Established 1865 the monet

www.dailypioneer.com

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

12 runover by train in Jalgaon BJP-AAP WOO MIDDLE CLASS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE JALGAON (MAHARASHTRA)

At least 12 passengers were killed on Wednesday evening when they jumped from their train in panic due to a 'fire incident', only to be run over by another train on the adjacent tracks in North Maharashtra's Jalgaon district, officials said. Twelve bodies were sent to the nearby civil hospital while six to seven persons were injured, Inspector General of special Police Dattatraya Karale said. The accident took place between Maheji and Pardhade stations near Pachora, more than 400 km from Mumbai, where the 12533 Lucknow-Mumbai Pushpak Express had halted after someone pulled the chain around 5 pm, Central Railway officials said, without confirming the death toll. Some passengers of the Pushpak Express jumped off, and were hit by the oncoming Karnataka Express heading from Bengaluru to Delhi, said Central Railway's chief spokesperson Swapnil Nila. IG Karale said that a "fire incident" occurred on Pushpak Express, at km 372/07 between Maheji and Pardhade stations. The train stopped at the location, and some passengers disembarked. Train No. 12627, Bengaluru-New Karnataka Express hit people

he added "Six to seven people have been injured. All injured passengers are being treated at the hospital, none of their injuries are serious. Both trains have reached their respective next stations and the accident site has been cleared," the senior police official added. Pushpak Express departed from the spot in just 15 minutes, while the Karnataka Express was removed within 20 minutes after the accident.

standing on the railway tracks,



stepped down due to a rumour of fire and were run over by another train

Modi to visit State on Jan 28



To inaugurate 'Utkarsh Odisha'

PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $\mathbf{P}_{\mathsf{rime}}$ Minister Narendra Modi will visit Odisha on January 28 to inaugurate the Utkarsh Odisha-Make-in-Odisha Conclave 2025 in Bhubaneswar.

The PM's visit to the State will be his second in one month. On January 9, he was in Bhubaneswar to address the Indian

diaspora at the 2025 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Sammelan.

On January 28, he will arrive at the Biju Patnaik International Airport from Delhi at 10:35 am. Thereafter, his motorcade will head for the Make in Odisha Conclave at 10:40 am and reach the Janata Maidan by 10:55 am.

Modi will inaugurate the event at 11 am and is expected to grace the conclave until 12:30 pm, following which his motorcade will again head for the airport to depart for another event at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

Modi targets AAP

BHUBANESWAR, THURSDAY JANUARY 23, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹4

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Turning the heat up ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday slammed the ruling Aam Aadmi Barte (AAR) (a. C.) ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for failing to provide basic needs such as water to the people of the national Capital while taking a jibe at the party on the money laundering linked excise policy scam, stating that 'liquor is available but water is not'.

Prime Minister made these remarks during his interaction with the booth level workers in the 'Mera booth, sabse mazboot' programme while urging the members of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Capital to target winning over 50 per cent booths in the Assembly polls. Assuring a landslide victory in the Assembly polls, he asked booth workers to set two goals- breaking all voting records and ensure that the BJP gets more than 50 per cent at each booth.

He said that the AAP is making new announcements daily because they are getting the new news of defeat every day. "These AAP-da people are now making a new announcement every day. This means that they are getting new news of defeat every day.

They are so scared that they have to make a new announcement every morning but now the people of Delhi have understood their game," he said.

These days these AAP people are raising slogans that 'fir aayege, fir aayege (we will come again)'. But the public is replying to them that 'ye fir khayege, fir khayege (they will eat again, they will eat again)," Modi said, attacking the AAP on corruption charges.

Claiming that there is a lot of anger against the AAP government in public, Modi asserted that the common man is saying that 'We will remove AAP and bring BJP to power. He also said that the AAP leaders have turned away from their ideology. "This party was formed in the name of Jan Lokpal. But today it is neither in Delhi nor in Punjab nor do they speak in its name. They make excuses in Delhi, but they have a government in Punjab and they are not doing it there either," he said. "BJP kept Ram Mandir, Article 370, UCC at the core of its ideology and worked on them with complete honesty. There is only one focal point of our ideology - Nation First," he

He also slammed both the AAP and Congress for not fulfilling their promises to the women. "Lakhs of sisters of Himachal are still waiting for the fulfillment of Congress' promise. First the sisters of Haryana and then those of Maharashtra too were misled by

Congress by making false announcements," the PM said. Stating that the AAP is two steps ahead of the Congress, he said, "AAP-da had promised to give Rs 1,000 every month to the sisters of Punjab. It's been three years but they haven't given a single penny yet. In Delhi too, it was announced a long time ago that

Rs 1,000 will be given to every woman; that money has not been received yet. But now they are announcing an increase in it. This is the first such AAP-da model in the world, which only makes announcements in the air, lies, and deceives.



AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal speaks during launch of manifesto for middle class ahead of the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections

Kejriwal bats for salary class

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Terming the middle class a victim of tax terrorism and has been reduced to the government's ATM, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday unveiled his party's manifesto for the upcoming Delhi elections and Union Budget-2025, listing seven Budget demands from the Centre that AAP MPs will raise in Parliament for the interests of the middle class. Kejriwal accused other political parties of treating the middle class as "just an ATM for the government'

class is the real superpower of the Indian economy but has long been ignored exploited solely for tax collection. The

saying the middle

The party's key demands from the Centre include increasing the education budget from 2% to 10%, providing scholarships for higher studies, enhancing the health budget, removing

KEJRIWAL'S SEVEN DEMANDS:

Regulations on private school fees nationwide

Subsidies and scholarships in higher education ☐ Raise health budget to 10 percent; tax free health insurance

Increase IT exemption limit to

Rs 10 lakhs. Abolish GST on essential

commodities. Robust retirement plans and pensions

Reinstate the % concession for senior citizens in railway

commodities, introducing a pension scheme for senior citizens, and offering a 50% concession on railway tickets for senior citizens.

This is the first time that a political party in Delhi has tried to address issues of middle class. Delhi's middle class, which comprises a significant 45 percent of its population and could provide to be a key deciding factor in the upcoming polls. The poor account for 35 per cent, the middle class 45 per cent, and the upper class around 20 per cent of Delhi's population.

6th State Finance Commission constituted

The State Government on Wednesday announced the constitution of the muchawaited Sixth State Finance Commission with former IAS officer Arun Kumar Panda as its Chairman.

Prof Asit Ranjan Mohanty Samantray of the Department of Economics, Pondicherry University and Prof Bibhu Prasad Navak of TISS would be its members while Dr Satya Priya Rath, Additional Secretary, Finance Department, would be the Member-Secretary. The chairman and other members including the member-secretary would hold office for a period of six months.

The commission would make recommendations relating to the distribution be-

50% incentive to

a firm for silicon

semiconductor

NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

A State Cabinet meeting,

chaired by Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi on

Wednesday, approved ten

proposals ranging from es-

tablishment of model schools

in every gram panchayat to

creation of cold storage facili-

ties, laying of paver blocks on

village roads and a demand for Rs 12,56,148 crore from the

16th Finance Commission for

the period between 2026 and

"The 16th Finance Commis-

following criticisms of the

carbide

factory

2031.

State Cabinet decisions

tween the State and the 3-tier Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) of net proceeds of taxes, duties, tolls and fees leviable by the Slate.

The determination of taxes, duties, tolls and fees may be assigned to or appropriated by the Panchayati Raj Institutions of XIMB, Prof Amaresh and ULBs and (the grants-inaid to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies from the Consolidated Fund of the State. Besides, the commission

would recommend the measures needed to improve the financial position of Panchayati Raj Institutions and ULBs and any other matter which the Governor may refer to the commission in the interest of sound finance of the Panchayati Raj Institutions and ULBs.

Assembly Budget Session from Feb 13

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Budget Session of the 17th Odisha Legislative Assembly will commence on February 13 with the address of Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati and will continue till April 5.

The session will have 29 working days with a recession from February 22 to March 6.

According to a notification issued by the Assembly Secretariat, discussion on the motion of thanks on the Governor's Address will be held on February 14 and 15.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who holds the Finance portfolio, will present the Annual Budget for the year 2025-26 on February 17 and the Appropriation Bill will be tabled on March 29.

Rs 12,000 cr set for overhauling primary education



The general discussion of the Budget is scheduled to be held on February 20 and 21 while discussion on Demands for Grants will start on March 10 and continue till March 28.

Reports of various departmentally-related Standing Committees will be tabled before the House on March 7.

The Assembly session is likely to be stormy as opposition parties have lined up various issues including burning topics like the Naba Das murder case, paddy procurement, farmers' suicide, etc.



ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

Computer Science &

Engineering (CSE)

·UG (3 years/4 years)/Integrated (5 years) Programmes [All 4 years Programmes are with Honors/Research]

B.Tech Programmes

- Civil Construction Technology
- Electrical
- Science
- Mechanical

- . Electronics & Telecommunication
- . Electronics & Computer Science
- . Electronics & Electrical
 - Flectronics (VLSI Design & Technology)

B.Sc (Hospitality & Tourism)
 Bachelor of Film & Television

. Bachelor of Communication

UG Programmes in other Disciplines

BA EnglishBA Psychology

. BA French

BA Spanish

BA Japanese

BA German

B.Com

Chemical

- Machine Learning)
- . CSE (Artificial Intelligence)

CSÉ (Artificial Intelligence &

- CSE (Cyber Security) CSE (Data Science)
- Information Technology . Computer Science & System Computer Science &
 - Communication

CSE (Internet of Things &

Cyber Security including

Block Chain Technology

CSE (Internet of Things)

- B.Sc (Economics & Data Analytics)

 B.Sc Computer Science
- B.Sc Nursing
- B.Pharma
- D.Pharma
 BA LLB/BBA LLB/B.Sc LLB

(Hons) Syrs

PG (1 year/2 years)/Integrated (5 years) Programmes

Journalism

& Journalism

BA Economics

BA Sociology

Production

- M.Tech
- . LLM (lyr)
- M.Sc Biotechnology
- · M.Arch
- MBA in Rural Management

- MBA

700+

Planning Master in Yoga & Naturopathy - Master in Public Policy · Master of Hospital

. Master of Communication &

- Administration
- Master of Public Health M. Design (Interior)
- Master in Urban & Regional MA English MA Psychology
 - M.Com

MA Economics

MA Sociology

- . M.Sc Physics
- M.Sc Chemistry
- . M.Sc Mathematics & Data
- Integrated M.Tech & Ph.D Ph.D

. Master in Library &

& Sports

M.Sc Nursing

Information Sciences

Master in Physical Education

- **Highest Salary Offered**

Director, Admissions: Admission Cell, Koel Campus, Po-KIIT, Bhubaneswar-751024, Odisha, India, Ph: 8080 735 735, Fax: 0674 - 2741465, Email: admission@kiit.ac.in, Website: www.kiitee.ac.in



previous 5T Transformation programme. To ensure the students'

outlined a plan to establish Adarsha Vidyalayas in every panchayat. The first phase will see creation of 114 Adarsha Vidyalayas in the current financial year with plans for a gradual expansion to other panchayats over the next four

sion will visit Odisha from February 6 to 8, and we will demand Rs 12,56,148 crore to be allocated over the next five years," Majhi told reporters. The CM informed the Cabinet's decision to overhaul the State's education system

bright future, the government

"Transformation of smart

schools under the 5T initiative was not executed properly as no Detailed Project Report (DPR) was prepared nor were proper estimates made. This approach was detrimental to students' future. Hence, we have decided to establish

Adarsha Vidyalayas in each panchayat, starting with 114 panchayats in the first phase," said CM Majhi. "These schools will be

named Godabarisha Mishra

Prathamika Vidyalayas. They will be fully equipped with necessary infrastructure and staffing. A total of 6,794 panchayats will have these schools. Each school will be allocated a budget of Rs 4-5 crore, and the project will be completed within four years, with a total budget of Rs 12,000 crore," he

In addition, the government will provide a 50-per cent incentive (approximately Rs 110 crore in two phases) to the RIR establishing a Silicon Carbide Semiconductor production factory in the State. To support farmers, the Cabinet approved a 60-per

cent subsidy for cold storage

facilities for SC, ST, and

transgender beneficiaries with

a maximum subsidy of Rs 6.5

crore. Other beneficiaries will

receive a 50-per cent subsidy

Power Electronics Limited for

with a maximum amount of Rs A 'Bikashit Gaon, Bikashit Odisha' scheme was also approved, which aims to enhance infrastructure such as community halls, Kalyan Mandaps, streetlights, playgrounds and quality road fa-

cilities across the State.

ment has amended the Odisha Doctors and Health Service Rules, 2017, under the Health and Family Welfare Department. New medical colleges will be established, and appointments for 5,000 doctors will be made soon. Additionally, 126 dental doctors will also be appointed.

Furthermore, the govern-

Mechatronics

- Electrical & Computer
- Mechanical (Automobile) Aerospace
- B.Design (Automobile/ Graphic/Product)
 B.Design (Fashion / Textile) B.Tech & M.Tech
- Biotechnology (5yrs)
 B.Tech (Lateral Entry) B.Arch BCA
- MCA M.Sc Applied Microbiology
- MBA in Agribusiness
 - M.Sc Computer Science CAMPUS PLACEMENT 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

Job Offers





KIIT (Deemed to be University) has only one permanent campus in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It has no other campus / off campus anywhere else in the country and globe



1000+ Students

with multiple job offers

In city 2 get lifer for killing betel shop owner

 ${f A}$ court here on Tuesday sentenced two persons to life imprisonment on the charge of killing a betel shop owner in Bhubaneswar in 2022. The convicts were also directed by the court to pay Rs 10,000 each as a fine.

The convicts were identified as Ashok Das alias Kabu of Patharabandh Basti and Manoj Das alias Papuni of Dhirikuti Basti in the city. Both were auto-rickshaw driv-

The deceased, identified as Soumya Ranjan Kunda, was running his betel shop near the

Square under the Saheed Nagar police station. Soumya's brother Sagar Kumar also owns a hotel near the betel shop

"The convict auto-rickshaw drivers used to park their vehicles at an auto stand near Vani Vihar Square. The duo would often extort money from the shop owners in the area. The convicts had also picked a fight with the deceased Soumya when he refused to pay the extortion," said Special Public Prosecutor Rashmi Ranjan Brahma.

The accused were also en

with the deceased's brother in the latter's hotel a few days before the murder. The convicts who harboured a grudge later hatched a plan to kill Soumya," said

He further added that the accused duo assaulted Soumya with a sharp weapon near his shop on the intervening night of August 30 and 31, 2022. A seriously-injured Soumya was rushed to the Capital Hospital in a police vehicle. Later, he was shifted to the AIIMS Bhubaneswar, but he succumbed to the injuries, said Brahma.

Cops warn of action on mobile use in Srimandir

 $P_{
m lice}$ have stepped up measures to prohibit mobile phone use in the premises of the Jagannath Temple in Puri This follows recent incidents where photos taken inside the shrine were widely circulated on social media creating outrage among devotees.

The Puri police have launched a campaign to educate the devotees about the strict no-phone policy within the temple premises. Posters have been prominently displayed around the complex, clearly stating the prohibition on mobile phones.

Visitors found flouting these regulations would face



legal penalties as per the warnings issued by the police. Informative signage outlining these repercussions has been strategically placed at all four entrances of the temple to ensure maximum visibility.

"After the viral photos (taken in the sanctum sanctorum) came to our knowledge, we immediately registered a case and launched a probe. Three separate teams

Farmers' frustrations writ large in Odisha

are on job and we will certainly apprehend the wrongdoers, said Puri SP Vinit Agrawal.

"Another person was flying a drone near the temple yesterday. Our team detected it and nabbed the accused. We have registered a case against him and seized the drone from his possession. A detailed probe is underway," the SP said.

"I appeal to all devotees not to use any camera or mobile phone in the temple premises as use of those are strictly prohibited," the SP stated.

"The devotees must cooperate with us and abide by the prescribed norms. In case anyone flouts the norms, we will take legal action," the SP

Cabinet decision 6,794 primary schools to be model schools

he Odisha Government on Wednesday sanctioned a proposal of upgrading and strengthening 6,794 government-run primary schools/ sections as model schools in the State under the Godavarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamik Vidvalava (GMAPV) scheme. The proposal of the School and Mass Education department was approved by the State Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

According to the government, the Godabarish Mishra Adarsha Prathamik Vidyalaya initiative aims at establishing a model elementary school in every gram panchayat, aligning with the focus of the RTE Act, 2009 on inclusivity and quality education for marginalised communities

which also reinforces the mission of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

The financial implication on account of such construction of 6,794 model primary schools will be Rs 11, 939.41 crore over a period of five years from 2024-25 to 2028-29. Approximately Rs 1 crore to Rs 4 crore will be spent per school depending on the number of enrolment. However, the actual expenditure will be based on the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for each

The operationalisation of 6,974 model primary schools will enhance education access and foster the holistic development of students apart from aligning with the objective of the RTE Act, NEP 2020 and NIPUN Odisha to bolster foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN)

Poetry book 'Sailabhasha' unveiled



Written by Sailabala Das

PNS BHUBANESWAR

he poetry collection "Sailabhasha" by Sailabala Das was launched at a grand ceremony at the Bhubaneswar Club here. The event showcased how an ordinary housewife has emerged as a beacon of creativity, using poetry to express her perspectives on life and society in simple yet profound language.

Chief guest Biswaranjan praised the poet's efforts, saying, "Sailabala Das demonstrates that creativity knows no boundaries.'

The event commenced with a heartfelt welcome speech by the poet's son, Navajyoti Das, who shared insights into his mother's journey as a poet. Dr Seva Mohapatra, an eminent gynaecologist, humanist and philanthropist, emphasized the poet's ability to weave emotions and reality through

her poetry.

Chairman of the Bou Foundation Abhis Mohanty and Dr Brajsunder Mishra, an eminent scholar, spoke about the broader contributions of lit-

Director Gopabandhu Administrative Academy Dr Shashank Grahacharya applauded the poet for addressing social themes with simplicity and depth. Former Superintendent of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr Abhay Kumar Dash provided an insightful review of selected poems, appreciating their cultural and

Poet Das shared her creative

'Surrender ration cards or face action'

Minister warns ineligible

beneficiaries PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government claims to be trying to weed out corruption from the welfare schemes by identifying ineligible beneficiaries. There have been allegations that several taxpayers and other well-to-

do families have managed to acquire ration cards and have

been availing of the benefits

To put a check on these practices, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra on Wednesday issued a stern warning to such ineligible beneficiaries. The minister stated that the ineligible beneficiaries should surrender their cards voluntarily before corrective



and stringent action is taken. It has been alleged time and again that thousands of ration card holders across the State are not genuinely eligible for the subsidised provisions. These include individuals with stable incomes or those employed in government services such as teachers and doctors.

The Minister stressed that no penalty would be imposed on those who surrender their cards voluntarily before the completion of the e-KYC process. However, actions would be strictly taken against the

157 males applied for Subhadra Yojana

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Wednesday informed that 157 males (transgenders) applied for the Subhadra Yojana benefits though the scheme is meant for women.

"It's intriguing how so many men applied for Subhadra Yojana even as it is women-centric. It came to our notice that 157 men had applied for the scheme after the KYC of Aadhaar Card and bank linkage was done. However, they were subsequently dropped from the beneficiaries' list," Parida informed.

"Sometimes, the names of

both men and women are same. But we checked their KYC and rejected their applications," she added.

Meanwhile, the fourth phase of the Subhadra Yojana assistance is expected to be released soon. The mega scheme expected to benefit over 20 lakh women. The specific date for the release of the installment amount will be declared after an inquiry takes place to account for the number of applicants.

The assistance under the scheme will be released thrice this year including the International Women's Day on March 8 and Raksha Bandhan BHUBANESWAR

Crippled with crop loss, loan burdens, and family woes, the problems of farmers in Odisha seem too far from being over as they continue to suffer in silence. The alleged irregularities in paddy mandis, arbitrary practices by mill owners, and crop harvesting policies have only added to their woes.

Farmers across the State are increasingly voicing discontent over the challenges faced by them on a daily basis. Despite repeated protests against procurement centers, mill administration, and crop harvesting policies, their pleas often allegedly fall on deaf ears. This has led to significant discontent amongst farmers.

Lack of protective mea-

Before delivering their harvest to the mandis, farmers do not have adequate measures to safeguard their paddy. The grains remain exposed to adverse weather conditions, including drought, rain, and cold, which hampers the quality and quantity of their crops.

This is especially evident along roadsides in districts like Baleswar, notably in Jaleswar's Ikida and Bhogarai blocks, where the absence of storage facilities further complicates matters.

Insufficient storage facili-

Almost every block in Odisha is plagued with insufficient storage facilities and service societies. Despite numerous complaints to the administration, substantial solutions remain elusive. This has led to growing dissatisfaction among farmers, with increased calls for urgent intervention by authorities to address these issues

Inefficiencies in procurement systems

The plight of farmers in Gajapati district, particularly in Paralakhemundi and Jaleswar, is illustrative of the broader problems. Here, inefficiencies in procurement systems have significantly impacted agricultural communities, adding to their burdens and intensifying their discontent.

Allegations have surfaced about pressure from millers who are said to have disproportionate control over purchase processes and grain grading.

Farmers are grappling with significant challenges as their paddy crops remain unsold in mandis, a predicament largely attributed to the erratic purchasing practices of mill owners. The growing discontent has prompted farmers to express their frustrations through protests, notably in the Gajapati district.

Protests and grievances The inability to sell harCalls for action

of farmers.

vested paddy has pushed

farmers in various regions to

stage protests. Many farmers

are taking to the streets or

gathering outside mandis,

highlighting their plight to the

authorities. Some have

gheraoed government offi-

cials, voicing outrage over re-

peated inspections and strin-

gent quality checks imposed

by mill owners. These actions

have led to deductions and

exacerbated the financial woes

Despite numerous complaints and calls for government intervention, the issues persist unresolved, leaving farmers increasingly frustrated. Co-operative societies, meant to support these farmers, have been criticised for their lacklustre response to these challenges. Despite repeated petitions, farmers allege administrative apathy towards their issues.

erature to society.

linguistic richness.

journey and the role literature has played in her life. Publisher Ramachandra Nath of Pallibani Publishers, New Delhi, who could not attend, sent a message emphasizing the importance of such works in enriching the literary landscape. The event was moderated by Dwipanita Das.

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE

Only truly poor Padma awardees be given financial support

s per a thorough survey finding, hardly ten per cent of Padma awardees across India are poor. The rest are wealthy, nay 'filthy rich'. In the last few decades, bagging a Padma award has become pretty much easy as awardees are chosen by the government run by corrupt human creatures. So, publicity-crazy, guileful individuals with money find it extremely easy to buy over members of the political executive and steal Padma awards, particularly the base one called 'Padmashri'. So, not surprisingly many a nondescript thieving Tom, Dick and Harry manage to scoop the base award easily just for elevating the self status. Padmashri is virtually kept on sale. A most ordinary cine actor like Saif Ali Khan too had managed to grab a Padmashri, which caused big hue and cry across the country. He was eventually forced to give it back. But then the number of unworthy recipients keeps growing in

Quite a few controversial individuals with questionable backgrounds have received the 'Padma'



PATNAIK BISWARAJ

recognition. The selection process is considered badly opaque and arbitrary. Some Padma recipients have faced criticism openly due to allegations of corruption, criminal activity or other similar controver-

Some high-profile business figures have also received Padma awards despite allegations of financial irregularities and unethical

oractices. Politicians too have managed to steal the Padma honours even while facing charges of corruption

The Padma awards are given in recognition of lifetime achievements and contributions to society. They are not monetary awards which are meant for people of all races, occupations, positions and sexes. Many Padma award recipients have dedicated their lives to helping others. In essence, these awards are specifically meant for individuals who have made significant contributions in the fields of arts, science, social work and public service. But they are now being stolen by anyone with influence of money or power only because the government-proposed names are not once put under public scrutiny, which would expose the non-deserving crooks.

