire broke out at around

3:30 am in the restaurant of the 12-storey Grand Kartal hotel in the resort of Kartalkaya in Bolu province, officials and reports said. The cause of the fire was under investigation.

Two of the victims died after jumping from the building in a panic, Gov. Abdulaziz Aydin told the state-run Anadolu Agency. Private NTV television said some people tried to climb down from their rooms using sheets and blankets.

There were 234 guests staying at the hotel, Aydin said. Necmi Kepcetutan, a ski instructor at the hotel, said he was asleep when the fire eruptbuilding. He told NTV television that he then helped some 20 guests out of the hotel. He said the hotel was engulfed in smoke, making it difficult for guests to locate the fire escape.
"I cannot reach some of my

students. I hope they are OK," the ski instructor told the sta-Television images showed the

roof and top floors of the hotel on fire. The government appointed six prosecutors to lead an investigation into the fire. NTV television suggested that the wooden cladding on the exterior of the hotel, in a

chalet-style design, may have

accelerated the spread of the The 161-room hotel is on the side of a cliff, hampering efforts to combat the flames, the station also reported. NTV showed a smoke-blackened ed and he rushed out of the lobby, its glass entrance and

windows smashed, its wooden reception desk charred and a chandelier crashed to the ground.Kartalkaya is a popular ski resort in the Koroglu mountains, some 300 kilometres east of Istanbul. The fire occurred during the school semester break when hotels in the region are packed. Aydin's office said 30 fire trucks and 28 ambulances were sent to the site.Other hotels at the resort were evacuated as a precaution and guests were placed in hotels around Bolu. Meanwhile, a natural gas explosion at a hotel at another ski resort in central Turkiye, injured four people. The explosion took place at the Yildiz Mountain Winter Sports Center in Sivas province. Two alpine skiers and their instructor were slightly injured while another instructor received second-degree burns on the hands and face, the Sivas gov

ernor's office said.

Landslides, flash floods on Indonesia's Java island leave 17 dead, 8 missing

Jakarta (PTI): Indonesian rescuers recovered the bodies of at least 17 people who were swept away in flash floods or buried under tons of mud and rocks that hit hilly villages on the country's main island of Java, officials said Tuesday. Eight

people were missing. Torrential rains on Monday caused rivers to burst their banks, tearing through nine villages in Pekalongan regency of Central Java province, as mud, rocks and trees tumbled down on mountainside hamlets, said Bergas Catursasi, who heads the local Disaster Management

Agency. He said rescue workers by Tuesday had pulled out at least 17 bodies in the worst-hit village of Petungkriyono, and rescuers are searching for eight villagers who are reportedly still missing. Eleven injured people managed to escape and were rushed to nearby hospitals, Catursari said.

Television reports on Tuesday showed police, soldiers and rescue workers used excavators, farm equipment and their bare hands to sift through the rub-ble looking for the dead and missing in devastated villages, while others carried victims on bamboo stretchers or body bags to ambulances or trucks. "Bad weather, mudslides and rugged terrain hampered the rescue operation," Catursari said, adding that people who were fishing in the river and those who were taking shelter from the rain were swept away by flash floods.

National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari said flash floods swept away villagers and vehicles passing through devastated villages and triggered a landslide that buried two houses.

for 'fundamental change' London (PTI): Prime Minister He is due to be sentenced on Keir Starmer said Tuesday that Thursday.

the killing of three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed dance class must lead to "fundamental change" in how the British state protects citizens. Starmer said the government must also answer "tough questions" about how authorities failed to stop a violence-obsessed teenager before he stabbed three young girls to death in the seaside town of Southport in July.

In a televised statement, the prime minister said that a public inquiry would tackle failings in the case of Axel Rudakubana, who injured another eight children, their instructor and a passer-by.

The tragedy of the Southport killings must be a line in the sand for Britain," Starmer said. Rudakubana, 18, unexpectedly changed his pleas to guilty on Monday, the first day of his trial at Liverpool Crown Court.

Starmer: Killing of 3 girls calls

His guilty plea means that details that had been withheld from the public to try to ensure a fair trial can now be reported. They include the fact that Rudakubana was referred three times to the government's antiextremism program, Prevent, when he was 13 and 14, and was in contact with multiple state agencies - all of whom failed to spot the danger he

The killings in Southport in northwest England triggered days of anti-immigrant violence across the country after far-right activists seized on incorrect reports that the attacker was an asylum-seeker who had recently arrived in the UK.

Rudakubana was born in Cardiff to Rwandan parents. Critics have accused Starmer's government of withholding information about the suspect

in the aftermath of the attack. Starmer said there was no conspiracy of silence, just a desire to see justice done.

The only losers if the details had been disclosed would have been the victims and the families because it ran the risk the trial would have collapsed," he

Police and prosecutors also

face questions about why the case was not labelled terrorism, despite Rudakubana facing charges of possessing an al-Qaida manual and the poison ricin alongside charges of murder and attempted murder. Starmer said the case showed that "terrorism has changed' and the law might need to be changed to deal with "a new

threat... (from) acts of extreme

violence carried out by loners.

misfits, young men in their bedrooms. "It's clearly extreme violence.

It's clearly intended to terrorise," he said.

Putin discusses 'multipolar global order' with China's Xi

PTI MOSCOW

 $R^{\mathrm{ussian}\,\mathrm{President}\,\mathrm{Vladimir}}_{\mathrm{Putin}\,\,\mathrm{had}\,\,\mathrm{a}\,\,\mathrm{call}\,\,\mathrm{Tuesday}}$ with Chinese President Xi Jinping, emphasising the two countries' close ties, a day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 47th US president. The two leaders have developed strong personal links that helped bring relations between Moscow and Beijing, growing even closer after Putin sent troops into Ukraine in

2022. China has become a major customer of Russian oil and gas and a source of key technologies amid sweeping Western sanctions on Moscow. In Tuesday's call with Xi, Putin emphasised that Russia-China relations are based on shared interests, equality and mutual benefits, noting that they "don't depend on internal political factors and the current international environment."

"We jointly support the development of a more just multipolar global order and work to ensure indivisible security in Eurasia and the world as a whole," Putin told Xi in remarks carried by the Russian state TV. "Joint efforts by Russia and China play an $important\ stabilising \ \bar{}\ role\ in$ global affairs."
Xi similarly praised close coop-

eration between Moscow and Beijing, saying it helps "bring positive energy to reforming and developing the global sys-

While neither leader directly mentioned Trump in the televised fragment of their call, the timing of the conversation may signal that Putin and Xi want to coordinate their action in dialogue with the new US



administration.

call with Trump on Friday The Chinese president had a and expressed hope for positive

ties with the US. Trump had threatened to

impose tariffs and other measures against China in his second term, while also hinting at wavs in which the two rival powers could cooperate on issues such as regional conflicts and curbing the export of substances used in the production of fentanyl. Putin, who is yet to talk to Trump, congratulated him on taking office in televised remarks during a video call with officials and welcomed his intention to open a dialogue with Moscow.

Trump told reporters Monday after taking office that President Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelenskyy had told him he wanted to make a peace deal and voiced hope that Putin would follow suit. He added that Putin would be destroying Russia by failing to make a deal, pointing out Russia's economic troubles,

ssession of aforesaid property and any objection

then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which,

the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated

is null and void in respect of the subject property

Ashwani Kumar (Advocate) Chamber No. 122,

Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

This notice serves to inform the general public that the original share certificate bearing Book No. E 213, Page Number-5, Serial Number-7, Date of issue 11.05.1982 (One Share), along with other control of the contro

property documents belonging to Shri Krisha Chand Arora, a member of SBBJ Employee Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd., present Known as SATHI APARTMENT and residing at Fla

No. 9, SBBJ Employees Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., presently known as SATH APARTMENT, Plot No. 18, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi

hand Arora passed away on 09.05.2021. The pminee or widow of the deceased member of the

ociety has applied for duplicate share certificate

nominee of wildow of the deceased memore of the society has applied for duplicate share certificates and other property papers, including allotment and possession letters, etc. The society hereby invites claims and objections from claimants or objectors for the issuance of duplicate share certificates and other property papers within a period of 14 (fourteen) days from the publication of this notice. Claimants or objectors should submit copies of relevant documents and other proofs supporting their claims or objections for the issuance of duplicate share certificates and other property documents to the Secretary of SBBJ Employees Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd., presently known as SATHI APARTMENT, Plot No. 18, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085. If no claims or objections are received within the prescribed period, the society shall proceed to issue duplicate share certificates and other property papers, including allotment and possession letters, etc., in accordance with the provisions laid down in the society's by-laws. Any claims or objections received by the society shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures outlined in the society's Su-laws. On health of SBBL Employees

p-operate Group Housing Society Ltd. (Sat)

SBBJ Employees Co-operative G.H. Society Ltd. (Regd.) Plot No.18, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085

including high inflation. Putin hailed Trump's openness to dialogue as he spoke to Russia's Security Council members shortly before the US

We hear the statements from

president's inauguration.

Trump and members of his team about their desire to restore direct contact with Russia, which were halted through no fault of ours by the outgoing administration," Putin said on Monday. "We also hear his statements about the need to do everything to prevent World War III. We certainly welcome such an approach and congratulate the

office. The Russian leader also stressed that dialogue between the two nations should be based on "equal basis and mutual respect, taking into

सार्वजनिक सूचना

ÚŜ president-elect on taking

account the important role our countries play on some key issues on the global agenda, including the strengthening of global stability and securi-

Putin also noted that Moscow is open to dialogue with the Trump administration on the conflict in Ukraine, emphasising the need to respect Russia's interests and adding that "the most important thing is to remove the root causes of the crisis". "As for the settlement of the situation, I would like to underline that its goal should not be a short truce, not some kind of respite for regrouping forces and rearmament with the aim of subsequently continuing the conflict, but a long-term peace based on respect for the legitimate interests of all people, all nations living in this region," Putin said

KPK CM Gandapur plans to send delegation to Afghanistan

Peshawar (PTI): Pakistan's Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Khan Gandapur has announced plans to send a delegation to Afghanistan within two weeks to address Pak-Afghan issues, including cross-border militancy. Talking to the media on Monday, Gandapur said that terrorism in the region cannot be eliminated through operations, air strikes and use of force.

