

BLAST, EIGHT KILLED



Rescue operation underway after a blast at the ordnance factory, in Bhandara district, Maharashtra

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

t least eight people were killed and seven A others injured when a massive explosion rocked an ordnance factory in Jawahar Nagar taluka of Bhandara district in eastern Maharashtra on Friday morning. Of the

injured, the condition of five was reported to be serious. While the cause of the has not been mishap established, rescue and relief operations were still underway at the vast housing complex the Factory Ordnance in Bhandara until late evening. A press release issued by the

Force (NDRF) earlier in the day stated that the incident took place at 10:30 am. "The incident resulted in a fire and a subsequent building collapse. Initially, 13 individuals were reported trapped at the site. The NDRF team was immediately deployed to the explosion-hit location and is working tirelessly to rescue those affected," the NDRF said. Ordnance Factory, The located in the Satpura Mountain ranges in Jawahar Nagar taluka of Bhandara, manufactures single-base propellant, double-base propellant (ballistite), double-base propellant (rocket), high explosives,

National Disaster Response and their compounds. The explosion was intense that its sound could be heard up to seven to ten kilometers away from the accident site. Objects from the exploded factory were flung several meters away, evewitnesses said. The smoke from the factory continued to billow out for several hours and could be seen from a distance of two to three kilometers away. Confirming the deaths and injuries in the incident, Union Minister and MP from Nagpur Nitin Gadkari described the explosion as "unfortunate". He was speaking at an event in Nagpur.

ORDNANCE FACTORY MP enforces liquor ban in holy towns

GIRISH SHARMA BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh government has announced the closure of liquor shops in 17 holy towns across the state to preserve the spiritual atmosphere of these religiously significant locations.

These towns, home to sacred temples and attracting devotees from across the country, include Ujjain, Datia, Panna, Mandla, Multai, Mandsaur, Maihar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Mandleshwar, Orchha, Chitrakoot, Amarkantak, Salkanpur, Barman Kala, Linga, Kundalpur, Bandakpur, and Barmankhurd.

Chief Minister (CM) Mohan Yadav, who hails from the religious city of Ujjain, emphasized the importance of these towns in the state's religious cultural landscape. and He highlighted their association with revered deities such as Lord Krishna and Lord Ram. Addressing the media, Yadav explained that the decision was motivated by the effects of alcohol harmful consumption on individuals and families. He stated that alcohol addiction has caused significant



initiative aims to promote better governance and improve the lives of women, children, and farmers.

The CM further underscored the government's commitment to creating a better environment for the youth, stressing their role as the distress within families and that the future of the country. By restricting

is

alcohol sales in areas with high significance, religious tĥe government seeks to align these regions with their sacred identity while curbing alcohol abuse. Yadav expressed hope that the decision would contribute to improving the overall quality of life in the state. After the State Cabinet approved the ban of liquor in 17 religious places, the Excise department would start process of closing down the existing shops at these places. The announcement also drew attention to longstanding demands prohibition in Madhya Pradesh. for Former CM Uma Bharti and former

Lok Sabha member Sadhvi Pragya Bharti have long advocated for total prohibition. During a previous government, Uma Bharti had staged protests against the sale of liquor, even pelting stones at a liquor shop. However, her agitation failed to gain momentum, leading her to revise her demand to controlled liquor sales in the state.

The previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had approved a new excise policy in 2023, aimed at discouraging liquor consumption, but refrained from implementing

total prohibition. Following recent announcement by CM Mohan Yadav to ban liquor sales in 17 religious towns, Uma Bharti welcomed the move, describing it as a significant step toward achieving total prohibition in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh Congress Media incharge Mukesh Nayak has criticised the state government's decision to close liquor shops in 17 holy towns, alleging it could lead to illegal activities similar to those in Gujarat. Speaking to The Pioneer, Nayak claimed that in Gujarat, BJP leaders are allegedly involved in a liquor business worth Rs 10,000 crore despite the prohibition policy. He expressed concerns that a parallel network for the illegal sale of liquor might emerge in the 17 designated religious towns in Madhya Pradesh. Nayak further alleged that the ban could pave the way for clandestine operations, making liquor easily accessible through home delivery. 'Currently, customers have to visit shops to buy liquor, but soon it might be delivered to their homes in these areas," he remarked, accusing the ruling party of exploiting the

situation for profit.

Kejriwal accuses BJP of bribing voters MARKETS

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI The political battle for the Delhi Assembly elections is heating up with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to sway voters by distributing gold chains, sarees, shoes, and cash while urging voters to resist these attempts.

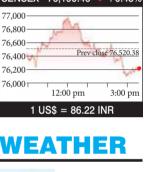
Dubbing BJP as 'Gali galoch party' and calling the individual who distribute money as a 'threat to the

democracy', Kejriwal said, Vote for whoever you want to, but the one who is trying to buy your vote and destroy this don't country, vote for him. The who one distributing jackets, blankets and cash to you is a traitor of the country. Take all the money



from him but swear to God, never vote for him," he said, urging citizens in a video message to prioritise democracy over material

offerings. He reminded voters of the sacrifices made by B R Ambedkar to secure their right to vote. "Babasaheb Ambedkar fought with everyone and said that every person in this country, whether literate or illiterate, whether rich or poor, every person should have the right to vote," he said.



AQ MAX 23.7°C(+2.3) MIN 9.8°C(+3)

Waqf panel meet ends in protests

PNS NEW DELHI

Ten opposition members the Parliamentary panel meeting on the Waqf Amendment Bill were suspended for a day on Fridav amid protests accusations against Chairman Jagdambika Pal of steamrolling through the proceedings. While opposition members accused Pal of reducing the proceedings to a farce and alleged that he was acting on the government's directions, the chairman slammed their conduct aimed at disrupting the meeting. He accused Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee of hurling abuses at him and said he strove to bring the meeting to order, adjourning it twice but in vain. BJP member Nishikant Dubey moved the motion for suspending the opposition members which was adopted by the committee, The suspended members are Banerjee and Nadeem-ul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MINEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted search operations across seven locations after registering a case of a Rs 350 crore crypto-ponzi scam against seven individuals, officials said on Friday. The accuse were seven running separate modules based in the cities of Delhi, Hazaribag, Bathinda, Ratlam, Valsad, Pudukkottai, and Chittorgarh, collecting money from gullible investors by promising returns from cryptocurrency investments, they said. "These ponzi schemes were being promoted through multiple social media groups. An analysis of bank investigation. account transactions and cryptocurrency wallets has recovery of cash amounting to Rs 34.2 lakh (approx), along revealed that the illegal proceeds from these schemes with significant digital evidence, including seven were being converted into mobile phones, one laptop, cryptocurrencies to obscure one tablet, three hard disks, 10 CBI's their origin," spokesperson said in a pen drives, memory cards, SIM cards, ATM cards, debit statement. It is alleged that the accused conducted cards, email accounts, and transactions totaling over Rs several 350 crore in these schemes, documents," the statement



CBI uncovers ₹350 Crore crypto scam **Prices for 1 litre** Amul milk packs reduced by ₹1 PNS NEW DELHI

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, has reduced milk prices by Rs 1 per litre across India.

Delhi: Man arrested for ₹15 Crore COVID-19 vaccine scam

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police has arrested a man who impersonated an officer from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and duped innocent people of over Rs 15 crore under the pretext of providing work orders for the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines during the pandemic.





Mirwaiz Umar Faroog, left, the religious head of Kashmir, with Maulana Rehmatullah of Bandipora waits to appear before the parliamentary panel on Wagf Amendment Bill PT

Haque (Trinamoo Congress), Mohammad Jawed, Imran Masood and Sved Naseer Hussain (Congress), A Raja and Mohamed Abdullah (DMK), Asaduddin Owaisi (AIMIM) Mohibullah (SP) and Arvind Sawant (Shiv Sena-UBT). The suspension of the opposition members came on a day when a delegation from Jammu and Kashmir led by Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, the religious head of Kashmir, appeared before the Joint Committee on the Waqf Amendment Bill to share their concerns about the draft legislation.

the officials said. On Thursday, the agency carried out operations in Delhi, Jharkhand, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan.

During the searches, the CBI 66D Section of Information Technology Act, seized digital virtual assets totaling approximately USD 2000, as part of an ongoing investigation that predates 38,414 in the cryptocurrency the introduction of three new wallets of the accused, which have been digitally secured for criminal laws last year.

the

"It is alleged that the accused "The searches resulted in the acting in criminal acting conspiracy, have been actively floating various and fraudulent bigh schemes, promising high returns based on cryptocurrency investments. They are also accused of promoting, promising, and disseminating false and deceptive information to incriminating entice investors into these unregulated deposit schemes, The agency registered the which operate without requisite approvals from case under Indian Penal regulatory authorities such as 120-B the Reserve Bank of India conspiracy), Section 420 (cheating), and (RBI)," the statement said.

he reduction i prices is only for one-litre packs.

We have reduced the prices of one-litre packs by Rs 1 per litre across India," GCMMF managing director Jayen Mehta told PTI.

'This is to encourage consumers to buy larger packs of milk and get incentive for the same," he said. In Delhi, the rate of Amul

Gold milk has been reduced to Rs 67 from Rs 68 per litre while price of Amul Taaza will now be Rs 55 from Rs 56 per litre earlier GCMMF's turnover increased

8 per cent to Rs 59,445 crore in the 2023-24 financial year.

Mehta had earlier said that the cooperative is expecting double-digit growth in revenue during this fiscal on strong demand. GCMMF handled 310 lakh litres of milk per day on average during the Îast fiscal. It has a total annual milk processing capacity of around 500 lakh litres.

According to the police on Friday, he had been absconding for nearly three years in a Rs 15 crore-fraud case. "The accused has been identified as 48-year-old Prafulla Kumar Nayak, who played a key role in duping victims by promising work orders related to COVID-19 vaccine transportation during the pandemic," the EOW statement read.

The fraudulent scheme came to light when a complaint was lodged by Sunil Kaushik, stating that he had been duped of Rs 4 crore. The fraudsters promised to arrange work orders from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines across various states in 2021.

Four more victims came forward with similar complaints, all revealing the same modus operandi. The EOW registered a case under sections 420, 406, 467, 468, 471, 120B IPC, and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act. 'Four additional complaints revealed a similar modus operandi, with the accused collectively duping victims of over Rs 15 crore," Additional Commissioner of Police (EOW) Amrutha Guguloth said in the statement.

Investigations revealed that in May 2021, the accused contacted the victims and took them to Nirman Bhawan, the headquarters of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to gain

their trust. Forged work orders were issued, and trust was gained by leveraging illicit access to the government complex through a bribed ministry employee, the statement read. In exchange, the fraudsters collected Rs 15 crore from the victims.

The key accused, including the kingpin Hermenn Sabherwal, were arrested in 2022 However, Prafulla Kumar Nayak had been evading arrest until he was apprehended on January 21. Nayak played a crucial role in facilitating the entry of victims and accomplices into Nirman Bhawan by bribing ministry employees. Three government employees, including a reception officer and two Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) members, were also arrested earlier for their involvement.

"Previously, eight other accused, including the kingpin Hermenn Sabherwal, were arrested in 2022. Ministry employees, including a reception officer and two multi-tasking staff members, had already been apprehended for their involvement," the officer said in the statement. Nayak, a resident of Pandav Nagar in Delhi and originally from Odisha, facilitated the group's entry into Nirman Bhawan.

Large Odisha 2025-26 Budget on cards ous year's budget estimate of

To prioritise agriculture, industry, employment: CM Majhi

NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

hief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday announced that Odisha's Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 would be significantly larger than the previous year with a strong emphasis on sectors like agriculture, industry and employment. He assured that feedback from various stakeholders would be incorporated to make the budget more inclusive and people-focused.

tre on improving the social

said.

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Speaking to the press after a pre-budget consultation



Section

with stakeholders, Majhi, who also holds the finance portfolio, confirmed that the State Budget would be presented on management. February 17. He emphasised that the government's priorities for the budget would cen-

sector with a particular focus on fostering growth in agriculture and creating new employment opportunities. In July 2024, Majhi had pre-

sented a budget of Rs 2.65 lakh crore for the 2024-25 fiscal, a 15% increase over the previ-

Rs 2.30 lakh crore. A substantial allocation of Rs 33,919 crore was made for agriculture, marking a 36% rise from the previous year. The budget also included Rs 1.55 lakh crore for programme expenses, Rs 97,725 crore for administrative expenditures and Rs 3,900 crore for disaster risk

On December 5, the Odisha Assembly passed a Supplementary Budget of Rs 12,155.70 crore, further increasing the overall budget for 2024-25.

"This year, we are looking at an even larger budget," Majhi stated. "We've received numerous suggestions from citizens and stakeholders on how we can make the budget

more beneficial to the people, and these will be reflected in the final document," he said. The CM also pointed to the

State's investment prospects, noting that Odisha has already secured Rs 2.5 lakh crore in investment proposals ahead of the Utkarsha Odisha: Make in Odisha Conclave 2025 set to take place on January 28-29. The State is aiming to reach a total of Rs 5 lakh crore in investment commitments, which is expected to generate over 1.5 lakh new job opportunities.

Additionally, Majhi shared that his government has already filled 20,000 vacant posts within the first seven months of its tenure and is working to fill another 20,000 positions in the near future.

Job opportunities for 18.668 persons BHUBANESWAR PNS

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m T}$ he State is gearing up for the Utkarsh Odisha- Make in Odisha conclave 2025, for which investment proposals are flowing. In the 39th High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) meeting on Friday, the State approved investments worth Rs 32,736 crore across eight transformative industrial projects.

These projects span across sectors such as chemicals, green energy equipments, shipbuilding and steel. The investments are set to generate employment for over 18,688 individuals, reinforcing the State's industrial and economic foundation.

The approved projects are



spread across key districts like Khordha, Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam, Sambalpur and Bhadrak, helping to strengthen the State's industrial base.

The HLCA meeting highlighted the State's focus on innovation and sustainability, which will have a positive impact on the economy. With these projects, Odisha is entering a new phase of industrial growth and further establishing itself as a major player in

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said, "The approval of these big projects before Utkarsh Odisha 2025 is a clear sign of our State's growing industrial strength. These investments will create thousands of jobs and will directly benefit the people of Odisha. Our focus is to ensure that Odisha remains a top investment destination, driving progress and prosperity for our people."



capital 02

CM reviews preps for Utkarsh Odisha

hief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday reviewed the preparations for the Utkarsh Odisha-Make in Odisha Conclave at the Janata Maidan here. The conclave, which would be held on January 28 and 29, would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Majhi said proposals worth Rs 5 lakh crore are likely to be received during the investors meet. With this, employment opportunities for more than 3.5 lakh persons can be created. More than 100 investors are likely to sign MoUs.

Besides the Prime Minister,

E TO THE ICONIC

Union Ministers Ashwini Viashnaw, Dharmendra Pradhan and Jual Oram would be attending the conclave, More than 7,500 delegates

have already registered in the Make in Odisha website. Over 100 foreign delegates are scheduled to attend the event, Maihi said.

During the conclave, a Make

BHUBANESWAR

in Odisha Expo would also be organised. The conclave would be opened for delegates on January 28 and 29, and it would be open for public on January 30, the CM said.