All the same, there are also quite a few poor awardees who are not given any special attention for their selfless and exemplary service to distressed communities in need of support on various fronts:

 Nariyal Amma K Chellammal, a Class-VI dropout who works as an organic farmer in South Andaman.

 Haldhar Nag, an Odia folk poet who sold spicy chickpeas for a

Harekala Hajabba sold oranges in a village in Harekala in Karnataka, unable to afford any education due to poverty.

Mangala Kanti Roy, a 102-yearold folk musician from West Bengal who lives in abject poverty, is one of the oldest folk musicians in West Bengal, famous for producing unique bird calls through 'Sarinda'.

Jagdish Lal Ahuja, a social worker who serves free food to poor patients and attendants outside **PGIMER** Chandigarh.

Mohammad Shareef, a bicycle mechanic who has performed the last rites of thousands of unclaimed dead bodies for over 25 years. Hemchand Manji, a herbal

medicine practitioner from

Chhattisgarh who is consid-

ered a magician healer. Yanung Jamoh Lego, an herbal medicine expert from East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh.

Iankilal, a 'Behrupiya' artist from Bhilwara, Rajasthan who has no money to make both ends meet.

Babu Ram Yadav, a brass Marori craftsperson from Uttar Pradesh leads a beggarly

Even the 69-year old Teejan

Bai, a Chhattisgarhi 'Pandavani' folk singer is living in abject poverty despite having received Padma Vibhusan. Interestingly, sitarist Vilayat Khan had refused Padma Shri (1964), Padma Bhushan (1968) and Padma Vibhushan (2000) saying that the partial selection commit-

tee members were incompetent to

judge the real quality of his music

as much as the unique works of art by many other great masters. Lately, the government of 'not so developed' Odisha has decided to dole out a monthly honorarium of Rs 30,000 to all 55 Padma awardees of the State from January 2025. It will cost the public exchequer 2 crore rupees annually. The previous government too had promised

the populist honorarium of Rs

25,000 per month.

Incidentally, the commercially hyperactive cricketer Sachin Tendulkar was given the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna by the UPA government by modifying the selection criteria with a motive of attracting millions of cricket-mad youth votes.

As many as 38 personalities have been awarded with Bharat Ratna, country's highest civilian award, since 1955 when it was instituted to recognise the work of people in politics, science, space, education, medicine and public service. Besides, 307 people have been awarded Padma Vibhushan, 1,255 Padma Bhushan and 3,005 Padma Shri awards by now.

However, as the facts are in hand, the majority of Padma recipients are not poor. On the contrary, most of them abuse the honour as suffixes, prefixes and titles to further and boost multifarious commercial activities they are engaged in. As per norms, Bharat Ratna and Padma awards can be withdrawn in case of misuse in any manner as per Article

18(1) of the Constitution. In case of any misuse, the defaulter shall forfeit the national award conferred on him or her by following the procedure laid down in 'regulation 10' related to creation of these awards. This is not happening only because people are callous and indifferent to such violations which if only get reported before appropriate authorities or challenged in writ courts, the errant awardees can be brought to book and get disgraced publicly. Regulation 10 states that the President may cancel and annul the awards of the decoration to any person and thereupon his or her name shall be erased from the register and the awardee shall be required to surrender it.

The gentleman Chief Minister of Odisha must take cognisance of the critical facts and organise a team of high-integrity experts for scrutinising the Padma awardees to ensure undeserving ones do not get to eat up scarce public money. The blanket honorarium package of twenty five thousand rupees must only go to the real poor.

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Delhi/New Delhi only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR

An Indian Navy personnel from Odisha is allegedly missing for four days. The Navy officer, identified as Saurabh Kumar Patra, went missing during his journey from his hometown in Brahmapur to Kochi in Kerala on January 19.

Reports said Patra was to join his duty as an acting leading communicator at INS Garuda when he went missing



after boarding a train to Brahmapur.

Patra's phone has been un-

a complaint at the Town police station. The last detected location of his mobile phone was Ichhapuram, according to family sources.

Saurabh's mother has made an appeal for help from both authorities and the Indian Navy to locate her son.

Saurabh's family stays at Gate Bazar area in Brahmapur. He joined the Indian Navy in 2019 and was recently posted at INS Garuda

boarding a train at the Brahmapur railway station. He was supposed to catch a flight from Visakhapatnam to Kochi later. "My son had come home in

Berhampur and stayed with us for 15 days. He had left home and boarded a train on January 19. He had informed us to call in the morning. But we could not contact him as his mobile was switched off," said Saurabh's mother.

Nay officer missing after boarding train Van demands DNA test Kin suspect abduction, lodge case Teachable since his mysterious disappearance, leading his family to suspect his possible abduction. They have lodged The Rendrapada Man demands DNA test of the had come to his home on leave in December 2024. Saurabh was last seen Subjected Saurabh was last seen Subjected that he has been subjected that he has been subjected to the same of the same subjected to the same subjected t

As both stayed separately for over 2 yrs

RAJESH BEHERA KENDRAPADA

A 35- year-old man has sought the DNA test of his wife's new born child. His wife with whom he has not been on good terms has been living at his father's house for the last two and a half years.

Nayak Kumar Nilakanthapur village under Pattamundai Rural police sta-

tion alleged that he married Sasmita Nayak, the daughter of Prahallad Nayak of Balipatana village under Balabhadrapur GP of Pattamundai Rural police station about four years back. However, he did not have a good relationship with his inlaws. Even his father-in-law was

yet to repay Rs 30,000 he bor-

Ashok said when his wife was not with him for the last two and a half years and he did not keep any physical relationship with his wife, how can he be the biological father of a child given birth by his wife.

Demanding before the local police to take steps for the DNA test of the new born child to ascertain the biological father, he lodged a complaint in this regard. Even, Ashok also alleged mental torture by his wife and his father -in-law as being a married person, his wife deserted him and was staying at her father's house. His fatherin-law did not send his daughter to his in-law' house either, he alleged.

Pattamundai Rural Police station IIC Padmalaya Pradhan stated that she has received a complaint in this regard and the police would do the needful.

No HC relief to petitioner denied MBBS seat PNS BHUBANESWAR the opportunity to lock his

The Orissa High Court has dismissed a petition filed by a NEET UG candidate who sought compensation after being denied an MBBS seat at a government medical college due to an alleged technical

glitch during the NEET UG

2022 counselling process. In its verdict, pronounced on January 15, the division bench, comprising Chief Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh and Justice Savitri Ratho, concluded that there was a "disputed question of

The petitioner, Aryan Swarup Parida, had secured an All-India Rank of 16,663, a category rank of 7,185, and a State rank of 599. However, he claimed that a technical glitch on the Medical Counselling Committee's (MCC) web portal prevented him from participating in the All-India Quota (AIQ) Mop-up and Stray Vacancy Rounds. Consequently, he missed

the opportunity to lock his choices for government medical institutes.

The Medical Counselling Committee, however, denied the existence of any glitch, stating that over 36,402 NEET UG candidates had successfully locked their choices on the scheduled date. The Orissa High Court observed that this presented a contradictory claim of facts.

Further, the court also noted that the AIQ counselling consisted of four rounds: AIQ Round 1, AIQ Round 2, AIQ Mop-up Round, and AIQ Stray Vacancy Round and Parida was unsuccessful in the first two rounds.

He, however, alleged that the glitch occurred during the AIQ Mop-up Round and argued that candidates with lower ranks secured seats in government colleges while he was debarred from participating in the subsequent rounds.

The division bench, however, dismissed the plea, finding no merit in the application for compensation.

At Khallikote Univ Tributes paid to Raja Harihara Mardaraj

The Khallikote Unitary University celebrated the Raja Harihara Mardaraj Jayanti with great reverence on its campus here on Monday.

The occasion was marked by floral tributes at the bust of Raja Harihar Mardaraj, located on the university premises. Vice-Chancellor Professor Gitanjali Dash presided over the programme.

Raja Harihara Mardaraj, the visionary king of the Khallikote estate, played a pivotal role in advancing education in southern Odisha. His efforts in founding Khallikote College significantly shaped the region's educational infrastructure. A progressive leader and philanthropist, his legacy as a champion of development and education endures in the hearts of the people.

Khallikote Unitary University, formerly Khallikote Autonomous College, was estab-



lished in 1878 during the British era and holds a prominent

place in Odisha's educational landscape. The institution, sity, continues its tradition of academic excellence and innovation, nurturing countless scholars and professionals.

During the event, senior faculty members, including Dr Deepak Kumar Mishra, Dr Prashant Kumar Narendra, Controller of Examinations Dr Manoj Kumar Pattnayak, Registrar Sushri Shanti Sudha Patra, and Professors Dr Susmita Pattnayak, Dr Sambit Mishra, Dr Sasmita Baliyar Singh, and Dr Bibhu Prasad Sahu, reflected on Raja Harihar Mardaraj's significant contributions to the establishment and growth of Khallikote College.

Staff members such as Tarini Behera, Bishnu Patra, Niharika Nayak, Santosh Behera, and Uma Rao, along with other faculty members, students, and attendees, expressed their respect and gratitude for the late king's

45.520 kg ganja seized in Brahmapur

2 held PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Baidyanathpur police station foiled a cannabis smuggling attempt and arrested two individuals at a courier office in Krushna Nagar Lanjipalli on Wednesday. The raid, led by SI Kajol Bag and her team, resulted in the seizure of 45.520 kg of cannabis concealed in three plas-

tic bags. Acting on a tip-off from the control room, police raided the Delhivery Ltd office after receiving reports of a suspicious parcel. The courier staff had detained two individuals Sumanta Badaraita (22) and Abhijeet Sabar (18) who had attempted to send the packages to Delhi. Upon inspection, one of the plastic bags was found torn, revealing packets wrapped in brown cello tape. The strong distinctive smell from the packets

confirmed the presence of can-

The police, following all prescribed procedures under the NDPS Act, seized the contraband in the presence of an Executive Magistrate and independent witnesses. A formal report was lodged at the Baidyanathpur police station.

Brahmapur SP Dr Saravana Vivek M addressed the media during a press briefing and said, "This operation underscores our resolve to tackle drug trafficking in the region. The accused have been arrested and will be forwarded to the court after completing all legal formalities. Investigations are ongoing to identify other individuals linked to this racket and their network."

Preliminary findings suggest that the suspects were using the courier service as a safe method to transport ganja to Delhi. The police are working to establish the involvement of other persons and trace the intended recipients in Delhi.

Truck driver assaulted brutally, dragged on road

By 3 persons for collision of truck with their car RAJESH BEHERA KENDRAPADA

 ${m A}$ video went viral on Wednesday where an iron ore laden truck driver, who is a Dalit, was allegedly beaten up brutally and was dragged on NH-53 on Tuesday after the attackers' four wheeler that was coming on wrong route collided with his truck. The victim was identified as

Manoj Mallick (38) of Artamula under Kendrapada Sadar police limits. In his FIR at Marshaghai police station, he alleged that on Tuesday while he was driving the ironore truck and moving to Paradip on NH-53, a four wheeler heading from Paradip to Duhuria collided on the back side of his truck.

Later, three persons came out from the car and demanded Rs



damage of the vehicle in the accident. One of the attackers dragged him from the truck by pulling his shirt collar.

Rudra Nayak of Kalaghar and his associate Ashok Behera of Jadupur under Marshaghai area later went on giving casteist remarks, assaulted him brutally by dragging him on road, after tying him with a gamuchha.

The barbaric and inhumane act was videographed by some locals and the video was later made viral by locals. Acting on the complaint, Marshaghai police registered a case and started an inquiry on the alleged matter. No one has been arrested, said IIC of Marshaghai police station Purna Chandra Patayak.

OREDA signs MoU with Tata Power Renewable To accelerate

rooftop solar adoption PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), a leading player in India's renewable energy sector and a subsidiary of Tata Power, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (OREDA Limited), the State's nodal agency for renewable energy, to accelerate rooftop solar adoption among residential customers. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to expanding Odisha's renewable energy footprint by implementing the Pradhan Mantri Surya

Ghar Yojana (PMSGY). Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies, manages power distribution in Odisha through its four DISCOMs in partnership with the State Government. The scheme will be implemented through the DISCOMs which will play a pivotal role in bringing solar energy to households.

The MoU was signed by CEO, OREDA Limited Saidutta Biplab Keshari Pradhan and CEO and MD, Tata Power Dr Praveer Sinha in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo and Chief Secretary Manoj

The collaboration aims to accelerate solar energy adoption through enhanced public awareness and seamless implementation of accessible and affordable solar energy solutions across Odisha. The TPREL, which will be listed as one of its preferred solar partners by OREDA, will play a pivotal role in the adoption by ensuring reliable and hasslefree solar solutions with lifetime care. The company along

with OREDA and its financial/ banking partners will lead targeted awareness drives at high-footfall locations such as airports, malls and railway stations. To strengthen community engagement, the company will also develop educational materials on renewable energy benefits, conduct sessions for local vendors, and foster local technical expertise by training rooftop installation and maintenance staff.

Public education will remain a central pillar, supported by the creation and dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to emphasize the advantages of renewable energy and energy efficiency

Odisha is pioneering the solar revolution as the State with the highest solar subsidies in the country which significantly reduces the financial burden on the consumer and enables easy adoption.

In Gajapati = Pregnant woman carried 2 km on stretcher



PNS ■ PARALAKHEMUNDI

In glaring of infrastructural the State, a pregnant woman had to be carried on a stretcher for 2 kilometers after an ambulance failed to reach the village owing to the absence of a motorable road.

The incident was reported from Pardema village under Badeguda panchayat of Mohana block in Gajapati district.

Lakshmi Mallick, an expectant mother, on Tuesday experienced labour pain, following which the village's ASHA Worker contacted 108 ambulance services. However, the ambulance was unable to traverse beyond the Badeguda

Panchayat office due to lack of an access road.

With no other option left, the ambulance staffs along with the ASHA Worker and local villagers carried the woman over a two-km stretch of rugged terrain using a makeshift stretcher to the ambulance. After reaching the ambulance, she was taken to the Adaba Medical Centre.

Fortunately, Lakshmi successfully delivered a healthy baby boy following the arduous journey.

Locals urged the district administration to address these infrastructural gaps, which impede prompt medical access and delivery of essential services.

Decline in birds' numbers in B'pur Forest Divn

Reveals annual census

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ BRAHMAPUR

The annual bird census in the Brahmapur Forest Division was completed on Monday, revealing a significant decline in the bird populations compared to previous years. This year, 22,777 birds of 145 species were identified, a noticeable decrease from last year's count of 26,985 birds belonging to 149 species. This marks a reduction of 4,208 birds

The Brahmapur Forest Division, comprising four Forest Ranges, deployed 49 teams for the census. The teams covered various bird congregation areas, including Khapara Khai, Lanjigendi, Hansarali and Panichira. Among the species observed were common birds like the Indian pond heron, grey heron, red-



crested pochard and the Eurasian wigeon.

Notably, the census teams spotted a rare foreign bird, the Eurasian Whimbrel, for the first time in the division. Additionally, migratory birds such as the red-crested pochard and gadwall were observed in significant numbers at the Dakhinapur water reservoir, a new attraction for avian visitors.

The findings from each forest range varied significantly. In the Brahmapur Range, 74 species with 14,327 birds were recorded. In the Khallikote Range, 12 species with 4,633 birds were observed. The

Digapahandi Range recorded 23 species with 1,454 birds while the Santiapalli Range observed 36 species with 2,363

Migratory birds from regions such as Europe, Australia, New Zealand, North America, Africa and Mongolia were observed in search of food. However, the decline in bird numbers over the past two years has raised concerns among environmentalists.

The Dakhinapur reservoir, earlier used as a water supply source for Brahmapur, has seen a lower water level due to reduced dependency on the reservoir for urban water supply. This condition has led to the growth of algae and aquatic insects, creating a favourable environment for migratory birds.

Regional Development Council convenor and environmentalist Sagar Kumar Patra emphasised the importance of preserving bird habitats. He noted that active patrolling by the Forest Department, along with public awareness campaigns, could enhance the protection of visiting birds.

The local community has expressed hope that such efforts will result in an increased bird count in the coming years.

'Jay Hind slogan keeps country united' Netaji Subhas Rashtriya Samman conferred

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Jay Hind slogan given by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is the only slogan which keeps the whole country united having the potential to overpower any other 'Jay' slogan, senior leader Bijay Mohapatra said while speaking at the Netaji Subhas Utsav Jay Hind 2025 organised here by the Utkala Bikasha Juba Parisada.

Parisad adviser adviser Debiprasad Prusti chaired the programme and Netaji's grand nephew Avijit Bose Ray, martyr Ashfaqullah Khan's grandson Ashfaqullah Khan and Biswaranjan Das, grandson of revolutionary Pulinbehari Das , Sarvoday



Mohapatra appealed to the gathering to organise such programmes in at least three to four zones of Odisha.

programne, where Mohapatra

was the chief guest.

Netaji's grand nephew Avijit Bose Ray described Netaji Subhas as a champion of religious harmony, women empowerment besides being a visionary of free India's economic development as the founder of National Planning Committe. It's unfortunate that present day leaders are

taking the country away from

Netaji's dream of equality and synthesis, he lamented.

Ashfaqullah Khan and Biswaranjan Das expressed their happiness for joining the programme. Krushna Mohanty emotionally recollected her parents' association with Subhas Chandra. Monika Pattnaik expressed her commitment to extend support to

such efforts ahead. Advisor Prusti said it's most unfortunate that State government did not remind Singapur President about the Azad Hind Government and Netaji as the latter had formed his government in Singapore in 1943. It would have elevated the image of the State, Prusti remarked. Netaji Subhas Rashtriya Samman and Jay Hind Schol-

arships were given on the occasion. About 100 delegates coming from different places visited Ravenshaw Collegiate School where Subhas Chandra studied upto matriculation and Netaji's birth place Odia Bazar Museum. They garlanded the statues there. The next day, a team visited Netaji's ancestral house in Gopalaballav road at Puri. They requested the State government to set up an international research centre at Netaji's house to bring more international reputation.

Assam detention centres: SC slams Government, summons Chief Secretary

NEW DELHI

Calling it a "defective" affidavit, the Supreme Court on Wednesday slammed the Assam government for not giving in its reply reasons for detaining 270 foreigners at the Matia transit camp. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Nongmeikapam Kotiswar Singh directed the Assam chief secretary to remain present through video-conferencing on the next date of hearing.

The top court said it granted six weeks time to the state government on December 9 to file the affidavit and expected it to give reasons for detaining 270 foreign nationals in the transit camp besides details on the steps taken for their deportation.

'The affidavit does not give any justification for detaining...Steps taken to deport are not set out. This is gross violation of orders of this court. We direct the chief secretary to remain present through video-conferencing



and explain the non-compliance," the bench said.

The counsel appearing for the stat government submitted that persons were detained only after they were declared foreigners by the foreigners tribunals and explained the mechanism of deportation of illegal migrants.

The top court sought to know why detentions were continuing without the deportation process even being ini-

The court expressed displeasure after the Assam government counsel said the affidavit was confidential and should

'This shows that the state does not want to come clean. Tell us what is confidential in the affidavit?" asked the

remain sealed.

The lawyer said the affidavit contained the addresses of foreigners and the details could go to the media.

"Assam counsel states that affidavit filed should be kept in sealed envelope, as contents thereof are confidential. Though we are directing that prima facie we disagree with the counsel that there is something confidential about the contents," the bench said.

The top court had directed Assam State Legal Services Authority to conduct surprise visits at the Matia transit camp for foreigners to check the facility's hygiene and food quality.
The bench was hearing a plea

concerning the deportation of persons declared foreigners and facilities at the detention centres in Assam

While hearing the matter on May 16 last year, the apex court observed that the Centre must take immediate steps for deporting 17 foreigners at the detention centre in Matia. It said priority should be given to deport four, who had spent more than two years in the detention centre. The plea also sought a direc-

tion to the Assam government

not to detain any person

in near future.

declared a foreigner by the tribunal until it could show category "The CBI prayed for the death proof of a possible deportation

Kolkata rape-murder case: CBI seeks death sentence for Roy

The CBI will file an appeal The CBI WIII THE all appearance before the Calcutta High Court, seeking death sentence for Sanjay Roy, who was sentenced to "life imprisonment until death" by a Sealdah court in the rape-cum-murder case of an on-duty doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, officials said Wednesday.

The agency received a legal advice suggesting that the case may be categorised as the "rarest of rare", deserving capital punishment, they said.

The agency is likely to file the appeal against the Sealdah court order as soon as possible with detailed arguments in favour of capital punishment,

The agency's plea seeking death penalty for Roy was turned down by the trial court, where Additional District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das said that the crime did not fall under the "rarest of the rare"

penalty. The defence lawyer

prayed that a jail term be given instead of the death enalty. This crime does not fall under the 'rarest of the rare' category," the judge said on Monday while sentencing

"I am sentencing you to life imprisonment, meaning till the last day of your life, for causing injury during the act of committing rape on the victim that led to her death...," he

The West Bengal government has already approached the on the ground of inadequacy. He submitted that the CBI had prayed for awarding capital punishment to Roy before the trial court.

against the trial court's order

The high court said it would hear the CBI, the victim's family and the convict before deciding on the admission of the state government's appeal.

The high court said it will hear the matter on January 27. The trainee doctor was raped and killed in the early hours of August 9 in the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital when she had gone to have rest during her graveyard

Her body with severe injury marks was found inside the hall by a doctor next morning. Civic volunteer Sanjay Roy was arrested the next day based on CCTV footage in which he was seen entering the seminar hall at 4.03 am on the day of the incident.

On August 13, the Calcutta High Court ordered the transfer of the probe from Kolkata Police to the CBI, which took over the case on August 14.

A Raja writes to Waqf panel chief to defer proposed JPC meeting

DMK MP A Raja on Wednesday wrote to Waqf panel chief Jagdambika Pal on behalf of the opposition to postpone the proposed sittings of the joint parliamentary committee proposed on January 24 and

In a letter to the waqf parliamentary panel chief, Raja said it is practically not possible for the members to recollect the evidence and materials essentially needed for the moving of the amendments and discussion on the waqf bill at such a short notice.

He said during the tour programme to meet various stakeholders in Lucknow on Tuesday, the members had requested Pal to postpone the meeting of JPC proposed on January 24 and 25 for taking up the bill clause by clause. The panel is examining the waqf bill after it was introduced in Lok Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament in August last

"Hence, it was requested by most of the members at the



Lucknow sitting (21.01.2025) that the proposed sittings of JPC on 24th and 25th have to be necessarily postponed on 30th (full day) and 31st of this month after the presidential address in the Parliament,' Raja said in his letter to Pal. He said unless the sittings of the JPC are postponed, the purpose of constituting the committee itself will be defeated as it raises doubts in the minds of the people of India that the secular fabric of the Constitution embodied in the Preamble is endangered and due process in conduct-

ing the JPC is also not followed.