"The federal government talked about negotiations with Afghanistan over bilateral issues, but there's no success. Now, the dialogue with Kabul will be held at the provincial level. A delegation of our [KP] government will meet Afghan officials within two weeks," Gandapur told reporters. The nation has been reeling under rising violent attacks since the Taliban rulers returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021 particularly in the bordering provinces Khvber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan. The year 2024 turned out to be the deadliest for Pakistan's civil and military security forces in a decade, with at least 685 fatalities and 444 terror attacks, according to "CRSS Annual Security Report 2024" issued by the Centre for Security and Strategic Studies.

South Korea's Yoon

decree in first public

defends his martial law

Negotiations between Pak govt, Imran's party hang in balance over formation of judicial commissions

The future of negotiations between the government and the opposition party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), remains uncertain due to disagreements over the formation of judicial commissions to investigate the events of May 9, 2023, and Nov 26 2024

Formal talks between the two sides commenced on December 23 of last year, aiming to ease the ongoing political tension and instability caused by PTI's protests against alleged electoral rigging and the arrests of its members and leaders.

PTI presented its charter of demands during the third round of talks held on Jan 16, giving the government a seven-day timeline to set up two judicial commissions to probe the incidents of May 9, 2023 and Nov 26, 2024. The key demand has become

a sticking point, as the government has yet to agree to form the commissions. In response, PTI's incarcerated leader Imran Khan has instructed his party to with-draw from the talks if the demand is not fulfilled. PTI chief Gohar Ali Khan

told the media on Monday outside Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail that Khan had directed the negotiating team to withdraw from talks if the judicial the restoration of the PTI's commission was not formed electoral mandate, the release within seven days. Khan, 72, has been lodged at and the reversal of the 26th

the Adiala Jail since mid- constitutional amendment. 2023 in multiple cases.

said if the government did more than 1,400. the negotiations.

that the PTI team would wait for seven days for a response from the govern- included in the government ment side. On May 9, 2023, violent

protests erupted after the arrest of Khan by paramilitary Rangers from the premises of the Islamabad High Court. His party workers vandalised a dozen military installations, including the Jinnah House (Lahore Corps Commander house), and the ISI building in Faisalabad. Khan had said he was implicated in the May 9 cases as a result of a "wellorchestrated plan" to "harass" him for political reasons. On November 13 last year. Khan issued a "final call" for

I, Smt Sarita W/o- No.15427443L Hav Suneel Kumar Uikey, R/o-

Vill & PO- Adegaon, Teh-Lakhanadon, Dist- Seoni, M.P.-480887, have changed my name from Smt Sarita to Sarita Uikey, vide affidavit dated 21/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1290)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Amirita W/o- No.16014554M Hav Pramod Kumar Singh, R/o-Vill- Dihwapaer, PO- Chanda changed my name from Amirita Singh to Amrata Singh, vide affidavit dated 21/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1291)C I, JC-857058X Sub Arjun Bhoi, R/o- A/P Nanadi, Tal- Chikodi, Dist- Belagavi, Karnataka-591244, have changed my son's name from Anamol to Anamol Bhoi, vide affidavit dated 21/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1292)C

nvited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. DCESTMLG-06-2025. Name of work 8 existing pond with provision of park ncluding afforestation and landscaping in Central Gotanagar Colony under urisdiction of SSE/W/HQ/Maligaon. Tender Value: ₹3,14,35,300.59; Earnest Money: ₹3,07,200.00; E-tenders will be will be opened at 13:00 hrs. on 10-02-

Dy. Chief Engineer/Estate

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Bhuwan Singh Taragi who is purchasing the THIRD FLOOR, PROPERTY BEARING NO. B-87, AREA MEASURING 66.89 SQ. MTRS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 41/15, SITUATED IN THE VILLAGE OF NILOTHI DELHI AND COLONY KNOWN AS GURU NANAK ENCLAVE IN BLOCK-B, NILOTHI EXTR. NEW DELHI-110041 from Mr. Naresh Kumar and who is owned the same by virtue of Authorization Slip dated 05.11.2024 executed by Delhi Development Authority, vide Document/Regn. No. 2024/6/I/7204, Book No.1, Volume No.5933, on pages 13-26, dated 05.11.2024, SRO-West Punjabi Bagh, Delhi, and intend to mortgage against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited To comply the requirements of BANK/MSPC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said groperty is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046316

Reliable of

RELIABLE DATA SERVICES LIMITED

Registered Office: GF-22, Hans Bhawan, 1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, ITO New Delhi-110002 Phone No: 0120-4089166 E-Mail ID:- cs@rdspl.com, Website www.rdspl.com

of Reliable Data Services Limited will be held at 12.30 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, 12ti ebruary,2025 at the Registered Office of the Company GF-22, Hans Bhawan, 1 Sahadur Shah Zafar Marg, ITO, New Delhi-110002 India to transact the business as se out in the notice of EGM. A soft copy of the Notice of EGM for Appointment of Statutor Auditor to fill Casual Vacancy is linked herewith for those members who have registere their e-mail address with Depository Participant/Company and same can be referred

S.No. Type of Document

Remote E-Voting and Voting during the EGM ursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Compani

luring the EGM will be provided by NSDL The remote e-voting period begins on Sunday,09.02.2025 at 9:00 A.M. and ends o Tuesday, 11.02.2025 at 5:00 P.M. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL for voting thereafter. The Members, whose names appear in the Register of Members / Beneficial Owners as on the record date (cut-off date) i.e. 07.02.2025, ma east their vote electronically. The voting right of shareholders shall be in proportion to heir share in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on the cut-off date

not be allowed to change it subsequently. The Members who have cast their vote on resolution(s) by remote e-Voting prior to the EGM will also be eligible to participate at the EGM but shall not be entitled to cast their rote on such resolution(s) again

The Board has appointed Mrs. Neha Mehra (COP No. 12856), Proprietor, of M/s. Neha Mehra and Associates, Company Secretaries as scrutinizer to scrutinize the voting entire

February 2025, may send a request for Login ID and password at evoting@nsdl.co.in or admin@sklinerta.com quoting their Client ID, DP ID / Folio No.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that Mr. Raju Kumar Kanth intends to purchase Residential House मेरे मुविक्कल अश्वनी गुप्ता पुत्र स्व० जयिकशन No. E-29, measuring 50 square yards (i.e., 41.805 गुप्ता निवासी सी-8,/57, यमुना विहार दिल्लीsquare meters) out of Khasra No. 64 situated at Panchsheel Colony, Village Brahampur alias Bhopura, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad U.P.-201005, from Mrs. Manorama Devi.Mrs Manorama Devi and Mrs. Chanda Rani jointly 10053. उपरोक्त सम्पत्ति के वसीयत द्वारा मालिक जो कि रजि0 सं0. 453. वॉल्यम न0. 1580, बुक न0. 3, पेज न0. 86-88, दिनांक wandland bevilling and wiss. Chanda hair joining purchased the said property through a Sale Deed dated 20.09.2013 from Mrs. Sushila Chaudhary Thereafter, Mrs. Chanda Rani sold her ½ share to 22.07.2016 सब रजिस्ट्रार तृतीय दिल्ली में जीकत है जो कि माता कमला देवी ने की है उनकी मृत्यु 03.06.2024 को हो गई है यह Mrs. Manorama Devi through a Sale Deed date 18.06.2019.Please note that the chain of documents includes the original Sale Deed (Doc. No. 5419 Book No. 01, Volume No. 1331, Pages No. 151-154 dated 10.10.2001, SRO-III Ghaziabad) has been los अन्तिम वसीयत है अन्य कोई दावेदार नहीं है। and an online FIB No. 2514592/2025) with the PS lagar, New Delhi, Any person(s) found i

Notice is hereby given to the General Public the Mrs. SUMAN SHARMA W/o Mr. MOTIRAN SHARMA is the owner of Residential Ptot No.22 star Arman (1998) and the Mrs. SUMAN SHARMA W/o Mr. MOTIRAN SHARMA is the owner of Residential Ptot No.22 star as measuring 62.66 Sq. Yards, i.e. \$2.39 Sq. Meters, Out of Khasra No. 251m/2. Situated a Royal Balaji Enclave-II, Village Bisnoli, Prgana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt, GautamBudh Nagar, Ulta Pradesh-203207 by the A. Bid Letter Date 26.10.2023 issued by DCB Bank Limited in favou of Mrs. Suman Sharma Wo Mr. Motiram Sharmi in respect of Said Property. B. Sale Certificat Dated 07.12.2023 excuted by DCB Bank Limited in favour of Mrs. Suman Sharma W/o Mnotiram Sharma in respect of Residential Plo No.22, area measuring 62.66 Sq. Yards, i.e. \$2.38 c. Meters. Out of Khasra No. 251m/2, Situated a Royal Balaji Enclave-II, Village Bisnoli, Prgana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt, GautamBudh Nagar, Ulta Pradesh, as Doc. No. 52522, Book No. 01, Volum No. 25602. On Pages No. 167-192. On Date 71.2.2023, SRO- Dadri, and same mortgaging the said property with HINDUJA HOUSING FINANCE II.D., if anybody has any chargefinerestfült in the said property or any kind of dispute kindir in the said property or any kind of dispute kindir form the undersigned in willing has ADVOCATE G-1002 G TOWER CLOUD 9 VAISHALI

iAUTAMBCOH NAGAR, U.P., by virtue of Sale Dec-dated 28.02.2019, as Doc. No. 143, executed by dr. Dheeraj Kumar who was the owner by virtue of tegd. GPA dated 09.01.2019, same to be finance by MFG India Credit Company Limited (Former) iullerton India Credit Company Limited), Genera-ublic hereby informed that if anybody has an harge/interest/title in the said property or any ind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in uriting on the holow mentioned address within and of dispute Kindry moriting on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