College Principal, Lecturer axed after stir

Both absconding after incident PNS 📕 JAJPUR

The Principal and a Lecturer of the Abhimanyu Samanta Singhar Degree College at Balia in Jajpur district have been placed under suspension after a student accused the duo of attempting to outrage her modesty in a class-

room. Sub-Collector Jajpur Anshuman Satpathy issued the suspension orders for

Principal Sudhir Kumar Rout and Lecturer Bidyadhar Dhal.

"Principal Sudhir Kumar Rout is hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect pending drawal of disciplinary proceedings against him for negligence in government duty and he is also absconding as reported by Bari Ramachandrapur PS IIC," the suspension letter of the Principal read.

"The headquarters of Rout is hereby fixed at GC Degree College, Bari, during the period of suspension. He shall

not leave the headquarters without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority."

Similarly, the letter to Dhal stated, "Economics Lecturer Bidyadhar Dhal is also placed under suspension with immediate effect pending drawal of a disciplinary proceeding against him. He has been absconding as reported by the Bari Ramachandrapur PS IIC.'

"The headquarters of Dhal is hereby fixed at GC Degree College, Bari during the period

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m mid}$ reports of liquor be-

ing sold at higher prices in

some shops, the State Govern-

of suspension. Dhal shall not leave the headquarters without obtaining prior permission from the competent authority. This order shall come into force with immediate effect," it further added.

The two accused have been absconding since the victim lodged a complaint against them. Earlier, Jajpur MP Rabi Naryan Behera and SP Yashpratap Shrimal visited the spot and tried to pacify the irate students who had launched an agitation over the issue.

found selling stock at prices higher than the MRP, strict

action would be taken against

Some cases of liquor price

The government's proac-

tive approach seeks to curb il-

legal pricing practices and en-

sure fair trade in the retail li-

the owners, he said.

Forestry researcher Swain passes away Marine Biotechnology Lab opened at ILS

Bijay Kumar Swain (77), an ardent environment and forestry professional and Indian Forest Service official, who was highly committed to research and innovation in the fields of forestry, silviculture, bamboo forest management, medicinal plants of Odisha, and Community Forest Management, passed away at a hospital here on Thursday.

Swain had been a brilliant student throughout his career and had visited the Oxford University. After his superannuation in 2008, he pursued his research on the maritime history of Kalinga. He made a point to visit ancestral locations and read Sanskrit inscriptions to explore the Kalinga tradition.

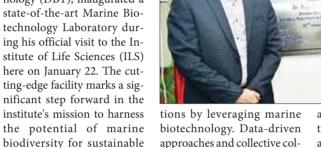
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He has written two books The Kalinga Heritage and Kalinga-Pioneer 0 Indianisation of Southeast Asia

He has two daughters Dr Roma Rattan MBBS (MD), now Joint DMET, and Roopa Roshan Sahoo, IAS. His sonin-law Dr Debashish Nayak is a senior consultant in Apollo Hospital, a cardiothoracic and vascular surgeon, and younger son-in-law Anup Kumar Sahoo, IPS. He is also survived by his wife Jayanti Swain.



nificant step forward in the institute's mission to harness the potential of marine biodiversity for sustainable development. Prof Gokhale engaged with students, staffs and scientists, emphasising the critical role of genomics, data sharing and collaborative efforts in un-



approaches and collective collaboration will be key in this journey," he remarked.

Highlighting the newly-introduced Bio-E3 Policy, Prof Gokhale underlined its transformative potential for locking the untapped potenrevolutionising coastal

accelerate blue economy initiatives and promote sustainable development across coastal regions, not only in the State but throughout India.

Prof Gokhale also participated in a satellite meeting titled "Challenges and Opportunities of Marine Bioprospecting in India". The

India's immense marine biodiversity. Key discussions focused on establishing frameworks for sustainable bioprospecting, enhancing research infrastructure and fostering international collaborations to position India as a global leader in marine biotechnology.

ILS Director Dr Debasis Dash provided a briefing on the institute's role and strate-

Dr Biswas highlighted the

initiative's comprehensive

approach, which included

training family members in

critical care procedures such

as tracheostomy care, nasal

feeding, physiotherapy, cath-

eter management, and wound

Dr Dinabandhu Sahoo,

Team Leader, National Health

care.

370 times in 5 minutes PNS BARGARH

named Ashok Kumar Bhoi from Tumgaon village in Bargarh district made his way into the India Book of Records for the most time both ears can be wiggled simultaneously.

Bhoi successfully wiggled his ears 370 times in just 5 minutes and 1 second to earn the feat, breaking the previous record of a maximum of 137 ear wiggles. Moreover, after putting Odisha on the India Mission, emphasised the Book of records, he is now aiming to clinch a world record for India by securing a place in the Guinness Book. It is worth mentioning that ear-wiggling is a vestigial feature, meaning it's an ability that is maintained even though it no longer serves its original purpose. Moreover, in

the process of human evolution most have lost this ability but some people, like Bhoi,

can still wiggle their ears. "I am immensely proud of

this achievement. The number of times that I am able to wiggle my ears is significantly higher than what anyone else has managed to do in India or even around the world. I am hopeful to represent the nation in the ear-wiggling world marathon," stated Bhoi.

He, however, stated that it is incredibly difficult to be able to wiggle both ears at a time. According to him, repeated ear wiggling requires severe dedication, practice, and concentration. Further, he has even learnt how to hold his breath for long durations in order to ensure maximum focus. "Earlier I was hardly able to wiggle my ears for a prolonged period. The brain needs to be in complete balance and after years of practice I learnt how to master this ability," added Bhoi.



night fled with an entire cash dispensing machine after failing to loot cash at a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM at Sriram Nagar under the Airfield po-

lice station in Bhubaneswar. The looters uprooted the ATM machine and ferried it in an auto-rickshaw. The exact amount of cash in the ATM remained undisclosed. After failing to break open the ATM



the spot. The vehicle was also suspected to have been stolen from another location.

Police have initiated an investigation to apprehend those responsible for the crime and to ascertain the total sum of money stolen. Sources have indicat

AIIMS ICU Rehab project a success

patients benefitted PNS BHUBANESWAR

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, has successfully concluded the AIIMS ICU Rehabilitation (AIR) pilot project with the final stakeholders' meeting. The event marked the culmination of a transformative four-year initiative focused on improving post-ICU care and the rehabilitation of critically ill patients, benefiting over 400 chronically ill, bedridden patients and their families. tives The AIR project introduced

able, game-changing solupected to drive innovation, egies for effectively exploring gic plans.

400 chronically ill

tial of marine resources. "The economies, particularly in meeting brought together challenges we face today can Odisha with its vast coastal leading scientists and be transformed into sustainresources. The policy is expolicymakers to discuss strat-

ment on Friday warned that overcharging were reported stringent action would be from Ganjam district, followtaken against the vendors ing which the government has found overcharging. taken quick action, the Minister said, adding that if such Noting that liquor was found to be sold at higher cases are found anywhere in rates in some places in the future, stringent action would be taken against the liquor State, Excise Minister

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Prithviraj Harichandan said the retail liquor dealers have no right to charge more than the maximum retail price (MRP).

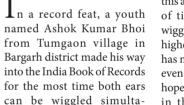
If the liquor shops are

quor market. Youth makes it to Book of Records in ear wiggling

shops.

Liquor shop owners warned not to overcharge

Could wiggle ears



machine, the miscreants dumped it near the Gangua canal in Samantarapur.

On being informed, the Airfield police recovered the machine. The auto-rickshaw, believed to be appropriated by the criminals for this act, was also found abandoned near

this burglary could be linked to a broader series of thefts in the region.

The authorities appealed to the locals for any information that could aid in the investigation, urging witnesses to come forward and share any information.

and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) model, an approach that bridges the gap between healthcare providers and communities, empowering the public to contribute actively to healthcare initia-

AIIMS Bhubaneswar Ex-

Biswas held an interaction with patients and their families, gathering first-hand insights into the project's impact. He praised the AIR team, led by Dr Swagata Tripathy, and acknowledged the contributions of senior faculty from the concerned departments.

government's vision of expanding the AIR project to all medical colleges across Odisha using a hub-andspoke model. He commended the project's innovative and holistic approach, which addresses the unique challenges faced by ICU survivors.



Experts delve into industryacademia collaboration PNS BHUBANESWAR

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar organised a PanIIT World of Technology (PIWOT) Satellite Conference on Thursday. The programme was a one-of-its-kind event uniting a diverse group of leaders from industries, academia and the government sector to foster a collaborative approach between industry and academia. The conference was jointly

organised by the IIT Alumni Association, Wheels Global Foundation India and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Sujata Roy, president, Wheels Global Foundation India, highlighted the significance and objectives of the

PIWOT Satellite Conference. Prof Shreepad Karmalkar, Director, IIT Bhubaneswar, spoke about the transformation of the IITs beyond knowledge dissemination or teaching and knowledge generation or research over the last five decades. He said that, today, the IITs are also involved in knowledge application or directly solving societal prob-

lems via a multidisciplinary approach and in wealth generation or developing entrepreneurship.

In addition, the IIT Bhubaneswar has some unique features. First, it has started developing outstanding schoolteachers through the Integrated Teachers Education Program (ITEP). Second, every faculty prepares a teaching portfolio for every course taught by him/her that documents various aspects of teaching such as learning outcomes, critical thinking level questions, student performance, attention provided to students who have difficulties, student feedback and more.

Dr Prashant Kumar Hota, group president of Jindal Steel and Power Ltd, delved into the aspects of industry-academia collaboration in the field of sustainability.

SS Mohanty, former chairman, CII Odisha, spoke on the role of IIT in the incubation of startups and new business processes.

Sambit Tripathy, Ex-IRS and CMD, Livelihood Alternatives threw light on the need for industry-academia collaboration in rural development. He spoke about how farmers in Odisha are adopting new technologies in farming with the help of SHGs and NGOs to yield good quality crops.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Protection of environment and nature has become a very significant issue in recent times as various environmental problems are becoming more serious. In such a scenario, commitment from the government to various institutions and individuals at all levels is very much essential.

According to acting president of Orissa Environmental Society Dr Jayakrushna Panigrahi, among many other programmes for environmental protection, plantation has now become a widely-accepted activity. Various institutions and individuals, in-

cluding the forest department, are particularly active in this work and contribute their own efforts, especially during the rainy season.

Since urban areas are suffering from more environmental challenges and there is an increase in felling of trees in development various



programmes, plantation activities are subsequently undertaken here. Efforts are being made to increase the greening of the urban environment by planting saplings on roadsides and in vacant lots. However, many seedlings fail to develop into trees due to lack of proper care and protection after planting. After display of

pictures of tree plantation in the media, we often forget that trees are living and they require care after planting.

The Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal have issued directives beforehand to avoid felling of trees during construction of various infrastructures and to ensure necessary open space around the

roots of trees for their survival and longevity. Each tree must have an open soil of at least one meter in radius around it so that its roots can spread properly and rainwater can penetrate into the soil.

In the adjacent photo here, a tree near the wallof the Buddha Park in Bhubaneswar stands mutely dead just after the rainy days as its base is completely concreted. Such abysmal condition is confronted by many urban trees as the space without concrete or paver blocks is declining. Trees that selflessly provide a wide range of services to the mankind need water for survival, which is mainly provided by the rainfall. In concretised cities, rainwater cannot penetrate the soil, which causes problems for trees for their subsistence.

Realising this, all the municipalities of Odisha should emphasise on tree planting and take special measures for the protection and wellbeing of trees, opined Panigrahi.

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After molestation Parents want strict measures for schoolgirls' security

1 held for sexually assaulting girl SIBDAS KUNDU 🔳 BALESWAR

The parents of a private English medium school here under Industrial police station limits demanded installation of CCTV cameras in school buses and other stricter measures for security of their wards after a news spread that a girl student of standard four was allegedly molested by a class IV employee in a school bus.

Reports said the incident took place on January 20 and the victim narrated her plights to her parents after returning from school. The aggrieved parents brought the matter to the notice of school management urging immediate action against the culprit.

The school authorities, pending a probe against the accused, immediately disengaged him from the duty. However, they haven't lodged any complaint with police regarding the issue, the reports added.

In the meanwhile, the Chandipur police arrested a man who allegedly sexually assaulted a girl of his acquaintance along with his friend. Reports said the victim and accused duo, residents of the Town area, had gone to a lodge at Chandipur beach where the accused duo allegedly committed the offence. Based on

the complaint of the victim while one of them was apprehended, efforts were on to nab the other one who absconded, said police.

Suktel displaced threaten stir if demands not met buthir MISHRA • BALANGIR hurriedly. Their 12-point char-

he members of Lower Suktel Budi Anchal Sangram Parishad have threatened to launch agitation, if their demands are not fulfilled.

This was announced here on Thursday in a Press conference by Satya Banchor and Trilochan Punji.

People in lower Suktel irrigation project area were forcibly evacuated from their villages and the project was inaugurated in January 2024

ter of demands among others includes, compensation to all affected villagers as per the Land Acquisition (Rehabilitation)Act of 2013 and issue of identity card to all displaced people and fresh enumeration of the displaced people.

The Government should send a team to assess the real condition of displaced people and basing on their report, steps for development of displaced people be taken.

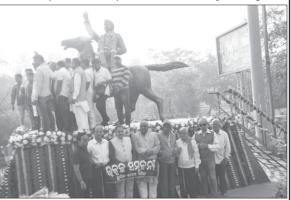
people affected in the project be identified and they should receive top priority in rehabilitation. Moreover, in the rehabilitation colony, steps should be taken to provide better minimum facilities like water, electricity, road and education facility to children there.

"We have already submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Mohan Majhi through the district administration, they informed.

INBRIEF

Utkal Sammilani pays tributes to Netaji

Bhubaneswar: Members of the Utkal Sammilani paid tributes to the statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose here on his anniversary on Thursday. On the occasion, presiding over



the function Utkal Sammilani general secretary and Mancheswar branch president Dillip Dashsharma said that there are many 'Netas' (political leaders), but 'Netaji' only means only one person. He demanded that Netaji's day of demise should be ascertained soon. In the function, Mancheswa branch president Nimai Das, vice-president Sital Chanra Mohanty. joint secretary Akshay Kumar Jethi and many other members were present.

Tributes paid to Netaji at DAV Chandrasekharpur

Bhubaneswar: The Principal, staffs and students of the DAV Public School, Chandrasekharpur in Bhubaneswar offered floral tributes to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose and Veer Surendra Sai on their birth anniversaries on the school pre-



mises on Thursday. Principal of the school Sujata Sahu high lighted the priceless contributions of the two great sons of the soil and appealed to follow their ideals in every aspect. Patriotic programmes based on life sketches were presented and meritorious students were honoured on the occasion.

Tributes paid to Netaji in B'pur on Jayanti

Brahmapur: On the holy occasion of Netaji Sabhas Bose Jayanti, rich tributes were paid to the leader here. Former Brahmapur MP Chandrashekhar Sahu, former MLA Bikram Kumar Panda, Mayer Sanghamitra Dalai, former BeDA Chair-



man Subash Moharana, Deputy Mayer E Vivek Reddy, BJD leaders Durga Prasad Panda, Bhismacharya Choudhary, Pradeep Satpathy and manyvsenior Corporators attended and recalled the contributions of the revolutionary freedom fighter, in the independence of our country.