"It is, therefore, prayed on behalf of the members of the opposition parties that the sittings of the JPC proposed on 24th and 25th may kindly be postponed to 30th and 31st of this month as already discussed with you at Lucknow," Raia said.

The Congress also shared Raja's letter in a post on X and said, "Lok Sabha MP and member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Shri A Raja writes to the

Chairman of the joint panel, Shri Jagdambika Pal, on behalf of the members of the Opposition parties, requesting the sittings of the JPC be postponed from 24th and 25th Jan to 30th and 31st Jan

In his letter to the chairman of the JPC on waqf, Raja said the Lok Sabha Secretariat (JCWAP Cell) through a letter dated January 20 has requested the members of the panel to send their amendments to the proposed bill by 4 pm on Wednesday. Also, the next sitting of JPC has also been convened on January 24 and 25 for clauseby-clause consideration of the bill, he also said.

"It is needless to say that the tour programmes of the JPC to meet the stakeholders at Patna, Kolkata and Lucknow were completed only yesterday ie 21.01.2025; And the members were dispersed from the tour programme to their constituency/states to continue their scheduled programmes earlier.

It is very strange that the next dates for a sitting of JPC were hurriedly announced with-

out any formal discussion when the JPC was already on tour. Even during the sitting of JPC at Lucknow itself, it was requested by the members that the proposed sittings of 24th and 25th of this month are practically not possible as the members are expected to discharge their duties/programmes in the

"Moreover, the members are not in a position to recollect the evidence/materials at such a short notice which are essentially needed for the moving of the Amendments and discussion thereon," he

The DMK MP also said Pal has directed the stake holders who participated in the tour programme at Patna, Kolkata and Lucknow to submit their views and submission in writing within seven days and the committee is waiting for the same for circulation.

"I sincerely recall that you have reacted to the request that it will be considered positively after consultation with the government realising the justification offered by us for the postponement," he said. | coming gender biases and at

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao has become people powered initiative: PM

high court, challenging the

verdict and seeking death

The CBI has opposed the

state's right to file an appeal in

the case, claiming that as it was

the prosecuting agency, it had the right to appeal on the grounds of inadequacy of the

Appearing for the CBI, Deputy

Solicitor General Rajdeep

Majumdar on Wednesday

opposed the state's submis-

sion, maintaining that the

West Bengal government does

penalty for Roy.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative completing 10 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said it has been instrumental in overcoming gender biases and at the same created the right environment to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) was launched by the prime minister on January 22, 2015 at Panipat, Haryana. BBBP addresses the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of women empowerment over a life-cycle continuum.

Today we mark 10 years of the #BetiBachaoBetiPadhao movement. Over the past decade, it has become a transformative. people-powered initiative and has drawn participation from people across all walks of life," Modi said.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has been instrumental in over-



the same time it has created the right environment to ensure that the girl child has access to education and opportunities to achieve her dreams, the prime minister said.

"Thanks to the dedicated efforts of the people and various community service organisations, 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' has achieved remarkable milestones," Modi said in his post on X 'Districts with historically low

child sex ratios have reported significant improvements and awareness campaigns have instilled a deeper sense of the importance of gender equality," Modi said.

"I compliment all stakeholders who have made this movement vibrant at the grassroots level. Let us continue to protect the rights of our daughters, ensure their education and create a society where they can thrive without any discrimination," he said.

Together, we can ensure that the coming years bring even greater progress and opportunity for India's daughters," Modi added.

'Skyrocketing' airfare, lack of tariff regulation dominate PAC meeting



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Concerns over "skyrocket-ing" airfare and "little action" by government agencies and regulator dominated the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) meeting on Wednesday as several MPs sought accountability from private airport operators and airlines to provide relief to passengers.
PAC Chairperson K C

Venugopal described the meeting of the panel, which has witnessed fiery and at times acrimonious discussion along party lines in the past, as "one of the best" sittings.

Members, he said, expressed concerns that the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) "is not acting properly as a regulator".

"We need clear cut answers," he told PTI after the meeting. He said the regulatory body could not answer adequately the questions raised by mem-

The senior Congress MP said, "Concerns were raised by members that airfare is skyrocketing, and there is no action from the Directorate

General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) or the Civil Aviation Department.

Sources said some MPs called for an amendment in the AERA Act to make it more effective in regulating fare amid general unhappiness over issues like "arbitrary" rise in user development fees and price surge, as they alleged that the existing system fell short of fixing accountability and transparency in the functioning of private operators.

"A few MPs were upset over the manner in which both aeronautical tariff and nonaeronautical tariff are decided and flagged the need for having a mechanism in place for prior consultation," a source said. An MP said there should be a quasi-judicial body to hear such issues.

Civil avitation secretary and AERA chairperson were among those who appeared before the panel in the meeting in which presentations were made on related issues. While AERA is tasked with regulating tariff for services covering major airports, the DGCA is primarily concerned with safety issues.

Sources said the PAC members, in general, were unsatisfied with the replies of officials, and the panel has asked them to submit a detailed response. Several members, sources said, gave examples of a few airports where the user development fee (UDF), which is included in the airfare, has gone up many times since they were handed over to private oper-

Some of them sought details from officials about the revenue collected under different heads and to what use they were put to. An MP, sources said, spoke about the real estate development and subsequent rentals collected by private operators at airports, and called for transparency and accountability for the revenue's appropriate use.

An MP lauded the government's UDAN scheme, which envisages air connectivity for smaller cities, but noted that many of its routes are either not served or not served adequately by private airlines as they focus on more profitable routes. It strikes a blow to the vision of having the common man to fly, he added.

Railway Board extends some facilities to BRMS amidst protests

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Railway Board has extended some facilities to an unrecognised federation, the Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh, amid strong protest from other unrecognised unions and their alliances.

The Board recently held a Secret Ballot Elections in which the Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh (BRMS) failed to secure Sangh (BRMS) failed to secure 15 per cent vote, a mandatory requirement to get recognition. Only two federations, All India Railwaymen's Federation (AIRF) and National Federation for Indian Railwaymen (NFIR) got the required percentage of votes and recognition of the Board. "Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor "Bhartiya Railway Mazdoor Sangh (BRMS), an unrecognised Federation, who secured 10.12% of the total votes on all Zonal Railways and Production (Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and Rail

Coach Factory, Kapurthala) in the last Secret Ballot Elections (SBE) - 2024, had represented and requested that keeping in view of their performance in the SBE-2024, they may be granted some facilities for raising the grievances of railway employees," a Railway Board's letter dated January 16, 2025, addressed to all zones, said. The letter further said the Board considered the representation of BRMS and the fact that it registered its presence in all the Zonal Railways and PUs (CLW & RCF) in the last

SBE - 2024 and secured third largest vote share after AIRF and NFIR. According to the Board, it decided to extend the union facilities such as 'Informal meeting with senior officers' and 'Office Accommodation' in Railway premises.

"Representatives of BRMS will

be permitted to meet officials at Railway Board level as spe-

cial invitees. However, no Special Casual Leave or Passes will be provided to BRMS officials for the same," the Board in its letter said.

"Accommodation, if any, may be provided to BRMS in any Railway office/premise located at New Delhi," it added.

Other railway employee associations and unions have strongly objected to the move. Manoj Pandey, President, Indian Railway Employees Federation (IREF) has written to the Board seeking recognition for IREF on the same lines it granted to BRMS.

"It is pertinent to note that the Railway Board laid down clear and specific criteria for the recognition of federations, according to which, a federation should secure at least 15% of valid votes in the SBE-III elections and its constituent unions should get recognition in at least six zones," Pande said in his letter.

in his letter.
"Member unions of IREF, such as WCRWU and ARKU, performed commendably in the SBE-III Elections 2024, securing over 15% of valid votes, thereby qualifying for negotiation powers," he added, claiming that IREF also deserves ing that IREF also deserves recognition like BRMS.

Pandey claimed IREF includes recognised unions such as ECREU, NERMC, and RCF, which are already serving the interests of railway employees effectively.

These unions have been consistently recognised across multiple zones, fulfilling the Railway Board's mandate," he

Pandey added the IREF may approach court if its demand is overlooked.

Akhilesh Pandey, Central President, North Eastern Railway Men's Congress, too objected to the Board's decision. "It is unfortunate that the Railway Board disrespect its own norm to give benefit to a federation," Akhilesh said. All India Railway Track Maintainers Union have also raised serious concerns and

said that the Board cannot

'pick and choose' federation on

its own whims and fancies. "Once the Board laid the guideline before election, it cannot offer benefits to any federation which failed to secure the required vote percentage. The Board is violating its one norms for reasons best known to itself," Chand Mohammed, working president of All India Railway Trackmaintainers Union

(AIRTU), said.

Delhi HC seeks Jamia stand on PIL over coaching academy



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

¹he Delhi High Court on The Deini Figir Court on Wednesday sought the stand of Jamia Millia Islamia on a PIL over admissions of OBC (non-creamy layer) students in its residential coaching academy meant for civil

services aspirants. A bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela issued notice to Jamia Millia Islamia and University Grants Commission (UGC) on the PIL by Satyam Singh, a law graduate.

Referring to the UGC guide-lines, Singh said Jamia could-n't restrict free coaching only to female students and those from SC/ST and minority communities as it was under the obligation to extend the benefit to both OBC (noncreamy layer) and economically weaker sections (EWS). When the court pointed out there was no provision in the UGC guidelines for EWS category, the petitioner restricted his relief only to OBC (non-creamy layer).

The court however asked the

dents. The petition said the current admission policy for the residential coaching academy was arbitrary and discriminatory as it left out a category of students who deserved

versity established by a statute was bound to follow the UGC

mandate and said, "Issue

petitioner on the "right" to

seek admission in the coach-

ing academy as an OBC (non-

'You are virtually asking us

to reframe a policy.

Admission is not to regular

courses but coaching centre.

It is for authorities to provide

ing us to create a right," it said.

In the petition filed through advocates Akash Vajpai, Ayush Saxsena Puru Mudgal, the petitioner said

UGC gave financial support to four Central universities,

including JMI, and therefore it was under an obligation

not to discriminate among

the underprivileged stu-

creamy layer) candidate.

notice to the respondents. The court had questioned the

LPG safety guidelines issued for Maha **Kumbh to protect devotees and Kalpvasis**

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Food and Logistics Department convened a crucial meeting to address LPG safety during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela. The meeting was attended by officials from the department, LPG distributors, gas company representatives, and officers from the Fire Department, all working towards ensuring the safety of devotees and Kalpvasis.

During the session, detailed guidelines were issued to prevent accidents caused by LPG leakage. Among the key directives, cylinder testing was made mandatory, and strict restrictions were imposed on the sale of unauthorized cylinders. Officials emphasized that ensuring safety would be a top priority throughout the event. To ensure safe handling of LPG, technical assistants will inspect all cylinders before distribution, and any found to be leaking will not be supplied. Additionally, consumer equipment such as gas pipes and regulators will be scrutinized, with faulty or unsafe equipment being



replaced immediately. Special technical teams have been deployed in the fair area to respond to emergencies

safety measures, the storage of designated office. This gas within the fair area has been limited to 100 kilograms, and complete promptly. details of each supply vehicle In a bid to further strengthen must be submitted to the must be submitted to the

measure aims to maintain tight control over the supply

and prevent misuse.
The meeting also addressed

domestic LPG cylinders. It was resolved that strict action would be taken against those found using domestic gas cylinders for unauthorized purposes unapproved cylinders. Violators will face punitive

action to ensure compliance with the safety protocols. Pramod Sharma, Chief Fire Officer of Kumbh, said, "The safety of devotees is of utmost importance." We are importance. We are committed to implementing these guidelines effectively to ensure a secure environment for all."

Sunil Kumar, the Food and Logistics Officer, urged distributors to conduct regular checks and remain vigilant. "We aim to make this Maha Kumbh a 'Surakshit Mahakumbh.' Any violation of the rules will be dealt with strictly," he stated. These measures reflect the

administration's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of the millions attending the Maha Kumbh. The collaborative efforts of various departments aim to make this grand spiritual gathering a safe and memorable event for all.

Objectionable comments on Maha Kumbh spark outrage, two arrested



Life and challenges of female Naga sadhus at Maha Kumbh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

rhe Maha Kumbh Mela not I only showcases the spiritual depth of Sanatan Dharma but also highlights the enigmatic lives of its sadhus and saints. Among them, the Naga Sadhus are a prominent attraction, embodying detachment and spirituality. While much is known about male Naga Sadhus, the lives of female Naga Sadhus remain shrouded in mystery and intrigue.

Female Naga Sadhus dedicate their lives entirely to God, leaving behind domestic ties and worldly attachments. Their daily routine revolves around rigorous worship, starting with prayers at Brahmamuhurta and culminating in evening rituals dedicated to Lord Dattatreya. Despite the reverence they receive in their Akharas, their lives are fraught with challenges

To become a Naga Sadhu, women must undergo a demanding initiation process. This includes observing strict celibacy for 10 to 15 years, convincing their guru of their devotion, and proving their ability to endure severe ascetic practices. A crucial part of the

and sacrifices.

initiation involves performing Pind Daan-a symbolic funeral rite-and shaving their heads as a gesture of renunciation.

Unlike their male counterparts, who can remain Digambara (naked), female Naga Sadhus wear a single piece of unstitched saffron cloth, known as "Ganti," and are required to apply a Tilak on their foreheads. They are addressed as "Mai," "Avdhutani," or "Naagin" within their Akharas. However, female Naga Sadhus are not considered for leadership roles in the Akharas, reflecting traditional gender norms within the spiritual hierarchy.

Akhilesh criticises UP Cabinet meet at Maha Kumbh mela



BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced the creation of a new religious circuit that will encompass seven districts-Prayagraj, Varanasi (Kashi), Chandauli, Ghazipur, Jaunpur, Mirzapur, and Bhadohi. This initiative aims to preserve the state's spiritual and cultural gious tourism and local

The announcement was made during a cabinet meeting held in Prayagraj on the sidelines of the ongoing Maha Kumbh. The meeting also approved infrastructure bonds for municipal corporations in Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Agra, aimed at accelerating urban development and improving civic amenities in these key

Chief Minister Adityanath said the formation of the religious circuit underscores the government's commitment to safeguarding Uttar Pradesh's rich spiritual legacy. He emphasized that this initiative would not only protect the cultural fabric of the included districts but also position them as prominent destinations for religious tourism, thereby fostering economic growth.

The religious circuit will be supported by extensive infrastructure projects to enhance connectivity and visitor experiences. Ganga Expressway will be

extended to link Prayagraj with Mirzapur, Bhadohi, Kashi, Chandauli, and Ghazipur, and eventually with the Purvanchal Expressway

A six-lane bridge over the Ganga River, a four-lane bridge connecting Prayagraj to Jhusi, and a signature bridge over the Yamuna River are also planned to facilitate seamless travel for pilgrims and tourists.

However, the decision to hold a Maha Kumbh has sparked political debate.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav criticized the move, calling it inappropriate conduct government business during a sacred event. "Kumbh is a holy occasion, not a platform for political programs," he remarked.

Responding to such criticism, Deputy CM Brajesh Pathak said, "The cabinet meeting reflects our intent to prioritize development in areas that matter most. The opposition recognize transformative potential of these initiatives instead of resorting to baseless attacks." This initiative aligns with the government's broader vision of establishing Uttar Pradesh as a hub for religious tourism.

integrating preservation infrastructural development, the new religious circuit is expected to attract pilgrims and tourists from across the country, ensuring preservation of the state's while fostering heritage

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

The police have arrested two individuals for making objectionable remarks about the Maha Kumbh and Hindu deities, triggering widespread anger among the Hindu community. The incidents, which surfaced on social media, have prompted the authorities to issue a strict alert for online content monitoring to prevent further provocation.

The first incident occurred in

the City Kotwali area, where a

video of the Maha Kumbh bath was shared on social media with offensive comments. As the video went viral, it reached senior leading officials. immediate intervention from the state administration. On Tuesday late night, the City Kotwali police arrested Kamran Alvi, a resident of Deva Road, Civil Lines.

Kamran was charged under sections 67 and 299 of the newly implemented BNS Act insulting religious



comments are not just offensive but are a deliberate attempt to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere of the city. The accused has been taken into custody and will be presented in court. We are also

investigating others who may have played a role in circulating the video." In a separate case, Abhishek Kumar, a resident of Boja village in Jaipur, was arrested

for posting inflammatory remarks about Hindu deities and the Maha Kumbh. According to SHO Amit

Pratap Singh, "The accused was apprehended immediately comments came to light. We have registered a case, and further investigations are underway. We will not tolerate any attempts to disturb communal harmony." Members Hindu

labeling them as deliberate provocations to disrupt social harmony. At Patel Square, one of Barabanki's busiest locations, a large screen continuously displays a film highlighting the significance of the Maha Kumbh. Community members argue that the community were that the comments were intended to provoke anger and disrupt the otherwise

organizations have strongly

condemned these incidents,

peaceful atmosphere.
"Hindu festivals like the
Maha Kumbh symbolize
unity, spirituality, and our
cultural heritage," said Rajesh Sharma, a local member of a Hindu organization. "When someone mocks such events or our deities, it hurts the sentiments of millions and creates unnecessary

tensions." Anita Tiwari, a devotee, echoed these sentiments, saying, "The Maha Kumbh is a sacred event that unites people from all walks of life. Such derogatory comments are not only disrespectful but also an attack on our collective faith. Strict action must be taken to deter such behavior in the future." Authorities have issued an

alert, urging people to be cautious while sharing or commenting on social media content related to religious events. "Social media is a powerful tool, but it must be used responsibly," said Alok Mani Tripathi. "We will monitor platforms closely and take strict action against any content aimed at disrupting peace." As the Maha Kumbh continues the police have assured the public of heightened vigilance to maintain harmony. appeal to citizens to report such content immediately and refrain from spreading inflammatory added SHO Singh.

The arrests serve as a stark reminder consequences of using social media irresponsibly, especially in a country as diverse as India, where religious sentiments run

Shri Ram Bank loans devotees the name of Lord Ram

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Amidst the bustling Maha Kumbh Mela, there is a unique bank that does not deal in money but in faith. Shri Ram Bank, an institution with a 150year-old legacy, offers "loans" to devotees in the form of "Ram Naam" (the name of Lord Ram). The bank encourages people to write the name of Lord Ram, and the response has been overwhelming, with millions of "Ram Naam" written and circulated so

The bank's temporary branch was set up in Sector 6 of the Kumbh Mela on December 22. According to its custodian, Ashutosh Varshney, this bank operates just like any othercomplete with loan disbursals, EMIs (equated monthly installments), and meticulous record-keeping. minimum loan is for writing 1.5 lakh 'Ram Naam,' but devotees can take more if they

wish. The writing is done in



printed booklets specially provided for free, and every page records the number of Ram Naam' written," Varshney

How the System Works Devotees return the filled

booklets to the bank, which are then used to grant loans to others. For instance, if a devotee takes a loan of 1.5 lakh "Ram Naam," they repay it by writing and submitting the

same number. To date, over 25 individuals have taken loans to write crores of "Ram Naam," with the final data expected to be released after the Maha Kumbh concludes.

The bank accepts entries in multiple languages, including Hindi, English, Urdu, and Bengali. Anyone aged between six and 80 years can take a loan, but there are conditionsborrowers must abstain from consuming meat, alcohol, garlic, and onions while fulfilling their loan. "The only requirement is a photograph identification," Rajkumar, a bank promoter at the Kumbh branch.

The initiative has also drawn international devotees. Among them are Henk Kelman from the Netherlands, who now goes by the name Ramkrishna Das, and Sonal Singh, an Indian-origin resident of the U.S. Both have taken loans to write one

crore "Ram Naam" each. From Ledger Books to E-Ram Tracing the bank's history, Ashutosh Varshney revealed, "I am the fifth generation in this tradition. It began with traders in the Chowk area who donated 10% of their earnings for social causes. Writing 'Ram Naam' emerged from this practice. Initially, it was recorded in ledger books, later in printed booklets, and now, we have introduced 'E-Ram' for digital transactions through social media platforms.



ISRO unveils satellite images of Maha Kumbh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI/MAHAKUMBH

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday released before and after satellite images of the tent city here giving an insight into the grandeur of the Maha Kumbh which is drawing crores of people from across the world to take a holy dip at

religious event organised every 12 years, is being held in Prayagraj from January 13 and will continue for 45 days till February 26. More than eight crore pilgrims have taken a holy dip at the

"Time series images (15 Sep 2023 & 29 Dec 2024) of EOS-04 (RISAT-1A) 'C' band microwave satellite, with its all-weather capability and fine resolution (FRS-1, 2.25m), provides unique insights on details of the Tent City (Layout of Structures and Roads) along with its network of pontoon bridges supporting

show the construction of Shivalay Park, the Indiashaped park in Prayagraj spread across 12 acres of land and is designed to be a major attraction for the festival. The images taken on three separate dates capture the construction landmark. On the National Remote Sensing Centre's (NSRC) website, time series images of

Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, ISRO said in a statement.

The time series images

captured by the satellites

captured the Prayagraj Sangam and the zoomed section of the River Ganges showing temporary pontoon

bridges. Several time series images of the Parade Grounds also showed the transformation

number has gone up by manifolds because the nation is Vidhyadhiraja in need of youngsters with Sangam so far. discipline, dedication and commitment to work not only in the armed forces and para military forces but in other

Minister Rajnath Singh further

stated that the last few years saw

a jump in the number of Sainik

Schools functioning in the

areas too," said the minister. He pointed out that the Sainik Schools are the stepping stones to career in defense forces. "Since the Forces have started appointing girls too as officers, we need more trained infrastructure, set up for the

Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurates Sainik school in Kerala Minister's Scheme to set up 100 such schools across India to are eligible to apply for admission to the sixth standard KUMAR CHELLAPPAN KOCHI $R_{\text{minister}}^{\text{ajnath Singh, union defense}}$ wednesday, make available top quality education to all sections of and the selection is based on an all India entrance examination. Jayaprakash Valliathan, a reminded the people of the country that the term Sainik is not confined to that of waging

society. Kerala has three Sainik Schools functioning in Thiruvananthapuram. Ernakulam and Kozhikode districts. While the Sainik School at Thiruvananthapuram School at Thiruvananthapuram is owned by the Government of India, the schools at Ernakulam and Kozhikode are managed by

private management. School Sainik

Mavelikkara is a dream come true for Vidhyadhiraja Educational and Charitable fifth standard in other schools marine engineer-turned-educationist told The Pioneer that 60 per cent of the total seats are reserved for students from

Vidyapeetom Central School while the remaining seats are available for students from rest of the country. "The curriculum has been prepared as per the directives of CBSE New Delhi and Sainik School Society. The students in the Sainik School stream get a taste of life in the defense services with specially trained teachers imparting them training in physical education, sports and games,"

country. "There were just 33 Sainik Schools in India but the

said Valliathan.

professionals as well as Sainik Schools," he said.

the Sangam. Maha Kumbh, a megathe Triveni Sangam were also shared, showing the difference via images captured in September 2023 and on December 29, 2024. Three time series images also

> the location went through as the city geared up to welcome millions of worshippers and host one of the largest congregations on Earth.

Guru, Raja Ravi Varma were all soldiers fighting in different battlefields for social and cultural transformation of the nation," said Rajnath Singh while dedicating to the nation the fourth Sainik School in Kerala launched under the auspices of

battle but it has a broad meaning.