SG Associates (Law Firm Filk, Lotus Pond Plaza, Vaibas, Khaud, Indirapum, Charabad) mail: seassociatespl@gmail.com, Ph. 7011172764, 012044403

PUBLIC NOTICE

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Ph.D Admission-January, 2025 Online applications are

invited for admission to programme January 2025 in various courses latest by 05-02-2025. For details consult University website www.gndu.ac.in

Director of Research

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण लाट सख्या-01, सैक्टर-नॉलेज पार्क-4 ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, जिला-गौतमबुद्ध नगर (उ०प्र०)

सार्वजनिक सचना

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अन्तर्गत M/s Solaris Realtech Pvt Ltd भुखण्ड सख्या-GH-16B, Sector-01, Greater Noida को दिनांक 01.05.2023 को मानचित्र स्वीकृति प्रदान की गयी थी। तदोपरान्त विकासकर्ता द्वारा (Group Housing CC-8687 दिनांक 12.07.2024 है। तत्क्रम में U.P.-Apartment Act &-2010 Amendment 2016 in Section-4 Sub Section-B के अन्तर्गत परियोजना वे आर्वेटियों से आपत्ति ⁄सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाने का प्रावधान है। इस सम्बन्ध में विकासकर्ता द्वारा प्रस्तुत स्वीकृति मानचित्र एवं Declarations as per UP Apartment Act-2010 परीक्षण किसी भी कार्यीदवस मे सुबह 9:30 से सायं 6:00 बजे के मध्य नियोजन विभाग में तथा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाईट पर किया जा सकता है।

अतः उपरोक्त परियोजना के आवटियों द्वारा Sanction Map एवं Declarations as per UP Apartment Act-2010 के सम्बन्ध में सूचना प्रकाशित करने के 30 दिनों के अन्दर आपत्तियां / सुझाव आमंत्रित की जाती है। उपरोक्त के निहितार्थ अपनी आपत्तिया लिखित रूप में अपने आवंटन पत्र, नाम, पत्ता एवं दरभाष नम्बर के साथ कार्यालय समय व कार्यदिवस में ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण के मुख्य प्रशासनिक कार्यालय, भुखण्ड सुख्यां 1 नॉलेज पार्क 4 ग्रेटर नोएडा मे स्थित महाप्रबन्धक (नियोजन / वास्तु0) को सम्बोधित करते हुए सूचना प्रकाशित होने के 30 दिवसो के अन्दर जमा करायी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक (नियो० /वास्त्र० ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण



MP INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD (Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)

(Formerly M.P. Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (I) Ltd.)

Regional Office: 101, First Floor, Atulya IT Park, Near Crystal IT Park, Khandwa Road, Indore-452001 (M.P.) Phone: (0) 0731-2970611, 2974363, 2971311, Fax No.: 0731-2972629

CIN: U51102MP1977SGC001392, Website: invest.mp.gov.in | E-mail: ed.roind@mpidc.co.in No. MPIDC/ROIND/TECH/24-25/664 DATE: 20.01.2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER – IInd Call

Online bids for the following work are invited from Contractors and Firms of Repute fulfilling registration and eligibility criteria. Tender for the following work has been processed on the

e-procurement system http://mptenders.gov.in: Name of Work **Last Date Probable** Cost of Earnest Time Amount of Tender Money Period of Bid Form (Non-Deposit (i/c rainy Sub-Contract (EMD (P.A.C.) Refundable) mission (in Rs.) (in Rs.) in Rs.) Operation & Maintenance 2.93 17,700/-2,93,000/-24 10.02.2025

Dist. Dhar for 24 months. The Corrigendum, if any shall not be published in the newspaper; it will be uploaded on the e-procurement system.

M.P. Madhyam/118431/2025

Smart Industrial Park, Pithampur,

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Months



PUBLIC NOTICE

For kind attention of allottees of the real estate project "Aashiyara" developed by M/s Renuka Traders Private Limited.

The above-mentioned project was registered with the Interim RERA Gurugram vide registration no. GGM/294/2018/26 dated 28.11.2018 and the registration was valid up to 31.07.2023 (including 6 months of COVID 19).

The promoter has made an application with the request to the authority that instead of revoking the registration on its expiry, the authority may permit it to remain in force subject to such further terms and conditions as it thinks fit to impose in the interest of the allottees, and any such terms and conditions so imposed shall be binding upon the promoter.

3. Further the Occupation Certificate (OC) for the project has been applied to Director of Town and Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh, on 16.09.2024 same as under Review for the grant of approval.

4. The Authority is considering an application of the promoter to permit the continuation of the registration certificate under section 7(3) of the Act for this project to remain in force and hereby invite objections from the allottees in particular and any other concerned persons in general in this regard.

5. Those objections shall be filed in the registry of the Authority before 03.02.2025 and appear in the Authority on 05.02.2025 at 3.00 PM for considering the objections received, failing which the Authority will consider present application for continuation of the registration under Section 7(3) of the Act.

DATED: 22.01.2025

For Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority

the court was his first public appearance since becoming South Korea's first sitting president to be detained over his short-lived declaration of martial law, which plunged the country into political turmoil. After abruptly imposing martial law on Dec 3, Yoon sent troops and police officers to encircle the National Assembly, but enough lawmakers managed to enter to

vote unanimously to reject his

decree, forcing Yoon's Cabinet

to lift the measure early the

Seoul (PTI): South Korea's

impeached president denied

Tuesday that he ordered the

military to drag lawmakers

out of the National Assembly

to prevent them from voting

to reject his martial law decree

last month, as he appeared for

the first time before the

Constitutional Court that will

Yoon Suk Yeol's presence at

determine his fate.

following morning. Yoon, a conservative, has since argued that his dispatch of troops was not meant to block the assembly but instead was a warning to the main liberal opposition Democratic Party, which has used its legislature majority to obstruct Yoon's agenda, undermine his budget bill and impeach some of his top officials. In his announcement of martial law, Yoon called the assembly "a den of criminals" that was bogging down government affairs, and vowed to eliminate "shameless

anti-state forces". The commanders of military units sent to the assembly have disagreed with Yoon's stance. Kwak Jong-keun, commander of a special forces unit, told an assembly hearing that Yoon prison or the death penalty.

North Korea followers and

appearance since arrest had called him directly and asked that his troops "quickly destroy the door and drag out the lawmakers who are inside." Kwak said he didn't

> carry out the order. acting Asked Constitutional Court chief justice Moon Hyungbae whether he ordered the commanders to pull out the lawmakers, Yoon replied that he didn't do so.

> Yoon said the lawmakers could have gathered somewhere later to overturn the decree. He also argued that there would have been a pop ular backlash if he had tried to physically prevent an assembly vote.

> "If I had obstructed (the vote) I think I wouldn't have been able to handle the conse quences," Yoon said.

Asked by Moon about reports that he gave a memo on establishing an emergency legislative body to a top official before imposing martial law, Yoon said he didn't do so. Whether Yoon plotted to launch such a body would help explain his true inten-

tions for martial law. The assembly impeached Yoon on Dec 14, suspending his presidential powers. The Constitutional Court has until June to determine whether to formally dismiss him as president or reinstate him. Observers say a court ruling is expected to come sooner. Separately, law enforcement authorities are investigating whether Yoon and others committed rebellion, abuse of power and other crimes in connection with the martial law decree. By law, the leader

of a rebellion can face life in

November 26, demanding

nationwide protests on

It is hereby brought to the notice of Tikar, Teh- Lalganj, Dist- Rae the public at large, that, The Original Bareli, U.P. 229203, have of Sale Deed dated 12.08.1996 duly registered as Document No. 6382 on 12.08.1996 executed by Mr. D.K. Raina in favour of Mrs. Sushila Aggarwal in respect of land measuring 2 Biswa, Khasra No. 640/151/2/3/13 and Sale Deed dated 12.08.1996 duly registered as Document No. 6383 on 12.08.1996 executed by Mr. D.K. Raina in favour of Mrs. Sushila Aggarwal in respect of land measuring 3 Biswa, Khasra No. 640/151/2/3/13 (hereinafter collectively referred as the "Lost Documents") with respect to Entire Third Floor with terrace/roof rights, constructed on plot of land bearing No. 13, measuring 206 square out of Khasra No 640/151/2/3/13, in the area of Village Rajpur Chhawni, presently known as Maa Kalvani Kuni situated in between Kalyan Viha and C.C. Colony, Delhi alongwith proportionate undivided share in the land underneath (hereinafter called the "Property") have been lost and/or untraceable despite due and diligent search

The public at large is informed that Our Client is desirous to purchase the Property.

Any member of the public dealing with the Lost Documents and/or the Property and/or deriving any benefit impersonation as any of the persons executing the Lost Documents or claiming any interes in the Property on the basis of the Lost Documents or in any manner whatsoever shall do so at his/he own cost, expense, liability and risk Any person having any claim against the Property by way of inheritance purchase, mortgage, sale, gift lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust maintenance, easement or otherwise howsoever on the Property by virtue of them holding the Lost Documents as above and/or for any other reason whatsoever are hereby given notice to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at their office at within 15 days from the date hereof otherwise it shall be deemed that all such persons have surrendered and abandoned all their claims, rights interest and title of any and all nature in the Property and are left with no claim, right, title or interest of any nature in the Property. Any persor found misusing the said original documents shall render himself herself liable to appropriate legal

> S.K. AGRAWAL & CO Advocates A-11, Neeti Bagh New Delhi-110049 E-mail: skdelhi@skaglaw.com

Date: 21.01.2025

Responding to his call, thou-Emphasising that the estab-lishment of the judicial com-lishment of the judicial com-lishment of the judicial commission was critical for a down by police, which forcibly meaningful dialogue, Gohar dispersed them while arresting not move forward on form- Meanwhile, the government's ing the commissions, there negotiation committee was was no point in continuing mulling over extending its the negotiations. mulling over extending its seven-day deadline by anoth-Gohar said there wouldn't be er week to submit its response a fourth round of talks if the to the PTI demands, said commissions were not con- Senator Irfan Siddiqui, the stituted. However, he added spokesperson for the government's negotiation committee.

of detained party members,

"Currently, the seven parties,

committee, are in the process

ment came against the backdrop of several reports that

claimed that the government side's response was ready and it had decided not to constitute a judicial commission on the May 9 incident. Siddiqui refuted the reports, terming them "baseless" and asserting that there was no truth in the news. PTI has earlier announced to conclude the talks by January 31, however, the deadline is unlikely to be

of mutual consultation and

seeking guidance from their

respective leaderships," Senator

Siddiqui posted on X on Monday, adding that "it may

take another week to prepare

the final response". His state-

met due to the current differences over the core demands.