'Synchrony 2025' held at Dhenkanal ST Xavier School

Dhenkanal: The St Xavier Secondary School celebrated the 'Synchrony 2025', for two days on January 21 and 22 at the Mini Stadium in Dhenkanal. Dhenkanal Municipality Chair-



Barabati England-India ODI Tickets to be sold online from February 2 tween India and England on Counter sale on

spectators.

ticket of the ODI.

other aspects.

Feb 5 and 6 PNS CUTTACK

L he sale of tickets for daynight cricket match between India and England at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack would start on February 2. As many as 4,000 tickets would be sold online, said Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Suryabanshi Suraj on Friday. The counter sale of tickets

offline would be held for two days. Cricket fans can purchase tickets from the counters at the stadium on February 5 and 6. The minister also an-

nounced that ahead of the counter sales, 4,000 tickets would be offered online.

Debadatta Singh. In an exciting addition, a fan Cuttack Dattatraya Bhausaheb Shinde park will be set up within the said, "CCTV cameras will be stadium precincts for the first

installed at parking lots." time for the ODI match be-**Paddy lifting lapses** 11 millers put on notice in Ganjam BRAHMAPUR such as Chhatrapur, Ganjam, and Purushottampur. To en-

L he Ganjam district administration has issued show-cause notices on Thursday against 11 rice millers for their negligence in timely lifting of paddy from mandis during the ongoing Kharif 2024-25 procurement season.

Following a high-level review meeting chaired by the district Collector on January 20, which brought to light significant delays in rice lifting by these millers, the administration issued show-cause notices to them.

hoods of farmers in the re-The affected millers are

Khurda Rd-Balangir rly project gets stage-II forest nod PNS BHUBANESWAR February 9. This initiative aims to enhance the matchday experience, providing en-

The much-awaited Khurda Road-Balangir railway tertainment and amenities for project has secured the crucial stage-II forest clearance from Earlier on Wednesday, the Union Ministry of Envi-Chief Minister Mohan Charan ronment, Forest and Climate Majhi purchased the first Change for laying tracks in the section between Daspalla and Twin City Commissioner of Adhenigarh, the East Coast Police said a meeting was held Railway (ECoR) said on Friwith Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) and a blueprint is

day. The approval allows the being prepared for the secuproject to move forward with rity, crowd management and minimal environmental im-

"Police will be friendly and pact, the ECoR statement said. the spectators will be allowed Currently, the laying of to their respective stands and tracks on 226 km of the total seats. Special traffic arrange-301-km stretch of the project ments will also be made," said has been completed, including Police Commissioner S 106 km from Khurda Road to Daspalla and 120 km from Collector Balangir to Purunakatak.

Work is being carried out on the remaining 75-km stretch between Purunakatak and Daspalla.

The project required the acquisition of 3,274.336 hectares of land, including 746.42 hectares of forestland.

ronmental challenge was the forest clearance between Daspalla and Purunakatak, which involved 594.618 hectares of dense forest. Careful planning was carried out to avoid key wildlife sanctuaries and to minimise the impact on the surrounding ecosystem,

the ECoR statement said. In consultation with the forest department, the project team developed a comprehensive wildlife conservation plan, which was approved by the Principal Chief Conservator

Provisions like animal pasbridges for waterway and wildlife movement were incorpo-

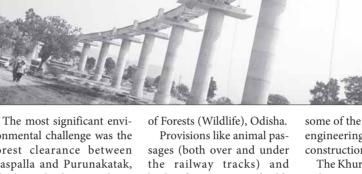
rated to minimise disruptions. All engineering solutions, including viaducts and tunnels, were designed to reduce tree felling and protect the forest cover, the statement said. The railway tracks include

seven tunnels over a 75-km stretch between Daspalla and Purunakatak, totalling 12.76 km. These tunnels represent

some of the most challenging engineering feats in railway construction, it said.

The Khurda Road-Balangir railway project will significantly reduce travel time between Bhubaneswar and Balangir. It will improve access to markets, industries, education, and healthcare, fostering economic growth across the region. It is expected to drive industrial growth, attract investment, and create new jobs, helping Odisha become a key economic hub in Eastern India, it added.





spread across three blocks gion

In Keonjhar Girl dies falling from train while taking selfie accident occurred. Officials

 ${
m A}$ girl student died after falling from a moving train while attempting to take a selfie in Keonjhar district. The incident took place on the Puri-Barbil Express between Tangiriapal and Sagadapata railway stations on Friday.

The girl, who hails from Dalang village, was studying in a private college in Bhubaneswar. As per reports, the girl was travelling home with friends when the tragic

have recovered the body following the incident and an investigation was ongoing to determine further details surrounding the accident. Time and again, the Indian

the district administration.

Railway authorities have been appealing to passengers to exercise caution and refrain from dangerous activities while aboard trains. This unfortunate event serves as grim

reminder of the risks associated with the pursuit of social

TARINI PRASAD PANDA PARALAKHEMUNDI

L he National Conference on "Climate Smart Agriculture: Innovation and Adoption for Sustainability (CSA:IAS 2025)" was inaugurated at Centurion University of Technology and Management, Paralakhemundi.

The three-day event from January 21 to 23 serves as a platform for experts, policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders from across the country to explore the lat-

est innovations in agriculture and their adoption in the context of climate change. With a focus on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, the conference will cover key topics such as Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA), Agriculture 5.0, sustainable soil and water conservation practices, and advancements in agricultural mechanization.

In addition, it will delve into the role of allied sectors such as livestock, fisheries, and agroforestry in creating climate-resilient systems. The event will also emphasize the importance of technology transfer, capacity building, and development of sustainable business models to scale climate-smart practices across India's diverse agroecological zones.

The conference is an important platform to discuss solutions and strategies for ensuring food security and environmental sustainability in the face of climate challenges.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Vice Chancellor, CUTM, Andhra Pradesh Prof Prashant Mohanty who acknowledged the contributions of the organizing team, speakers, and participants in making the inaugural session a grand success.

With 402 delegates from various universities and industries across the nation, CSA:IAS 2025 is set to feature keynote addresses, multiple technical sessions, and engaging discussions over the next three days. The conference will conclude with a Valedictory Session scheduled for January 23.

person Jayanti Patra and social activist Rama Chandra Patra graced the occasion as chief guest and guest of honour, respectively, on the valedictory day function. Dhenkanal SP Abhinab Sonkar and cine star Rally Nanda inaugurated the annual day function on January 21 evening at Gajalaxmi Kalamandap in Mini Stadium. Around 1,500 students participated in the cultural programme held for two days.

JK Cement expands its reach in Odisha

Cuttack: The JK Cement Ltd has launched its advanced product line in Odisha, marking a step in strengthening its presence in the eastern region of the country. This launch re-



flects JK Cement's commitment to providing high-quality construction materials tailored to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry in Odisha.

In Jharsuguda Panel to probe SC/ST land transfer scam District Welfare Officer

media trends.

Illegal permissions to transfer of 65.695 acres land of Rs 100 cr **RAJKUMAR I** jHARSUGUDA

District Collector, Jharsuguda, Aboli Sunil Naravane, on Wednesday announced the formation of a committee to investigate alleged irregularities in the transfer of SC/ST land under Section 22 of the Odisha Land Reforms Act.

The irregularities reportedly occurred between January 2023 and February 2024, involving permissions for the transfer of over 65.695 acres of land across 142 cases, valued at over Rs 100 crore.

The committee comprises Additional District Collector (General) Brajbandhu Bhoi,

Dominic Toppo, and Project Director of R and R Suryanshu Rout. The team has been directed to submit a comprehensive report promptly. Additionally, the district Collector revealed that a special investigation will be conducted at the Revenue Divisional

Commissioner (RDC) level to ensure a thorough probe into the matter. The irregularities came to

light following media reports and concerns raised by the tribal community regarding the issuance of land transfer permissions. Land owned by Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) individuals is generally permitted for transfer only under exceptional circumstances, such as covering urgent expenses like medical treatments or wed-

dings. However, allegations have surfaced that permissions were granted for large-

scale land transfers, including valuable urban properties, which raised suspicions.

One contentious issue highlighted by the tribal community is that permissions were reportedly granted for the transfer of large plots, exceeding the 50-decimal limit typically adhered to in rural areas. The former Sub-Collector, who approved these cases, is now serving as the Additional District Collector (Revenue)

When questioned about the feasibility of taking action against him, the district Collector indicated that steps are being taken to remove his authority in these matters.

The administration has assured a detailed investigation into all 142 cases, with findings to be submitted soon. The probe aims to address community concerns and ensure accountability in the alleged SC/ST land permission scam.

K'pada lawyer's home a mini museum dedicated to Netaji Houses many rare collections RAJESH BEHERA

KENDRAPADA

 ${
m M}_{
m ohammad}$ Mustaque (60) has turned his home into a mini museum as a tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The museum at Badahat locality of Fakirabad area in Kendrapada houses a wide range of collections related to the life of the freedom fighter. "Since my childhood, I have

been an ardent fan of Netaji. His magnetic personality drew me towards him and that propelled me to know more about Netaji. While other children of my age adored Bollywood heroes, for me Netaji remained my idol. Later on, I began collecting everything that had even Netaji's



name attached to it," said Mustaque.

speeches and radio broadcast

during 1938-1942 in audio-

cassette format, newspapers

dated August 15, 1947 carry-

ing articles on Netaji, form

parts of his prized posses-

sions

Issues of Forward Block, a political weekly founded and The unfinished autobiograedited by the leader, have been phies of Netaji - An Indian Pilpreserved by the antiques colgrim and Indian struggle lector. published in 1948, selected

An old studio photograph of Netaji with the family members of Ashok Mukhjerji, a lawyer from Netaji's birthplace Cuttack, is one of the prized possessions of Mustaque.

The picture depicts octoge

Mustaque.

narian Mukherji, who still resides in Cuttack, sitting on the lap of Netaji in 1939. At that time, Ashok was just a fouryear-old kid. The 1913 gazette notification of Bihar and Odisha, where it was mentioned that Subhas Chandra Bose passed out high school entrance examination in 1913, is treasured by the young lawver.

A handwritten letter of Captain Laxmi Saigal of Indian National Army (INA), a special issue of INA Basumati, a Bengali magazine, Meaning of Leftism, an article written by Bose in a socialist republican magazine, are among other collections of Mustaque.

A postal stamp issued by INA to commemorate the liberation of Manipur is in the collected articles by

observed in 1997, in some coins the centenary year was wrongly mentioned as 1996. Mustaque also possesses three such coins. The homeopathy box, granite glass, lantern and some rare photos of Netaji, which he procured from late Abdus Sattar Hazzari's house at Fazalpur village under Korei police station, have also been

Two rare coins, which the

government minted to ob-

serve the centenary of Netaji

in 1997, can also be found at

Mustaque's house. Although

the centenary of Netaji was

kept at the house of Mustaque in Fakirabad. Abdus was a close associate of Netaji. "My aim is to preserve it for posterity. It's my way of pay-

life," Mustaque said.

ing tribute to the hero of my



Illegal compensation to land owners: SC appoints SIT to probe NOIDA functioning

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Dissatisfied with a UP gov-ernment-appointed panel probing the issue of illegal compensation to land owners paid by NOIDA officials, the Supreme Court has appointed an SIT to look into it. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh ruled while hearing the anticipatory bail pleas of the legal advisor and one of the law officers of NOIDA who were accused of corruption.

It said the allegations related to the release of huge amounts of compensation in favour of some landowners, who were allegedly not entitled to seek such a higher compensation for their acquired land.

The top court constituted the special investigation team (SIT) comprising IPS officer and Additional General of Police, Lucknow zone S B Shiradkar, Inspector General CBCID Modak Rajesh D Rao and Hemant Kutiyal, Commandant



of UP Special Range Security Battalion.

"The special investigation team shall, inter alia, look into the issues (i) whether the quantum of compensation paid to the land owners was higher than they are entitled to in terms of the judgments passed by the courts from time to time; (ii) if so, who were the officers/officials responsible for such exorbitant payment; (iii) whether there was any collusion or contion. The bench however pro-

nivance between the beneficiaries and officers/officials of NOIDA;

and (iv) whether the overall functioning of NOIDA lacks transparency, fairness and commitment to the cause of public interest," it said on January 23. Directing the SIT to file its report in a sealed cover within two months, the bench said the team was free to look into any other allied issue during the investiga-

tected the beneficiaries, farmers and landowners, who were paid the extra compensation from any coercive or penal action without its permission.

It observed on September 14, 2023, when the matter was heard, it was learnt that the FIR in the case was not a solitary instance of alleged excess payment of compensation to the land owners but there were numerous instances of such payments, prima facie, for

extraneous considerations and on quid pro quo basis. "It was consequently desired that an independent agency should hold a deeper probe into the functioning of NOIDA as a statutory authority," the bench noted.

On October 5, 2023, the state government informed the top court that it had constituted a fact-finding committee comprising three officers, including the additional director general of police, Meerut Zone, to examine the cases where NOIDA might have paid illegal compensation in collusion and connivance with the officers of the authority and the beneficiaries. It said, "Keeping in view the limited mandate given to that committee and the manner in which the proceedings were conducted, we were not satisfied with its outcome, especially when it was brought to our notice on November 22, 2023 that under the garb of investigation, the committee was trying to question the grant of higher compensation to the landowners under the court orders.

Defence Ministry unveils new system to boost reconnaissance capabilities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here flagged-off 'SANJAY - The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS).' It is an automated system which integrates the inputs from all ground and aerial battlefield sensors, processing them to confirm their veracity, preventing duplication and fusing them to produce a Common Surveillance Picture of the battlefield over secured Army Data Network and Satellite Communication Network.

These systems will be inducted to all operational Brigades, Divisions and Corps of the Indian Army in three phases from March to October. This system has been developed under the Buy (Indian) category at a cost of Rs 2,402 crore.

This system will enhance battlefield transparency and transform the future battlefield through a Centralised Web Application which will provide inputs to Command and Army Headquarters, and the Indian Army Decision Support



System. The BSS is equipped with stateof-the-art sensors and cuttingedge analytics. It will monitor the vast land borders, prevent intrusions, assess situations with unparalleled accuracy and prove to be a force multiplier in Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance.

This would enable commanders to operate in both conventional and sub-conventional operations in a Network Centric Environment. Its induction will be an extraordinary leap towards data and network centricity in the Indian Army

SANJAY has been indigenously and jointly developed by the

Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) creating a conducive ecosystem achieving towards 'Aatmanirbharta' as a follow up to the Indian Army's 'Year of Technology Absorption'.

nation 04

Minister of state for defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director, BEL Manoj Jain and other senior officials of defence ministry and BEL were present on the during the flagging-off

ceremony.

CEC Rajiv Kumar slams social media platforms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner(CRC)Raj iv Kumar on Friday lamented that social media platforms were not blocking or at least labelling easily detectable fakes and leaving it to poll bodies to engage fact checkers to rescue themselves.

"Business interest appears to be at work here. It is like first spreading the disease and then selling medicines. The casualty is a fair election process and purity of democracy," he said.