"Through Sainik Schools, we

are moulding future leaders to

take the country to new heights

in all social fields. Please remem-

ber that persons like Swamy

Sankaracharya, Sree Narayana

Vivekananda,

Vidhyadhiraja Vidyapeetom at standstill Mavelikkara in Alappuzha dis-Interestingly, even as the

minister was inaugurating the school, functioning of schools across Kerala came to an almost initiative of the Prime

following agitation by various trade unions of teachers demanding more pay and parks and lesser working hours.

The new school is part of the

Trust launched in 1978. The school is affiliated to the Sainik School, Government of India. Students who pass out from the

www.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

A Boost for Indian Professionals

H-1B visa reforms by Trump will go a long way in addressing the anomalies in the visa system and help Indian professionals

The H-1B visa has long been a critical pathway for skilled foreign workers, particularly Indians, to contribute to the US economy. With Indians accounting for over 72 per cent of H-1B visa recipients in 2023, any reform in this programme significantly impacts the Indian professional community. In his second term, President Donald Trump introduced groundbreaking reforms to the H-1B visa programme, shifting the selection process from a lottery-based system to a salary-based model. These changes, effective from January 17, 2025, aim to prioritise highly skilled professionals and streamline the visa process. The H-1B visa programme was established in 1990 to allow US companies to hire foreign workers with specialised skills. It has been a cornerstone of the tech and engineering sectors, enabling companies to bridge skill gaps. In 2023 alone, 386,000 H-1B visas were issued, with nearly three-quarters going to Indian nationals. This programme not only benefits the US economy by



addressing skill shortages but also strengthens India-US ties through the exchange of talent and innovation. The most notable change is the replacement of the lottery system with a salary-based selection process. This reform ensures that highly skilled professionals with competitive salaries are prioritised, making the programme more meritocratic. Besides, now the Indian professionals living in the US will be able to renew their H-1B visas domestically, eliminating the need for costly and time-consuming international travel. Another good news for the Students studying in the US on F-1 visas can now transition to H-1B visas more efficiently, fostering smoother

career progression. Now on, research-oriented institutions are exempt from the annual visa cap, encouraging academic and scientific innovation. These reforms are poised to significantly benefit Indian professionals and students. With salary as the primary criterion, skilled Indian workers in high-demand sectors like technology, engineering and healthcare are likely to secure visas more easily. The streamlined process and in-country renewals will reduce uncertainties for professionals and their families. By retaining top talent, these changes will further strengthen the economic and technological collaboration between the US and India. President Trump's reforms reflect a strategic approach to talent acquisition and economic growth. By aligning visa policies with the needs of US businesses and rewarding merit, these changes demonstrate a commitment to fostering innovation and efficiency. While these reforms are a step in the right direction, they would require stricter scrutiny of visa holders and employers. This measure ensures transparency but might pose challenges for smaller companies offering competitive but lower salaries. Moreover, the shift in focus could pressure Indian professionals to align their career trajectories with higher-paying roles, potentially impacting sectors like academia and non-profits.



A woman prepares yarn to make the tricolour ahead of Republic Day 2025, in Nadia

The legacy and survival of the Fourth Estate



Initiatives promoting media literacy, particularly among youth, can help bridge the gap between traditional journalism and contemporary audiences

┰ n 1780, James Augustus Hicky published India's first printed newspaper, 'Hicky's Bengal Gazette, also known as the Calcutta General Adv, normative power of print media.

It was the printing press that propelled humanity into a new era of knowledge dissemination. In India, newspapers have become an essential pillar of democracy, freedom of expression, and public discourse. The celebration of Indian Newspaper Day reminds us of the transfer of a potent tool in the freedom struggle, awakening the masses to issues of injustice and fostering a collective national consciousness. The legacy of stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, who wielded publications like Young India and Harijan as instruments of change, underscores the unparalleled influence of newspapers in shaping society. Historically, the press has been a mirror reflecting societal truths, a watchdog ensuring accountability, and a platform amplifying diverse voices.

Newspapers have been central to the articulation of ideas, the dissemination of information, and the fostering of debate and dialogue. The printed word has held power, credibility, and a permanence unmatched by fleeting digital narratives. Yet, the world of print media today faces an existential crisis. In an era dominated by smartphones, the internet, and instant news apps, the relevance of traditional newspapers is being questioned. Circulation and readership have declined

Advertisements, which once constituted the backbone of newspaper revenue, have shifted to digital platforms. The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated this decline, as lockdowns disrupted distribution networks and readers turned to online alternatives. The Fourth Estate, embodied by traditional media, has paved the way for the Fifth Estate, represented by social media, as youth increasingly gravitate toward digital platforms for their news and engagement. inaia, aespite its rich newspaper history, has not been immune to these global trends.

While the country boasts a tualised. Newspapers are

press—with publications in Hindi, English and regional languages—even stalwarts like Dainik Bhaskar and Malayala Manorama are grappling with reduced readership. Legacy newspapers such as Deepika, India's oldest surviving Malayalam publication, and Mumbai Samachar, the nation's longest-running newspaper, now struggle to adapt to the digital age.

The shift is not merely technological but also cultural. The younger generation's preference for quick, digestible content over in-depth reporting signals a change in information consumption patterns. Traditional newspapers, with their rich investigative journalism and nuanced storytelling, are increasingly viewed as slow and outdated.

The immediacy of apps like Daily Hunt and platforms offering free e-papers has made paying for physical newspapers seem redundant. This decline, however, should not overshadow the irreplaceable value of print media.

Unlike digital platforms prone to misinformation and algorithmic biases, newspapers have long been trusted for their credibility and editorial rigour. They offer a depth of coverage that ensures stories are not just told but examined and contexvibrant linguistic diversity in its archives of history, recording



LITERACY RATES AND A **CULTURE OF RESPECT** WELL-RESEARCHED **JOURNALISM**

> **ENABLED NEWSPAPERS** TO THRIVE **EVEN IN** A DIGITA

events with an accuracy and permanence that digital platforms, with their ephemeral nature, cannot replicate. Japan provides a remarkable case study in media literacy and the enduring power of print. Despite being at the forefront of technological innovation, Japan boasts the world's largest-circulated dailies, such as Yomiuri Shimbun with a circulation nearing 10 million and Asahi Shimbun not far behind. High literacy rates and a culture of respect for well-researched journalism have enabled newspapers to thrive even in a digital age. This example underscores the potential for print media to coexist with digital platforms when supported by an informed and engaged readership. Indian Newspaper Day is a

reminder to recognise and preserve this legacy. While print media must innovate to survive, readers, too, bear a responsibility to support credible journalism. The rise of epapers and hybrid models combining print and digitaloffers hope for the industry's evolution rather than extinction. Newspapers continue to play a vital role in fostering aemocracy.

They provide a platform for marginalised voices, hold power to account, and offer citizens the information they fessor; views are personal)

need to make informed decisions. At a time when digital echo chambers threaten the very fabric of public discourse, newspapers serve as a counterbalance, offering diverse perspectives and challenging groupthink.

The theme of survival is intrinsic to the narrative of Indian newspapers. Just as Hicky's Bengal Gazette persevered despite colonial censorship and competition, today's publications must navigate the challenges of the digital age. The story of newspapers is one of resilience and adaptation. From the handwritten Acta Diurna of Julius Caesar's Rome to Gutenberg's printing revolution, and from Hickey's modest four-pager to modern broadsheets like The Times of India, the medium has continually evolved to meet the needs of its time. As we celebrate Indian Newspaper Day 2025, it is an opportunity to reflect on the enduring significance of the printed word. While the medium may change, the principles of journalism-truth, accountability, and the public goodremain timeless. It is up to readers, journalists, and policymakers to ensure that these principles continue to thrive in an age of rapid technological

(The writer is an associate pro-

Breaking the cycle of violence: Lessons from personal trauma



CHANDRA

Violence against the weak manifests in countless forms—child abuse, bullying, ragging, molestation and domestic violence—leaving deep and often irreparable scars

iolence against the weak is a timeless and universal phenomenon. Child abuse, bullying, ragging, eve-teasing, molestation and domestic violence are only a few that can result in irretrievable damage to the psyche or can even have tragic consequences. I joined the hostel for the first time as a 12-yearold adolescent. I was out in the world, away from the shelter of my parental love, trying to overcome my insecurities.

One time a senior shouted at me to fetch a packet of cigarettes from the dormitory. I still remember my tears as I was roughly reprimanded for being tardy. I was scared of the hostel life. Three years later, I joined the college hostel. Ragging had not yet been banned and was openly indulged in by seniors. It was supposed to be a harmless fun activity to initiate the newly joined youngsters into college life. It had degenerated into something completely different.

One Sunday, we were forced to sit above the wardrobe and hurl choice profanities at

violence stop from my limited vocabulary. We were so traumatised that we started returning home over the weekends. When

our parents questioned us, we started bicycling into the desert on the weekends when ragging was at its peak. We slept in remote towns before returning to the campus at the start of the week.

We even spent a night in the waiting room of a railway station. We were particularly wary of one young man called the 'ragging king'. In time, after the freshers had been welcomed, I settled each other. I mouthed words down. I forgot my earlier end of the local or the school

trauma and looked forward to the next year when I would be bestowed the dreaded title by the new arrivals. One incident changed my outlook. I was ragging a fresher, who was terrified and not responding to my questions.

Frustrated, I barked at him to jump into a nearby well. Much to our horror, he turned around and ran towards it. Momentarily stunned, I must have run the fastest race of my life and managed to stop him in the nick of time. I was a changed person. The government stepped in to ban the practice. Sadly, it continues.

A recent news report mentioned ragging in several medical colleges where male seniors force fresh entrants to memorise and read aloud from booklets filled with profanities and promoting sexual violence against women, specifically against classmates and nurses.

The booklet also teaches freshers to look at women of all ages, including those in the 0-15 years age bracket, as sex objects. Many of us may have been at the receiving

bully. It exists even at the workplace, sometimes in the guise of the rude superior who would not think twice before throwing the file back at you, or the one preying upon the junior female colleague. Women do not have a pleasant experience travelling on public transport. They are afraid to step out

after sunset. Every day we read of brutal assaults and deaths. The list is endless. Many are unable to bear the trauma and give up on life. I am not a psychologist. The reasons might be more complex than blaming it on not inculcating the right values in the children. But, that can be a starting point.

We can teach our young what English author Brian Jacques wrote in one of the Redwall series of fantasy novels for children, "Defend the weak, protect both young and old, never desert your friends. Give justice to all, be fearless in battle, and always ready to defend the right." (The author is an electrical

engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)

US EXITS FROM PARIS AGREEMENT

Madam — American President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Monday, pulling the US out of the Paris climate agreement. The Paris Agreement provides a durable framework guiding the global effort for decades to come, marking the beginning of a shift towards net-zero emissions. Thus, at a time when the whole world prepares to celebrate the International Day of Clean Energy on January 26, Trump's decision to exit is a severe blow to worldwide efforts to combat global warming.

The way Donald Trump signed an order to withdraw the US from the Paris climate agreement for a second time reflects his party's hawkish stance on the agreement. In fact, the track record of the Republican Party shows its reluctance to make any commitment on an action plan on climate change. Even in the case of the Kyoto Protocol, President George W Bush had withdrawn the signature of the Democrat Vice President Al Gore, who had signed the Protocol on behalf of the US. The Republicans want any future American involvement in climate change agreements to be matched by equivalent commitments by developing country parties. Will recent severe natural disasters due to climate change, ranging from floods in Florida to wildfires in California, open the eyes of the Republicans?

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

LACK OF SKILLED WORKERS Madam— When the issue of the growing threat of unemployed youth came to the fore, a few industrialists expressed the fact that they were facing difficulty in getting skilled and employable youth to recruit in their firms. It was then the Union government came with the apprenticeship scheme under which willing unemployed youth are allotted firms to take training with a monthly incentive to trainees as well as the firm. Though 500 firms were to be identified to engage under this scheme, the number could not

Ban criminals from contesting election



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

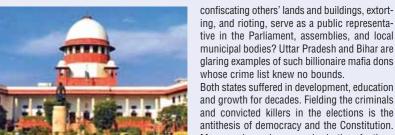
he Supreme Court observation barring criminals from contesting elections should be taken into cognisance by the government, the Elections Commission and the political parties. The SC should have passed the order incorporating such observation in the interim bail order, thus binding the EC, the government, and the parties. How can a criminal, violating laws, killing people, illegally possessing properties,

be achieved because of a lack of clarity and inbuilt lacuna in the scheme. The firms enrolled in the scheme do not have the scope to absorb all the trainees with employment. In some firms, in order to take the trainees, some experienced workers were to be dispensed away with its impact on production. Above all, the possibilities of employing all those trained

are not guaranteed. The point to be noted here is why those who are carrying certificates, diplomas, and degrees are rejected for want of employable skills. Education is given to the private players who are using it as a mere commodity meant for making huge profits with the least concern for the quality and the level of knowledge they part with to the students. The government lacks the moral courage and political will, for whatever reason, to put the private players on the track. The pro-rich policies of the ruling dispensation may also be a reason, as growing unemployment helps the employers exploit more work at lesser cost.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

confiscating others' lands and buildings, extorting, and rioting, serve as a public representative in the Parliament, assemblies, and local municipal bodies? Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are



whose crime list knew no bounds. Both states suffered in development, education and growth for decades. Fielding the criminals and convicted killers in the elections is the antithesis of democracy and the Constitution. Money and muscle power win elections for them even if in jails. Such a list is quite exhaustive across all political parties. If 25-30 percent of elected representatives have a criminal background, people are also to be blamed for their own decline and eclipsed future. Some political parties prominently field criminals and

of criminal backgrounds Vinod Johri | Delhi

SENIOR CITIZEN DEMAND CONCESSIONS

extremists in elections and depend on the cadre

Madam — The Union Budget 2025-26 is going to be presented in Parliament on the first of February. One of the pressing demands on the minds of many senior citizens is whether the Indian Railways will bring back concessions on train fares for senior citizens. The issue holds significant importance as it directly impacts about 15

crore senior citizens across the nation. The Indian Railways had, in March 2020, decided to withdraw the concessions providing a 50 per cent discount to female senior citizens and a 40 per cent discount to males on train fares. According to Railways norms, males and transgenders aged 60 and above and females aged 58 and above, are treated as senior citizens. It represents a pivotal opportunity for the government to demonstrate its commitment to elder care, social equity, and responsive governance by restoring concessions to senior citizens in the ensuing budget.

S K Khosla | Chandigarh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneér@gmail.com www.dailypioneer.com

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

FIRST COLUMN SHUN THE VIOLENCE, **EMBRACE PEACE**

True transformation lies not in vengeance but in reconnecting with the divine qualities of love and peace



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

oday we are living in a world where violence has become our culture. It may be seen in the hundreds of wars going on in different parts of the world or it may be seen through innumerable violent incidents that occur every day in cities and homes across the universe. So, what exactly has led to the spread of violence so much even though people strongly denounce it? We all know that the history of human civilisation is an epic saga of violence punctuated by episodes of relative calm. Violence, subtle and gross, manifest and incognito, has been the defining force of humanity's quest for power in the last two millennia. The rise and fall of empires, the religious crusades and socio-political uprisings down the ages were impelled by violence on a massive scale. One of the major reasons why violence has become so deeply embedded in the human psyche is that on the one hand, we denounce it but on the other hand we condone or even justify it. In the 21st century, which we all boast of living in, violence has been glorified in ingenious ways by the media, especially television, the internet and films. A world that has been fed so much on violence is no wonder becoming increas-



ingly dangerous to live in for its occupants. It's a known fact that today violence has become the means to seek political and social justice. Men kill men in the name of the almighty and later on, these killings are then justified as dharma by the custodians of religion when it is used for a righteous purpose. Amidst all these, a question that comes up is, Can one justify so much Violence? Or, can violence ever root out adharma (unrighteousness)?

Well!!!! To conquer dharma we need to first understand the true dharma of the self. We all must realise that good or evil are the traits of the human soul and even after death these traits or sanskar are carried on to the next birth. This sanskar may change or become stronger as per the person's karma in the next life. Hence, it follows that one may kill an evil person but one cannot destroy the evil in that person. It would instead increase due to feelings of hatred and revenge. Remember!! An evil act is bound to be punished as per the Law of Karma in the present or the next birth because there is a natural justice system that works infallibly and eternally. Hence, one must never think that if someone avenges a wrong by doing wrong in turn, he/she will not suffer. No!! The truth is that in this case, both persons will have to pay for their respective wrong actions by undergoing some suffering because any act done with ill will towards others is violence and it is bound to bring sorrow for the doer. Hence, a person may escape the laws of the land but his karma will catch up with him sooner or later for sure. We all need to understand the philosophy behind the word religion or dharma. Dharma in the true sense simply means living by eternal spiritual values such as peace and love. When we share love and goodwill with others it is bound to stir up similar feelings in that person. On the contrary, when we hate and harm others it is bound to spark ill will in them. The world that God created for us was a completely non-violent and harmonious world where no evil existed. Goodness exists eternally; it is when we begin to lose touch with our real values that we are enslaved by negative tendencies. We are all children of "Almighty" who is the ocean of love, peace and joy, so his qualities are our qualities too eternally, aren't they? That is why all humans resist hatred. They never resist love or joy. He is always merciful and benevolent towards all, so how can he justify violence? And the only way to bring peace and harmony back on earth is to empower ourselves spiritually and rid our minds of all neg-

world would become the one that it was, serene and peaceful. (The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist,

ativities. This will uproot violence completely out of the world and the

views are personal)

Renuka Ji Dam: Addressing Delhi's water woes



Conceived over half a century ago on Giri River in Himachal Pradesh, the Renuka Ji Dam is finally set to redefine water and energy security across six Indian states



he visionary Renuka Ji Dam project, conceived 58 years ago on Himachal Pradesh's serene Giri River, is finally tran-scending decades of delays to emerge as a game-changer. This landmark initiative promises to alleviate Delhi's chronic water scarcity while energising Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh with sustainable power generation. Beyond its functional benefits, the dam exemplifies federal cooperation and political resolve. Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually laid the foundation stone of this Rs 6,946-crore project on December 27, 2021. Now, with 95 per cent of procedural hurdles cleared, global tenders will soon be floated, paving the way for construction. Cost estimates have surged to Rs 8,262 crore, factoring a 5 per cent annual escalation. Targeted for completion by 2030, with operations commencing in 2032, this project's progress is critical for Delhi and beyond.

For Delhiites, the dam symbolises the realisation of a 58-year-old aspiration. The stored water will be routed to Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana through the Hathnikund Barrage, further reaching the Wazirabad and Okhla Barrages. Delhi's vater demand exceeds 1,200 million gallons daily (MGD), with severe short- THE GIRI RIVER, A ages during summer. The Renuka Ji Dam, promising 275 MGD, will bridge this deficit, bolstering domestic supply, industrial growth, and infrastructure develop-

Haryana leads with a 5.73 BCM share (47.82 per cent), contributing Rs 555.95 crore. Uttar Pradesh's 3.721 BCM (31.05 per cent) follows with Rs 361.04 crore. Rajasthan holds 1.119 BCM (9.34 per cent), contributing Rs108.58 crore. Himachal, Uttarakhand, and Delhi contribute Rs 36.67 crore, Rs 30.17 crore, and Rs 70.25 crore, respectively. Uttarakhand's share of water in the upper Yamuna basin is 0.311 BCM, which constitutes 2.60Rs30.17 crore of the total share. Together, the states allocate Rs 1,162.66 crore for this critical project.

Originally slated to showcase progress before Delhi's 2025 Assembly elections, the dam faced delays, pushing construction timelines by 5-6 months. Intervention by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

RENUKAJI,

NESTLED IN

HIMACHAL'S

SIRMAUR DISTRICT, IS IDEAL FOR THE DAM DUE TO ITS **GEOGRAPHICAL HYDROLOGICAL ADVANTAGES** YAMUNA TRIBUTARY, **ENSURES A** STEADY WATER

FLOW

could expedite design approvals and tendering. Local tensions remain high. The Jan Sangharsh Samiti criticised project authorities for inadequate rehabilitation efforts, including compensation gaps for displaced families. Activists demand higher pay-outs aligned with Public Works Department estimates, claiming the current compensation is insufficient. compensation is insufficient. Harikesh Meena, Managing Director of HP Power Corporation, refutes these allegations, stating Rs 1,573 crore has been disbursed, with 90 houseless families offered relocation options.

Himachal Pradesh is set to gain 200 million units of electricity annually, worth Rs 66 crore. Delhi has already transferred Rs 270 crore, funding 90 per cent of the Rs 300crore power machinery cost, underscoring the project's importance. Renuka ji, nestled in Himachal's Sirmaur district, is ideal for the dam due to its geographical and hydrological advantages. The Giri River, a Yamuna tributary, ensures a steady water flow.

The site also holds immense cultursignificance. Named after Goddess Renuka, the mother of Parashurama (an avatar of Lord Vishnu), the area is steeped in mythology. Renuka Lake, India's largest natural lake, draws pilgrims year-round. Ancient temples dedicated to Goddess Renuka and Lord Parashurama further enhance its spiritual and historical value. The project blends technological ambition with religious reverence, ready to address Delhi's water woes and power needs for generations.

The Rs 8,262.28-crore Renuka Ji Dam project, a 148-meter-high rock-filled structure, will transform water and power availability across six states. Submerging 1,508 hectares and displacing 7,000 residents, including 346 houseless families, the project spans 41 vil-

lages across 25 panchayats. Proposed in 1976, the dam faced decades of procedural hurdles. Initially estimated at Rs 4,596 crore

in 2015, costs have ballooned. A significant milestone was achieved in January 2019, when a MoU among the six beneficiary states, brokered by then Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, resolved water-sharing disputes. In 2022, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by PM Modi, approved financial support, pushing the project into execution mode. Located near Dadahu village, the dam will store 498 million cubic

meters of water, routed to Delhi-NCR, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Rajasthan via key barrages. As part of the PM Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, it will deliver 23,000 litres per second to Delhi. Additionally, incidental hydroelectric power generation (40 MW) will earn Himachal Rs120 crore annually. Technical Experts predict a 110 per cent increase in the Giri River's flow, ensuring reliable water supplies during lean periods. Despite challenges faced by displaced communities, the Renuka Ji Dam promises long-term benefits: improved water security for Delhi, agricultural irrigation, and energy generation marking it a milestone in cooperative federalism and infrastructure

development. Despite its potential, the project's journey was fraught with challenges. Environmental concerns, inter-state disputes, land acquisition hurdles, and funding delays plagued progress. Securing environmental clearances was a monumental task. Forested landscapes raised alarms over wildlife displacement and green cover submergence. Years of negotiations and compensatory afforestation plans eventually paved the way.

Inter-state discord over water-sharing ratios and financial contributions delayed progress. Himachal Pradesh had to acquire 1,477 hectares of land, including 909 hectares of forest. Protests and legal battles over compensation and rehabilitation compounded delays until enhanced packages and livelihood restoration initiatives placated affected communities. The project's escalating cost was another sticking point. Initially pegged at Rs 3,600 crore, delays ballooned the budget to Rs 6,946 crore by 2021. Financial deadlock broke when the central government agreed to fund 90 per cent of the cost under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). This eased the financial burden on states, with Delhi swiftly sanctioning Rs 1,066 crore as its share.