2025. For details please visit

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

CIN No. L72900DE2001PLC110145

NOTICE OF EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Extra Ordinary General Meeting (EGM) of Membe

Link for downloading EGM Notice Notice of EGM www.rdspl.com, www.nse.com, www.bse.com,

(Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (as amended), the Secretarial Standar on General Meetings issued by Institute of Company Secretaries of India and egulation 44 of the Listing Regulations, as amended and the MCA Circulars, the Company is providing the facility of remote e-Voting to its Members in respect of the business to be transacted at the EGM and for this purpose, it has appointed NSDL to acilitate voting through electronic means. Accordingly, the facility of casting votes by Member using remote e-Voting system before the EGM as well as remote e-Voting

sing 07.02.2025. Once the vote on a resolution is cast by the Member, he / she sha

Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and become member of the Company after dispatch of the notice and is holding shares as of the cut-off date i.e. 07th day of

> Anisha Kuma Company Secretary and Compliance Officer M. No. ACS67823

Sebi plans to introduce pre-listing trading in IPO shares to deter grey market activity: Buch

 S_{a}^{ebi} is looking at introducing a system where an investor can sell shares as soon as they are allotted in an Initial Public Offering (IPO) to curb grey market activity, chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch said on

The chief of the capital markets regulator also announced that the top two proxy advisory firms are on the verge of launching a portal which will be a repository of related party transactions and will be useful in judging the governance standards in a company for any stakeholder.

It can be noted that many IPOs in the recent past have seen very high subscriptions, and many of the issuances have also made huge listing-day gains which result in the grey market activity of passing on allotted



Buch, an i-banker turned markets regulator, reminisced

that during her banking days,

this grey market activity used to be called "curb trading". "We feel that if anyway investors

them that opportunity in a proper regulated way?" Buch said, addressing an Association want to do that, why not give of Investment Bankers of India

The idea is whatever is the grey market that is going on, pre-listing, we think that is not suitable. If you got an allotment and want to sell your right, sell it in the organised market," she explained reporters later.

Buch said discussions are underway with two stock exchanges to put in place the "when listed" facility where when listed factility when the shares can be traded during the three days between the allotment and listing.

"As soon as the allotment is over, the entitlement to that share gets crystallised. Then the

person should have the right to sell that entitlement," Buch

On the plans of proxy advisors to launch the Related Party Transactions (RPT) portal, the Sebi chief said the two major entities in the fray are on the verge of launching the facility.

Government disburses ₹1,596 Crore in six PLI schemes this fiscal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government has disbursed Rs 1,596 crore Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for six sectors, including electronics and pharma, during the April-September this fiscal, an official said.

The government in 2021 announced PLI schemes for 14 sectors such telecommunication, white goods, textiles, manufacturing medical devices, automobiles, speciality steel, food products, high-efficiency solar PV modules, advanced

chemistry cell battery, drones,

and pharma with an outlay of

Rs 1.97 lakh crore. Out of the total Rs 1,596 crore, the maximum amount of Rs 964 crore was disbursed under the PLI scheme for large-scale electronics manufacturing.

It was followed by pharma (Rs 604 crore), food products (Rs



11 crore), telecom (Rs nine Further as of August 2024, crore), bulk drugs (Rs six crore) and drones (Rs two crore)

Incentives disbursed till 2023-24 stood at Rs 9,721 crore, the official said adding the scheme is having a cascading effect on country's ecosystem.

The anchor units that will be built in every sector will require a new supplier base in the entire value chain. Most of these ancillary units will be built in the MSME sector.

across 14 sectors, investment of Rs 1.46 lakh crore have been realised, which has resulted in incremental production/sales of over Rs 12.50 lakh crore, employment generation of over 9.5 lakhs, and exports surpassing Rs 4 lakh crore. Over 760 applications have been approved under PLI schemes.

departments implementing their respective schemes are responsible for the disbursals.

Chemical industry seeks tweaking in customs duties in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $T^{\text{he chemicals industry has}}_{\text{sought tweaking in}} \text{tweaking in the}$ forthcoming Budget certain products such as Polyethylene Terephthalate and Polyvinyl Chloride with a view to cut imports from China and boost domestic manufacturing.

China is currently the world's biggest exporter of key products like Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) resins, Purified Terephthalate Acid (PTA), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) and polyester fibre.

Industry sources said that this global overcapacity, coupled with flat demand growth in many countries and a changing geopolitical landscape, poses a threat of cheap imports flooding into

India Though significantly increased its domestic capacity for PET bottle-grade chips, there has been an increase in the lowcost imports, especially from China, which has eroded the domestic producers, they

Similarly, in the case of PVC, a critical material used in sectors like construction, needs a relook in terms of tariff treatment considering its crucial role in the

economy. "Restoring PVC duty back to pre-2022 levels of 10 per cent would provide desired impetus for creating domestic capacity," they added.

Further in the Man-made Fiber (MMF) polyester segment where domestic capacity utilisation is being hindered by low-cost imports, especially from China warrants an upward revision of tariff to 10 per

"A tariff increase on polyester would not only safeguard domestic manufacturers from unfair competition but also bolster local production capacities, aligning with the ambitious textile sector growth target of USD 350 billion by 2030," the source

The industry has shared these issues with the government for their consideration. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget on February 1.

Rupee falls 14 paise to close at 86.59 against US dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day lower by 14 paise to 86.59 (provisional) against US dollar on Tuesday, tracking heavy sell-off in the domestic equity market and a recovery in the US dollar

Forex traders said the dollar weakened from its 109 levels but clawed back to 108.66 as Donald Trump declared tariffs against Canada and Mexico in the near future but stopped short of declaring any tariffs against China.

Rupee is expected to see high volatility ahead of key events in the global and domestic economic landscape, they At the interbank foreign

exchange, the rupee opened on a positive note at 86.28 against the greenback. During the day, the local unit touched an intraday high of 86.28 and a low of 86.59. It finally closed at 86.59 (provisional), registering a fall of 14 paise over its previous close of 86.45

against the US dollar. According to Research Choudhary Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, the Indian rupee opened higher on a weak tone in the US dollar and overnight decline in crude oil

However, the domestic currency lost initial gains as the domestic markets tanked. A recovery in the US dollar index also pressurised the rupee. The US dollar recovered after US President

Donald Trump threatened Canada and Mexico with 25 per cent tariffs by February 1. We expect the rupee to remain weak on underlying strength in the US dollar and weak domestic markets. Importer demand for dollars may further pressurise the rupee," Choudhary said.

However, any further decline in crude oil prices may support the rupee at lower levels. Markets may see some volatility announcements by the US government, Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading down 0.62 per cent to 108.66. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.97 per cent to USD 79.37 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic equity market front both the benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty witnessed a highly

Bridgestone India expects seven-eight per cent growth in replacement demand in 2025

 $B_{\text{expecting around seven-}}^{\text{ridgestone}}$ eight per cent growth in the replacement demand this calendar year after seeing a disruption owing to multiple factors in 2024, a top company executive has The Indian arm of the

also said that along with increasing its product offerings, it is also offerings, expanding its market footprint by ensuring its its market presence in tier three and four towns of the country. The company in November announced a USD 85million investment plan for enhancing production capacity and capability across its two plants in the country to reinforce its premium-mass strategy, 'We are focusing

providing premium products and services to Indian consumers as part of



strategy with focus on sustainability at the core of our business. India is the the demand coming back in fastest-growing market in our portfolio and our recently announced investments of USD 85 million is a reflection of our confidence in the Indian market," Hiroshi Yoshizane, Managing Director at Bridgestone India told PTI. Stating that the company aims to be the premium mass leader in the passenger cars radial tyre segment in India, he said, "We have a very positive outlook as far as the Indian market is

disruption of demand owing to multiple factors. We see

2025 towards around seveneight per cent," he said. These efforts, the USD 85million investment plan, which kickstarts this year, are expected to increase total production capacity at the Pune plant by approximately 1.1 million tyres annually by 2029, Ýoshizane said. They will also improve

capability to premium tyre production at the Indore plant, he said.

Prateek Group launches luxury project

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

Prateek Group, a prominent Noida-based real estate developer, has unveiled its ambitious luxury project, Prateek Grand Begonia, in Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad. Valued at approximately ?5,000-6,000 Crore, the project offers 2,400 meticulously designed 2, 3, and 4 BHK units.

Strategically located along NH24, the development ensures excellent connectivity to Delhi, Meerut, and key NCR hubs. The first phase of the project, comprising 1,200 units priced from ?1.2 crores, has already seen over 50% sales, highlighting its appeal among buyers. Prashant Tiwari, CMD, Prateek Group, said, "The overwhelming response reflects commitment to quality and excellence.

BlueVerse to unveil sustainable vehicle washing solutions | Tata Power-

Futures market suspension sparks debate

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Drecognised start-up, will Aligned showcase its innovative automated vehicle washing solutions at the Bharat Mobility Summit 2025, leveraging taking place from January 17 effluent monitoring and to 22 at Bharat Mandapam, patented

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $A_{\text{Chairman}}^{\text{shish}} \quad \begin{array}{cc} \text{Bahuguna,} \\ \text{NCDEX,} \end{array}$

criticised the suspension of

futures markets, highlighting

its adverse effects on farmers.

government attempt to

control prices, benefits

consumers at the expense of

farmer incomes, potentially

undermining the goal of doubling farmer earnings.

argued that the suspension, seen as a

New Delhi. Visitors can technologies to address water innovation that revolutionary technologies at hazards in the vehicle with India's sustainable mobility vision, BlueVerse'ssystems recycle 98 per cent of water, IoT-enabled recycling

India's vehicle washing industry consumes 2.5-3 billion cubic meters of water annually, exacerbating groundwater depletion and untreated waste issues.