Delivering his valedictory speech on the conclusion of an international conference of election management bodies here, Kumar said social media companies need



CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

to introspect before it is "too late". "Let the social media plat-

said. forms, which have been The CEC was of the view that it is in the interest of instrumental in providing a critical space for free expressocial media platforms that sion, especially to voices not fake clutter is detected and heard, not be clouded by the blocked before it is too late. shadows of fake, unverified "Do not help forces disrupt-

ing democracies and thereby freedom of speech, which is the basic tenet of intermedi-aries as well," he cautioned He said election management bodies must devise and adopt a framework to manage these challenges.

As technologies evolve, Kumar noted, artificial intelligence (AI) will play a critical role. AI can help poll bodies refine voter rolls, detect irregularities, and manage polling logistics more effectively, he said.

"It can help in optimising resource allocation and fostering greater efficiency. However, these advancements come with challenges that demand vigilance, particularly as we strive to balance innovation with inclusivity, facts with fake," he pointed out.

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa among topperforming states in fiscal health index

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Mineral-rich Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Goa and Jharkhand have emerged as top-performing 'achievers' among the states listed in NITI Aayog's first Fiscal Health Index (FHI) report released on Friday. The report titled 'Fiscal Health Index 2025' ranked states for 2022-23, covered 18 major states that drive the Indian economy in terms of their contribution to India's GDP, demography, total public expenditure, revenues, and overall fiscal stability.

According to the report, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Kerala were worstperforming states in Fiscal

Health Index (FHI), each focusing significant fiscal challenges, and listed under 'aspirational' category.

The report which aims to evolve an understanding of the fiscal health of states in the country has listed Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya

Commission Arvind fiscal health with the highest

overall index score of 67.8. Referring to top five achiever states, the Aayog said these

states have higher capital outlay of up to 4 per cent of GSDP, effective mobilization of non-tax revenue, are revenue surplus and have low interest payments, which is up to 7 per

states. As per the report, Odisha tops cent of revenue receipts. Analysing the performance of front runners, the government think tank said these states reported high total developmental expenditure up to 73 per cent, witnessed consistent growth in own tax revenue, had balanced fiscal management and improved debt sustainability with debt-to-GSDP ratio of 24 per cent.

The report noted that, the aspirational (Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab) states are struggling to meet the

the debt index (99.0) and debt sustainability (64.0) rankings with better than average scores under quality of expenditure and revenue mobilization. Odisha has maintained low fiscal deficits, a good debt profile, and an above average capital outlay/GSDP ratio. While Kerala and Punjab strug-

fiscal and revenue deficit tar-

gets, have low revenue mobi-

lization, witnessing a growing debt burden with debt sus-

tainability a concern in these

gle with low quality of expenditure and debt sustainibility, the report said, West Bengal faces revenue mobilisation and debt index issues.

PM Modi pledges support Defence Secretary flags off school band competition PM Narendra Modi for girl child empowerment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Drime Minister Narendra National Girl Child Day said on Friday that India is proud of the accomplishments of its girls across all fields. He also said his government is equally resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against the girl child. In a social media post, Modi said, "Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her.

collective commitment to their education, safety and empowerment. In a series of social media posts, the min-

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

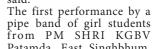
and misleading narratives,

disruptive by design," he

head of the 76th ARepublic Day celebrations, Defence Secretary Friday said the National School Band Competition is being held here to evoke a feeling of oneness and foster a sense of pride and patriotism among children towards the country. Singh was addressing a gathering at the front lawns of the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium where the top 16 school bands selected from across the country are battling it out in the grand



January 26, as special guests, the defence ministry earlier said.



congratulates Ireland's re-elected PM Micheál Martin PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Pradesh, Karnataka under 'front-runners' category. Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana were classified as performers. As per report, released by Chairman of 16th Finance

Panagariya, Odisha excelled in

India is proud of the accomplishments of the girl child across all fields.

Their feats continue to inspire us all, the prime minister added.

Modi said his government has focused on sectors like education, technology, skills and healthcare among others which have contributed to empowering the girl child. Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi urged for a

ister emphasised the impor tance of creating an environment that would allow every girl child to thrive and fulfil her dreams.

She said in one post, "On National Girl Child Day, I extend my endless good wishes for a bright future to all daughters. Let us take a pledge today to remain committed to the education, safety, and empowerment of our girls.'

Ĭn another post, the minister reiterated the need for societal support. "Balika Devo Bhava: On this occasion of National Girl Child Day, let us resolve to provide every girl the opportunity to fulfil her dreams and create an environment where they feel free, empowered, and respected," she said.

Observed every year on this day, National Girl Child Day highlights the importance of addressing issues such as gender inequality, access to education, and safety for girls.

finale. The National School Band Competition 2024-25 is being jointly organised by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education. The defence secretary addressed students partici-pating as members of contesting teams and others at

the venue. In the grand finale, 16 teams spanning 466 school students are taking part, who have been selected after a "rigorous scrutiny", he said.

Referring to the participation of military bands in the annual ceremonial parade, Singh said the armed forces have a very vibrant tradition of military music.

This tradition boosts morale, gives dignity to ceremonies and gives talented people opportunities to display their talent, he said.

The defence secretary said in the last couple of years, the government has made efforts to "involve and encourage

"talented school children" to become co-participants in Republic Day celebrations. "The wonderful, visual spectacle of marching school bands...Rouses patriotic passion and courage among chil-dren and adults alike, thus evoking a feeling of oneness, belonging and national pride," he said. The aim behind conducting

the National School Band Competition is to evoke a

de corps, and a deep sense of pride among children towards their schools and the country, thus rejuvenating and rekindling the spirit of contributional values, patriotism and unity, and motivate them to walk the path of becoming patriotic and useful citizens of the country," he said.

The students who are part of the finalist teams have been invited to witness the feeling of oneness, of esprit Republic Day ceremony on

East Singhonum Jharkhand was an instant winner, as they delighted the audience with their swinging moves and lilting tunes.

A pipe band of boys followed PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2 Belagavi, Karnataka. A brass band of girls from a government school in Gangtok, Sikkim and a pipe band of boys from a private school in North Sikkim are also among the finalists and their performances left the crowd spellbound.

Ŝare Jehan Se Achha', 'Ae Watan Tere Liye' tunes were also played by several bands. A brass band of girls from St. Joseph Anglo-Indian Girl's Higher Secondary School, Kozhikode, Kerala belted out patriotic tunes and also played 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' and 'Vande Mataram'.

The competition is being held over two days, ending on January 25.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated newly-elected Irish Prime Minister Micheál Martin and said he is committed to working together to further strengthen the partnership between India and Ireland.

Martin has been elected Irish prime minister for the second time. Martin is one of the longest serving MPs in the Dáil (lower house of Irish Parliament) having been first elected in 1989.

" Č o n g r a t u l a t i o n s @MichealMartinTD on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Ireland," Modi said in a social media post.

"Committed to work together to further strengthen our bilateral partnership that is based on strong foundation of shared values and deep people to people connect," the prime minister said.

India condemns disruption of 'Emergency' screenings in UK Gurugram police arrest five

PIONEER NEWS SERVICEAGENCIES NEW DELHI/LONDON

¬aking strong exception to pro-Khalistani extremists who stormed movie theatres across UK and disrupted screening of film 'Emergency,' India on Friday said these elements should be held accountable. New Delhi also hoped the UK government would take appropriate action against the culprits.

The film, which sees actor and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut playing the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, focuses on 21 months of Emergency from 1975 to 1977. The film ran into controversy over allegations that it misrepresents the Sikh community. "We've also



seen several reports on how the film 'Emergency', which was being screened in several halls, was being obstructed

We consistently raise concerns with the UK government regarding incidents of violent protests and intimidation by anti-India limits. Freedom of speech and expression cannot be applied selectively, and those

obstructing it must be held accountable," Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said here at a weekly press briefing.

'We hope that the UK side will take appropriate action against those responsible. Our mission is that our High Commission in London remains in touch and it is in regular communication with our community members for

their safety and welfare," he added. This strong reaction came after pro-Khalistani protest-

ers organised protests against Ranaut's 'Emergency', disrupting the film's screening at some cinemas in the UK during its opening weekend. Community organisation Insight UK posted a video on

its social media platform, showing protesters interrupting a screening of the film, directed by Ranaut, at a cinema in Harrow in northwest London.

News agency PTI reported from London an Opposition Conservative Party Member of Parliament has urged the UK Home Secretary to intervene after his constituents in north-west London were threatened by "masked Khalistani terrorists" who burst into a screening of Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency'.

Bob Blackman told the House of Commons that similar disruption of the screenings of the "very controversial" film took place in Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Slough, Staines

and Manchester. It has resulted in the Vue and Cineworld cinema chains deciding to pull the film from many theatres in the UK. "On Sunday, and any of my constituents gathered and paid for a screening of the film 'Emergency' in the Harrow

Vue cinema. At about 30 or 40 minutes into the screening of the film, masked Khalistani terrorists burst in, threatened members of the audience and forced the screening to end," Blackman said in Parliament. 'The film is very controversial, and I am not commenting on its quality or content, but I defend the right of my constituents and other members' constituents to be able to view it and make a decision

on it. It covers the period

when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister of India," he said.

The MP noted that there are certain views in the UK that it is an "anti-Sikh film" but asserted that his constituents should be able to judge for themselves and not be threatened by thugs who want to disrupt democratic opportunities to see public films".

"May we have a statement from the Home Secretary (Yvette Cooper) next week on what will be done to ensure that people who want to see such films, which have been passed by censors, can do so in peace and harmony?

I absolutely defend the right of people to demonstrate outside cinemas, but not to disrupt viewings," he added.

criminals after encounter STAFF REPORTER Village Ghata to Faridabad GURUGRAM Road. After some time, an auto

 $A^{\mathrm{crime\ branch\ team\ of\ the}}_{\mathrm{Gurugram\ police\ have}}$ arrested five dreaded criminals after an encounter from Golf Course Extension Road on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, police said. The accused was present in the city to commit theft, police said on Friday.

According to the police, the police received information regarding four to five youths coming towards Golf Course Extension Road with illegal weapons, riding in a CNG auto rickshaw to commit a crime. Based on an information, a police team blocked the Golf Course Extension Road from

rickshaw without a number plate was seen coming towards the police check point. When the police team signalled the CNG auto rickshaw driver to stop the auto-rickshaw, the auto-rickshaw driver tried to escape by increasing the speed of the auto-rickshaw and hitting the barricade and police vehicle. "Five persons got down from the auto-rickshaw and

started firing at the police team and running towards the forest. During this, One bullet hit the bulletproof jacket of the incharge of crime branch sector-39, and one bullet hit the window of the police car," Inspector Vishwa Gaurav, In-Charge of Crime Branch Sector-39, said.



Preparations underway for Mauni Amavasya Amrit Snan

BISWAJEET BANERJEE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

As Mahakumbh 2025 approach-es its most auspicious bathing festival, Mauni Amavasya Amrit Snan, preparations are in full swing to accommodate an expected turnout of 10 crore devotees at the sacred Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj. This key festival, falling between January 27 and 29, is being marked by extraordinary administrative efforts to ensure safety, convenience, and seamless crowd management.

The Uttar Pradesh government, led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, is sparing no effort to make this Mahakumbh a grand and divine spectacle, reinforcing Prayagraj's status as a cultural and spiritual hub. Following the 2019 Kumbh's resounding success, the 2025 Mahakumbh is being positioned as the largest human congregation in history, with extensive arrangements being made to enhance the experience for pilgrims.

Comprehensive Crowd Management Measures

Given the anticipated surge of devotees, the Mela administration has implemented strict crowd changing rooms, and management protocols to ensure a comprehensive cleanliness

smooth flow of pilgrims. Officials have been instructed to enforce sector-wise management, wherein devotees will return from the same sector or zone they enter. Movement to Sangam Nose and other zones will be strictly restricted to prevent overcrowding.

A sprawling 12-kilometer-long bathing ghat has been constructed to provide easy access for devotees. The administration is encouraging pilgrims to bathe at the ghat nearest to their entry point and avoid traveling between zones. Evacuation teams equipped with ropes, loud hailers, whistles, flying squads, and watchtower teams will maintain control over hard barriers and barricades to

ensure safety. Temporary holding areas, parking facilities, and overnight accommodations at nearby and institutions have been prepared to handle any overflow of pilgrims. To support the arrangements, the administration has reinforced infrastructure at the ghats, including river barricading, deployment of water police, installation of watchtowers, improved lighting, signage, toilets,



measures. Essential materials like straw, sacks, and casa will be made available to ensure the safety and comfort of devotees. Railways Rise to the Occasion

The Prayagraj Railway Division has devised a detailed plan to manage the influx of devotees,

with a special focus on Mauni Amavasya. A major highlight of this plan is the creation of an additional holding area at Khusro Bagh, located near the railway station. This facility, with the capacity to accommodate over 1 Bagh before entering the station lakh people, will provide a resting premises. From the holding area,

space for pilgrims while reducing congestion at the station premises. Senior PRO of Prayagraj Railway Division, Amit Malviya, stated that pilgrims returning from the fair will be directed to Khusro

passengers will be guided to colorcoded shelters based on their destinations. These shelters will ensure orderly boarding through the use of color-coded tickets, confusion and preventing minimizing the risk of stampedes. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) and civil police are working in close coordination to ensure seamless crowd channelization at the station and its surroundings. The additional holding area is equipped with essential facilities to manage the extra crowd pressure, ensuring a safe and organized experience for all travelers.

Record Turnout Expected

The grand Mahakumbh 2025 has overwhelming response, with 3.5 crore devotees tab. crore devotees taking a holy dip at the sacred Sangam on Makar Sankranti. For Mauni Amavasya, the most significant event of the Kumbh, the number is expected to reach a record-breaking 10 crore pilgrims.

Recognizing the cultural and spiritual importance of Mahakumbh, the Yogi Adityanath government is determined to make it a global showcase of India's heritage and unity. Robust infrastructure, meticulous planning, and extensive security arrangements are being put in place to provide devotees with a divine and memorable experience. The Heart of India's Spiritual Heritage

Mauni Amavasya marks a day of silence and devotion, drawing millions of pilgrims who believe in its purifying and transformative power. The confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati rivers at Triveni Sangam is considered the holiest site for this ritual.

The administration's efforts, combined with the unwavering faith of devotees, are set to make Mahakumbh 2025 a landmark event in India's spiritual and cultural history. As the sacred city of Prayagraj prepares for this monumental occasion, it stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of India's traditions, attracting pilgrims and tourists from across the globe. With an unparalleled scale of

Congress accuses

UP Government of

mismanagement,

arrangements and extraordinary influx of devotees, Mauni Amavasya Amrit Snan promises to be a spiritual experience like no other, bringing together faith, discipline, and unity on the banks of the holy Sangam.

Hindu code of conduct to be distributed

BISWAJEET BANERJEE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

For the first time, a com-prehensive Hindu Code of Conduct will be distributed to one lakh Sanatanis at the Maha Kumbh. Prepared by scholars from Kashi, this 300page document has been finalised after approval from Shankaracharyas, Ramanujacharyas, and promi-nent saints. The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) will unveil this historic document during the Sant Sammelan, scheduled after Mauni Amavasya.