The central government played a crucial role in reviving the project. Integrating it into initiatives like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan and National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), underscored the dam's importance. Accelerated clearances, robust mediation, and funding commitments demonstrated political resolve. With construction set to commence by mid-2025 and completion targeted for 2032, strict oversight will ensure timely execu-

The Renuka Ji Dam epitomises cooperative federalism at its finestwhere the centre and states unite to tackle shared challenges. For Himachai Pradesh, it neraids eco nomic growth, energy self-sufficiency, and enhanced infrastructure. For Delhi, it is a lifeline, promising a reliable solution to its chronic water crisis. Beyond immediate benefits, the dam's capacity to regulate river flow and mitigate downstream flooding enhances its value as a climate-resilient infra-

As a testament to sustainable development, the Renuka Ji Dam underscores the synergy of political will, inter-state collaboration, and community engagement in overcoming complex challenges. By transforming Himachal Pradesh into a green energy hub and securing Delhi's water needs, the project exemplifies inclusive growth and environmental stewardship.
(Writer is a senior political analyst

and strategic affairs columnist based in Shimla; views are

Empowering panchayats: The key to achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 through community actions

India must transition from top-down governance to a model where community leadership is the driving force behind sustainable development

 ndia's development trajectory has been shaped by **▲**significant contributions contribution from the office of Prime Minister (PM), Chief Minister (CM) and District Magistrate (DM). To achieve the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 empowering Panchayat leadership, headed by Village Mukhiya (VM) is a critical

strategy.
The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 mandated the transfer of authority of 29 functions, underscoring their vital role in delivering services directly to the communities. Despite this mandate, Gram Panchayats (GP) lack functionaries and have limited infrastructure and capacity for planning and implementation. This often leads to either underutilisation



MANMOHAN SINGH

of allocated funds or prioritising local infrastructural projects decided by either the district or state. Addressing these challenges is crucial for India to meet its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve its Human Development Index (HDI) ranking. It requires building implementation of Localised

the capacity of GPs to adeptly identify, plan, and implement projects that align with the needs established through Gram Sabha.

The Panchayat Raj System established panchayats as the foundation of decentralised power, emphasising that sustainable development must begin with our smallest unit of democracy: the Panchayat, led by the VM (Sarpanch). Elevating the role of the VM akin to the PM and CM at the centre and state, supported by a strong administrative structure, can drive effective grassroots decision-making. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has grouped the 17 SDGs into nine themes, demonstrating India's commitment to achieving these goals through the GPs across India, are tasked with creating Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) that align with LSDG priorities. However, a survey of 800 panchayats revealed that only per cent of Sarpanches independently chose their LSDG themes using the Gram Panchayat Planning Facilitation Tool (GPPFT), while 34 per cent of themes were decided by Block officials, 22 per cent by Sarpanches or Sachivs, and 16 per cent were

SDGs (SDGs) by Panchayats.

directed by the state, reflecting a need for strengthening planning at the panchayat level. To develop Viksit Panchayats, four key actions are proposed: Support panchayat for last**mile convergence:** When a 13-year-old girl drops out of school, the responsibility



extends beyond the education department, requiring collaborative efforts across health, social welfare, and community development. A central coordinating body at the village level, led by the VM can drive such convergence. For instance, Anita Devi, Village Mukhiya of Bhetaura Panchayat in Gaya, Bihar has ine the institutional framework

embraced the 'Healthy Panchayat' LSDG theme. Collaborating with ASHAs, Anganwadi Didis, and Gandhi Fellows to achieve 'Zero Home Delivery' eventually boosting institutional delivery rates from 25 per cent to nearly 90 per cent in just one year. Replicating such successes requires empowering pan-chayat through convergence of funds, and functionary and administrative support.

Reimagine development of Panchayat Leaders: India has 2.6 lakh elected VMs, dedicated to strengthening panchaygovernance. Prime Minister's call to bring 1 lakh youth into politics is a great encouragement for local youths. To unlock their full potential, we need to reimag-

that focuses on capacity building for elected 'VM and Ward Members'. For example, Jyoti Behar Devi, Mukhiya in Gumla, Jharkhand, banned alcohol in her panchayat, focused on livelihood opportunities and also started the "Siti Bajo aur School Aao" campaign to boost school attendance, effectively transforming her community. Democratise data through

Panchayat: Village Mukhiyas, as key information providers of government schemes, need real-time access to comprehensive beneficiary data and scheme details. Implementing technology solutions that provide such access is paramount for informed decision-making and efficient governance. The Ministry of Panchayat Raj and the Ministry of Rural

Development has taken some initiatives which need further integration with planning and execution at the panchayat

Revitalise Village Committees Village-level committees such as School Management Committees, Village Health and Sanitation Committees, Jan Arogya Samitis, and Village Water and Sanitation Committees, play a pivotal role in fostering decentralised governance and community participation in development efforts. To achieve Viksit Bharat, these committees need to align to avoid duplication of efforts and promote community ownership.

(The writer is Co-Founder and CEO Aspirational Bharat Collaborative; views are personal)

Sanctions on Russia likely if Putin skips talks: Trump

PTI WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said he is ready to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Puti anytime, but at the same time warned that he would likely impose sanctions on Russia if the latter does not come to the negotiations table on the issue of Ukraine. "It sounds likely," Trump told reporters when asked if the US will impose additional sanctions on Russia if Putin doesn't come to the negotiation table

"The war should have never started. If you had a compe tent President, which you didn't, the war wouldn't have happened. The war in Ukraine would have never happened if I were the president,"

Trump said. "Russīa never would have gone into Ukraine. I had a very strong understanding with Putin. That would have never, ever happened. He disrespected Biden. Very simple. He disrespects people. He's smart. He understands. He disrespected Biden," Trump

"Also, the Middle East would have never happened because Iran was broke," he added. Responding to a query, Trump said he

is ready to meet Putin anytime. "Anytime they want, I'll meet. Millions of people are being killed... It's a vicious situation and they're now largely soldiers. A lot of people have been killed and the cities look like demolition sites,' he said."The thing with Ukraine is that many more people died than what you're reporting. You're not reporting the real numbers, and I'm not blaming you for that. I'm blaming maybe our government for not wanting to release those numbers," Trump told reporters.

Asked if the US will continue sending weapons to Ukraine, or will he turn off the tap soon, Trump said he is looking into the matter.

"We'll look into that. We're talking to (Volodymyr) Zelenskyy. We're going to be talk with President Putin very soon, and we'll see how it all happens. We're going to look at it

very soon," he said.
"One thing I do feel is that the European Union should pay a lot more than they're paying, because under Biden, I mean, we're in there for USD 200 billion more. Now it affects them... We have an ocean in between, right? The European Union should equal us.

We're in there for USD 200 billion more than the European Union. I mean, what are we, stupid? I guess the answer is yes," the president said. Trump also said that Ukraine President Zelensky told him that he would like to have peace.

"He's told me that wants to have peace very strongly, but it takes two to tangle. We'll see what happens. Anytime they want, I'll meet. I'd like to see that end. Millions of people are being killed. It's a vicious situation," he said.

Trump admn sends federal diversity staff on leave

Washington (PTI): President Donald Trump's administration is directing that all federal diversity, equity and inclusion staff be put on paid leave, and that agencies develop plans to lay them off, according to a memo Tuesday from the Office of Personnel Management

The memo follows an executive order Trump signed on his first day ordering a sweeping disman-tling of the federal government's diversity and inclusion programs that could touch on everything from anti-bias training to funding for minority farmers and homeowners.

The memo directs agencies to place DEI office staffers on paid leave by 5 p.m. Wednesday and take down all public DEI-focused webpages by the same deadline. Several federal departments had removed the webpages even before the memorandum. Agencies must also cancel any DEI-related trainings and end any related contracts, and federal workers are being asked to report to Trump's Office of Personnel Management if they suspect any DEI-related program has been renamed to obfuscate its purpose within 10 days or face "adverse consequences."

By Thursday, federal agencies are directed to compile a list of federal DEI offices and workers as of Election Day. By next Friday, they are expected to develop a list to execute a "reduction-in-force action" against those federal workers.

The move comes after Monday's executive order accused former President Joe Biden of forcing "discrimination" programs into "virtually all aspects of the federal government" through "diversity, equity and inclusion" programs, known as DEI.

That step is the first salvo in an aggressive campaign to upend DEI efforts nationwide, including leveraging the Justice Department and other agencies to investigate private companies pursuing training and hiring practices that conservative critics consider discriminatory against non-minority groups such as white men.

The executive order picks up where Trump's first administration left off: Ône of Trump's final

acts during his first term was an executive order banning federal agency contractors and recipients of federal funding from conducting anti-bias training that addressed concepts like systemic racism. Biden promptly rescinded that order on his first day in office and issued a pair of executive orders — now rescinded outlining a plan to promote DEI throughout the federal govern-

While many changes may take months or even years to implement, Trump's new anti-DEI agenda is more aggressive than his first and comes amid far more amenable terrain in the corporate world. Prominent companies from Walmart to Facebook have already scaled back or ended some of their diversity practices in response to Trump's election and conservative-backed lawsuits against them. Here's a look at some of the policies and programs that Trump will aim to dismantle: Trump's order will immediately gut Biden's wide-ranging effort to embed diversity and inclusion practices in the federal workforce, the nation's largest

Biden had mandated all agencies to develop a diversity plan, issue yearly progress reports, and contribute data for a governmentwide dashboard to track demographic trends in hiring and promotions. The administration also set up a Chief Diversity Officers Council to oversee the implementation of the DEI plan. The government released its first DEI progress report in 2022 that included demographic data for the federal workforce, which is

at the senior executive level. Trump's executive order will toss out equity plans developed by federal agencies and terminate any roles or offices dedicated to promoting diversity. It will include eliminating initiatives such as DEI-related training or diversity goals in performance

about 60% white and 55% male

overall, and more than 75%

white and more than 60% male

Trump's order paves the way for an aggressive but bureaucratically complicated overhaul of billions of dollars in federal spending that conservative activists ence for racial minorities and

The order does not specify which programs it will target but mandates a government-wide review to ensure that contracts and grants are compliant with the Trump administration's anti-DEI stance. It also proposes that the federal government settle ongoing lawsuits against federal programs that benefit historically underserved communities, including some that date back decades

Trump's executive order is a "seismic shift and a complete change in the focus and direction of the federal government," said Dan Lennington, deputy council for the conservative Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty, which has pursued several lawsuits against federal programs. The institute recently released an influential report listing dozens of programs the Trump administration should consider dismantling, such as credits for minority farmers or emergency relief assistance for majority-Black neighbourhoods.

Trump mulls 10% tariff on China starting Feb 1

Donald Trump on Tuesday said his team is discussing imposing a 10 per cent tariff on China starting February 1 based on the fact that the latter is sending fentany to Mexico and Canada. "We're talking about a tariff of 10 per cent on China based on the fact that they're sending fentanyl to Mexico and Canada," Trump told reporters at a joint news conference at the White House along with Oracle CTO Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son, and Open AI CEO Sam Altman.

In response to a question, Trump said he is looking at February 1 as the date

- Diluted

Place : New Delhi Date : 22-01-2025

Washington (PTI): US President for the tariffs. "For Mexico and China, we're talking about approximately 25 per cent (tariff)," the president said. Responding to another query, Trump said he did not "talk too much about tariffs" when he spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping last week. When asked if he has asked Xi Jinping to intervene to stop the war in Ukraine, Trump said China has not done very much on that. "He's got a lot of power. I said you ought to get it settled. I had that talk with President Xi the other day too. said we don't want that crap in our country. We've got to stop it. I would have stopped it.

M/S BHARAT BHUSHAN FINANCE & COMMODITY BROKERS LIMITED CIN-L67120DL1992PLC049038, Tel No: 011-49800900 Fax: 011-49800933 Email: commodities@bharatbhushan.com, Website:www.bbinvestments.in Regd. Office: 503, Rohit House, 3 Tolstoy Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER/NINE MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024

					(Rs.	in Lakhs)
Particulars	(Quarter Ended			Nine Month Ended	
Faiticulais	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	31.12.2024 (Unaudited)	31.12.2023 (Unaudited)	31.03.2024 (Audited)
1. Total Income from operations	131.00	18.18	14.87	43.10	49.93	71.34
Net Profit for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-14.72	8.41	3.35	7.76	18.54	27.98
Net Profit for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-14.72	8.41	3.35	7.76	18.54	27.98
Net Profit for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	-11.81	6.44	1.38	5.74	12.22	21.77
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	-160.36	59.66	170.01	85.29	409.05	472.42
6. Equity Share Capital	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04	338.04
Earnings Per Share (Face Value of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)						

-0.35

0.19

0.04

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/Nine Months ended December 31st, 2024 which have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by Board of Directors and filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the aforesai Unaudited Financial Results for the Quarter/ Nine Months ended December 31st , 2024 is available o the Stock Exchange website (www.bseindia.com) and on Company's website (www.bbinvestments.in). The above financial results were reviewed and recommended by the Audit Committee and approve The figures of the previous period have been regrouped/reclassified, wherever considered necessary



0.36

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS Director DIN: 00002421

Trump announces \$500 bn Al initiative

Washington (pti): US President Donald Trump announced a USD 500 billion investment in AI infrastructure through a new company, which is being created in partnership with Oracle, SoftBank and Open AI. The venture, called Stargate, adds to tech companies' significant investments in US data centres, huge buildings full of servers that provide computing power. The three companies plan to contribute funds to the venture, which will be open to other investors and start with 10 data centres already under construction in Texas. "That's a massive group of talent and money. Together, these world-leading technology giants are announcing the formation of Stargate," Trump announced on Tuesday at a White House news conference along with Oracle Chief Technology Officer Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son and Open AI CEO Sam Altman. "So, put that name down in your books because I think you're going to hear a lot about it in the future, a new American company that will invest USD 500 billion at least in AI infrastructure in the United States and very, very quickly, moving very rapidly, creating over 100,000 American jobs almost immediately," said Trump.

'I like competent people coming to US'

PTI WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he likes both sides of the argument on the H-1B foreign guest workers visa, noting that the country needs "very competent" and "great" people which is possible through this visa programme. Trump also said that he has also used the

H-1B visa programme.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in speciality occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China. "I like both sides of the argument, but I also like very competent people coming into our country, even if that involves them training and helping other people who may not have the qualifications they do. But I don't want to stop — and I'm not just talking about engineers, I'm talking about people at all levels," Trump said on Tuesday.

He made these remarks while talking to reporters at the White House during a joint news conference with Oracle CTO Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son, and Open AI CEO Sam Altman. The president was responding to a ques-

tion on the ongoing debate on H-1B visas within his support base. Indians are the main beneficiaries of the H-1B visas, which bring in the best of the

talent and brains from across the world.

Highly skilled professionals from India

walk away with the overwhelming num-

ber of H-1B visas - which is Congressional mandated 65,0000 every year and another 20,000 for those who received higher education from the US. While his close confidants like Elon Musk, the Tesla owner, support H-1B visas as they bring in qualified tech professionals, many of his supporters oppose it argu-

ing that it takes away jobs from

Americans. "We want competent people coming into our country. And H-1B, I know the programme very well. I use the programme. Maitre d', wine experts, even waiters, highquality waiters — you've got to get the best people. People like Larry, he needs engineers, Masa also needs... they need engineers like nobody's ever needed them,"

"So, we have to have quality people coming in. Now by doing that, we're expanding businesses and that takes care of everybody. So I'm sort of on both sides of the argument, but what I really do feel is that we have to let really competent people, great people, come into our country. And we do that through the H-1B programme," Trump said.

Since December, the debate on foreign guest workers visas for highly skilled pro-

fessionals, the H-1B, has intensified which has literally created divisions in both the Democratic and the Republican parties. Such a backlash initially came from the supporters of Trump who argued that this is eating away at the jobs of Americans. Both Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy immediately weighed in and supported the H-1B visas. However, influential Democratic Senator

Bernie Sanders asserted that the two close confidants of Trump are wrong.

The debate appeared to originate from a suggestion last month from Sriram Krishnan, Trump's pick for White House policy adviser on artificial intelligence, that Musk examines removing caps on green cards for skilled immigrants.

Aid flowing smoothly into Gaza: UN | 'Key Justice Dept.

United Nations (PTI): The United ing to clean up the roads. In his talks programmes, beginning with cashand the private sector are arriving and no major looting has been reported — just a few minor inci-

Nearly 900 trucks of aid entered Gaza on the third day of the ceasefire on Tuesday, the United Nations said. That's significantly higher than the 600 trucks called for in the deal. Muhannad Hadi, who returned to Jerusalem from Gaza on Tuesday afternoon, told UN reporters by video that it was one of the happiest days of his 35-year humanitarian career to see Palestinians in the streets looking ahead with hope, some heading home and some start-

Nations humanitarian coordinator with families at a communal kitchen for-work removing the tons of rubin Gaza said Tuesday trucks from run by the UN World Food ble in Gaza. But he said the UN must ne and elsewhere, he said. they all told him they need humanitarian assistance but want to go home, to work and earn money.

They don't like the fact that they have been depending on humanitarian aid," Hadi said

Palestinians talked about resuming education for their children and about the need for shelter, blankets and new clothes for women who have been wearing the same clothes for more than a year. He said a shipment of tents is expected in the coming days. Hadi, who is also the deputy UN coordinator for the Middle East peace process, said the UN hopes to start "early recovery"

make sure the banking system operating and electricity is back, stressing the critical role of UN member states and the private sector in early recovery.

Hadi said lawlessness and looting happen in any war situation but with the ceasefire in Gaza, the UN is hoping for a restoration of law and order, as he stressed that the minor incidents reported were not by organised criminals who looted UN convoys during the war. Since the ceasefire, he said some kids jumped on some trucks trying to take a food basket, and some other people tried to take bottled

officials reassigned'

Justice Department has reassigned key senior officials across multiple divisions as part of a leadership shakeup ahead of the expected confirmation of President Donald Trump's pick for attorney general, Pam Bondi, multiple people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday.

Among those moved to other positions inside the department is Bruce Swartz, the longtime head of the Justice Department's office of international affairs, which handles extradition matters, according to two people who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to discuss personnel moves.

As many as 20 or so officials in all have been reassigned. Another affected official is

George Toscas, a veteran deputy

division who, in addition to helping oversee major terrorism and espionage investigations, has also been a key supervisor in politically charged probes over the last decade, including into Hillary Clinton's handling of classified information and Trump's hoarding of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago

Justice Department spokesman did not immediately return a call seeking comment. The reasons for the moves were not immediately known. Though it is common for a new administration to appoint its own political hires at the top of the Justice Department, it is not standard for career lawyers to be reassigned. They serve the department across administrations and typically retain their positions even when control of the

estate.

assistant attorney general in the department changes hands. Israel to maintain control

PTI ■ JERUSALEM

Tsrael said it will maintain Loontrol of the Rafah border

Benjamin Netanyahu's office on Wednesday denied reports that the Palestinian Authority would control the crossing.

affiliated with Hamas who had been vetted by Israeli security would merely stamp passports at the crossing. It noted that, under international agreemovement of all people and Ĭsrael captured the Gaza side of the Rafah crossing last May, forcing it to shut down. Egypt, a key mediator in more than a year of negotiations that led to the ceasefire, has demanded that Palestinians control the

held hostages released in return

for hundreds of Palestinians

The statement said European

Union monitors would supervise the crossing, which will be

surrounded by Israeli troops. Israel also will approve the

imprisoned by Israel.

Gaza side. The war began when Hamasled militants stormed into Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Around 100 hostages still remain in Gaza, after the rest were released, rescued, or their

KEY CORP LIMITED

CIN No.:L65921UP1985PLC007547 Regd. Office:16/16-A, Civil Lines, Kanpur - 208001 Email: keycorpltd@gmail.com; Phone: 0512-3013416, 3010422, 2305416 EXTRACT OF UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS

l	FOR THE THIRD QUARTER ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2024 (₹ in Lakhs)						
		Current	Corresponding		Corresponding	Previous	
SI.	Particulars	Quarter	Quarter	Months	Nine Months	Year	
No	rai uculais	ended	ended	ended	ended	ended	
		(31.12.2024)	(31.12.2023)	,	(31.12.2023)	(31.03.2024)	
Щ		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)	
1.	Total Income from Operations	(372.33)	541.06	1091.38	1464.62	3229.16	
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period	(395.88)	507.46	1028.10	1412.01	3156.77	
	(before Tax, Exceptional and/or						
	Extraordinary items#)						
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period	(395.88)	507.46	1028.10	1412.01	3156.77	
	before tax (after Exceptional and/or						
	Extraordinary items#)						
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after	(395.88)	507.46	1028.10	1412.01	3157.11	
	tax (after Exceptional and/or						
	Extraordinary items#)						
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the	(414.97)	516.69	996.36	1449.87	1622.62	
	period [Comprising Profit / (Loss)	_ ` ′					
	for the period (after tax) and Other						
	Comprehensive Income (after tax)]						
6.	Equity Share Capital	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	600.00	
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation	000.00	000.00	000.00	000.00	5725.98	
1.	, ,	_	_	_	_	3123.90	
	Reserve) as shown in the Audited						
l . l	Balance Sheet of the previous year						
8.							
	(for continuing and discontinued	(6.60)	8.46	17.14	23.53	52.62	
	operations) - Basic & Diluted (in ₹)	(6.92)	8.61	16.61	24.16	27.04	
Γ							

Notes: 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 & Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as amended. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results are available on the websites of the Stock Exchange(s) and the listed entity. https://www.bseindia.com/stock-share-price/key-corp-ltd/keycorp/507948/financials-resultsspecial/. 2. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the board of directors of the company at its meeting held on 22.01.2025. The Statuory Auditor of the company have carried out a limited review of accounts of the company for the third quarter ended 31st December, 2024.

Place: Kanpur Date: 22.01.2025 By Order of the Board (G.D. Maheshwari) Whole Time Director DIN 00235209

'Canada will respond to US tariffs'

Toronto (PTI): Canada's outgoing prime minister and the leader of the country's oil rich province of Alberta are both confident that Canada can avoid the 25 per cent tariff US President Donald Trump says he will impose on February

Justin Trudeau and Danielle Smith will argue that Canada is the energy super power that has the oil and critical minerals that America needs to feed what Trump vows will be a "booming" US economy. But Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, the manufacturing and automobile hub of Canada, said a trade war is 100 per cent coming. Trump "declared an economic war on Canada", Ford said in an interview with The Associated

"And we are going to use every tool in our tool box to defend our economy.

Trudeau said Canada will retaliate if needed, but noted that Canada has been here before during the first Trump presidency when they successfully renegotiated the free trade deal. Ford said as soon as Trump applies tariffs, he will instruct Ontario's liquor control board to pull all American-made alcohol from the shelves.

"We are the largest purchaser of alcohol in the world. And I'm going to encourage all the premiers to do the exact same," Ford said, adding that there will be a

dollar-for-dollar tariff retaliation on American goods entering Canada.

We are going to target the Republican held areas as well. They are going to feel the pain. Canadians are going to feel the pain, but Americans will feel the pain as well," he said.

'A message to the countries around the world: if he wants to use Canada as an example, you are up next. He's coming after you as Trump pledged in his inaugural

address that tariffs would be coming in a speech in which he promised a golden era for America. He later said Canada and Mexico could be hit with the tariffs as soon as February 1, though he signed an executive order requesting a report coordinated by the secretary of commerce by April 1.

Trump said Tuesday that the 25 per cent tariff that he intends to place on Canada and Mexico as soon as February 1 would have 'nothing to do" with renegotiating the existing trade pact among the three countries. For him, the tariffs are all about

stopping unauthorised migration and the flow of any illicit drugs. The US president told reporters at the White House that, in his opinion, the amount of fentanyl coming through Canada and Mexico is "massive".