"BlueVerse is committed to

BlueVerse's wastage and environmental sustainability and social responsibility," said Rushang Shah Founder BlueVerse Having saved 10 million liters of water and safely managed 16,712 kg of sludge, BlueVerse invites summit attendees to witness its transformative impact on

mobility.

DDL partners with TPEVCSL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

Delhi Tata Power Distribution (Tata Power-DDL) Tuesday on announced its partnership with Tata Power EV Charging Solutions Ltd (TPEVCSL) for developing public electric vehicle charging infrastructure at Delhi Municipal Corporation sites. The tie up aims to promote the adoption of electric vehicles in Delhi, aligning with Tata Power-DDL's vision of a 'Green Tomorrow' and supporting India's goal of achieving net zero emissions by 2070, according to a

statement. Tata Power-DDL, a power utility supplying electricity to a populace of around nine million in North Delhi, has announced a strategic partnership with TPEVCSL to develop public EV charging infrastructure charging infrastructure across the parking sites of Municipal Corporation of (MCD). Delhi agreement was signed between Tata Power-DDL and TPEVCSL in the presence of senior officials of both organisations.

INBRIEF PROF. KARAMJEET SINGH'S FIRST MEETING AS VICE-CHANCELLOR OF GNDU





SENATE

SIMATS HOSTS INTL. MEET ON VECTOR-BORNE DISEASES, AWARDS HANDED OVER TO EXPERTS



CHENNAI: Entomologists played a vital role in combating the menace of vector-borne diseases vet the number of experts and their role was being often ignored, speakers at an international conference said on Tuesday

VIT-AP UNIVERSITY AND IIT MADRAS INK MOU TO PROPEL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN DEEPTECH

AMRAVATI: In a landmark move aimed at fostering innovation and strengthening research collaborations, VIT-AP University, Amaravati, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Chennai.



FIVE-DAY BOOT CAMP ON DRONE TECHNOLOGY COM MENCED AT GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY



AMRITSAR: Under the visionary guidance of the worthy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Karamjeet Singh, Guru Nanak Dev University, the department Electronics Technology in collaboration with Dr. BR Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar organised a 5-Day Boot Camp on "Drone Dynamics: Drone Technology, Trends and Applications" from 20 th- 24 th January, 2025.

RECPDCL HANDOVERS HVDC TRANSMISSION PROJECT'S TO ADANI ENERGY SOLUTIONS LIMITED

GURUGRAM: REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSU under the aegis of Ministry of Power, has handed over the project specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) of HVDC Transmission Project under TBCB route viz, Rajasthan Part I Power Transmission Limited to Adani Energy Solutions Limited on 20th January 2025 at Gurugram.



With farmers' per capita income still at a 1:3 ratio compared to non-farmers, Bahuguna emphasised that suspensions fail to reduce price volatility and overlook global and local price influences like tariffs and calling for studies to examine

import duties. behind the suspension. Market expert Vijay Sardana Meanwhile, Neeraj Jat, CEO

supported Bahuguna's stance, of AwantikaFPC, praised the

the political motivations

futures market for helping farmers secure better prices and reduce dependence on traditional mandis.

developing derivatives could enhance agricultural value chains, improve infrastructure, and better support farmers

Karur Vysya Bank reports 20.39 per cent rise in Oct-Dec 2024 net at ₹496 Crore inclusive growth from all the

PTI CHENNAI

Private sector Karur Vysya Bank has reported a 20.39 per cent rise in its net profit for the October-December 2024 quarter to Rs 496 crore, the bank said on Tuesday. The Tamil Nadu bank had

registered a net profit of Rs 412 crore during the corresponding quarter of last financial year. For the nine month period ending December 31, 2024,

the net profit surged by 24.28

compared to a net profit of 1,149 crore recorded during the corresponding period of last financial year. We have continued another quarter performance, guided by our three key metrics: growth,

profitability and quality. The quality. performance indicators align guidance, our demonstrating consistent Babu said, "We have and inclusive growth," said maintained strong trajectory The Karur Vysya Bank of growth in RAM (retail,

per cent at Rs 1,428 crore, as Managing Director and CEO compared to a net profit of Ramesh Babu B. The total income during the

nine month period ending December 31, 2024 stood at Rs 8,482.33 crore, from Rs 7,049.21 crore registered in the same period, a year ago. For the quarter under review asset the total income of the bank bank's went up to Rs 2,953.44 crore from Rs 2,497.17 crore registered year ago. Babu said, "We have

agriculture and micro, small and medium enterprises) verticals, continuing the solid start we made at the beginning of the year. I am confident that the same will maintained forward." The total business of the

"Our total business crossed

Rs 1.81 lakh crore. The

was at 866 branches and one digital banking unit and bank as on December 31, 2024 stood at Rs 1,81,993 2,197 ATM networks. crore, from Rs 1,58,357 crore About 55 per cent of the registered in the same quarter of last financial year.

business segments has supported for reaching net profit of Rs 1,428 crore for the nine month period", Babu added. As on December 31, 2024 the bank's distribution network 1,152 crore.

branches are located in semi-

urban and rural areas, he The Gross Non-Performing

Assets (GNPA) has improved by 75 basis points and stands at 0.83 per cent of gross advances as on December 31, 2024 (Rs 691 crore) vis-à-vis 1.58 per cent as on December 31, 2023 at Rs Net Non-Performing Assets

is below one per cent and stands at 0.20 per cent of net advances as on December 31, 2024 (Rs 167 crore) as against 0.42 per cent as on December 31, 2023 at Rs 305 crore, the bank said.

Aryna Sabalenka reaches the Australian Open semifinals

ryna Sabalenka's bid for a Athird consecutive Australian Open championship will continue after she got past Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 2-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a surprisingly difficult quarterfinal Tuesday night.

The No. 1-ranked Sabalenka has now won 19 matches in a row at Melbourne Park and will face her good friend, No. 11 seed Paula Badosa, in the semifinals Thursday. Sabalenka had run her set streak to 25 at the place — dating all the way to the 2023 final — when she grabbed the opener against 2021 French Open runner-up Pavlyuchenkova. But Sabalenka had a hard time harnessing her intimidating strokes on a windy evening in Rod Laver Arena until doing so down the stretch and collecting the last three games after the third set was tied at 3-all. "Honestly," Sabalenka said, "I was

just praying?

She won her first major championship at Melbourne Park in 2023, then added another last January, before raising her total to three Grand Slam trophies at the U.S. Open last September.

The last woman to win the Australian Open three straight years



was Martina Hingis from 1997 to

Badosa's 7-5, 6-4 victory over No. 3 Coco Gauff in the day's first quarterfinal was surprising, sure, but would have been.

nothing compared with how And that certainly seemed like it significant a win by No. 27 might occur for much of the second Pavlyuchenkova over Sabalenka set and at least the start of the third. And that certainly seemed like it

in Grand Slam quarterfinals, including 0-4 at the Australian

So how did Pavlyuchenkova nearly

by handling Sabalenka's big serves, first and foremost, reading them well and delivering deep returns. It took a bit of time to find the range, but once she did, Pavlyuchenkova was nearly perfect: After Sabalenka held all four of her service games in the first set, she lost five of the next

Pavlyuchenkova also produced stinging groundstrokes that equaled her powerful opponent's for much of the contest. And by showing off some talent with her volleying, claiming eight of the first nine points she finished at the net — one even appeared to be a sort of mistake but landed in eliciting a wry smile from landed in, eliciting a wry smile from Pavlyuchenkova.

As things stayed tight, Sabalenka grew frustrated, her shot-accompanying grunts and postpoint screams growing louder. After getting broken to fall behind 1-0 in the third set, she hit her racket against the blue court.

Eventually, though, she was able to smile and look ahead to trying to

but Guardiola has chosen to

City plays Paris Saint-

Germain in the Champions

League on Wednesday, with

both teams in danger of

नाम परिवर्तन

मबरन (Anita W/o Shre

Rambaran) सर्वसाधारण को सुचित

करती हूं की मेरे पुत्र मोहन शर्मा

(Mohan Sharma) के शैक्षणिक एवं

अन्य दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम त्रुटि से

सरोज (Saroj) अंकित हो गया है जो

की मेरे घर का बोलता नाम था जबकि

मेरे सभी शासकीय अर्ध शासकीय

दस्तावेजों में मेरा नाम अनीता (Aneeta)

अंकित है जो की सही है। इस प्रकाशन

के उपरांत मुझे मेरे पुत्र के सभी

दस्तावेजों में अनीता (Aneeta) के नाम

से ही पढ़ा लिखा एवं पकारा जाए।

पता: W/o रामबरन, ग्राम बिलाव, पोस्ट

बिलाव, बिलाव भिंड, मध्य प्रदेश,

गलत नाम: सरोज (Saroj)

सही नाम: अनीता (Aneeta)

में श्रीमती अनीता पत्नी श्री

strengthen now.

being eliminated.

return to the final with one more



Chelsea defeats Wolverhampton 3-1 in Premier League

helsea ended a five-game winless run in the Premier League by beating Wolverhampton 3-1 to move above Newcastle and Manchester City into fourth

Tosin Adarabioyo put the home side ahead after 24 minutes when he scored from close range after Reece James's shot was deflected into his path six meters from goal. It was his third goal in three games after a recent double in the FA Cup against Morecambe. Wolves was on the back foot

for most of the first half but grabbed an equalizer in stoppage time with the help of a mistake by Chelsea keeper Robert Sanchez. Amid a flurry of pushing and shoving, Sánchez dropped a corner kick at the feet of Matt Doherty who stabbed the ball home from a meter out.

However, a revamped Chelsea, with James making a first league start since Nov 3 and Trevoh Chalobah impressing after his unexpected recall from loan club Crystal Palace, was too strong for a Wolves side that is now winless in four league games.