"This is a landmark step in the history of Hindu society. After 351 years, a structured code has been developed for guiding Sanatanis," said Jitendranand Swami Saraswati, National General Secretary of the Bharatiya Sant Samiti. Akhil

The Hindu Code of Conduct has been developed after 15 years of meticulous research the Kashi Vidwat Parishad, in collaboration with scholars from across the country. "Eleven years of conceptual

debates and four years of intensive study of scriptures



traditions,

practices like kanyadaan should be prioritised.

However, dowry has been strictly prohibited," Prof.

and calcium tablets, he said.

said.

distributed.

and

Jitendranand

Vedic

Swami

Dwivedi said.

have gone into creating this Key Features of the Code The code emphasises duty Prof. code, said Dwivedi, Ramnarayan and responsibility within General Secretary of the Hindu society. It seeks to curb social evils like Kashi Vidwat Parishad. extravagant spending during The code draws from ancient weddings, promotes day-time Vedic marriages, and texts such as Manu Smriti, Parashar Smriti, and Deval Smriti, alongside excerpts from the Bhagavad Gita, Ramayana, Mahabharata, prohibits dowry. It also sets guidelines for funeral rituals, including limiting feasts. Marriages must align with

and major Puranas. "We formed 11 teams comprising 70 scholars from northern and southern India to ensure inclusivity. After 40 rounds of discussions, we finalised the code," Prof. Dwivedi added. Saraswati highlighted the significance of the initiative, saying, "For centuries, there has been no structured revision of Hindu practices. This code will instill discipline and preserve the values of Sanatan Dharma" values of Sanatan Dharma." The Vishva Hindu Parishad plans to distribute one lakh copies of the Hindu Code of Conduct during the Maha Kumbh, with an additional 11,000 copies to be circulated across the country. "This is not just a document; it's a guide for the future of

the Hindu community. We hope every Sanatani will adopt it," said a VHP official. The document will be officially endorsed by Shankaracharyas Mahamandaleshwars, and other saints during the Sant Sammelan, starting January 25. Following this, the Hindu community will be encouraged to accept and implement it. "This code is rooted in

scripture and tradition, but it addresses contemporary issues like wasteful expenses in rituals. It's a step toward reforming society," Prof. Dwivedi concluded

'Sadhuon Ke Mann Ki Baat' to be organised

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular Mann Ki Baat initiative, a special program 'Sadhuon Ke Mann Ki Baat' will be organ-ised at the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj. This unique event will provide a platform for saints and sages to share their thoughts on key aspects of Sanatan Dharma and the grand initiatives undertaken by the Yogi government for the Mahakumbh.

The Mahakumbh, held on the sacred banks of the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, has become a hub for spiritual discussions on devotion, liberation, and higher knowledge. To enrich this spiritual dialogue, the Mann Ki Baat program will be hosted for the first time on January 25 from 2 PM to 5 PM at Hari Dham Sanatan Seva Trust in Sector 20 of the Mahakumbh. The

event will feature



prominent saints from all Akharas, including Sanyasi, Bairagi, and Udasin sects. Notable participants include Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Balakanand Giri of Taponidhi Shri Panchayati Akhara Anand, Mahant Ravindra Puri (President of the All India Akhara Parishad), Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Arun Giri of Shri Panch Dashnam Akhara, Maha Mandaleshwar Kankeshwari Shri Mahant Devi. Madhavdas of Shri Panch Digambar Ani Akhara, Shani Peethadheeshwar Dham Maha Mandaleshwar Paramhans Danti Maharaj,

corruption and Maha Mandaleshwar Computer Baba of Shri PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Digambar Akhara, among LUCKNOW others.

With millions of saints and Ultar Pradesh Congress leaders have accused the sages attending the Prayagraj Mahakumbh, the event bridges devotees and the state government of mismanagement and corruption in the saintly community, offering preparations for Mahakumbh 2025, alleging inadequate facildiscourses and satsangs on growth spiritual and liberation.

However, the 'Sadhuon Ke Mann Ki Baat' program aims to address broader social and religious challenges that saints encounter in contemporary times.

Swami Prakashanand, the program's spokesperson, highlighted that the saints will discuss critical issues such as the ban on cow slaughter and the planning and execution of the divine and grand Mahakumbh. He said, "This initiative will provide a unique platform for the saints to voice their resolutions and ideas for societal and progress." religious

ities for pilgrims and misuse of allocated funds. Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, State Congress President Ajay Rai and MP Ujjwal Raman Singh criticized the Yogi Adityanath-led government for failing to ensure proper arrangements at the Mahakumbh. "The budget allocated for Mahakumbh is being misused, and being misused, and corruption is rampant," Rai alleged, adding that the administration must complete all pending preparations before the Mauni Amavasya

Snan. Ajay Rai revealed that a Congress delegation, led by MP Ujjwal Raman Singh, visited the Mahakumbh site after reports of a fire incident.

More than 1.21 lakh devotees | Devotees visit Dwadash Madhav Parikrama gallery

availed Ayush services

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

More than 1.21 lakh devo-tees have availed Ayush services at the facilities set up at Maha Kumbh by the Ayush ministry in collaboration with the National Ayush Mission, Uttar Pradesh.

The Ayush OPDs, clinics, stalls and sessions are emerging as key attractions for devotees and visitors at Maha Kumbh, Prayagraj.

Ministry of Ayush has arranged a host of facilities in collaboration with National Avush Mission, Uttar Pradesh, at the mega festival, providing free healthcare services to domestic and international devotees, the ministry said in a statement

The Ayush team at Maha Kumbh comprises 80 doctors across 20 OPDs to provide 24x7 medical services. These OPDs are equipped to address a wide range of common and



Foreign devotees are also utilising Ayush services, including OPD consultations, the statement said. Also, daily therapeutic yoga sessions are being conducted from at

designated camps in the Sangam area and Sector-8, led by trainers from the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), Ministry of Ayush, Delhi. of

participation The international devotees in these sessions highlights the growing interest and trust in Ayush services among the local and global public, the statement said



chronic conditions.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

n addition to the sacred dip in the Triveni Sangam, the cir-cumambulation of the twelve temples, known as the Dwadash Madhav Parikrama, holds immense significance in the Maha Kumbh journey. To explore the significance of this sacred tradition, a growing number of devotees are visiting the Dwadash Madhav Parikrama Gallery, curated by the Indian National Trust for team has also arranged free Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), at the Namami Gange Exhibition Hall in Sector distribution of medicines, including immunity boosters In line with the ongoing efforts 01, Kali Sadak.

of Ministry of Ayush to ensure gallery offers an This special attention towards the experience, detailed immersive elderly's health, the Ayush featuring information, visuals, and team at Maha Kumbh is dedicated to facilitating the replicas of rare 10th- and 11thelderly and extending Ayush century idols of Lord Vishnu, including a unique statue of services to them, the statement Vishnu in a rare yoga posture. Nearly 45 per cent of the beneficiaries, so far, are elderly. According to mythology, the fruits of Kalpavas near Prayagraj's Sangam and the sanctity of bathing in the Informative pamphlets on common ailments and their Ayush remedies are also being Triveni Sangam are fully realized only after completing



Madhav Dwadash the Parikrama. INTACH has also published a

research-based booklet with insights from priests, temple committee members, and knowledgeable other contributors.

Visitors to the gallery gain deeper insights into the Dwadash Madhav temples and their historical and spiritual significance and appreciate the cultural and artistic heritage on display.

Dwadash Madhav The temples—Shri Veni Madhav, Shri Adi Madhav, Shri Manohar Madhav, Shri Bindu Madhay, Shri Gada Madhay,

Shri Chakra Madhav, Shri Shankh Madhav, Shri Akshav Vat Madhav, Shri Sankashthar Madhav, Shri Anant Madhav, Shri Asi Madhav, and Shri Padma Madhav-are across various parts of Prayagraj. These temples, dedicated to twelve divine forms of Lord Vishnu, embody the region's profound spiritual heritage.

In Treta Yuga, revered Maharshi Bharadwaj initiated the Parikrama of these temples. However, this tradition faced interruptions during the Mughal and British eras when several temples were destroyed.

After India's independence in

1947, Sant Prabhudatta Brahmachari revived the Parikrama in 1961 during the month of Magh with the support of Shankaracharya Niranjan Devtirth and Swami Dharmasamrat Karpatri Ji Maharaj. Today, under the Yogi

government, the tradition of Parikrama continues seamlessly, symbolizing the enduring spiritual devotion of devotees. The Dwadash

Madhav temples are believed to reflect Lord Vishnu's eternal presence at Triveni Sangam, the sacred confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. According to classical belief, Lord Vishnu manifested in these twelve forms to preserve the sanctity of the Sangam and bless countless devotees.

Another legend holds that Lord Brahma and other deities implored Lord Vishnu to establish himself in the Prayag region as its divine protector. In response, Vishnu vowed to safeguard the land, taking the form of Dwadash Madhav to fulfill this celestial duty.

significant inconveniences due to mismanagement and a lack of proper facilities," Singh said

"Our delegation found that

The leaders pointed out issues such as inadequate fire safety measures, unhygienic conditions, and poor crowd management, which are causing hardships for pilgrims and saints alike.

The Congress leaders announced that they would closely monitor the situation and hold the government accountable. "If the administration fails to ensure

adequate preparations for Mauni Amavasya, we will intensify our agitation," Rai warned. The Congress leaders also stated that they would participate in a holy dip at the Mahakumbh on February 3 to express solidarity with the devotees. The Congress leadership emphasised the need for transparency in the utilisation of funds allocated for Mahakumbh.

The government must disclose details of the budget spent and ensure that every rupee is used for the benefit of devotees," said Ujjwal Raman Singh

sentiment. "Wearing a helmet

is for our own safety, not the government's benefit," said

Sunita Mishra, a homemaker from Lucknow. "If we can't

even follow such basic rules,

how can we expect to improve road safety in

As debates continue, the jugaad of tying helmets with ropes highlights both the creativity and challenges of

enforcing road safety laws in India. While it ensures

compliance on paper, critics

argue it undermines the

India?"

'Jugaad' for helmet rule sparks debate on civic sense and road safety

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

A creative yet controversial workaround by petrol pump staff in Uttar Pradesh to enforce the helmet rule has sparked widespread debate on social media and among citizens. The ingenious methodlending helmets tied to ropes to riders without helmets while refuelling-has drawn both applause and criticism. In a video, which is from west UP, that has gone viral, a twowheeler rider is seen entering the petrol pump without a helmet. Instead of being denied service, he is handed a

helmet secured with a rope. After refuelling, the rider returns the helmet and rides off. The unique arrangement ensures riders momentarily comply with the law to access fuel.

The solution has left people Social medi divided. For some, it reactions. showcases Indian ingenuity. commented "This is what makes India unique. Even when rules are imposed, people find a way to adapt," said Ramesh Gupta, a local shopkeeper in Noida. "At least this way, the helmet rule is being followed, even if temporarily. Others, however, view it as an

priorities. "This is a complete joke," said Meena Sharma, a college professor. "The whole purpose of the helmet rule is to ensure safety. Borrowing a helmet just to get petrol defeats that purpose entirely." Social media was abuzz with One user commented, "Petrol pump attendants are doing their job to avoid losses, but where is the enforcement of real civic responsibility?" Another remarked, "This shows that rules in India are just about ticking boxes, not about genuine concern for public welfare?

example of misplaced The issue of enforcing helmet



rules has been contentious across the state. In a separate across the state. In a separate for not wearing a helmet. incident in Hapur, a lineman Frustrated, he retaliated by the from

department was denied fuel electricity cutting off the power supply to the petrol pump. CCTV footage showed the lineman scaling a transformer and severing the connection, leaving the pump and surrounding area without electricity for 20 minutes. "I couldn't believe my eyes," said Vinod Kumar, a

bystander who witnessed the scene. "Instead of accepting his mistake, he went out of his way to cause trouble. This kind of behavior shows a lack of accountability on all sides." The pump owner later filed a police complaint against the lineman. "We are just following the law," said a staff member at the petrol pump.

"But incidents like this make it difficult for us to enforce rules. We don't want to face backlash, so we try to find middle ground."

Experts and citizens alike believe that these incidents reflect a deeper issue with civic responsibility in India. "The helmet rule is not just about compliance; it's about saving lives," said traffic safety expert Alok Verma. "If people treat it as a formality, the rule loses its purpose. Both enforcement agencies and the public need to work together to change this mindset.

larger goal of fostering a culture of safety and accountability. Commoners echoed this

BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | JANUARY 25, 2025

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Rekindling historic ties

The President of Indonesia is the chief guest at the Republic Day, a fitting tribute to the friendship between two nations

India will celebrate its 76th Republic Day on January 26, 2025, marking a moment to reflect on the country's remarkable journey since its first Republic Day in 1950. This year's celebrations will have a special touch as Prabowo Subianto, President of Indonesia, will be the chief guest. His presence is a reminder of the deep historical and cultural ties between the two nations, which have seen their share of highs and lows but continue to thrive. Incidentally, the chief guest at the first Republic Day parade was President Sukarno of Indonesia, highlighting the camaraderie between two newly independent nations that had emerged from colonial rule. The relations between the two countries have come a full circle. The early years of India-Indonesia relations were marked by solidarity and mutual support. Biju Patnaik, a prominent Indian freedom fighter, played a key role in aiding Indonesia's struggle for independence, even flying its leaders to safety during critical moments. This partnership extended to global platforms like the Bandung



Conference of 1955, which laid the groundwork for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), co-sponsored by India and Indonesia.

India has come a long way since 1950. From grappling with post-independence challenges like poverty, illiteracy and infrastructural deficits, the nation has emerged as one of the world's fastest-growing economies. It boasts advancements in science, technology, space exploration and global diplomacy, while remaining rooted in its democratic ethos. Similarly, Indonesia has evolved into a vibrant democracy and a leading voice in Southeast Asia. Both nations share a legacy of anti-colonial struggles and have worked

together in various domains, including trade, culture and defence. The partnership between India and Indonesia has seen its ups and downs. In the 1950s, ties were warm and cooperative, but by the 1960s, geopolitical differences, particularly over relations with China and the 1965 India-Pakistan war, strained the relationship. Indonesia's support for Pakistan during that conflict and claims over parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands led to significant diplomatic tensions. However, the 1970s marked a period of reconciliation, with agreements on maritime boundaries and a renewed focus on cooperation. Today, Indonesia is one of India's largest trading partners in Southeast Asia, with bilateral trade reaching nearly \$30 billion in 2023-24. The two nations have also strengthened defence ties, including a Defence Cooperation Agreement signed in 2018, signaling a strategic partnership in a region increasingly shaped by competition with China. Prabowo Subianto's visit as the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade holds symbolic and strategic importance. This visit underscores the growing warmth in India-Indonesia relations. The presence of the Indonesian president at this year's parade is a tribute to the enduring friendship between two nations that have weathered challenges and found common ground in their aspirations for peace, prosperity and global cooperation.