US Customs agents seized just 43 pounds of fentanyl at the Canadian border last fiscal year, compared to 21,100 pounds at the Mexican border.

About 60 per cent of US crude oil imports are from Canada. Despite Trump's claim that the US doesn't need Canada, nearly a quarter of the oil America consumes per day comes from Canada.

America's northern neighbour also has 34 critical minerals and metals that the Pentagon is eager for and is also the largest foreign supplier of steel, aluminum and uranium to the US. Nearly USD 3.6 billion Canadian

dollars (USD 2.7 billion) worth of

goods and services cross the bor-

der each day. Canada is also the top export destination for 36 US states. "Trump wants to usher in a golden age for the US," Trudeau said at a Cabinet retreat in Quebec called to deal with Trump's threats. 'If the American economy is going to see the boom that Donald

Trump is predicting, they are going to need more energy, more steel and aluminum, more critical minerals, more of the things that Canada sells to the United States every single day." On Tuesday, Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum stressed the need to keep "cool heads" and look at the wording of what Trump signed, rather than listen to the discourse surrounding it.

of Gaza-Egypt crossing

crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip during the first phase of the ceasefire with Hamas. A statement by Prime Minister

It said local Palestinians not

ments, this stamp "is the only way Gazans may leave the Strip in order to enter, or be received in, other countries." The truce, now its fourth day is supposed to bring calm to the war-battered Gaza for at least six weeks and see 33 Hamas-

bodies were recovered.

Prince Harry gets 'full, unequivocal' apology from Murdoch's tabloids

truth".

umental victory" and that the

settlement represents "vindi-

cation for hundreds of other

claimants strong-armed into

settling without getting to the

"After endless resistance,

denials and legal battles by News Group Newspapers,

including spending more than

GBP 1 billion in payouts and

in legal costs, as well as pay-

ing off those in the know in

order to prevent the full pic-

ture from coming out, News UK is finally held to account

for its illegal actions and its

blatant disregard for the law,"

said David Sherborne, reading

out a statement on behalf of

Praising Prince Harry and

Lord Tom Watson, former

Labour MP and the other

claimant in the case

Sherborne said the trial had

led to a "historic admission"

from NGN because of their

A trial was set to begin at the Royal Courts of Justice in

London on Tuesday, but three

requests for adjournments and a Court of Appeal bid

meant the case remained

unopened before the settle-

Prince Harry's lawyer went on

to say that there should be

investigations into NGN's "illegal actions and its blatant

'The rule of law must now

run its full course. Prince

Harry and Tom Watson join

others in calling for the police

and parliament to investigate

not only the unlawful activi-

ty now finally admitted, but

the perjury and cover-ups along the way," added

Watson, reading out his state-

ment, called for NGN owner

Rupert Murdoch to make a

"personal apology" to Harry

and his father, King Charles.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that

DAVE KWOKSING CHANG

S/o Norman Chang is applying

to the Secretary to the Gol

in the MHA for naturalization and that any person who

knows any reason why

naturalization should not be

granted should send a written

signed statement of the facts

to the Secretary.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients Sh. Rajesh Sharma S/o Lt. Sh. Dharamveer
and Snh. Deepa Sharma W/o Sh. Rajesh Sharma R/o B1/35, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-89, and also at B-6/48,
Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-89, have severed all their
relations with their son viz. Sh. Raghav Sharma, R/o B1/45, Charles Sharma, R/o

1/35, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-89, also at 8-6/48

Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-89, and also disowned debarred him from all their movable/immovab

roperties due to his misbehave and abusing my clients ch. Raghav Sharma is also not caring for the necessities of life of my clients. If any person(s) deals with Sh

Raghav Sharma, such person(s) shall do so at his/their

ahul Jain (Advocate) D-4 Swami Shardhanand Colony Bhals

CHANGE OF NAME

t is for general information that I. Benu

Urf Sugandha W/o Yogesh Kuma

residing at G-37, Man Sarovar Park,

Shahdara, Delhi-110032 declare that

name of mine has been wrongly

vritten as Benu @ Sugandha in my

minor son namely Siddhant (aged 15

ot be responsible in any manner for the same

on risks and costs, and in such a case my clients sha

disregard for the law".

the 40-year-old royal.

"sheer resilience".

ment emerged.

Sherborne.

PTI LONDON

Britain's Prince Harry on Wednesday settled his legal case against Rupert Murdoch's News Group Newspapers (NGN), publishers of 'The Sun' newspaper, which offered a rare "full and unequivocal" apology to the now US-based Duke of Sussex and agreed to pay "substantial damages".

Harry, the younger son of King Charles III, had brought legal action against NGN over allegations of unlawful information gathering by journalists and private investigators between 1996-2011.

NGN, which also ran the now-defunct UK tabloid 'News Of The World', had denied any unlawful activity took place at 'The Sun'.

"NGN offers a full and unequivocal apology to the Duke of Sussex for the serious intrusion by 'The Sun' between 1996 and 2011 into his private life, including incidents of unlawful activities carried out by private investigators working for 'The Sun," states the NGN statement read out at the High Court in London.

"NGN also offers a full and unequivocal apology to the Duke of Sussex for the phone hacking, surveillance and misuse of private information by journalists and private investigators instructed by them at the 'News Of The World'. NGN further apologises to the Duke for the impact on him of the extensive coverage and serious intrusion into his private life as well as the private life of Diana, Princess of Wales, his late mother, in particular during his younger years," reads the statement.

"We acknowledge and apologise for the distress caused to the Duke, and the damage inflicted on relationships friendships and family, and have agreed to pay him substantial damages," it adds.

Harry's lawyer spoke to reporters outside the court soon after to declare a "mon-

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, SUBHASH CHANDR, VERMA S/o LATE KULDEEP LAL VERMA, R/o B 84,DOUBLE STOREY,RAMESH NAGAR,NEV DELHI-110015 have applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from lease hold to fre hold vide File No.F.4(78)1975/CE in DDA. Th original documents i.e.Demand-cum-Allot ent Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possessio and Mutation Letter dated 21.04.1997 of th above said property has been lost. An NCR/LF NO.2514751/2025 dated 21.01.2025 to this NO.2514751/2025 dated 21.01.2025 to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi.Any person(s)claiming any right,interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents,may write/contact with above named person at above Address/Phone No.9811132323 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.The person claiming any right, interest, objection with

ASSIFIED

Shevgaon, Notary Public Delhi.

Bodhegaon,

Kamal, Mother of-No.14672157K Hav Patil Rajendra Dattatraya, R/o-Vill-Harali Kh, Post-Harali Bk, Teh-Gadhinglaj, Dist- Kolhapur, Maharashtra- 416502, have changed my name from Kamal to Kamal Dattatray Patil, vide affidavit dated 22/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi

Rajendra Dattatraya, R/o-Vill-Harali Kh, Post- Harali Bk, Teh-Gadhinglaj, Dist- Kolhapur, Maharashtra- 416502, have changed my name from Dattatraya to Dattatray Ishwar Patil, vide affidavit dated 22/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1300)C

B'desh court acquits Zia in 10-year-old sabotage case

Acquitted BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday in a sabotage case filed in the southeastern Cumilla district 10 years ago. Additional District and Session Judge Court-2 of Cumilla Afroza Jesmin passed the order as there was no evidence against 79-year-old Zia, who is now undergoing treatment in London, the state-run BSS news agency reported. The court observed that the case was filed on political grounds and harassment, the agency said.

The case was filed against 32 people, including Zia, in the Special Powers Act, 1974, at Chouddagram Police Station in Cumilla in connection with damaging and setting fire to a covered van during

Zia was the 32nd accused in the case.

No specific evidence was found against Zia and she has been acquitted, Public Prosecutor Kaimul Haque Rinku was quoted as saying by bdnews24 news portal. He added that 32 people were named in the FIR, but 42 peo-

ple were charged afterwards. Of them, 36 people have been removed from the case. The decision on six others will be taken later as they received a suspension order in favour of them in the case.

Last week, the Supreme Court acquitted Zia, her party's Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman, and all other suspects in their appeal over the Orphanage Trust graft case, overturning the High Court's earlier 10-year prison sentence. She was sentenced to 17 years in prison for graft in 2018 under the rule of her

Zia had been imprisoned for more than two years. On March 25, 2020, the Hasina government suspended her sentence and granted her conditional release through executive order. Subsequently, the government extended her sentence suspension and release period every six months, upon

application. She appeared in public on November 21, 2024, at Dhaka Cantonment to Bangladesh's Armed Forces Day reception at the invitation of the Chief Adviser of the interim government Muhammad Yunus.

Zia is ailing and travelled to London earlier this month for medical treatment. She served as the prime minister of Bangladesh from March 1991 to March 1996, and again from June 2001 to October

Houthi rebels release crew of commercial vessel

Dubai (PTI): Yemen's Houthi rebels said Wednesday they released the crew of the Galaxy Leader, a vehicle carrier seized in November 2023 at the start of their campaign in the Red Sea corridor.

The rebels said they released the sailors after mediation by Oman. The crew of 25 included mariners from the Philippines, Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine and Mexico. The Iranbacked Houthi rebels said they hijacked the ship over its connection to Israel. They then had a campaign targeting ships in internation-

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, AMITAYU MUKERJEE S/O GOPAL KRISHNA

MUKHERJEE, C/o FLAT NO 203, SECOND FLOOR, TOWER G, GOLF CITY PLOT NO 8 SECTOR 75, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDH

NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH 201301, declare hat name of mine in my PASSPORT No.K1138207 have been wrongly written as

AMITAYU MUKERJEE. The actual name of mine and its spellings is as AMITAYU MUKHERJEE respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that

ave complied with other legal requireme

lisbursed a Loan to Mr. Praveen Jaiswal and

VIs. Sonika Jaiswal (under Loan Accoun

wis. Sofilia Jaiswal (under Loan Account No. 609710491) against the mortgage of Unit No. 179, VBHC VAIBHAVA, Village Karampur and Danganheri, Tehsil Tijara Bhiwadi Rajasthan. It has come to the notice of my client HDFC Bank Ltd., that the original

of my client filter Bank Luc. that the original Sub Lease Deed dated 20.05.2016 in favour of Smt. Sonika Jaiswal and Shri Praveen Jaiswal have been misplaced. It is hereby appealed to the general public that whosoever finds the same may kindly return

ne same to the Branch Manager, HDFC Bank td., The Capital Court, Munirka, Outer Ring Road, Olof Palme Marg, New Delhi - 67 or ne undersigned. If anybody found misusing

ne documents mentioned herein, the same shall be at his/ her/ their own risk and cost.

Karnail Singh, (Advocate), K-8, LGF Jangpura Extn,

New Delhi-110014. 9953683363/9811163363

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Elizabeth Roche claims to be owner and in

possession of Flat No. 48-F, Block 7, on

FF, Jasola, N.D.- 25 after death of Mevyr

Roche and being the only legal heir of Late Mervyn Roche and by virtue of Will

lated 07.12.2001 executed by Mervyn

Roche reg. vide doc no. 9700 ,said Mervyn

Roche was the owner of said property by

virtue of Conveyance Deed dated

02.03.2000 regd vide Doc. No. 2810 &

Elizabeth Roche has agreed to sell the said Property to Sayeed Ahmad & said

Sayeed Ahmad has agreed to create

mortgage in favour of our clients Axis Bank

Ltd., Himalaya House, CP Branch, N.D.

any person/s having claim against the said

Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale

exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered

or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, lien or

otherwise howsoever, are hereby intimated

to notify the same in writing to us with

supporting documentary evidence at the

address mentioned below within 7days

from the date hereof, failing which the clain

or claims, if any, of such person or persons

will be considered to have been waived

and/or abandoned and our client shall

proceed with the disbursement of loan and

subsequent creation of mortgage in respec

House No.2 (LGF), NRI Complex, N.D-19

T.N.1156/024/025

Vishal Diwan (Advocate)

For Diwan and Company LLP

al waters, which only stopped with the recent ceasefire in Israel's war on Hamas in the Gaza

A representative for the Galaxy Leader's owners had no immediate comment. The Bahamas-flagged vessel is affiliated with an Israeli billionaire Abraham "Rami" Ungar, who is known as one of the richest men in Israel. The Houthi attack on the Galaxy Leader saw the rebels launched a helicopterborne raid. Propaganda footage of the raid has been played constantly by the Houthis, who even shot a music video aboard the ship at one

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

SSA-42/34/2024-TT-SSA/I/892083/2025

Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha Axom, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-tendering process for supply of Lab

equipment for integrated science lab, physics lab, chemistry lab and

To participate in this tender process through e-procurement document bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have

to register in the portal https://assamtenders.gov.in by themselves. The bidder who have downloaded the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the

website https://assamtenders.gov.in, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000.00 (Rupees five thousand) only. The tender should be submitted online as per date and time of submission 🚉 समाप्र विभाव

Janasanyog/CF/3383/24/23-Jan-25

Sd/-Mission Director Samagra Shiksha Axom Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

MOIDS

lew Okhla Industrial Development Authority Administrative Building, Sector-6, NOIDA-201301 (U.P.)

E-Tenders are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes / amendments & corrigendum etc.

(1) 53/GM (E&M)/S.M./E/M-III/24-25, D/o Village (Strengthening of Street Light in Ragni Park, Shiv Mandir & Barat Ghar in Village-Barola), Noida. Cost : Rs. 92.35 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 03.02.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 04.02.2025 at 11.00 AM.

(1) 20/GM (E/M)/SM(E/M)-I/E.T./2024-25, Supply of small & big crane for Noida Traffic Police, Noida. Cost: Rs. 97.97 Lacs Which can be uploaded by date 27.01.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 28.01.2025 at 11.00 AM.

General Manager (E&M) Office: Sector - 5, Noida NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Mobile No. 9818399999 GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH WEBSITE OF THE BOARD NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT (APPROX.) IN RUPEES DETAILS/EMAIL BALANCE WORK OF UP-GRADATION OF INFRASTRUCTU SERVICES INCLUDING TRIAL RUN FOR 3 MONTHS AND 21.01.2025 9416139509 HSTIDC 478.87 LACS DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD OF 3 YEARS THEREAFTER IN HSIIDC, IE NARWANA

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in 13/2025/40/31973/1/27/7 **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.) Bhopal, Date 20.01.2025

Ref No.: 570 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

Cost of Bid Probable Earnest Contract Deposit 15,000/-2025 UAD EMPANELMENT OF AGENCIES FOR ARTISTIC 3,01,87,500/-1,50,937/-397291_1 PAINTING AT DIFFERENT LOCATION IN BHOPAL CITY UNDER SWACHH BHARAT MISSION FOR GIS Corrigendum and Amendment for above NIT shall not be issued separately in newspapers & correction

would be Published on website only Executive Engineer (SBM) Municipal Corporation, Bhopa **kotak** Kotak Mahindra Bank

NOTICE

Locker Hired by GEETA SHARMA & PAWAN SHARMA having address at R N 21 Rasoolpur Navada G B Nagar NR Gunjanplay School Noida Sector 62 Uttar Pradesh-201301 with Kotak Mahindra Bank C-25 ,SG-16 Ground Floor Tower-2 , Stellar IT Park, Sector-62 Noida - 201309 remains un-operated from last 7 years, 7 months.

All the 3 letters earlier sent to GEETA SHARMA & PAWAN SHARMA calling upon them to clear dues and to operate the locker has returned unserved and they are not contactable

It is hereby informed that despite this notice, if dues not cleared and locker is not operated by **GEETA** SHARMA & PAWAN SHARMA within 90 days from the date of this notice, break open of the said locker will be done on April 16 2025 at around 12p.m.

e: Rear portion of First Floor without it of rights 'said floor' built on Rear portion of bearing No. 12-A, area measuring 105.2' amtrs, 'said portion' situated at Unde ill Lane, Civil Lines, known as Propert aaring No. 12-A/3, situated at Under Hiane, Civil Lines, New Delhi; hereinafte ferred to as the 'said property' totice is hereby given to the general publiculuting Banks, Financial Institutions, etc.

t, as informed by our client, Mr. Samaks el, he is the sole and absolute owner of th that, as informed by our client, Mr. Samaksh Goel, he is the sole and absolute owner of the said floor of the said portion of the said property vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. Mohd. Ahsan and Mrs. Tasleem Parveen and registered as Document No. 4698, in Book No. I, Volume no. 6220, on pages 171-178, on 28.05.2016. (SRO-I)in his favour. In this connection, our client has further informed us that the following original document namely Sale deed executed by Mr. Prabhjot Singh Chhabra in favour of Mr. Mohd. Ahsan and Mrs. Tasleem Parveen in respect of said floor of the said portion of the said property and registered as Document No. 2638 on 126.03.2016 has been lost, misplaced and not traceable. This document form part of the chain documents of the said floor of the said portion and hereinafter called the "said document." An FIR regarding loss of the said document has been lodged with Delhi Police Crime Branch vide LR No. 2513899;20:12025. Now our client intends to mortgage the said floor with Aditya Bird Housing Finance Ltd for availing loan facility. If the aforesaid original said document the property and registered as possible said floor with Aditya Bird Housing Finance Ltd for availing loan facility. mortgage the said floor with Aditya Birfa Housing Finance Ltd for availing loan facility. If the aforesaid original said document is found or has been found by any person, the same may be returned and delivered to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below. Further, if any person, body, institution is having any claim and/or objection in respect of the said floor , he/she/they may raise his/her/ their objection/s, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 10 days of publication of this notice. Otherwise, after expiry of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, after expiry of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, after expiry of 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, no objection shall be acceptable and the said floor shall be mortgaged by our client in favour of Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ld., and no objection shall be acceptable against such mortgage. General Public may also take note that any deal or transaction done by anybody on the basis of the said document shall be illegal and to binding on our client. The person doing so shall be liable to be prosecuted under the law. SHIVKANT ARORA, ADVOCATE FOR M/S INTELLECTIVE LAW OFFICES A-74, LOWER GROUND FLOOR,

Guru Nanak Dev This is to inform to all concern that Ja Narain Prakash s/o Shri B.N. Sharma r/o University, Amritsar 49 Arjun Nagar Safdarjung Enclave, New

Advertisement No.1/2025 Online applications are invited for the various Non-Teaching posts the University. registration of application for these posts will start w.e.f 24-01-2025 and end on 13-02-2025. Last date for submitting Hard copy of the online submitted application is 20-02-2025. For further details website University http://www.gndu.ac.in Amritsar Registrar 22-01-2025

NA/12/27652/2023/41011 Dated CHD :- 1/22/2025

Delhi 110024 who is the original allottee

of Type-1 Residential Flat No. N- 425

Jalvayu Vihar, Sector-25, Noida, Distt

GBNagar, U.P., had sold the said property

on Special Power of Attorney (SPA) basis

o Bela Chadha d/o Shri G.P.Chadha r/o A-

299. Defence Colony. New Delhi 110024

hich is duly Registered in the office o

S.R. Noida, Dated 23/04/1991, and the

Agreement to Sell was executed, which

vas not Registered. So it is informed to al

concerned that the said flat in going to the

ransferred in favour of Meera Sharma

S/o G.P. Chadha & W/o Joginder Kuma

Sharma, r/o A-299, Defence Colony, Nev

Delhi 110024 on basis of SPA. If anyon

has/have any objection he/she may file

proof in the Group Housing Department

of Noida authority within 15 days from the

date of Publication of this Notice.

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.

[APPENDIX IV-A]

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTEY

proviso to rule 8 (6) of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the Public in General and in particular to the below mentioned borrower & mortgago that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to The Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised officer of The Secured Creditor, will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"BASIS THROUGH "SALE BY e-auction

	Name of Borrower, Mortgagor & Branch.	(a) Date of Demand Notice (b) Possession Type/Date. (c) Demand Amount.	Description of Property.	Reserve Price.	(a) Earnest Money Deposit. (b) Bid Increment amount. (c) Date & Time of Inspection. d) Last date/Time of EM. k KYC Submission. e) Date/Time of E-Auctic
1.	Sh. Rajesh Soni Slo. Sh. Diwan Singh Soni, JK/23/778 (52701) JK Loan account no. 00038110007496. (Borrower & Mortgagor) Janakpuri Branch	(a) 04-02-2019 (b) Physical/ 25-06-2019. (c) ₹12,93,450/ together with further interest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable in the Loan account from time to time, from 31-01-2019 till the date of payment.	BUILT UP GROUND FLOOR, AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., i.e., 41.80 SQ. MTRS., (9FT. X 50 FT.), OUT OF KHASRA NO. 317, BEARING PROPERTY NO. E-5/1, CONSISTING WHAT SOEVER THEREON AND WITHOUT ROOF RIGHTS, WITH ADJOINING COMMON STAIRS & ENTRANCE, SITUATED AT VILLAGA SHAHDARA, DELHI-110094, AND WHICH 1110094, AND WHICH STOUNDED AS: EAST: PROPERTY OF SH. SHYAM SINGH, WEST: PROPERTY OF SH. SHYAM SINGH, NORTH: PROPERTY OF SH. SHYAM SINGH,	Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Only (₹15,00,000/-)	(c) 29-01-2025 11.00 ar

KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., HEAD OFFICE AT C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE, PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEAR JANAK CINÉMA, NEW DELHI-110058, The Secured C

e. www.kangrabank.com.

The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s. e-Procurement ferchnologies Limited (Auction Tiger), and for detailed Bid/Tender form, terms and conditions of the said sale and procedure of submission of Bid/Tender, are available from their website at https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net STATUTORY NOTICE AS PER RULE 8(6) & RULE 9 (1) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002

GALI 15 FT.WIDE

This notice also be considered as a notice to the above named borrower/mortgagor of said loan, to pay the dues in full before the date of sale, failing which the property will be sold on the above mentioned

Format C-I (for candidate to publish in Newspapers, TV)

Declaration about criminal cases

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of 2011 (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India &Anr.)

Name and address of candidate: ABHISHEK DUTT S/O LATE KAMAL K DUTT, House No. D-18, Third Floor, South Extension Part 2. New Delhi -110049

Name of political party: **INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS** (Independent candidates should write "Independent" here)

Name of Election: **ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NCT 2025** *Name of Constituency: AC-42-KASTRUBA NAGAR CONSTITUENCY

I ABHISHEK DUT (name of candidate), a candidate for the above mentioned election, declare for public information the following details about my criminal antecedents:

about my chimilal antecedents.					
(A) Pending criminal cases					
SI.	Name of Court	Case No.	Status of	Section(s) of	
No		and dated	case(s)	Actsconcerned and brief description of offence(s)	
1.	COURT OF SH KARTIK TAPARIA JMFC- 03/SED/SAKET ii	4995/2021	CHARGES NOT	-IT IS THE CASE OF PROSECUTION THAT ON 15.07.2021, AT AROUND 3.00 PMTO 5.00 PM ACCUSED PERSONS WERE FOUND VIOLATING COVID-19 NORMS BY NOT WEARING MASK AND FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING.THEY WERE ALSO FOUND TO BE GOING IN A LARGE GROUP AND TAKING OUT A POLITICAL RALLY.	

(B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences **NOT APPLICABLE**

	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE	NOT APPLICABLE
SI. No.	Name of Court & date(s) of order(s)	Description of offence(s) & punishment imposed	Maximum Punishment Imposed

*In the case of election to Council of States or election to Legislative Council by MLAs, mention the election concerned in place of the name of the constituency.