Marc Cucurella made it 2-1 when he chested down a cross from the right and bundled the ball into the net on the hour mark. Five minutes later, Chalobah's goal-bound header was helped on by

Noni Madueke as Chelsea put the game beyond doubt. Maďueke said he apologized to Chalobah for nicking his goal but defended his attacker's instinct" for being in the right place at the right

time to make sure the ball crossed the line. He also paid tribute to his teammate for showing what he called "leadership, character (and) bravery on the ball." "He slotted in seamlessly so I am delighted for him," Madueke said. "It is no coincidence with players like

him and Reece (James) back in we won the game." Doherty, meanwhile, lamented his team's poor meanwhile,

defending at set pieces. 'You have to want the ball to

come to you, or you have to want to attack it. We need to start putting our head in where it hurts and defending set pieces with an over my dead body' attitude," Doherty said. "Against every team in the Premier League you have to be on it for 90 minutes and I just thought tonight there were too many times where we weren't on it."

Change of Name

My old name was MOHAMMED SIRAJ UDDIN. Written in my old Passport. Now all my present documents. My new & correct name known as MOHD SIRAJUDDIN S/O BASHIRUDDIN AHMED Resident 15, Risaldar Colony opp. Standard Public School

Chhola Naka Bhopal (M.P.) **UCO BANK**

स्वर्ण आभूषण नीलामी सूचना

नीचे वर्णित उधारकर्ता को बैंक द्वारा, स्वर्ण आभूषणों को गिरवी रखकर प्रदत्त ऋण की बकाया राशि का भुगतान करने हेतु नोटिस जारी किया गया था। उधारकर्ता बकाया राशि को चकाने में असमर्थ होने पर हम गिरवी रखे स्वर्ण आभूषणों की नीलामी दिनांक 11.02.2025 को सायं 3.00 बजे आयोजित करने के लिए विवश है। इस नीलामी से अधिशेष राशि प्राप्त होने पर संबंधित उधारकर्ता को वापिस की येगी और यदि नीलामी से उधारकर्ता की देयताओं से कम राशि प्राप्त होती है तो शेष राशि उधारकर से उचित कानूनी कार्यवाही के माध्यम से वसूली जायेगी।

युको बैंक को बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के निम्न खाते में से किसी को हटाने का अधिकार है। युको बैंक बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना के नीलामी की तारीख बदलने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।

Б .	ऋणी का नाम	ऋण खाता संख्या	देय राशि	आरक्षित मूल्य
1.	श्री अब्दुल शमीम	06630610019931	18,000/- +बाकी ब्याज + बैंक खर्चे	₹50810/-
2.	श्री अब्दुल शमीम	06630610021163	2,24,278/- +बाकी ब्याज + बैंक खर्चे	₹ 409200/-
3.	स्व. रमेशचंद मौर्य कानूनीउत्तराधिकारी- सोनी मौर्य	06630610022290	1,03,000/- +बाकी ब्याज + बैंक खर्चे	₹ 201500/-

नीलामी की विस्तत नियम एवं शर्ते शाखा के नोटिस बोर्ड पर उपलब्ध है। इच्छक निविदाकत सीलबंद लिफाफे में दिनांक 11.02.2025 तक दोपहर 3.00 बजे तक अपनी बोली शाखा में दे

इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं द्वारा निरीक्षण के लिए आभूषण दिनांक 27.01.2025 को दोपहर 2:30 बजे से शाम 4:00 बजे तक बैंक में उपलब्ध है।

इच्छुक खरीदार आरक्षित मूल्य का 25% बयाना राशि जमा करेंगे।

स्थान : भोपाल

दिनांक : 21-01-2025

यूको बैंक

प्राधिकृत अधिकारी

HDFC BANK LTD. hopal Branch : Plot No. 9, Third Floor, Star Planet Building M.P. Nagar, Zone-2, Bhopal, MP-4620

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the HDFC Bank Limited under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of Powers conferred under Section 13 read with the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice date 16-Mar-2022 calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagor, M/S Kailash Kirana Store Through Its Proprietor Mr. Kailash Rajdev S/o Shrichad Rajdev (Borrower), Mrs. Tanisha Rajdev W/o Kailash Rajdev (Co-Borrower/Gaurantor) to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.37.07.970.47/- (Thirty Seven Lakh Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Rupees and Forty Seven Paise Only) as on 16-Mar-2022 with further interest and expenses within 60 days from the date of notice/date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagor having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property / Asset described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 17th Day of January in the year 2025.

The Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property / Asset and any dealings with the property / Asset will be subject to the charge of the Rs.37,07,970.47/-(Thirty Seven Lakh Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Rupees and Forty Seven Paise Only) as on 16-Mar-2022 and interest & expenses thereon until the full payment.

The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Schedule of Immovable Property & Security

"Mouja-Hoshangabad, Ward No.29, Gokulpuri Sindhi Colony Gwaltoli Hoshangabad, Out of Nazul Sheet No. 36, Plot No. 18/77, Area 1000 Sq.Ft. Boundaries: East- Mahesh Navlani (Plot No. 18/76), North- Rasta, West- Puriba (Plot No. 18/76, South-Gali

Property Owned By - Mr. Kailash Rajdey S/o Shrichand Rajdey Sd/- Authorised Officer

Date: 22.01.2025

Odisha FC in ISL **PTI** ■ BENGALURU victory, which has seen FC Goa beat them to the second $B_{\text{keen to return to winning}}^{\text{engaluru FC would be}}$ spot, as the Gaurs are currently holding 30 points. Bengaluru FC have scored thrice and conceded four ways when they host a defensively struggling Odisha FC in their Indian times in their previous three Super League match here on encounters, where they have Wednesday.

Bengaluru FC eye return

to winning ways against

The Juggernauts currently seventh on the table with 21 points from 16 games, while the Blues sit third with 28 points from as many matches as the Sergio

Lobera-coached team. Odisha FC have won once five games and will eye registering their first league double over Bengaluru FC, following their 4-2 victory in the reverse fixture on

December 1. Bengaluru FC, on the other hand, have struggled recently, losing their last home game 0-1 to Mohammedan January 11, 2025, followed by a 1-1 draw to Hyderabad FC on the road. A loss in this match would mark their first

back-to-back home defeats

in over two years The Blues will look to bounce back and stay in the hunt for the first spot, though they now trail the top-placed Mohun Bagan Super Giant (36) by eight points (28), slightly undoing their impressive run in the earlier parts of the season.

In their last five games, the

Gerard Zaragoza-coached

team have faced two defeats,

as many draws, and a solitary

India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag

Shetty stormed into the

second round of the USD

475,000 Indonesia Masters

super 500 badminton with a

clinical straight-game win

against Chinese taipei's Chen Zhi Ray and Lin Yu Chieh

here on Tuesday. The Asian

semifinals at Malaysia Super

1000 and India Super 750 in

the last two weeks, outwitted

Chen and Lin, ranked 38th in

the world, 21-16 21-15 in

World No. 19 combination of

Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini

Ponnappa stamped their

authority over Thai pair of

Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn

and Sukitta Suwachai 21-6

their opening match.

champions, who

back-to-back

PTI JAKARTA

Games

reached

Satwiksairaj-Chirag sail into

Indonesia Masters second round

picked only a single point. It's clear that they need to resurrect their organisation and setup on both ends of the field, especially against the league's joint top-scorers Odisha FC, who have netted 31 times, with Diego (7), Mauricio Jerry Mawihminothanga Mourtada Fall (4) leading the endeavours for them. Odisha FC have scored exactly two goals in each of their last three ISL games. Another multi-goal performance would see them equal their longest streak of such games in the competition (four games between December 2019 and

January 2020). Unfortunately for them, their defensive drawbacks mean that they have given

away nine goals in this time period and won a single Odisha FC have scored

96.8% of their goals this season (30 out of 31) from inside the box. So Bengaluru could consider strengthening their defensive unit within the 18yard area to practically outnumber Odisha FC in that zone and restrict their ability to operate freely and find the back of the net

21-14 in the women's doubles

opening round. Satwik and

Chirag, the former world

number ones, will face the

winner of the match between

Indonesia's Raymond Inra

Rindorindo and Thailand's

Kittinupong Kedren and

Ashwini and Tanisha, who

won the Guwahati Masters

super 100 title, last month

will take on Malaysia's Pei

Kee Go and Mei Xing Teoh

In men's singles, 2023 Odisha

Masters runner-up Ayush

brushed

compatriot Kidambi Srikanth 21-7 21-15, while Tanya

Hemanth eked out a hard-

fought 16-21 21-17 21-15 win

over Chinese Taipei's Tung

Ciou-Tong in the men's and

women's qualifying rounds.

Shetty

Dechapol Puavaranukroh.

Harapan

Patra

Manchester City signs Palmeiras defender Vitor Reis for \$36 Million

PTI MANCHESTER

Manchester City signed a second defender in two days, this time 19-year-old Vitor Reis from Palmeiras for 35 million euros (\$36 million) on Tuesday. Lens' Abdukodir Khusanov

signed on Monday for a 4 1/2-year contract. The length of Reis' contract wasn't given.
"I'm excited to join
Manchester City," Reis said.
"I want to make my mark as we seek more trophies."
The four-time defending

Premier League champion has been unusually busy in the January transfer window following an alarming run of form leading up to Christmas. City was fifth in the standings and 12 points behind leader Liverpool, and fighting to reach the last 16 in the Champions League. Eintracht Frankfurt forward

Marmoush Omar reportedly another target for 75 million euros (\$77 million).

Reis was a Brazil Under-17 international and made 22



Palmeiras.

"He is excellent on the ball and outstanding in the air he has all the attributes needed to be one of the best," City director of football Txiki Begiristain said.