The complex terrain of relationships



Relationships, whether personal or professional, are a delicate balancing act of emotions, perspectives and communication

elationships are a tricky business. Two people who, at one stage of life, can agree so well that they cannot see or believe in having any difference in the point of view that they will hold. Different perspectives are an enigma; affection, agreement and endorsement are all rolled into one. Identification with each other is more important than identity any day. Very often, it is the bedrock of affection and togetherness in action. The same couple, as time passes and because of hormonal changes in their systems, can and do start having different points of view. What is initially a pleasant disagreement can soon become an assertion of identity. Personality conflicts follow.

These personality conflicts can be a logical derivation, and very often, it is difficult to find the origin of the derivation itself. Coherent dialogue in a spirit of give and take can often be substituted by the urge not only to protect one's turf but also to prove oneself more talented and resourceful. It can often become the source of further identity conflicts. The skill to handle such disagreements cannot be taught and is often taken over by other habits.

These habits may include being short-tempered, incoherent talking and having a high pitch in conversation, which is seen as an extension of good logic. The aberrations are far too many to be recounted, and the results are easy to identify. Instead of working together to resolve the differences, it becomes a battleground to show who can prevail. The rest, as they say, is history. In an era, that is full of talk about skills, it is important at this stage of dialogue to focus on life skills. Two people who cannot get together try to demonstrate who has the right of way in a marital relationship.

The life story moves from one end of the spectrum to an often incoherent hurtling down the slope of not only a difference of opinion but also a difference in personalities. The analysis can go only so far because then logic many interpersonal relation-ships, is simultaneously easy and yet difficult. It is easy to control if one can limit ones gives way to preferences and pas- communication and how



sion. This is at the root of many marital discords, and it is difficult to reverse the gears and change the pitch. Unfortunately, while there are numerous dissertations in psychology and elsewhere on relationships, practical-oriented thinking in handling relationships is few and at best,

commonsensical. One is merely indicating the value of focused research and showing how a structured approach to problem-solving, even in everyday life, can be very valuable. There is a need to see research as an enabling situation for problem-solving, and many use the phrase 'applied research' for it. In the present day and age, more of the fashion world is about skill, and it is being generously used because of its attractive value in situations that cannot be practically handled. Sometimes it works; sometimes it does not.

The important thing is to realise that research requires insights and the adoption of a structured methodology, even in commonsensical situations. It is this aspect of research that can lead to a better quality of life, which can be termed as enabling research and it has to do with life skills. Solving this situation, which afflicts

much one talks more wisely, keeping the number of words used in a conversation minimal. The truth is, that the more one seeks to talk and explain, the more complex it can become. Let simple things remain simple; it is a significant strategic choice.

This approach works because passion subsides, irritations sort itself out and the choice of words and pitch of the voice can be better controlled. One only has to look around to notice how talking less is such THE LIFE an asset in keeping relationships positive. Interpersonal STORY MOVES relationships apart, work rela-FROM ONE tionships, also get affected and the impression of losing END OF THE an argument, even in workspaces, is a personal defeat. This, by itself, is a self-defeat-**SPECTRUM** ing proposition. It is selfto an defeating because even if one OFTEN wins the argument due to positional power or manipu-INCOHERENT lative skills, the scars of a lost HURTLING argument leave long-lasting damage to relationships. One DOWN THE can indeed often lose a battle to win the war. As indicated SLOPE OF earlier, this applies to work sit-NOT ONLY A uations as much as to real-life, non-work situations. DIFFERENCE OF Gentleness and soft words go far, especially when gentleness **OPINION BUT** is received not as a proposition ALSO A of the weaker person, but as a growling, smitten by the dangerous feeling of having 'lost one's face'. Be that as it may, it is necessary to reduce differences, not to personalities, but to find the best way forward. This best way forward must focus on protecting everyone's ego and be in the interest of the larger good. Much will depend on the personality elements of the players in the situation and indeed the time available to sort it out. Many times, a shortage of time necessitates two decisions that are suboptimal and more to 'get along with a job' than finding the best option'. Using tentative words and a hypothesis open to correction and improvement may be the best recipe for conflict resolution. In such situations, the personalities do not win or ose; it is the cause that is handled in a far-sighted way. Examples can be many, and

one has to see what the issue at stake is how people perceive the result of the outcome and how they interpret it. In all cases, if there is a loser in an argument, it is best to make him feel that he has not 'lost' and that no personalities are involved. This can be a useful approach to handling institutional issues because every resolution of a conflict should characteristic and indicator of be for the institutional good. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of The best solution to many conflicts is when both come international repute. The out as winners, and no one is views expressed are personal)

DIFFERENCE IN mutual respect. PERSONALITIES

PTI Children holding national flags in a mustard field ahead of Republic Day 2025, at a village near Balurghat

Cooperative commodities exchange: A global vision for farmer empowerment



BINOD ANAND

This initiative leverages technology, blockchain and India's PACS network to empower farmers with fair pricing, sustainability and direct market access

ture controls and pest man-

agement systems, will be

strategically located across

Blockchain connectivity

across warehouses will enable

seamless tracking of stored

produce, ensuring reduced

wastage and pilferage.

Farmers will also receive

warehouse receipts, which

can be used as collateral for

loans, providing them with

immediate financial support.

This interconnected system

key agricultural regions.

◄he agricultural sector is the backbone of many economies, particularly in India, where nearly 60 per cent of the population depends on farming for their livelihood. Yet, smallholder farmers often remain at the mercy of intermediaries, fluctuating market prices and unequal access to global markets.

To address these challenges and promote equity, sustainability and growth, a bold initiative is proposed: the establishment of a Global Farmer-Centric Cooperative Commodities Exchange (GFCCE). This platform, rooted in the cooperative model, aims to empower farmers by ensuring fair pricing, direct market access, and sustainable practices. This ambitious project resonates with the global agenda of the World Cooperation Economic Forum to foster inclusive economic growth equity. social and Farmers Empowering Through Technology APEX Integration at the heart of this initiative lies technology-a powerful enabler that can bridge the gap between



GFCCE will leverage the Government of India's support to develop a robust and accessible digital platform integrated with blockchain technology to ensure transparency and reduce pilferage in the supply chain. Blockchain will create a tamper-proof record of transactions, from production to storage and distribution, enhancing trust and accountability. The project will adopt a PACS-to-APEX (Primary Agricultural Cooperative

will not only provide farmers Societies to Apex-level organwith better access to markets isations) approach, leveraging but also ensure that the sup-India's extensive network of ply chain is efficient, transparover 95,000 PACS. These ent and secure. It will serve as societies will act as the founthe backbone for procurement planning and play a vital dational nodes, aggregating produce from farmers at the role in stabilising food prices. Impact on Food Inflation village level. The commodities will then be funnelled The GFCCE's blockchainenabled supply chain and through district and statefarmers and markets. The level federations, culminating warehouse network will rev-

at the national apex organisaolutionise procurement planning and control food inflation, which will oversee operations, ensure fair pricing tion. With real-time data on and manage exports. To production, storage, and disaddress storage issues, a nettribution, government agenwork of modern warehouses cies will have accurate insights into commodity availability will be constructed and integrated with blockchain sysand demand patterns. tems. These warehouses,

This data-driven approach will enable timely procurement decisions, ensuring that food stocks are adequately replenished and distributed. By reducing post-harvest losses and pilferage, the initiative will improve the efficiency of the Public Distribution System (PDS), preventing artificial shortages that often lead to price spikes. Additionally, the transparent pricing mechanism of the exchange will curb hoarding and speculation.

This system will also facilitate targeted interventions during periods of surplus or deficit. For instance, in the case of bumper harvests, surplus stocks can be stored efficiently and exported strategically to global markets, preventing a price crash domestically.

(The writer was a member of the high level MSP committee, Ministry of Agriculture; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRUMP'S HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

Madam — The ultimatum from Trump to end the prolonging Ukraine-Russia war exposes his hypocrisy. He is aware that it is with the pumping of arms by his country and its allies in Europe that Ukraine is continuing the war. He is also aware that the sanction imposed on Russia had failed miserably, as the same EU partners are buying the same Russian oil from different sources like India. Pumping arms and funds into Ukraine on one hand and giving an ultimatum to end the war on the other is rightly understood by one and all as meaningless, non-serious, and merely publicity-orientated. The entire world knows that maximum wars are waged or promoted by his country.

Even while addressing after assuming office, he had demonstrated his imperial thirst by expressing his policy to take over the Panama Canal and Greenland, besides arbitrarily changing the name of the Gulf of Mexico into the Gulf of America. His threat to wage a tariff war goes against the very basic principles of globalisation that promote the free movement of goods, labour, and capital. The world also knows the key role played by the production of arms and promotion of arms trade in the economy of America. Therefore, America needs a war between some countries or the other. Mr. Trump speaking with concern over the huge human loss in Ukraine and Russia due to war is another display of his hypocrisy. Because more devastating impacts are experienced due to climate change, and his actions are hostile to the global efforts to overcome this serious issue. Therefore, one need not attach so much importance to his utterances or Quixotic actions.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

LIQUOR BAN AT RELIGIOUS SITES Madam-CM of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav has formally announced

UNESCO honours Mahakumbh



o foster the honour and delight of every Indian, the 45-day-long Mahakumbh Festival was listed in the UNESCO list as the largest peaceful religious congregation of pilgrims on earth. To disperse the Hindu aesthetic religious and spiritualism at the next

will be implemented in 17 religious places in 11 districts of the state. It is believed that the government will send an order to the administration of the cities of the districts where the liquor ban is to be implemented, and the licensed liquor shops will be closed. He also said that liquor will not be allowed to be sold at any cost in the places where God Ram and Krishna set foot.

These include Ujjain, Amarkantak, Maheshwar, Omkareshwar, Chitrakoot, Mandsaur, etc. In the Narsinghpur program, he also talked about the harm caused to the health of the family due to alcohol. I do not understand one thing: more or less all the politicians in India, in their speeches, there is a lot of mention of the ill effects & demerits of alcohol and the diseases caused by it. All those smart politicians are found appealing to the people that 'please stay away from consuming alcohol; it harms your health. Hey, when these leaders are so concerned about the health of the people, then why do they not declare a in Narsinghpur district that a liquor ban complete ban on the production and

level, Maha Kumbh is truly a festival of positivity and spiritualism in India. From Naga Sadhus to Aghoris to all the other pilgrims, Kumbh is an auspicious celebration of Hindu devotees to enchant spirituality for developing godly connection, inner peace, and spiritual harmony.

A dip in the Triveni Sangam of the three rivers of Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati will be considered as the precursor of all devil deeds done during the lifetime. A congregation of 450 million, including people from local and global communities, is one of a kind incidence. It is welcoming that UNESCO added this one-ofa-kind religious festivity to its list. It is a moment of extreme celebration and glee for every Indian back at home. We all welcome the UNESCO listing favourably and positively with utmost joy in our hearts.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

marketing of alcohol? Jang Bahadur Singh | jamshedpur

SCAMMERS TARGET JOB SEEKERS

Madam — The rise of job scams has become a significant problem, with scammers deceiving job seekers by creating fake job postings. These scammers often promise unsuspecting victims the opportunity to work from home and earn a high income, but only after paying for training or equipment. Research the company thoroughly to verify its legitimacy and reputation. Use reputable job boards and websites to search for job openings.

Report any suspicious activities or job postings to the relevant authorities. By being aware of these job scam tactics and taking the necessary precautions, job seekers can protect themselves from falling victim to these fraudulent schemes

Khushi Uchenia | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | JANUARY 25, 2025

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FIRSTCOLUMN

SEEKING TRUE SHELTER IN THE DIVINE

Amid the chaos of desires, ego and karmphal, how do we find lasting peace



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

e are small, ignorant, helpless and unsafe. There should not be any doubt about our smallness with eight billion of us on the earth's planet itself. How knowledgeable we are or can be? Knowledge is unlimited. How much can we learn in one lifetime? Helpless we are from the time we are born till the time comes to dispose of our bodies. Just count how many people we need daily to survive well. And unsafe all of us are, as the Covid-19 pandemic proved. Therefore, we instinctively seek shelter all the time. An infant needs his parents. As one grows, one takes shelter from education to maintain oneself. Education /training over, time comes to seek shelter in a job or a business.

The idea is to have the shelter of enough money to be able to survive decently. Sex overpowers thinking beginning from a young age. Some are drawn towards fame like a sportsperson, while others get into politics, etc. for power. The most fortunate seek the shelter of God. Shelter of God is crucial to exist well. Let us see the degree of difficulty for a quality life. Our nature ('svabhava') is a huge handicap. Something or other from lust, anger, greed, jealousy, ego, etc. predominates if not more than one.

What chance is there to have a quality life? Lust derails almost everyone. One assumes that sex is pleasure, and it has so many forms. The worst thing is it's possessing our minds. Ego is not far behind. Have you met anyone who does not feel his or her superiority vis-



à-vis others? Greed does not allow us to assess our needs sensibly. More is better is the desire and there is no satisfaction. Anger is always lurking near the surface. It surfaces at the drop of a hat, literally. Then, there are karmaphalas always ready to manifest. We know how bad ones hurt. What most people don't realise are the ill effects of good karmaphalas. This is when one gets the feeling of invincibility and makes big mistakes.

People look for rewards during success, and we know what these

Winter's tale in Northern India: A season of discontent



analys \$ 07

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Northern India's winter is more than just a fleeting season; it is a relentless narrative of marrow-freezing cold, breath-choking pollution and a grim forecast for years to come



f freezing marrows and choking breaths William Shakespeare, emperor of narratives, master of metaphors, celebrated craftsman of sentences and acclaimed presenter of deep insights into human nature, had a way of coming up with expressions surviving the passage of time. One of them is "winter of our discontent." Richard, Duke of Gloucester, says in Richard III, "Now is the winter of our discontent/ Made glorious summer by this sun of York;/ And all the clouds that lourd upon our house/ In the deep bosom of the ocean buried." The expression, which adorns one of John Steinbeck's most famous novels as its title, should resonate particularly strongly with people in northern India still in the grip of a winter that is cold, damp and utterly polluted. The chances of things improving in the next few years, are, to

put it mildly, bleak. As the chilling flipside of global warming, the cold months will continue to be Increasingly marrow-freezing, since, with Donald Trump taking over as the United States' president, the chances of a deceleration in the pace of climate change, have diminished significantly. This is not to look wistfully back over one's shoulder to a mythical place like the island valley of Avilion, where, pace Alfred Tennyson in a very different context, "falls not hail, or rain, or any snow, / Nor ever wind blows loudly." Climates and the weather have been notoriously fickle cousins throughout history. If any part of the past seems golden, it is because of the distance in time which lends it enchantment. It had, when it was the present, its warts,

about 30 per cent of the earth's surface and ended 15, 000 to 20,000 years ago. On a more specific note, slavery was legal in most parts of the world-including the chest-thumping democracies of the West-as late as the second half of the 19th century. The weather, doubtless, has an impact on life and its moods, which influence thought, speech and AS THE feeling which, in turn, trigger CHILLING action.