THE PIONEER O

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Swati W/o- No.16026537Y Hav Aghav Ganesh Tukaram, R/o- Vill & PO- Bodhegaon, Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra-414503, have changed my name from Swati to Aghav Swati Ganesh, vide affidavit dated 22/01/2025 before

PD(1297)C

I, Taramati, Mother of-No.16026537Y Hav Aghav Ganesh Tukaram, R/o- Vill & Shevgaon, Distt-Ahmadnagar, Maharashtra- 414503, have changed my name from Taramati to Aghav Taramati Tukaram, vide affidavit dated 22/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1298)C

PUBLIC NOTICE PD(1299)C I, Dattatraya, Father of-No.14672157K Hav Patil

> Schedule of Property "Plot No. MAR-P-BE-113, admeasuring 266.71 Sq Yards (223.003 Sqm) in the residential plotted colony known as "MARBELLA", situated in the revenue estate of Village Maidawas, District Gurgaon, Haryana and falling within the boundaries of the Sector-55 and 66 Gurugram (Gurgaon), Haryana, India." M/s SLG LEGAL

rears) in his school records. The actual name of mine is Benu Urf Sugandha which may be amended accordingly. PUBLIC NOTICE My client, Mohd. Afaque S/o Late. Sikander Khan, aged 65 yrs, R/o RZ-517. Gali No. 25, Tughalakabad Extension, New Delhi - 110019, has severed all relations with his son Mohd. Aamir aged 34 yrs. My client will not be responsible for any acts,

Mohd. Aamir shall have no right, title or interest in any of the properties of R.K. Gupta (Advocate) Enrl.No.D/706/86 Ch. No. 129, Chambers Block

done by Mohd. Aamir and any

person dealing with him shall be

doing so at his own responsibility.

Saket Court, New Delhi-110017

Public Notice is hereby given to whosoever it may concern that our client Mrs. Kusum Verma intends to urchase the schedule property from its owner viz., Mrs ayal Gupta who intends to sell the same to our client. f any person / entity has/have any objection, claim lispute, right, title, interest, lien or charge, etc or an ther impediment whatsoever the said property or has other impediment whatsoever the said property or has/ have any objection for the above intended sale transaction, or otherwise has any knowledge of such claims, rights, title, interest, lien or charge etc or any their impediment whatsoever in regard to the schedule property then such person he/she/any entity may inform/hotfiy/provide its objections/claim they amy contact the undersigned with the documentary proof/evidence substantiating his/her/their objections/claims/ details of dispute/s within Seven (7) days from the date of this publication (on the below referred email/or what's app message on the number given below). In case no objections/claim or entitlement is received within the stipulated period then our client will proceed to complete the formatilities for purchase of the property with the above owner in respect of the Schedule Property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

RBI Monetary Policy Committee member Nagesh Kumar advocates two inflation rates

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $R_{\text{Committee}}^{\text{BI} \quad \text{Monetary}}$ member Nagesh Kumar has suggested that there should be two inflation rates - one including food prices and the other without food prices - so that relevant rates could be taken into account for policy

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran in the Economic Survey 2023-24 had pitched for excluding food inflation from the rate setting calls, saying that the monetary policy has no bearing on the prices of food items, which are dictated by supply side

"I think there is a healthy debate on what should be the whether overall headline inflation rate or inflation rate excluding the food products, which are, you know, very seriously affected by seasonal demand, supply mismatch," Kumar told PTI while responding to a question on suggestions made in the Survey excluding food inflation while setting benchmark interest



The weightage of food in the overall consumer price inflation, which stands at 46 per cent, was done in 2011-12, and needs to be revisited

"I think we should have two inflation rates, one including food inflation and one without food inflation... So the relevant rate could be considered for what, which particular policy

parameter one is looking at," he said.

India introduced the inflationtargeting framework in 2016 under which the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is mandated to keep retail inflation at four per cent, with a margin of two per cent on either side.

The benchmark policy rates are decided bi-monthly by the

RBI on the basis of movement in consumer price index, which includes food, fuel, manufactured goods and select services.

Responding to a question on high food prices, Kumar said retail inflation slowed to a four-month low of 5.22 per cent in December.

"A large part of this 5.2 per

cent is because of the food prices inflation, and then also a seasonal mismatch of vegetable prices...And that corrects by itself, when more supplies come to the mandis, we should see inflation being restrained much more, Kumar added.

India's current macroeconomic situation, he said slowdown in India's economic growth to a sevenquarter low of 5.4 per cent in the second quarter was a temporary, transient kind of slowdown.

to Kumar, According reflected the lag effect of the very strong squeeze in capex of the government in the first quarter because of the election code of conduct, but the capex started to pick up in the second quarter.

"We expect a strong growth in the second half of the year, and overall. I think we should be making up somewhere around 6.5 per cent or 6.6 per cent," he

Responding to a question on outlook of the Indian economy in FY26, Kumar said the performance of the Indian economy will be slightly better next fiscal year than this year.

Irregularities found in one rupee crop insurance scheme for farmers

Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Manikrao has admitted irregularities implementation of the one rupee crop insurance scheme for farmers, noting places of worship were shown as agricultural lands to claim benefits.

More than four lakh crop insurance applications, some filed even by those residing outside Maharashtra, have been rejected, Kokate on Tuesday said, adding a "bogus industry" has come to light which involves non-eligible people seeking benefits of the scheme.

The minister, however, asserted that no money has been actually lost as funds were not transferred by the government into the bank accounts linked to bogus applications.

Speaking to the media here, Kokate said instances of malpractice in the scheme have been identified in several aspects, including cases where mosques, temples and vacant lands were falsely declared as agricultural lands to claim benefits. "I have instructed district

collectors to take immediate action," he said.

The crop insurance scheme



was introduced in the 2023 budget by the then deputy chief minister and finance minister Devendra Fadnavis. Under the scheme, farmers can get crop insurance for just Re one. Before the scheme, farmers had

to pay the company two per cent of the insurance premium. The agriculture department received complaints from farmers about the scheme's implementation, chiefly on grounds of non-payment of the insurance amount as well as mismatch of records.

Agriculture Secretary Vikaschandra Rastogi later headed a committee which compiled the complaints and conducted a probed into them. Kokate said, "Over four lakh crop insurance applications were rejected across the state. Some of these applications

were filed by people from outside Maharashtra. We have taken significant steps to address the irregularities. Farmers will be issued unique ID cards linked to Aadhaar to

ensure transparency.' An updated database of farmers is being prepared, the minister said, adding that significant reforms will be introduced in the scheme.

Asked how the large-scale bogus claims could be made, Kokate attributed much of the malpractice to Common Service Centres (CSCs), where people involved in data entry of details of farmers are paid Rs 40 per application.

The operators of such centres filed bogus applications to earn more. We have ordered action against 96 such centres," he

I like competent people coming to US: says President Trump



PTI WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump has said he likes both sides of the argument on the H-1B foreign guest workers' visa, noting that the needs competent" and "great" people which is possible through this visa programme. Trump also said that he has

programme.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign speciality

that require occupations of the talent and brains from theoretical or technical Technology expertise. companies depend on it to

"I like both sides of the argument, but I also like very competent people coming into our country, even if that helping other people who may not have the qualifications they do. But I don't want to

stop- and I'm not just talking

about engineers, Í'm talking

hire tens of thousands of

employees each year from

countries like India and

about people at all levels, Trump said on Tuesday. He made these remarks while

talking to reporters at the White House during a joint news conference with Oracle CTO Larry Ellison, Softbank CEO Masayoshi Son, and Open AI CEO Sam Altman. The president was responding to a question on the ongoing debate on H-1B visas within his support base. Indians are the main beneficiaries of the H-1B

visas, which bring in the best

across the world. Highly skilled professionals from India walk away with the overwhelming number of H-1B visas which is Congressional mandated 65,0000 every year and another 20,000 for those who

While his close confidants like support H-1B visas as they bring in qualified tech professionals, many of his supporters oppose it arguing that it takes away jobs from

received higher education

from the US.

PTI ■ MUMBAI

We want competent people

H-1B, I know the programme very well. I use the programme. Maitre d', wine experts, even waiters, highquality waiters -- you've got to get the best people. People like Larry, he needs engineers, Masa also needs... They need engineers like nobody's ever needed them," Trump said. "So, we have to have quality people coming in. Now by doing that, we're expanding businesses and that takes care of everybody. So I'm sort of on both sides of the argument, but what I really do feel is that we have to let really great competent people, people, come into our country. And we do that the through programme," Trump said. Since December, the debate

coming into our country. And

on foreign guest workers visas professionals, the H-1B, has intensified which has literally created divisions in both the Democratic and the Republican parties

EPFO adds 14.63 lakh net NSE adds members in November

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Retirement fund body EPFO has added 14.63 net members in November 2024, a growth of 4.88 per cent over the same month last year, according to the latest payroll data.

The growth in net member additions signifies increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits, bolstered by EPFO's effective outreach initiatives, a labour ministry statement said.

On a monthly basis, net member additions rose by 9.07 per cent over October 2024, the ministry said.

The EPFO enrolled around 8.74 lakh new members in November 2024, up by 18.80 per cent over the year-ago month and a 16.58 per cent rise against October 2024, the provisional data showed.

aspect of the data is the members minance of the 18 group, with 4.81 lakh new members added in this age significant 54.97 per cent of the total new mary the total new members added also depicts a significant year- 14.94 per cent.



in November 2024.

Net member additions in the age group of 18-25 years are approximately 5.86 lakh for November 2024, reflecting an increase of 7.96 per cent compared to the previous month of October 2024.

This is in consonance with the earlier trend which indicates that most individuals joining the organised workforce are youth, primarily first-time job seekers, the ministry said. The payroll data highlights

The ministry said a noticeable that approximately 14.39 lakh exited subsequent This figure represents an 11.47 per cent increase compared to the previous month of October 2024. It

on-year growth of 34.75 per cent in November 2024. These members switched their jobs and re-joined the

the ambit of EPFO and opted transfer accumulations instead of applying for final settlement thus, safeguarding long-term financial well-being and extending their social security protection.

establishments covered under

Gender-wise analysis payroll data unveils that out of the new members added during the month, around female, it said.

The comparison with the previous month of October 2024 shows an increase of

Research, Geojit Financial

European markets were trading higher on Wednesday. In Asian

markets, Tokyo and Seoul were

settled on a positive note while

Hong Kong and Shanghai

closed in the negative territory. Wall Street had ended higher

International oil benchmark

Brent Crude was trading 0.49

per cent higher at USD 79.68 a

Services said.

on Tuesday.

one crore investors in five months

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) on Wednesday said its unique registered investors have crossed the 11 crore mark, with the latest one crore addition taking place in just five months, reflecting investor participation in the stock market through direct means. Investor registrations at the NSE have experienced a remarkable acceleration in recent times, with a 3.6 times

jump in the last five years. It took 14 years since the NSE's commencement of operations in 1994 to reach one crore investors. The pace then quickened, with the next 1 crore registrations taking about seven years, followed by another 3.5 years for the next crore and the the fourth crore took just over a

The rate of growth has since quickened significantly, with each additional one crore investors being added in roughly six-seven months, while the last one crore investors were added in just over five months, reflecting a shift in investor enthusiasm and participation in the stock market through direct means,"

NSE said in a statement. In the last five months, daily unique registrations have consistently ranged between 47,000 and 73,000. This growth has been including strong market performance.

driven by several key factors, advancement of digitisation, heightened investor awareness, financial inclusion efforts, and

In 2024, the Nifty 50 index delivered a return of 8.8 per cent while the Nifty 500 index saw an impressive 15.2 per cent gain. Indian markets have had positive returns for the past nine consecutive years.

Rupee rises 25 paise against US Dollar



PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated 25 paise to close at 86.33 (provisional) against the US Wednesday, on supported by positive domestic equities and soft US dollar

Forex traders said the rupee is

likely to witness high volatility with a negative bias ahead of key events in the global and domestic economic landscape. Moreover, the overall uncertainty about the global economy continued to weigh on both currencies and commodities, keeping investors

on edge. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 86.56 against the greenback. During the day, the local unit touched an intraday high of

86.30 and a low of 86.71. It finally closed at 86.33 (provisional) against the US dollar, up 25 paise from its previous close

On Tuesday, the rupee fell 13 paise to 86.58 against the US "We expect the rupee to remain

strength in the US dollar and overall weakness in the domestic markets. Importer demand for dollars may also pressurise the rupee. However, any extended sell-off in crude oil may support the rupee at lower levels," Anuj Choudhary -Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said. Choudhary further noted that

markets may see some volatility

on incoming statements and

announcements by the Trump administration. "USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of \$6.20 to 86.65," he Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

0.15 per cent to 107.89 as traders pondered over the Trump Tariff Plan. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.48 per cent to USD 79.67 per barrel in

currencies, was trading down

futures trade. Crude oil prices had fallen due to fears of tough US policies and had touched USD 78 per barrel, a 4 per cent decline from highs following President Trump's mention of increasing US oil output.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 566.63 points, or 0.75 per cent, to settle at 76,404.99 points, while the Nifty rose 130.70 points, or 0.57 per cent, to

23,155.35 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Tuesday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 5,920.28 crore, according to largely weak on underlying exchange data.

Sensex, Nifty rebound on buying in Infosys, HDFC Bank, firm global trends

Finance,

Benchmark Sensex

points and Nifty regained 23,150 level on Wednesday following gains in blue-chip stocks Infosys, HDFC Bank and Tata Consultancy Services, and firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex surged 566.63 points or 0.75 per cent to close at 76,404.99. During the day, the benchmark surged 624.77 points or 0.82 per cent to hit an intraday high of 76,463.13 on the BSE.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty climbed 130.70 points or 0.57 per cent to settle at 23,155.35. In the intraday session, the Nifty rose 144.9 points or 0.63 per cent to



Pharmaceutical, Bajaj Finsery, Technologies, Bajaj HDFC Bank IndusInd Bank and Kotak

interactions.

Mahindra Bank were among the gainers. Tata Motors, PowerGrid, Axis

Bank, State Bank of India, NTPC, Tata Steel and Adani Ports were the major laggards. benchmark indices rebounded amidst heightened

volatility following better-thanexpected results from a major private bank. The IT sector led gains, recovering from recent losses, while mid and small-cap stocks continued underperform due to valuation concerns," Vinod Nair, Head of

barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors

(FIIs) offloaded shares worth Rs 5.920.28 crore on Tuesday. The BSE Sensex plummeted 1,235.08 points to settle at 75,838.36 and the broader NSE Nifty plunged 320.10 points to close at 23,024.65 on Tuesday.

Some equity research firms shutting shops after SEBI's new guidelines on research analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $M_{\text{new}}^{\text{arkets regulator SEBI's}} \\ \text{guidelines} \\ \text{on} \\$ research analysts (RAs) are several equity research firms publicly announcing plans to shut down their shops due to heightened compliance and operational requirements.

Securities Exchange Board of India (Sebi), on January 8, came out with guidelines for Research Analysts in a bid to curb fraudulent stock recommendations and illegal practices in the securities market.

guidelines The new necessitate research firms to comply with stricter measures such as measures such as profession. However, for maintaining records of established RAs, these

conducting compliance audits, and following Knowcompliance Your-Customer procedures and requirements have led to increased operational costs for smaller entities. Consequently, a few firms including Sentinel Research,

Stalwart Advisors, and Mystic Wealth announced their plans of shutting their research services citing significant operational and compliance burden. Market experts said that the new guidelines have notably

lowered the threshold for

individuals to register as

RAs, making it easier for

newcomers to enter the

guidelines have imposed heightened compliance and operational requirements. They believe that the new regulations are too stringent and could undermine the quality of research in the

market.

Sandeep Parekh, founder of Finsec Law Advisors, posted on microblogging site X that Sebi is "going way overboard in its regulations and

shutting down competent

and honest advisors and

researchers from the

that will remain will be incompetent and dishonest, or incompetent or dishonest advisors," he added. Neerai Marathe, operates independent firm Sentinel research

"If it goes down this path, all

Research, also expressed his dismay on social media. He had paused his research services last year when the

draft RA regulations were first announced, hoping for more clarity and more guidelines. balanced However, upon reviewing the final regulations, he stated that the rules were even more burdensome than expected.

"Last year, when the proposed RA regulations came, I had paused my

research services sentinelresearch.In. hope was that the actual regulations would be better in terms of conditions and compliance and I shall restart after getting clarity. Well, the actual regulations have turned out to be much worse! I too shall be discontinuing my research services portal," he added. Stalwart Advisors, which has been operating its equity research service "Treasure Trove" for over a decade, announced it would be closing its operations. The firm cited the increased operational and compliance

requirements, including the rule that limits subscription fees to a quarterly payment model, as a key factor in its decision.

Liverpool beats Lille to reach Champions League round of 16

PTI ■ LIVERPOOL

iverpool became the first team to guarantee a place in ⊿the last 16 of the new Champions League format by beating Lille 2-1 on Tuesday, while Barcelona fought back from two goals down to stun Benfica 5-4 in

Elliott's bouncing, deflected shot gave Liverpool its seventh win from seven games, just after 10-man Lille had equalized following Mohamed Salah's opening goal.

Liverpool needed a point at Anfield to be sure of reaching the round of 16 as one of the top eight teams in the league stage, skipping the playoff round for teams ranked ninth to 24th.

Salah raced through in the 34th minute to sweep Liverpool ahead with his 22nd goal in all competitions this season. And when Lille's Aissa Mandi was sent off just before the hour mark, Liverpool looked certain to extend its 100% record in the league

But Anfield was stunned when Canada striker Jonathan David didn't take long for Liverpool to regain the lead through Elliott's deflected effort five minutes later. "All my life I've dreamt of playing Champions League football, not only for my boyhood club but to play here at Anfield in front of our fans and especially to score, it's kind of a pinch-me moment," Elliott said.

Barcelona's comeback win It was a night of high drama in the Champions League with 33 goals scored across nine games. Nine of them came in Barcelona's battle

with Benfica.

Raphinha scored in stoppage time to complete a rousing comeback as Barcelona won in Lisbon despite having been 4-2 down with less than a quarter of an hour remaining.
Benfica's Vangelis Pavlidis scored

the third-fastest hat trick at the start of a Champions League game, with two of his goals coming after errors by Barcelona goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. Barcelona stays second with 18 points from seven games, and is now unbeaten in six games in all competitions since the new year.

"We came with the mindset that converted from close range to we could turn the game," level the score in the 62nd. It Raphinha said. "We never gave up we could turn the game,"



and managed to grab a win." Robert Lewandowski scored two penalties for Barcelona to stay the Champions League's top scorer on

goals, one ahead of Raphinha, who also scored twice. Another Spanish club staged a

a 90th-minute winner to lift Atletico Madrid past Bayer Leverkusen 2-1. Atletico lost comeback as Julian Alvarez scored Pablo Barrios to a 23rd-minute

red card and went into half time 1-0 down to a Piero Hincapie header for Leverkusen.

Alvarez scored in the 52nd and had the momentum when Hincapie was sent off for a second yellow card, before Alvarez struck again to take the win and lift Atletico to third.

Villa slides out of the top eight

With Prince William watching on, Aston Villa's hopes of automatic qualification for the round of 16 took a blow after a 1-0 loss to

Villa led the standings early in the league phase of the competition after winning its first three games. But defeat to Monaco left the Premier League club eighth. Wilfried Singo's goal at a corner in the eighth minute was enough to secure the win for ninth-place

Dortmund slump continues Borussia Dortmund's 2-1 loss at Bologna increased the pressure on

coach Nuri Sahin in Dortmund's fourth consecutive loss at the start of the new year in all competitions.

Serhou Guirassy gave Dortmund, last season's runner-up, the lead with a chipped penalty and ran to celebrate with Sahin.

It looked like the Champions League could provide a muchneeded boost for a team floundering in the Bundesliga, but two goals in two minutes from Thijs Dallinga and Samuel Iling-Junior changed the game for previously winless Bologna.

Results elsewhere meant Bologna will be heading out of the competition despite its win, since the Italian club can't finish in the top 24. Sturm Graz and Red Star Belgrade are also out after losing

Tuesday. Atalanta beat Graz 5-0, strengthening the Italian club's push to qualify directly for the round of 16. Atalanta finished the evening fourth.

PSV Eindhoven hung on for a 3-2 win at Red Star despite losing defender Flamingo to a red card just after halftime while leading 3-0. Stuttgart eased to a 3-1 win over Slovan Bratislava, which was already eliminated and has lost all seven of its games. Club Brugge and Juventus drew 0-0.

Europa League

In the only Europa League game of the night, Galatasaray missed a chance to go third in the table, giving up a 3-1 lead to draw 3-3 with last-place Dynamo Kyiv.



Australian Open: Ben Shelton criticises TV interviewers

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

merican tennis player ABen Shelton criticized on Wednesday some of the questions and comments made by post-match TV interviewers at the Australian

After Shelton reached the semifinals at the Grand Slam tournament, he followed his final answer at his news conference by saying: "One thing that I just want to say before we're done: I've been a little bit shocked this week with how players have been treated by the broadcasters."

He began by referencing the flap over a television entato on-air insults about Novak Djokovic, which caused the 24-time Grand Slam champion to refuse to speak the broadcaster, Channel 9, after one match.

Djokovic eventually relented after receiving public apologies from the network and its employee, Tony Jones. "I don't think that was just a single event," Shelton said. "I've noticed it with different people, not just myself."

Shelton went on to mention the interview with 19-yearold American Learner Tien after his upset win over 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev ended at about 3 a.M. In the second round at Melbourne Park last week, calling it "embarrassing and disrespectful."

That awkward exchange included a series of statements to Tien, rather than questions, including observations by the interviewer that "19-yearolds are not meant to be that good" and "I know where you live, by the way

Shelton also noted two of his own on-court TV interviews. After the 22-year-old's win against 38-year-old French veteran Gael Monfils in the fourth round, interviewer Roger Rasheed, a former tennis coach, attempted to make a joke by saying, "He's almost your Dad."

Both Shelton and Monfils are Black. Shelton responded to Rasheed: "Was that a Black joke?" To which Rasheed replied, "I'm not sure."

Then, after Shelton's 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (4) victory over Lorenzo Sonego in the quarterfinals Wednesday, he was asked about facing either the defending champion, Jannik Sinner, or an Australian player, Alex de Minaur, next, with the interviewer pointing out that the spectators likely would be cheering against Shelton in the semifinals, either way. Shelton answered: "I know I've got a few people out in the crowd who are going to

be pulling for me, too. At his news conference, Shelton said that what the interviewer said about the fans' support "may be true, but I just don't think the comment is respectful from a guy I've never met before in

Shelton closed by saying: "I feel like broadcasters should be helping us grow our sport and help these athletes who just won matches on the biggest stage enjoy one of their biggest moments. I feel like there's just been a lot of

428 athletes from 19 teams to take part in KIWG 2025

The Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) 2025 that starts on Thursday will feature 428 athletes from 19 competing teams.
Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

is set to declare the Games open in Leh on Thursday.

Nineteen teams, comprising states, Union Territories, and institutional outfits, will compete over five days across two events – ice hockey and ice skating – marking the first part of

A traditional Ladakhi-style opening ceremony has been planned to welcome 594 participants, including 428 athletes. The second part, featuring snow games

like skiing, will be hosted by Jammu and Kashmir from February 22 to 25. 'Sports Minister will attend the opening ceremony at the iconic Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Sports Complex in Leh on Thursday and will declare the games open," an official spokesperson said.