The moves for Reis and Khusanov, also a center back, come after injuries to City

Nathan Ake. An ACL injury for Ballon d'Or winner Rodri has also undermined City's challenge in the Premier League and Europe, with manager Pep Guardiola admitting recently his squad was too small to cope.

has traditionally

preferred to save major

first-team appearances for defenders including Ruben **Bhopal Municipal Corporation**

Swachh Bharat Mission (Civil) IInd Floor, Kushabhau Thakre Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) Campur, Ambedkar

Marg, Near Chetak Bridge, Bhopal (M.P.) Bhonal, Date 20.01.2025 Tender for online submissions are invited on website www.mptenders.gov.in in under "Live Tender" and

Department Name "Bhopal Municipal Corporation" for following work. Detailed NIT, Tender Schedule and other information can be seen on the website www.mptenders.gov.in Probable Earnest Cost of Bid Contract Deposit 2025 UAD EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES FOR ARTISTIC 3,01,87,500/-1,50,937/-15,000/-397291_1 PAINTING AT DIFFERENT LOCATION IN BHOPAL

Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers & correction ny, would be Published on website only

Executive Engineer (SBM) T.N.1156/024/025 Municipal Corporation, Bhopal

Corporate Office: Unit No.802, Natraj Rustomjee, Western Express Highway and M.V.Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069 Damoh Branch: 1st Floor, Matra Chaya, Killai Naka Chouraha, Balakot Road, Damoh - 470661 (Madhya Pradesh)

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.

CITY UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION FOR GIS

E-AUCTION – SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Asset and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged

possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and " Whateve there is" with no known encumbrances Particulars of which are given below:

S. N.	Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property	Reserve Price (RP)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (10% of RP)	
1	(Loan Code No. 1310000388 / Damoh Branch) Manoj Sahu (Borrower), Neha Sahu (Co-Borrower)	07-10-2024 & ₹ 4,65,375/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, P O KH No.187 6 P H No.14 17 Mouja Hidepur Sagar Bypass Road, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh, 470661 Boundaries: East- Plot of Pateriya Ji, West- Land of Maya Patel Kurmi, North - Road, South- Land of Ghanshyam Patel		Rs. 1,15,640/-	Physical

1. Last Date of Submission of DD of Earnest Money Deposit along with KYC, Tender Form and accepted Terms and conditions (Tender Documents) is 21-02-2025 within 5:00 PM at the Branch Office address mentioned herein above or uploaded on https://bankeauctions.com. Tenders documents received beyond last date will be considered as invalid tender and shall accordingly be rejected. No interest shall be paid on the EMD.

2. Date of Opening of the Bid/Offer (Auction Date) for Property is 22-02-2025 on https://bankeauctions.com at 03:00 AM to 04:00 PM. 3. AHFL is not responsible for any liabilities whatsoever pending upon the property as mentioned above. The Property shall be auctioned on 'As Is Where Is

Basis', 'As Is What Is Basis' and 'Whatever Is There Is Basis'.

4. The Demand Draft Should be made in favorof 'Aadhar Housing Finance Limited' Only. 5. Auction/bidding shall be only through "Online Electronic Bidding" through the website https://bankeauctions.com. Bidders are advised to go through

the website for detailed terms before taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings. 6. The intending bidders should register their names at portal M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the link https://bankeauctions.com/registration/ signup,

and get their User ID and password free of cost. Prospective bidder may avail online training on E- auction from the service provider M/s C 1 INDIA PVT LTD through the website https://bankeauctions.com 7. For further details contact Authorised Officer of Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, (Lokendra Rathore, Contact No.9977783890) OR the service provider M/s C1 INDIA PVT LTD, Mr. Prabhakaran, Mobile No: +91-74182-81709, E-mail: tn@c1india.com & support@bankeauctions.com, Phone No.

+917291981124 /25 /26. As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction AHFL/the authorized Officer of AHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets

9. The Bid incremental amount for auction is Rs.10,000/-

Date: 22-01 -2025

(Authorised Officer) For Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

8. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Aadhar Housing Finance Limited (AHFL), secured creditor's website i.e. www.aadharhousing.com

Place: Madhya Pradesh

Shami in focus as India eye fresh start against England

PTI KOLKATA

Pit-again pacer Mohammed Shami's comeback would be keenly watched when the Survakumar Yadav-led Indian T20 team takes on an evenly-matched England in a five-match series starting here on Wednesday, aiming to make up for the recent Test that have caused le turmoil and disasters considerable heartbreak.

The white-ball rubber, comprising five T20Is and three ODIs after that, presents an ideal platform for both the teams to experiment with combinations and assess form before next month's Champions

Shami, despite missing four matches, emerged as India's leading wicket-taker in the ODI World Cup 2023 with 24 scalps, including a sensational 7/57 in the semifinal against New Zealand at the Wankhede.

Interestingly, the pacer has claimed the same number of wickets – 24 at an average of 29.62 - in his limited T20I career and will aim to improve on that while proving his fitness. Shami was sidelined after the lost final against Australia on November

19, 2023 due to an ankle injury that

required surgery. The recovery from that was followed by swelling on his left knee during the domestic comeback some weeks back Following his inclusion in India's

Champions Trophy squad, Shami's return will garner national attention.

With pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah nursing a back injury and his Champions Trophy participation doubtful, Shami's comeback assumes greater significance.

34-year-old made his competitive return in the Ranji Trophy for Bengal, guiding them to their first win of the season with a seven-wicket haul.

He followed it up with impressive performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (11 wickets) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (five wickets). Shami's T20I career has been sporadic, with just 23 appearances since his debut in 2014. His last outing in the format was against England in the 2022 T20 World Cup semifinal.

With the Rohit Sharma-led Indian Test set-up still reeling from a horror tour of Australia, a good performance from the T20 side has become imperative especially after the Board had to step in to reinforce



diktats on team discipline. Axar's new beginning

All-rounder Axar Patel will debut as India's vice-captain in the T20I

He has been rewarded for his stellar all-round contributions in India's triumphant T20 World Cup campaign in the Caribbean last

Axar played a crucial knock of 47 off 31 balls in the final against South Africa and took nine wickets at an average of 19.22 across eight

The Gujarat player has already outlined his vision for India's middle order, emphasising a flexible

approach with players floating between No. 3 to 7 depending on match situations.

Curious case of Sanju Samson All eyes will also be on Kerala's

Sanju Samson, who faces another critical juncture in his career after being omitted from Champions Trophy squad.

He was subsequently ignored by Kerala selectors for their Ranji Trophy match against Madhya Pradesh

The wicketkeeper-batter has proven his mettle several times, becoming the first Indian to score successive T20I centuries in the recent series against South Africa being a case in

Promising all-rounder Nitish Reddy, who scored his maiden Test century against Australia in December at Melbourne, has also earned a spot in the squad, giving the team another option pacebowling all-rounder along with the redoubtable Hardik Pandya. England's fresh start

For the Jos Buttler-led England, the series marks a new chapter under head coach Brendon McCullum, who signed a three-year contract following Matthew resignation following their T20 World Cup exit.

Known for revolutionising Test

cricket with his aggressive 'Bazball' approach, McCullum will now seek to replicate that success in the limited-overs format.

It would not be a new territory for the New Zealand great, who was also at the helm of Kolkata Knight Riders after playing for the franchise in the inaugural IPL. England will miss key players Reece

Topley, Sam Curran, and Will Jacks, but promising 21-year-old Jacob Bethell, who impressed in the ODI series against the West Indies last year, will look to shine.

Bethell has averaged 57.66 and struck at 167.96 in his seven T20I appearances. Test opener Ben Duckett has been given the position in the shortest format for the first

time in six years. Like Shami, England's fiery pacer Jofra Archer will be under the spotlight as he returns from injury to lead their pace attack ahead of the

Champions Trophy.
The playing XI finalised for Wednesday also includes pace bowler Mark Wood, who has recently recovered from a right elbow injury.

But conditions in India, with the possibility of heavy evening dew, could pose a challenge for bowlers. After Wednesday's game, the series would move to Chennai for the second T20I (January 25), followed by matches Rajkot (Jan 28), Pune (Jan 31) and Mumbai (February 2). The ODI leg will start in Nagpur on February 6, followed by Cuttack (February 9) and Ahmedabad (February 12).



T20s won't affect England's CT preparation: Jos Buttler

PTI KOLKATA

 $E_{\text{is confident that the T20I}}$ series against India will not hamper their preparation for the upcoming Champions Trophy, and he also hopes to build a working relation with new head coach Brendon McCullum on this tour.

The ODI-format Champions Trophy will start from February 19, and England will play just three 50-over matches against India in the run-up to the marquee

"It's going to be a great series against a really top side in their own conditions. There's loads to look forward to. I'm not worried about schedules at the moment. I'm just looking forward to playing some games," Buttler said on the eve of the first T20I here at the Eden Gardens

"I think it's going to be a really exciting T20 series. Obviously, there's some ODIs to follow, so yeah, I'm just looking forward to the games," he added. McCullum, the red-ball coach,

had succeeded Matthew Mott as England's limited over formats coach, and Buttler wanted to build the bond with the Kiwi.

"Obviously, it's not a new setup because Baz (McCullum) has been around for a while," Buttler said.

this squad who have worked with him in the Test team over the years. So, yeah, I'm just looking forward to building that relationship in the whiteball setup.

England have arrived in India with a full-strength squad with Jofra Archer and Mark Wood leading the pace department. "Sometimes there's so much

cricket that certain players have to be rested or managed, but that's certainly not the case for us at all in this series. "So we're a full complement of

exciting. Obviously, Baz is coming into the white-ball setup for the first time, and there's plenty to look forward to here and now.

He further mentioned that bowlers like Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carson, and Adil Rashid, who has multiple firstclass centuries, provide depth

to the line-up.
"I think we're really blessed, actually, in terms of the bowlers that we have here on this tour. They're all very, very capable batsmen. I think if you look at guys like Gus Atkinson with a Test hundred, Brydon Carson is an excellent hitter, and even Adil Rashid sometimes is down at 11 who's got multiple first-class 100s.