All of these, at a certain elevated level, power the wheels of histo-FLIP SIDE OF ry. These also affect inter-person-GLOBAL al relations, causing friction and hostility arising from anger and WARMING, THE discontent, or cordiality and warmth caused by harmony. The COLD MONTHS sum total of the interaction WILL CONTINUE among these factors determines the quality of a community's TO BE social existence in terms of ten-INCREASINGLY sions between collective bodies like class and caste, and stress

world and would like to conserve it as it is, while the frustrated favour radical change. The tendency to look for all causes outside ourselves persists even when it is clear that our state of being is the product of personal qualities such as ability, character, appearance, health and so on." What is the result? Hoffer quotes Thoreau as saying, "If anything ail a man, so that he does not perform his functions, if he has a pain in his bowels even ... he forthwith sets about reforming the world." (Italics by Hoffer; Thoreau has used the plurals "ail" and "have" as it was done by many in his time in such contexts)

Attempts to reform the world invariably lead to struggles with status quoists. Besides, social tensions and conflicts will increase following rising ocean levels, caused by global warming, caused by individual actions like submerging coastal areas. Inward crime, which is often caused by alienation resulting from marginmigration of people from these regions would trigger clashes alisation, poverty and anonymiover land and resources in the interior areas. The same factors ty in impersonal societies. A crime can be a perverse act of will also be in operation in other self-assertion, a sub-conscious statement like, "I kill, therefore I areas to which people may escape from regions made uninhabitable exist"-a variant of Rene by temperatures rising too high Descartes much-quoted asserto support life. One can, of course, argue that people would be kind to global tion, "Cogito ergo sum (literally, "I think, therefore, I am"). Another form of self-assertion warming refugees, realising that they may have to leave their can be participation-to say nothing of playing a leading homes someday for the same role-in a mass movement. Eric reason. But then, kindness is not Hoffer writes in The True what a person encounters fre-Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements, "There is in quently in life; it is the same with gratitude, the lack of which us a tendency to locate the shapweighed heavily on the Bard of ing forces of our existence outside Avon. "Ingratitude," he lamented in King Lear, "thou marble-hearted fiend...." He bewailed in As You Like It, "Blow, blow, thou ourselves. Success and failure are unavoidably related in our minds with the state of things around us. Hence it is that people with a winter wind, / Thou art not so unkind/As man's ingratitude.'

And he says in Twelfth Night, "I hate ingratitude more in a man/ Than lying, vainness, babbling, drunkenness,/ Or any taint of vice whose strong corruption/ Inhabits our frail blood." Character attributes like proneness towards gratitude are rooted deep inside one's DNA and are modified by the environment as one grows up. Seasonal changes can impact their intensity, as discomfort caused by extreme heat or cold can put one's temper on a short leash.

On the other hand, as Anton Chekhov put it, "People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy."

This brings us back to our starting point-northern India's buttfreezing, breath-choking winter. Can one be happy in its midst? The answer will be in the affirmative, as the news of a progeny scaling new heights at work or being gitted with a baby, will warm the cockles of one's heart. This, however, is most likely to be a passing phase, overwhelmed, sooner than later, by the many worries and sadnesses that quotidian existence brings and that, again, are ephemeral. The more relevant question will be whether one can survive northern India's winter and for how long. The transition to the hereafter caused by pollution stalks one silently but lethally. The final truth in life is mortal-

rewards do to us. The third big enemy is old age, when we become weak and are mostly written off. Are we stuck? Far from it. God would not have made such a sorry Creation. Guidance and help are available to all of us if we accept the role of God in our lives. Ignorance, false pride or laziness stops us from taking God's help, who is the owner, controller and everything. You seek guidance sincerely and see what happens. But we don't; we prefer to be in cyclic thinking short-circuiting our own lives. We condemn ourselves by our obstinate attitude. God is prepared to help all of us at any time, but there is a rider.

We must deserve such help. How to determine who should get or who shouldn't? Therefore, the question everyone should be asking is: how do we become deserving of God's 'kripa' (favour)? Simply, you recognise yourself as a soul - part of God. Then, all spiritual activities will make sense.

Shouldn't parts take shelter from God? Shouldn't we be very respectful to God and pay obeisance to Him? What about the 'dhyan' (meditation) of the entity, who is everything? How about thanking God for all that He does for everyone like providing air, water and sunlight free. In short, we should stop taking shelter of anyone or anything except God, and remain there.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

some of them rather large and ugly. Floods and droughts took very heavy tolls when meteorological devices and skills for predicting their advent and coping with their aftermath, were far less advanced. In the absence of electrical heating devices, which we have, life could not have been terribly pleasant during the last ice age which had covered

MARROW-FREEZING, SINCE, WITH DONALD TRUMP TAKING OVER AS THE UNITED STATES' PRESIDENT,

THE CHANCES OF A

CLIMATE CHANGE, DIMINISHED

DECELERATION IN THE PACE OF HAVE

SIGNIFICANTLY Hence It is that people with a good

All this has been said before, and will be said again, as one will hear the much-quoted proverb, "What can't be cured must be endured." It has joined the ranks of venerable cliches blessed with eternal life.

(The author is Consulting Editor, The Pioneer. The views expressed are personal)

Cultural heritage tourism: A path to sustainable growth and mutual understanding

Respecting the balance between tourism and heritage enables a mutually beneficial relationship that supports communities, preserves cultural identity and promotes global harmony

ultural tourism, as centered on pilgrimage to a defined in the 22nd session of the UN Tourism General Assembly in 2017, is an activity where a visitor's primary motivation is to learn, discover, experience, and engage with the tangible and intangible cultural attractions and products of a destination. These motivations shape the agendas of both the visitor and the tour guide at cultural heritage destinations, bridging the gap between the historical and the contemporary. The Evolution of Cultural Heritage and Tourism Cultural heritage has undergone a significant shift in per-

tionship.

ception, moving from an archaeological focus to the concept of "living heritage" and its reuse. Similarly, tourism has evolved from being largely

multifaceted industry encompassing learning, entertainment, experiences, and relaxation. This transformation has elevated tourism as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth and job creation across diverse sectors, such as hospitality, transportation, and entertainment. The industry's ripple effect benefits individuals and communities alike, engaging local businesses, transport operators, craftspeople, tourist

guides, and the hospitality industry in a symbiotic rela-For these benefits to be fully

realised, collaboration among stakeholders is essential. They must work collectively to offer authentic and meaningful experiences that resonate with

SUKHDEV SINGH

integrity of cultural sites. Cultural Heritage as a Driver of Tourism

A rapidly growing segment within the tourism industry is cultural heritage, which encompasses natural and architectural sites, traditional crafts, cultural events, performances, and intangible knowl-edge. Recognised as both a commodity and an experience, travelers while preserving the cultural heritage attracts mar-

ket players, planners, and governments aiming to expand the scope of tourism. It promotes inclusive growth, intercultural exchange and mutual understanding. The relationship between

tourism and cultural heritage is built on mutuality. While cultural heritage serves as a key attraction for tourism, the latter provides the financial and structural support required for its preservation and promotion.

Navigating Contradictions Tourism operates on the principle of profit and economic growth, while cultural heritage centers on identity and inheritance. These differing foundations can create contradictions. For the tourism industry, cultural heritage is often commodified, whereas for her-



itage conservation, tourism acts as a feeder for sustainability. While these sectors can support one another to an extent, unchecked tourism practices can lead to significant challenges, including overcrowding, environmental and degradation.

To mitigate these issues, regulated practices in cultural heritage tourism must prioritise the symbiotic relationship

between factors influencing tourist experiences and those fostering cultural understanding. Tour operators and tourists must respect the sanctity and protocols of cultural heritage sites. Travelers should be encouraged to appreciate local customs without overstepping boundaries, ensuring a balance between immersion and respect. Sustainable cultural heritage tourism, thus, becomes a pathway to foster-

ing "culture for peace." Economic and Cultural **Benefits of Heritage Tourism** Cultural heritage tourism creates opportunities for income generation and employment. his is achieved by maintaining and showcasing heritage structures, sites, and products. Preservation and management efforts, such as cata-

loging and storytelling, directly benefit from tourism revenue. Simultaneously, the broader economic ecosystem, including hospitality, transportation, and entertainment, flourishes through increased visitor engagement. However, cultural heritage is far more than a revenue-generating commodity. It serves as

a repository of customs, values, and artifacts, connecting com-munities to their past and reinforcing their identities. Tourism, when responsibly managed, can amplify the significance of heritage sites by fostering research, introducing new narratives, and raising awareness. Reinvestment of economic returns into preservation ensures the longevity and authenticity of cultural

heritage.

Challenges of Cultural Heritage Tourism

While tourism can elevate the value of cultural heritage, it also introduces challenges. Overcrowding, environmental degradation, and disruptions to the local population's way of

life are common issues. Sustainable and Responsible Tourism

To maintain a harmonious balance between tourism and cultural heritage, sustainable practices are essential. These include regulating visitor numbers, promoting eco-friendly initiatives, and ensuring that tourism revenue is reinvested into preservation efforts.

(The writer is retired professor of Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar and Vice-Chairman, INTACH; views are personal)



'Putin should negotiate with Ukraine, Zelenskyy ready for talks'

PTI WASHINGTON/ MOSCOW

 $R^{\rm ussian\,President\,Vladimir\,Putin}_{\rm ``should\,make~a~deal''}$ with Ukraine, US President Donald Trump has said and asserted that they would meet as soon as they can

Earlier, he warned his Russian counterpart to end the 'ridiculous war' in Ukraine or face high tariffs and further sanctions. Trump, who was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, said this on Truth Social on Wednesday, a social media platform owned by him.

Talking to reporters in the Oval Office on Thursday, the president said, "I think he (Putin) should make a deal." When asked if he thinks that sanctions on Russia will force Putin to negotiate, he said, "I don't know

"Russia should want to make a deal. Maybe they want to make a deal. I think, from what I hear, Putin would like to see me. And we'll meet as soon as we can. I'd meet immediately. Soldiers are being killed on the battlefield," he said.

"That battlefield is like no battlefield since World War II ... and I have pictures that you don't want to see. Soldiers are being killed on a daily basis at numbers that we haven't seen in decades. It would be nice to end that war. It's a ridiculous war, the US president said.

In response to another question, Trump said Ukraine is ready to make a deal. "He's (Volodymyr Zelenskyy) ready to negotiate a deal. He'd like to stop. He's somebody that lost a lot of soldiers. So did Russia. Russia lost more soldiers, they lost 8,00,000 soldiers," Trump added. Called out Russian President Putin by name in the social media post on Wednesday, Trumpp argued that he always had a good relationship with the leader, but that it was time to settle "this ridiculous War!"

He also warned that if there was not a ceasefire deal soon, he would "have no other choice" but to impose tariffs, taxes and sanctions on "anything being sold by Russia to the United States, and various other participating countries.

KREMLIN SCOFFS AT TRUMP'S CLAIM

The Kremlin insisted Friday that a settlement in Ukraine couldn't be facilitated by a drop in global oil prices as US President Donald Trump has suggested. Speaking by video from the White

House to the annual World yet," Peskov said.

Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Trump said on Thursday that the OPEC+ alliance of oil exporting countries shares responsibility for the nearly three-year conflict in Ukraine because it has kept oil prices too high. "If the price came down, the Russia-Ukraine war would end immediate-Ukraine war would end ismediate-tw" Trump said. Energy sales form y," Trump said. Energy sales form a large part of Russia's earnings. Asked about Trump's comments, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov affirmed Moscow's view that the Ukrainian conflict was

triggered by the West's refusal to take into account Russian security interests 'The conflict doesn't depend on oil prices," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. "The conflict is

ongoing because of the threat to Russia's national security, the threat to Russians living on those territories and the refusal by the Americans and the Europeans to listen to Russia's security concerns. It's not linked to oil prices.

He said Russian President Vladimir Putin remains ready for contacts with Trump.

Peskov's comments echoed Putin's statements that he had to send troops into Ukraine in February 2022 to fend off a threat to Russia's security resulting from plans for Ukraine to join NATO and to protect Russian speakers living there. Ukraine and the West have denounced Moscow's action as an

unprovoked act of aggression. Asked to comment on Trump's claim that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is ready for peace deal, Peskov pointed out the Ukrainian leader's earlier decision to rule out any talks with Moscow. "Zelenskyy can't be ready for a deal," Peskov told reporters, adding that "in order to reach a settlement it's necessary to conduct talks, and Zelenskyy forbade himself to hold talks by his own decree."

On Wednesday, Trump threatened to impose stiff taxes, tariffs and sanctions on Russia if an agreement isn't reached to end the war in Ukraine.

Peskov said that the Kremlin was closely following Trump's statements and noted that he imposed a slew of sanctions during his first term.

He said Moscow "remains ready for an equal dialogue, for a mutually respectful dialogue

This dialogue took place between the two presidents during Trump's first presidency. And we are waiting for signals that we have not received

UK to convince US Prez Trump not to impose trade tariffs

The British government on Friday said it has an argu-ment in favour of convincing US President Donald Trump not to impose tariffs on its trade with the UK. Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds told the BBC that the United States did not have a trade deficit with the UK on manufactured goods, which would make tariffs unnecessary

'We've obviously got a services-based economy. The US does not have that deficit with us so if that's the logic of that position, I think we've got an argument to engage with," said Reynolds.

Tariffs are a key part of Trump's economic agenda as he assumed office for a second term earlier this week He not only sees them as a way of growing the US economy, protecting jobs and raising tax revenue but also as leverage to pursue other policies targeted at certain countries

He has indicated a tax on imports from China and has also threatened tariffs on Canada and Mexico. Tariffs, or higher taxes on imports to the US, would make it more expensive for companies to sell goods in the world's largest economy. However, Trump has since indicated that he "would rather not" impose tariffs, suggesting trade deals are on the table.

The US President told global executives at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos this week that they could either produce their goods in the US or face widespread tariffs worth hundreds of billions or even trillions of dollars.

Reynolds, among the ministers who were in Davos to "spotlight UK's investment offer to global business leaders", met European Union Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic at the summit and went on to thank him for "incredibly positive" comments on a possible new post-Brexit agreement between Britain and the 27-member economic bloc. "We can improve the terms of trade with the EU in a way which doesn't revisit customs unions or single markets or the arguments of Brexit, and we can do that whilst pursuing closer trade links around the world," Reynolds said.

The Labour Party had contested last July's general election with a manifesto pledge to lower Brexit-related barriers and red tape for the export of food and farm products to the EU. "Britain is back in business under this government, and our Plan for Change is already delivering for working people. The UK is the most connected market on earth, and we will continue to be the home for innovative businesses looking to face outwards to the world," added Reynolds.

His Cabinet colleague, Chancellor Rachel Reeves, was also in Davos to make the case for Britain as one of the "most exciting places in the world" for investments at a time when the domestic economy is navigating a sluggish phase.

I will not rest until the UK economy is growing and this government is delivering on its Plan for Change, so we can put more money in people's pockets. The time to invest in Britain is now," she said.



President Donald Trump signs an executive order as he attends an indoor Presidential Inauguration parade event at Capital One Arena, Monday in Washington, as Whit House staff secretary Will Scharf watches

Donald Trump signs executive order to declassify JFK assassination files

Washington (PTI): US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order seek-ing to declassify files on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Senator Robert F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Asserting that the victims' families and the American people deserve to know the truth about these assassinations, the executive order directs the Director of National Intelligence to present a plan within 15 days for the "full and complete release" of all John F. Kennedy assassination records. It also directs the Director of National Intelligence to immediately review the records on the Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr. assassinations and present a plan for their full and complete release within 45 days

"That's a big one. A lot of people are wait-ing for years, for decades. And everything will be revealed," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office wherein he signed the executive order.