Mandaviya will be joined by a host of dignitaries, including the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Brigadier Dr BD Mishra, and senior officials from the



Sports Authority of India and the Ladakh Autonomous Development Council.

This will be the second time Ladakh hosts the Winter Games, now in its fifth edition, the spokesperson said.

"All teams have arrived in Leh, which is at an altitude of 11,562 feet. Himachal Pradesh has the largest contingent, comprising 78 athletes and support staff," he added.

Haryana (62), hosts Ladakh (52), and Maharashtra (48) will compete in the Ladakh edition. Uttarakhand, which will host the National Games later this month, has the smallest team, comprising just one athlete.

The fifth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games will be held across two phases in Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, from January 23 to 27 and February 22 to 25, respectively, covering two ice and four snow disciplines, the spokesperson said.

Apart from identifying talent, the Kĥelo India Winter Games aim to showcase a region's art, culture, heritage, and promote tourism through sports. Several young skaters will compete at the Nawang Dorjay Stobdan Sports Complex and Gupuks Pond, the venues for short- and longform skating events.

Ice hockey matches will be played at the NDS Complex and the Ladakh Scotts Regimental Centre.
The technical conduct of the events will be supervised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) with support

from national sports federations. The KIWG opening ceremony will be covered live by Doordarshan Sports, and events will be live-streamed daily

until January 27. In KIWG 2024, Maharashtra won 20 skating medals, including six golds.

Karnataka also secured six golds but finished second with eight total medals, compared to Maharashtra's 20. Hosts Ladakh, who made history with two Khelo India golds in speed skating, finished third with 13 medals overall. The ice hockey competition is expected to be fiercely contested, with teams from the Army, ITBP, Himachal Pradesh, and UT-Ladakh vying for supremacy.

defending The Army, champions, and ITBP, reigning women's titleholders, have dominated national and Khelo India Winter

Borussia Dortmund fires coach Nuri Sahin



PTI ■ DORTMUND

 ${
m B}^{
m orussia}$ Dortmund fired coach Nuri Sahin on Wednesday, a day after its 2-1 loss to Bologna in the Champions League.

extended Dortmund's losing streak to four games since the new year and dropped last season's Champions League runner-up to 13th in the standings. Dortmund is also struggling in the Bundesliga, where it's 10th.

'We really value Nuri Sahin and his work, we had wished for a long cooperation and until recently we hoped that we could manage to turn things around in sporting Lars Ricken said in a

statement. "After four losses in a row, with just one win from the last nine games and currently being 10th in the Bundesliga, unfortunately we lost our faith in being able to achieve our sporting goals in the current configuration. This decision

is personally painful for me too, but it was no longer avoidable after the game in Bologna." There was no immediate

word on a successor. Dortmund's next game is Saturday in the Bundesliga against Werder Bremen. The 36-year-old Sahin had

been Dortmund coach since June. He had been an assistant to Edin Terzic, who resigned following

Sindhu, Lakshya to lead | Mainz signs US midfielder Lennard Maloney team in Badminton Asia PTI MAINZ Mixed Championship

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu and World Championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen will lead a 14-member Índian team for the Badminton Asia Mixed Team Chammpionship to be held in Qingdao, China from February 11-16. India had clinched a bronze

medal in the last edition of the competition in Dubai in 2023. 'The national selectors have given importance to the world rankings and current form of the players while selecting the squad that will have HS Prannoy and Malvika Bansod as the second men's and women's singles players respectively," the Badminton Association of India said in a release.

The strong Indian team will also have star doubles players Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and



Chirag Shetty. The women's doubles pairing could be either Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly or Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto. Tanisha will also pair up with Dhruv Kapila in mixed doubles while Sathish Kumar K and Adya Variyath will be the second combination.

BAI secretary general Sanjay Mishra said, "We did well by winning the bronze medal two years ago, but the target this year is to reach the finals, and then anything is possible, and we will go all out.

Midfielder Lennard Maloney has joined Mainz Bundesliga Heidenheim, where he was dropped last month after expressing his wish to leave. The 25-year-old Maloney, had informed Heidenheim he was going to join Mainz when his contract expired at the end of the season, got his wish Tuesday when the clubs agreed on a

"Maloney has been able to prove himself in the Bundesliga over the last year and a half," said Mainz sporting director Niko Bungert said. "His preferred position is as a number six and as a player, he's the perfect fit for Mainz 05. He brings a strong mentality, as well as a willingness to run hard, and is also strong at winning challenges and aerial duels. Lennard will find it easy to fit into our midfielder because he lacked squad with his warm, open



personality. Maloney signed a contract to 2028.

After 18 rounds of the league, Heidenheim is in the relegation playoff spot while sixth-place Mainz is on for course European qualification.

Heidenheim coach Frank Schmidt said in December he wasn't picking the defensive commitment amid a series of

disappointing performances. "I can only count on players in this phase who are 100% focused on the interests of Heidenheim," Schmidt said. "From a coaching perspective I simply want another focus and another level of performance from my vice-captain."

The Berlin-born Maloney has made two appearances for the United States — both

Dortmund's 2-0 loss to Real Madrid in the Champions League final, saying the club needed to enter a "new era" without him.

Enrique must outwit Guardiola when PSG meets Manchester City

PTI PARIS

uis Enrique credits Pep Guardiola with inventing arguably the "perfect model" of

attacking soccer. He must now outwit him when Paris Saint-Germain faces Manchester City in the Champions League Wednesday, in a match both teams must win to avoid the prospect of early elimination in

the new-look format. "It's a special game. Not just for the two teams but because I will come across a friend who I shared many great moments with as a player and a person," Enrique said on Tuesday through a

translator. "What brings us closer is our vision of football: To try and be better than the opponent on the ball, to constantly press the opponent. We can fine-tune our Enrique and Guardiola have game but we have a similar way of **history**

seeing things." Guardiola rose to fame as a coach during a glory era for Barcelona, winning the Champions League twice and multiple trophies. Guardiola's hypnotized opponents with a pulsating brand of attacking soccer led by Lionel Messi that was the envy of Europe. Guardiola then turned City into a Premier League force.

The 4-3-3 with Barcelona was almost the perfect model. He opened up a different way of playing in England and did so with success, he opened many doors for others," Enrique said. "Pep has innovated throughout his career and is not scared to do so again."

Guardiola won the Champions League again with City in 2023, while Enrique's PSG reached the semifinals last season



"We were mates in Barcelona and

think we have an incredible connection.

our families are really close friends," Guardiola said. "Our friendship will be eternal. They (Enrique's family) love us (and) I Enrique the tireless dynamo who "Everyone has to be ready," Enrique said. "Man City do a lot of things tactically, they switch positions a lot. But we pose a lot

scored 109 goals for the club; of problems. The team that is best Guardiola the astute mine- prepared or best develops its sweeper protecting defense.

As coaches, they are more

"If anything can define both Pep and I as coaches (it) is that we like to attack. We like to defend properly but we like to devise our game plan to be better than the opposition," said Enrique, who won the Champions League with Barca in 2015. There are a lot of things I must think about when I have my cappuccino tomorrow morning.

Namely that PSG is in danger of going out. So is City.

PSG is 25th out of 36 teams, and City is only one point ahead in 22nd. The bottom 12 are eliminated.

prepared or best develops its ideas will win." City is turning the corner after a

slump that had Guardiola interrogating himself. City has rebounded with 22 goals in the past five games. Attacking midfielder Phil Foden is finding form and prolific striker Erling Haaland has signed a mega-contract until 2034.

'City are also very at ease with a transition game and have very dangerous players in attack," Enrique said. "We will see who makes the most of the possession. We want to keep the ball, it's when you retain possession that you have the most chance of

winning." As long as you score. Wasteful PSG has netted just six

goals in six games and was blanked by Bayern Munich and

Arsenal. hope for a horrible in 2018-19.

performance Guardiola tomorrow," iokingly.

Mbappe's shoes not filled The void left by Kylian Mbappé since he joined Real Madrid is

still felt. He scored a career-high 44 goals last season. "We obviously had a player of reference who scored an immense amount of goals," Enrique said. "I don't think any one of our players previously showed they could score 25 goals

in a season, so we have to resolve it through the team. PSG's main scoring threat comes from winger Ousmane Dembélé, who has recovered from a heavy

"I feel much better," he said on Tuesday. "I had five or six days when I wasn't feeling well." Dembélé has 11 goals from 22 games and is well on course to beat his best of 14 with Barcelona

Australian Open: Swiatek will face Madison Keys in semifinals

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

ga Swiatek is dominating her Australian Open opponents the way no one has at Melbourne Park since Maria Sharapova in

Swiatek's latest lopsided win came via a 6-1, 6-2 score in the quarterfinals against No. 8 seed Emma Navarro on Wednesday. The No. 2-seeded Swiatek not only

has not dropped a set so far in the tournament, but also has lost a grand total of only 14 games as she seeks her first title at Melbourne Park and sixth Grand Slam trophy overall. Sharapova was the last woman to reach the Australian Open semifinals having dropped fewer than 15 games.

"She does everything with 100% conviction and intensity," Navarro said about Swiatek. "She has a different style of movement and play. It's tough to not be sort of affected by that and not feel like, OK, I have to do everything at the same speed that she's doing it.' So that was something, for sure, I felt a little bit today.

Swiatek will face No. 19 Madison Keys of the U.S. On Thursday

night for a berth in the final. The other women's semifinal is No. 1 Arvna Sabalenka, the two-time defending champion, against her good friend, No. 11 Paula Badosa. Keys, whose best showing at a major was getting to the title match at the 2017 U.S. Open, was a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 winner against Elina Svitolina and is into her third

semifinal in Australia.

'Iga is tough to beat, because she has a lot of spin, kind of naturally, on both sides. She's a good server. She's a good returner. She moves incredibly well," Keys said. "The biggest thing that makes her so difficult to beat is, because she moves so well, if you miss your spot just slightly, she has enough time to recover, and then the point goes back to neutral."

There's an American in the men's semifinals, too: No. 21 Ben Shelton got that far in Melbourne for the first time with an entertaining 6-4, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (4) win over unseeded Lorenzo Sonego of Italy. Shelton was a semifinalist at the 2023 U.S. Open and now will meet No. 1 Jannik Sinner, the defending champion, or No. 8 Alex de Minaur in that round. Sinner faced



de Minaur on Wednesday night. The other men's semifinal Friday is Novak Djokovic vs. Alexander

Navarro, Swiatek benefited from a no-call of a double bounce on a point she won a video review, she wasn't allowed in the second set. Because Navarro to have the sequence checked.

continued playing the point and did not immediately stop to ask for

Either way, Swiatek's dominance was pretty clear, even if she was modest about things afterward.

Well, I think it was much more tougher than the score says," said Swiatek, a 23-year-old from Poland. "Emma's a fighter ... And I wanted to stay focused and keep

my intensity." Swiatek has won four of five career

matchups against Keys, 29. "Madison is a great player and experienced, so you never know," Swiatek said. "I'll be just focused on myself."

Using a new racket this season, Keys is on a 10-match winning streak, including a title at a hard-court tune-up event in Adelaide. Her run to the semifinals in Melbourne includes victories over two past runners-up at the Australian Open, Danielle Collins and Elina Rybakina.

Keys' past losses in the semifinals in Melbourne came against eventual champions Serena Williams in 2015 and Ash Barty in

"I think I play a little bit smarter for sure ... Probably a little bit less fearless," Keys said.

Svitolina, a three-time Slam

semifinalist, was in control during the first set. But Keys made some tactical adjustments, including looking for more opportunities to get to the net. She won 23 of the 26 points when she moved forward and ended up with a total of 49 winners, 23 on her powerful forehand side.

The one difficulty Keys had was getting going in her return games. But she finally converted her seventh break chance to lead 4-2 in the second set.

"Getting to the point where I'm starting to appreciate my career for what it has been, and it doesn't have to have a Grand Slam in order for me to look at it and say, I've done a really good job, and I've really left everything out there.' Now, while that's obviously still the goal, there have been periods of my career where it felt like if I didn't win one, then I hadn't done enough,," Keys said.

"That kind of took a lot of the fun out of the game, and there were times where it felt paralyzing out on the court because it felt as if I needed it to happen, instead of giving myself the opportunity to go out and potentially do it.



There was a sense of fear during rehabilitation: Shami

PTI KOLKATA

Seasoned India pacer Mohammed Shami has revealed that he was gripped by a sense of fear when he began his rehabilitation after a long injury layoff, but managed to overcome that phase by training his mind to stay focussed on the national comeback.

Shami was sidelined after the lost ODI World Cup final against Australia in November 2023 due to an ankle injury that required surgery. The followed by a swelling on his left knee during the domestic comeback some weeks back.

Following his inclusion in India's Champions Trophy squad, his return has garnered national attention. He is also in the squad for the five-match T20I series against England beginning here later this evening.

"I waited for an entire year and I worked very hard (to get back to full fitness). There was a sense of fear (of getting injured during rehabilitation) even while running," Shami said in a video posted by BCCI

"It is difficult for any player to get injured after being in full go the the NCA (National Cricket Academy) for rehabilitation and then make a comeback," he added. The cricketer, however, said an athlete is far more determined after deaking with an injury. "When you go through injuries, I feel you grow stronger as an athlete, this is

to repeat a lot of things while being mentally strong. Shami went through the domestic grind, representing

what I feel. Because you have

his home state Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, Syed Mushtaq and Vijay Hazare but a swelling in his knee finally ruled him out of the five-match Border-Gavaskar Test series in Australia.

On his competitive return in the Ranji Trophy, he guided Bengal to their first win of the season with a seven-wicket He followed it up with

impressive performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (11 wickets) and the Vijay Hazare Trophy (five wickets). 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.

The 34-year-old said he has overcome the setbacks and is raring to go.

"Whatever is done, is done. I have crossed that (injury) phase. If you work hard you will get the results. That's what I believe in. If you get injured you have to make a comeback for your team for your country. So fight and grow," he

"If you are strong and believe in yourself and you have confidence in your abilities, have self-belief, then I don't think you will find any difference. Confidence is important for any task," he

Shami said he concentrated on improving his skills with a lot of focus on fitness during his rehabilitation.

"The rhythm is very important. Everything in life has a flow. Whatever it is, your fitness, mindset and skill is important for bowling," he explained.

Big wins for England, Australia in India will adhere to U19 Women's T20 World Cup

Opener Davina Perrin smashed a fine half-century and Trudy Johnson put up a fine all-round show as England crushed the United States of America (USA) by eight wickets to climb to the top of Pool B in the U19 Women's T20 World Cup, here Wednesday. Bangladesh, New Zealand

and Australia were the other winners on the day. Bangladesh overcame Scotland by 18 runs, New Zealand defeated Samoa by 67 runs, while Australia were menacing in their 83-run win over Nepal. England flexed their muscle

by chasing down 120 in 14.2 overs with opener Perrin scoring a 45-ball 74, studded with nine boundaries and three sixes. Johnson hit an unbeaten 44

after taking two wickets for 17 runs. Prisha Thanawala (2/20) also contributed in restricting USA to 119/5. USA captain Anika Kolan led the charge with the bat, shoring their innings with an unbeaten 46 off 42 balls.

Bangladesh outlasted Scotland in Group D after managing 121/9 and then



restricting the opponents to 103/8 in the allotted overs. Captain Sumaiya Akter topscored for Bangladesh with an unbeaten 29 off 36 deliveries. She was supported by Afia Ashima Era (21 off 19) and Juairiya Ferdous (20

Scotland were courageous in their chase with Pippa Sproul scoring a 41-ball 43 but they couldn't get over the line. In and

Zealand sealed a 67-run win against tournament newcomers Samoa.

The Kiwis scored 107/9 in 17 overs and dismissed Samoa for 40 in 14.2 overs. Eve Wolland (48) shone with the bat while Rishika Jaswal (3/12) and skipper Tash Wakelin (3/3) excelled with

World dismissing New Zealand star Kate Irwin caught-and-bowled for a duck. Australia had an easy outing

against Nepal, defeating the Asian side by 83 runs after scoring 139/6. Nepal could only muster 56/8

tne ball.
Olive Lefaga Lemoe made history by taking Samoa's first ever ICC Women's U19

Lefaga Lemoe made history by taking Samoa's wickets each in 20 overs with Lily

dress code set by ICC at CT: BCCI

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian cricket team will adhere to the dress code set by the ICC during the upcoming Champions Trophy, BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia told PTI on Wednesday, Wednesday, rejecting speculation that the Board had objected to host Pakistan's name on the side's official jersey.

The Champions Trophy will be held from February 19 and India will play its share of matches in Dubai after citing security concerns as the reason for refusing to travel to Pakistan. "BCCI will follow every uniform-related ICC rule during Champions Trophy," Saikia told PTI.
"Whatever the other teams

will do regarding the logo and dress code, we are going to follow in true letter and spirit," he added. However, Saikia said that whether Rohit national captain Sharma participates in the ICC's pre-tournament engagements, including a press conference and an official photo shoot in Lahore, is something that is

still being discussed. Whether Rohit Sharma travels to Pakistan for ICC media engagements is something that's still not decided," Saikia added. There

were unconfirmed media reports that the BCCI had objected to the host nation's name being embossed on their jersey, which is an established practice for all ICC events, owing to the tense political between the two countries.

It is understood that there was never any doubt about following the logo guidelines and the BCCI did not raise concerns with the global

When Pakistan came to India in 2023 for the 50-over ICC World Cup, Babar Azam and his men duly sported the host country's name on their jerseys as part of the tournament protocol.

The Champions Trophy is being conducted under a 'Hybrid Model' for the first time as BCCI didn't get permission from the Indian government to travel to

AB de Villiers wants to play cricket again

PTI ■ JOHANNESBURG

B de Villiers wants to Not in the high-pressure environment of IPL but somewhere "casual" to have a bit of fun and please his children. De Villiers retired from all of

forms of cricket in November 2021 to spend more time with his family. 40-year-old former South Africa captain is now involved with multiple projects in charity and broadcasting.

He is also the brand ambassador of the ongoing SA20. But in a chat with Melinda Farrell on her Youtube channel, de Villiers let it slip that he wishes to play the game again.

I might still play cricket one No confirmation whatsoever. My kids are putting me under a bit of pressure and I feel like I could go to the nets with



Villiers said them," de referring his three children two sons Abraham and John, and daughter Yente. "My boy could feel me

bowling machine balls...Maybe I will walk out and play a bit of casual cricket somewhere," added. De Villiers hinted at playing

proper cricket outside the

lens of professional leagues like the ÎPL. "I am talking on a more serious note, actually, of playing some real cricket not professional IPL or SA20 stuff but who knows? I have

OIPR-13031/11/0127/2425

had my fair share (of high

pressure cricket), that's done," he said. A slight challenge to that ambition is his eye sight, especially the "bit blurry" left

'This right one is the

dominant one, it is working fine. I am doing it for my kids and see if I can go out there and enjoy cricket again. Even if it is very casual and see where we draw the line. "We are not talking RCB (Royal Challengers Bengaluru) and some stuff. I don't want to feel that pressure again. Wherever I go I would want to have bit of fun," added the batting great, whose wide range of strokes. of them some unconventional, earned him the moniker 'Mr 360' .

Villiers represented South Africa in 114 Tests, 228 ODIs and 78 T20s. The power-hitter holds the record for the fastest 50 (16 balls), 100 (31 balls) and 150 (64balls) in the ODI format.

dated. 20.1.2025 e-mail ID-Government of Odisha "e" procurement Notice Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR- 13 OF 24-25 Name of the work

Total No. of Work Estimated Cost Period of Completion

Period and time of availability of bid document in the

22.01.25 at 11.00AM to 28.01.25 up to 5.00 PM Date and time of opening of Tender

29.01.2025 at 11.00AM S.E.R.W. Divn. Sambalpur

www.tendersodisha.gov.in 02 (Two) Nos.

Varies from Rs.5.03 lakhs to 9.48 lakhs 01(One) Calendar months

(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders, available in website www.te (2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.tenderodisha.gov.in

Additional Chief Enginee Rural Works Division



Phone No.: 06756 253091 Email id: ulbnac.banpur@gmail.com OFFICE OF THE NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, BANPUR

Quotation call notice notice No-110/Dt-21.01.2025.

Sealed Tender calls are invited from the intending firms/agencies/suppliers for supply of Sanitation materials having valid GST certificate/ valid license/registration certificate if any. The Quotation schedule paper can be obtain from Banpur NAC on payment of RS.1000/- in shape of cash /Bank draft in favour of Executive Officer Banpur NAC on any working day except holidays. The sale of Quotation paper from Dt.24.01.2025 at 10.30 AM to Dt 01.02.2025 up to 4 PM . The intending firms/agencies are requested to submit their quotations on Dt.01.02.2025 from 10.30AM to 1.00PM in this office or speed post. The same will be opened at 4.00 PM on Dt.04.02.2025 in presence of quotationers or their authorized representative. The authority reserve the right to reject any or all quotations without assigning any reason thereof. Agencies/Firms are required to submit rates as per list of items annextured.

The Quotationer must EMD sum of Rs.5000/- in shape of Bank Draft for any nationalized Bank payable at Banpur NAC in favour of Executive Officer Banpur NAC.

Executive Officer OIPR-13177/11/0006/2425

Banpur NAC GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA Ph. No. - 0674-2301787 Fax No. - 0674-2300965 E.Mai: I.D. -

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR Online - BBSR Divn. - 31 e-Procurement NOTICE CD work : 1 No. other licensing authorities. 'C' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivother licensing authorities. 'D' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of Rs. 84.03 lakh

Praggnanandhaa crushes Mendonca to sole lead Tata Masters champion D Gukesh played PTI ■ WIJK AAN ZEE Praggnanandhaa found the

¬randmaster GPraggnanandhaa crashed through the defences of fellow Indian Leon Luke Mendonca to jump into sole lead after the fourth round of the Tata Steel Masters tournament here.

Praggnanandhaa started off with an innocuous Ruy Lopez closed but found his chances in the middle game when Mendonca, clearly being the rookie here, could not handle the pressure of another highprofile game.

It was another day when

fire to score his third win on the trot after 46 moves. Interestingly, all of Praggnanandhaa's victories

have come at the expense of the Indians so far in the tournament, with the GM now looking forward to the clash against world champion D Gukesh.

With his third win, the Chennai-based player has stamped his authority ahead of the first rest day of the long and gruelling tournament that lasts till 13 rounds with three rest days thrown in. world Recently-crowned

true to his instinct but could not get past Alexey Sarana, who now plays for Serbia instead of Russia. The Indian, playing with black pieces, tried every trick under the sun but Sarana stuck to the basics to not force anything which could be fatal The game remained level for a

long time and eventually both players got a new queen on the board with Sarana only having the final say with an extra Bishop. With no pawns left, the result was anyone's guess and the game ended in a draw soon after.

CUTTACK MUNICIPAL CORPORATION "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Tender ID: 2024 ORULB 109403 Tender Call Notice No. 1233 (PW) Date 22.01.2025 No of Works: 7 No

Period of Completion: One Calendar Month to Three Calendar Month Date and Time schedule Start Opening 11.00 AM on dt. 5.00 PM on 11:00 A.M. on

Bid Value: Rs.2.78 Lakhs to Rs.15.18 Lakhs

27.01.2025 dt.04.02.2025 dt.07.02.2025 Tender Details: can be seen from the procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

> **Executive Engineer** City Division-II, CMC

Other details

Superintendin Engineer, Run Works Divisior

Superinterfüng Engireer, Rural Works Division BBSR

04.02.2025 at

03.02.2025