"I think we're very fortunate in that sense it gives a lot of confidence to the guys at the

"There are a lot of players in top. There's plenty to come, so we can be really aggressive and not worry too much about our wicket, because we've got guys behind who can do exactly the same job," he added. Bethell special

Buttler also praised young talent Jacob Bethell, who has been making waves in English

"He's done brilliantly well coming into international cricket. He's got a good head on his shoulders and obviously he's got the game for it, as you've seen in the white-ball

"Moving into Test cricket, it was fantastic to watch him in New Zealand. This is again a new challenge for him, playing in India, and one I know he's excited for," Buttler said.

Salt to keep wickets As for England's playing XI, Buttler indicated that the team is almost settled, with some final decisions pending on the bowling front.

"Yeah, pretty much. Just waiting on a couple of the bowlers to see how they pull up through training. Phil Salt will keep wickets. He's obviously been playing brilliantly in T20 cricket for a while now.

"Ben Duckett will be with him at the top of the order. Jofra will play, Woody will play, and then we're just waiting on a couple of bowlers," he said.

Australian Open: Bopanna-Zhang pair lose mixed doubles quarterfinal

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

Rohan Bopanna and Shuai Zhang had a match point in the Super Tie-break but could not close out the mixed doubles quarterfinals in their favour as local wild cards John Peers and Olivia Gadecki emerged winners in an exciting contest at the Australian Open here on Tuesday

Bopanna and Zhang lost 6-2 4-6 9-11 in one hour and eight minutes at Kia Arena, bringing curtains on India's campaign at the first Grand Slam of the

Bopanna had earlier made exit from the men's doubles. India's other contenders, including singles exponent Sumit Nagal and doubles specialists Yuki Bhambri and N Sriram Balaji, had also lost at various stages of the hard-court Major. Bopanna and Zhang ran away

with the opening set but the Australian wild-card pair



bounced back strongly. The Chinese player lost her serve in the third game of the second set and that gave Peers and Gadecki an opening to force a Super Tie-break.

There was no surprise, and that break remained with the wild cards, who wrapped up the second set.

The windy conditions also occasionally made the returns

Serving to stay in the set, Bopanna came out with his booming serves even as Peers tried to put pressure on him with an aggressive approach from the baseline, targeting Zhang on the net.

Peers gifted a free point with his double fault while serving for the set but came bacl strong with Gadecki hitting a volley winner on the next

Solid serving handed the local favourites two set points. They converted when Zhang's service return sailed over the Bopanna lost his serve on the

first point of the Super Tie-break with Peers finding a volley winner following a quick duel with Zhang. The Chinese also lost a point on her serve with super-fast returns being fired from across the net. on-the-jump Bopanna's forehand winner made it 3-3 but Peers found a stunning

service return winner on the Indian's serve to earn another mini break. A Peers return on Zhang's second serve gave the Aussies a 7-5 lead. Gadecki lost both

points on her serve and it was 7-all. At 8-8, Gadecki's feeble return went wide giving Bopanna and Zhang their first match point. Peers saved the chance with a strong serve.

Mandhana climbs to second position in ICC women's **ODI** rankings



PTI DUBAI

opener Mandhana inched closer to the top position, climbing to the second spot in the latest ICC women's ODI batting rankings following a stellar series against Ireland.

Mandhāna, the only Indian in the top 10, had blasted 135 in the third ODI, besides scoring 41 and 73 in the opening and

second game. The 28-year-old currently has 738 points to her name, while South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt (773 points) is at the top, followed by Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu

(733) in the third place. Jemimah Rodrigues, who scored her maiden hundred in the second ODI Ireland, jumped two place at

the 17th spot, while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who missed the series, is at the 15th spot. Deepti Sharma, with 344 points, is placed at the sixth

spot in the allrounders' list which is headed by Australia's Ashleigh Gardner, who claimed four wickets and scored 146 runs in the Ashes to claim the top spot from South Africa Marizanne Kapp.

In the bowling rankings, headed by Sophie Ecclestone, Deepti also improved a spot to fourth with 680 rating points.

Gardner was productive with both bat and ball, as the Aussies claimed all three ODIs against England down

India defeats Malaysia in U19 Women's Isma Dania and Siti Nazwah were her hat-trick victims,

PTI KUALA LUMPUR

UVaishnavi recorded astonishing figures of 5/5, including a hat-trick, as India demolished Malaysia by 10 wickets in an utterly one-sided U19 Women's T20 World Cup match that was done and dusted in less than 18 overs here on Tuesday. Vaishnavi's figures are the best ever in the tournament's history as Malaysia were bundled out for a paltry 31 in 14.3 overs. Fellow left-arm spinner Avushi Shukla (3/8)

bowlers ran through Malaysia's batting line-up without much ado. India barley batted an eyelid while chasing down the target in 2.5 overs, reaching 32 for no loss. G Trisha made an unbeaten 27 off 12 balls

with five fours.

also chipped in as India



The lowest total in a women's T20I, however, is 6 -- shared by Maldives and Mali.

In the men's game, Ivory Coast has held the record since being bowled out for just seven runs in a 264-run defeat by Nigeria in Lagos last vear.

Now, India are on top of their group with four points, same guile. as Sri Lanka but the former Nur Ain Binti Roslan, Nur group with four points, same

has better Net Run Rate -+9.1 to Lanka's +5.5. But that easy chase was the

impeccable spell. There was appreciable turn and bounce on offer in the pitch here, and she used it to the hilt as the home side batters had no answers to her

fruit borne out of Vaishnavi's

the 14th over, that saw Malaysia further stumbling from 24 for six to 30 for nine. 'This was a dream debut to get a hat-trick and fivewicket haul. My journey has had its ups and downs. "I look up to Radha Yadav

(India senior spinner) and left-arm Ravindra Jadeja. I had visualised how to get wickets here last night," said Vaishnavi after the match.

Earlier, she had the wickets of Malaysia skipper Nur Syuhada and Nuriman as none of the home side batters were able to reach double digits.

In fact, India had bowled 10 Malaysia's wides and scoreboard would have been even more anaemic if those runs were not there.

Shubman Gill as vice-captain is a forward-thinking move: Ashwin

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R^{\rm avichandran}_{\rm backed\ the\ Indian\ team} \ {}^{\rm Ashwin\ has}_{\rm lam}$ management's decision to appoint Shubman Gill as vicecaptain for the Champions Trophy as a "forward-thinking move", saying the top-order batter's place in the side is more or less settled and he can be groomed as a future leader. Off-spinner Ashwin, who retired

during the recent Australia tour, seemed to suggest that there were no plenty of options available for

"Think about who else in the current squad could be considered for the vice-captain role. I'm not saying whether the decision to make Shubman Gill vice-captain was right or wrong, but the point raised is valid, especially since he was the vicecaptain in the last series as well," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel on Sunday.

"I could be mistaken, but I believe he's also had some vicecaptaincy experience in Test cricket. This could be a forward-

thinking move, management might considering who could take on the leadership role in the future." While Gill is the ODI vice-captain, Axar Patel has been handed the role in T20Is.

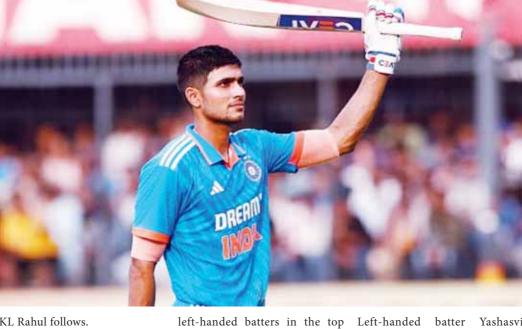
'While both (Rishabh) Pant and (KL) Rahul could play together, they've handed the vice-captaincy to the player whose spot in the XI is already secure. If Shubman Gill is groomed to lead in the future, he can rely on the guidance of senior players like Virat Kohli and Jasprit Bumrah," he said.

The prestigious ICC event is scheduled to start from February 19 in Pakistan and the UAE, and Ashwin raised concerns about the paucity of left-handers in the top seven apart from the absence of a reliable No. 8 in India's batting order.

ODI World Cup," Ashwin said.
"Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill open, both right-handed. Then there's Virat Kohli. Shreyas Iyer likely bats at 4, given his strong performance in the World Cup.



"This squad mirrors the 2023



KL Rahul follows. "At No. 6, it's a choice between Ravindra Jadeja and Axar Patel. Hardik occupies No. 7. We lack

seven. Outside the XI, we have Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh

Jaiswal, who was one of the bright spots in the Australia Test series, was also included in the

Weighing the permutations and combinations in which Jaiswal may get his ODI debut, Ashwin said: "Jaiswal might only play if someone gets injured. He could have a chance against England. But what if he scores consecutive

centuries?

"One option is to open with Jaiswal and Rohit, pushing Shubman to 3, followed by Virat at 4. This would place either Rishabh Pant or KL Rahul at 5. If Injected place Shrouge Iver would Rishabh Pant or KL Rahui at 5. If Jaiswal plays, Shreyas Iyer would likely be dropped. While unlikely, India must capitalise on Jaiswal's current form," he said. All-rounder Washington Sundar is another player who could have an impact if he finds a place in

the playing XI. Reflecting on the scenario, Ashwin said: "Another scenario involves Washington Sundar. Gautam Gambhir highly values Washington due to his batting. He can also be used as a floater." "If you follow the World Cup format, you play either Jaddu or Axar at No. 6, Hardik at 7, and Washington at 8. This allows for

three fast bowlers or Kuldeep and two pacers, maintaining balance with Hardik's all-round skills," he added.

India will play all their matches in Dubai, and Ashwin feels dew could be a factor there, affecting the team combination. 'Ideally, Washington should bat

at 8. Does it make sense to have a player like Nitish Reddy in the scheme of things? If Kuldeep plays at 9, it's two pacers and three spinners.
"With Nitish, he could bat at 8,

allowing Kuldeep at 9 and two fast bowlers. This would provide the luxury of four fast bowlers and two spinners. I don't know if he was considered. "Washington Sundar at 8 might not be feasible if dew is a major

factor. In that case, Kuldeep Yadav would bat at 8, and the team would likely go with all seamers - Arshdeep, Bumrah, and Shami. "In the 2023 World Cup, we

lacked batting depth from No. 8 onwards. These are the crucial questions that need to be