This executive order stated that continued withholding of the John F. Kennedy records is long overdue and not in the public interest.

"Although no Act of Congress directs the release of information pertaining to the assassinations of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the Reverend Dr. Martin

Japan's leader says he's preparing for tough negotiations with US President November and is arrang-Japan-US cooperation and

Tokyo (PTI): Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba, struggling to stabilise his minority government, said Friday he will seek to maintain regional security and prepare for tough negotiations with US President Donald Trump to win his commitment to maintain a strong American presence in the Asia-Pacific.

Ishiba has been seeking to meet with Trump since his election victory in

Luther King, Jr., I have determined that the release of all records in the Federal Government's possession pertaining to each of those assassinations is also in the public interest," Trump said in the order. Making President John F Kennedy assassination files public was part of Trump's poll campaign promises. He had on mul-

ing a trip to Washington in the coming weeks. With ensure the US commitment to the region to prea minority government vent any power vacuum following a significant election loss in October from destabilizing it, Ishiba said in a policy due to voter anger over his speech to parliament. party's financial scandals, Ishiba is struggling to stay Japan's concern about a US retreat from the region in power at least until the comes as China's military next major elections this is becoming increasingly summer. assertive and North Korea has repeatedly test-fired

With the balance of power in the region makballistic missiles as it ing a historic change, we advances its nuclear and must further deepen missile programs.

> tiple occasions pledged to release the JFK files, specifically stating in June 2024 that he would do so "early on"

world 08

"When I return to the White House, I will declassify and unseal all JFK assassinationrelated documents. It's been 60 years, time for the American people to know the TRUTH!" Trump had said.

Israelis await next four hostages' names in ceasefire deal

PTI TEL AVIV

Delatives of hostages still

first of all we want to say will also release a list of which children, sick people and those bank you for the happy Palestinian prisoners will be over 50 — almost all civilians, Hamas to freeing all living female soldiers in Phase 1 Hamas will release living hostages first, but could release some bodies if they don't have enough living hostages in this category. Male soldiers are not expected to be released in the first phase. "This week we were moved to watch images of mothers embracing their daughters, but our hearts break thinking that my son Nimrod and other men remain behind, and each day they're there poses a real danger to their lives," said Vicky Cohen, whose son Nimrod Cohen is among the hostages 'The worry that the deal won't be fully implemented gnaws at us all. All senior officials openly say that stopping the deal means a death sentence for those left behind." Under the terms of the deal, Palestinians in Gaza will have more freedom of movement from the north to the south of the enclave.

US Prez targets California water policy as he prepares to tour LA fire damage

pares to tour wildfire damage in California, he's zeroing in on one of his frequent targets for criticism: State water policy. Since the fires broke out Jan 7, Trump has used social media and interviews to accuse the state of sending too much water to the Pacific Ocean are grown. instead of south toward Los Angeles and highlighted how some hydrants ran dry in the early hours of the firefight in

Washington (**PTI**): As water is in the north, while according to the Metropolitan keeping a certain amount of President Donald Trump pre- most of its people are in the Water District of Southern water flowing through helps California, a regional water support fish populations and wholesaler. Metropolitan prothe waterway itself. But Trump and others say the vides the rest of the water from state supplies and the fedstate lets too much water go to erally managed Colorado River the ocean rather than cities and farms. His prior administration system.

Rbeing held by militants in Gaza called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday to ensure all remaining captives are freed, while also appealing to US President Donald Trump to continue pressing for their release.

As a fragile six-week ceasefire between Israel and Hamas entered its sixth day, Israelis waited anxiously for the names of the next four hostages who will be released from among the more than 90 still held in Gaza.In the Palestinian enclave, civilians in the central and southern part of the Gaza Strip hoping to return to the remnants of their home in the battered north faced an agonizing wait. Israel believes about a third, or possibly as many as half, of the more than 90 hostages still in Gaza have died. Hamas has not released definitive information on how many captives are still alive or the names of those who have died. Dear President Trump,

we want to tell you we still have 94 hostages, we need them all at home," said Ayelet Samerano, whose son Yonatan Samerano is among those still being held. "Please do not stop. Please continue to press and do everything so that all the 94 hostages will come home immediately." In the first phase of the ceasefire deal, 33 hostages are expected to be released gradually in return for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

The first three Israeli hostages were freed in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners on Sunday, the first day of the ceasefire that has halted the 15month war that has devastated Gaza. More than 47.000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and wide swaths of the territory have been destroyed. According to the deal, on Friday Hamas is to announce the names of the next four hostages to be released on Saturday, after which Israel

The hostages were among about 250 men, women and children captured by militants who burst across the border into Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people in an attack that sparked the war in Gaza. About 100 were released during a brief ceasefire in November that year, while the bodies of around three dozen hostages have been recovered in Gaza and eight hostages have been rescued by the army. "I call from here to the Prime Minister and nego-

tiating team — you're doing excellent work — do whatever is necessary to bring everyone back, to the last hostage, Samerano said. "We ask you to ensure phase two of the deal is agreed upon before finishing the current phrase. We cannot continue living in

uncertainty. All hostages must return, and none of them has time left." The 33 to be released in the first

phase will include women,

Pacific Palisades. In the first hours of his second term, Trump called on federal officials to draft plans to route more water to the crop-rich Central Valley and densely populated cities in the southern part of the state. Two days later he threatened to withhold federal disaster aid unless

California leaders change the state's approach on water. Here's a look at the facts behind Trump's comments and what power the president has to influence California water:

In general, most of the state's

drier south.

Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, depends on drawing water from elsewhere. Meanwhile the relatively dry Central Valley is home to fertile land where much of the nation's fruits and vegetables

Two complex systems of dams and canals channel rain and snowmelt from the mountains in the north and route it south. One is managed by the federal government and known as the Central Valley Project, while the other is operated by the state of California and known as the State Water Project.

Both transport water through the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, an estuarythat provides critical habitat to fish and wildlife including salmon and the delta smelt, one of Trump's fascinations.

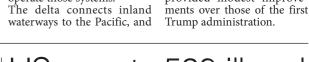
Southern California gets about half its water from local supplies such as groundwater,

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power also manages its own aqueducts that draw water from the eastern Sierra Nevada.

Federal officials guide how much is routed to the delta to protect threatened species and how much goes to Central Valley Project users, mostly farms. That project does not supply water to Los Angeles. State officials are expected to follow the same environmental guidelines, said Caitlin Peterson, a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Centre.

Federal and state officials typically coordinate how they operate those systems.

allowed more water to be directed to the Central Valley and out of the delta. Environmental groups opposed that, saying it would harm endangered species. Gov Gavin Newsom filed a lawsuit saying the rules would drive endangered fish populations to extinction. There were concerns about the tiny delta smelt, which is seen as an indicator of the waterway's health, as well as and chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which return annually from the Pacific to spawn in freshwater rivers. Then-President Joe Biden's administration issued its own rules in December that environmental groups said provided modest improve-





Caretakers release panda cubs at a playground to make public debut ahead of Chinese Lunar New Year at Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan Province on Thursday PTI

US arrests 538 illegal UK MP flays 'Emergency' film screening disruption by 'Khalistani terrorists' immigrant criminals

London (PTI): An Opposition Conservative Party Member of Parliament has urged the UK Home Secretary to intervene after his constituents in northwest London were threatened by "masked Khalistani terrorists" who burst into a screening of Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency'.Bob Blackman told the House of Commons that similar disruption of the screenings of the "very controversial" film took place in Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Slough, Staines and Manchester. It has resulted in the Vue and Cineworld cinema chains deciding to pull the film from many theatres in the UK. "On Sunday, many of my constituents gathered and paid for a screening of the film 'Emergency' in the Harrow

Vue cinema. At about 30 or 40 minutes into the screening of the film, masked Khalistani terrorists burst in, threatened members of the audience and forced the screening to end," Blackman said in Parliament on Thursday.

The film is very controversial, and I am not commenting on its quality or content, but I defend the right of my constituents and other members' constituents to be able to view it and make a decision on it. It covers the period when Indira Gandhi was the prime minister of India," he said. The MP noted that there are

certain views in the UK that it is an "anti-Sikh film" but asserted that his constituents should be able to judge for themselves

and not be "threatened by thugs who want to disrupt democratic opportunities to see public films".

'May we have a statement from the Home Secretary (Yvette Cooper) next week on what will be done to ensure that people who want to see such films, which have been passed by censors, can do so in peace and harmony? I absolutely defend the right of people to demonstrate outside cinemas, but not to disrupt viewings," he added.

Leader of the Commons Lucy Powell responded on behalf of the Labour Party government by saying that Blackman had raised a "very important matter about the relationship between free speech and the right to protest peacefully".

Washington (PTI): The US has arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals, including a suspected terrorist, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against

minors, the White House has said. In a series of posts on X on Thursday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Trump administration also deported hundreds of illegal immigrant criminals via military aircraft. "The largest massive deportation operation in history is well underway. Promises made. Promises kept," she said. Leavitt said, "The Trump Administration arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals including a suspected terrorist, four members of the Tren de Aragua gang, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors."

Underlining that deportation flights have begun, she asserted that President Donald Trump is "sending a strong and clear message to the entire world: if you illegally enter the United States of America, you will face severe consequences".

The Republican-led House on Wednesday gave final approval to a bill requiring the detention of unauthorised immigrants accused of theft and violent crimes. This marks the first legislation for President Trump to sign, aligning with his plans to crack down on illegal immigration, which has received some bipartisan support.Trump on Wednesday also issued executive orders aimed at sealing the US-Mexico border and deporting millions of immigrants without permanent legal status.





Taliban reject arrest order for officials persecuting Af women

PTI KABUL

 $T^{
m he\ Taliban\ Friday\ rejected}_{
m a\ court\ move\ to\ arrest\ two}$ of their top officials for persecuting women, accusing the court of baseless accusations and misbehaviour.The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor Karim Khan announced Thursday he had requested arrest warrants for two top Taliban officials, including the leader Hibatullah Akhundzada.

Since they took back control of the country in 2021, the Taliban have barred women from jobs, most public spaces and education beyond sixth grade.

A Foreign Ministry statement condemned the ICC request. The court was making baseless accusations against Afghanistan's leadership at a time of peace in the country and people had "breathed a sigh of relief". The ministry alleged the court

had turned a blind eye to Movement for Justice and decades of war and crimes



against humanity committed by foreign forces and their allies. "This misbehaviour further destroys the weak credibility of the said structure (ICC) and makes its status and posi-

tion at the international level completely meaningless," the statement said. The ministry warned the court against imposing its interpretation of human rights and ignoring the religious and national values of others.

Earlier Friday, an Afghan women's group had hailed the court's move. The Afghan Women's

Fidai was a governor of four provinces before the Taliban takeover in August 2021 and now lives outside Afghanistan. This decision could inadver tently serve as a badge of honor or credibility for them." Also Friday, the UN mission in Afghanistan said it was a "tragedy and travesty" that Awareness celebrated the ICC girls remain deprived of educadecision and called it a "great tion. "It has been 1,225 days historical achievement". soon to be four years - since "We consider this achievement

a symbol of the strength and authorities imposed a ban that will of Afghan women and prevents girls above the age of believe this step will start a new chapter of accountability and justice in the country," the the head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in group said. An official in the former "It is a travesty and tragedy that millions of Afghan girls have

Western-backed administration said the Taliban leadership was likely to exploit the decision for propaganda purposes by framing it as proof of their strong faith and resilience. 'They may tell their followers that their beliefs are so power-

levels of education, said Otunbayeva.

education?

ful they have provoked the collective opposition of global powers," Mohammad Halim

Fidai said on the X platform

12 from attending school," said

Afghanistan, Roza Otunbayeva.

been stripped of their right to

Afghanistan is the only coun-try in the world that explicitly

bars women and girls from all

PUBLIC NOTICE

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Af refugees urge Pak to ease visa rules after US resettlement pause

PTI 📕 ISLAMABAD

 ${
m A}$ fghan refugees on Friday appealed to Pakistan's premier to ease a visa regime on humanitarian grounds after President Donald Trump paused the US refugee programmes.

Many Afghans whose visas have either expired or will expire soon fear arrest and deportation. 'We don't know exactly when the

pause of the US refugee programme will be lifted, but we request Pakistan to extend our stay for at least six months after the expiry of our visas,' said Ahmad Shah, a member of the Afghan USRAP Refugees advocacy group.

An estimated 20,000 Afghans are cur-rently waiting in Pakistan to be approved for resettlement in the US via an American government program. Refugees approved to travel to the United States in coming days have had their travel plans cancelled by the Trump administration.

Among those affected are the more than 1,600 Afghans cleared to resettle in the US.

Pakistan says it is yet to receive any official intimation from the United States about the suspension of the refugee programme. Afghans who are in the country were supposed to be relocated by September 2025.

The refugee programme was set up to help Afghans at risk under the Taliban because of their work with the US government, media, aid agencies and rights groups

The US pulled out of Afghanistan in 2021 when the Taliban took power. But in its first days in office, Trump's administration announced the US Refugee Admissions Programme would be suspended from Jan 27 for at least three months.

Shah said most of the Afghans who are in transition to the United States were now living in a very difficult conditions.

We don't want to live here permanently, we urge the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif to order authorities to extend the visas of Afghan people for at least six months," he said

He also urged the United Nations refugee agency and the International Organisation for Migration to help Afghans who are waiting for relocation. "If the UNHCR and IOM don't help us in this difficult situation, who will rise his or her voice for us?" Shah said.

Meanwhile, there is uncertainty among many over their future.

Sarfraz Ahmed, a journalist who fled

to Pakistan from Afghanistan when the Taliban seized power, said Friday he had been expecting to receive a call confirming his travel plans, but the suspension of the refugee program by Trump changed everything.

Khalid Khan, a former Afghan army captain who worked for the Afghan air force and helped the US air force during the operations against the Afghan Taliban and other groups, fled his country along with his family in 2023. "I will be in a trouble if I am sent back to Afghanistan," he said.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said there is an agreement with Washington to take Afghans who are in Pakistan to the United States for resettlement by September 2025.

The arrangements are in place. We have, so far officially, not received any further information on this issue. So that's all that I can say as far as we

are concerned, that arrangement remains in place," ministry spokesman Shafqat Ali Khan told a news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday.

The Taliban has deprived 1.4 million Afghan girls of schooling through bans, according to the United Nations. Afghanistan is the only country in the world that bans female secondary and higher education.

Philippines launches comic book to counter China's SCS 'disinformation

PTI MANILA

China Sea.

The 40-page comic book, titled "The Stories of Teacher Jun," was unveiled by Philippine officials. It contains colorful caricatures of a Filipino teacher and his young students discussing the complex territorial disputes in simple terms and highlights the Philippine position. One fictional student in the book describes China as a bully and another says Beijing's "behav-

Pak Parl holds ioint session to pass four bills

Islamabad: Pakistan Parliament on Friday briefly held its joint session to hurriedly pass four bills amidst protest by the opposition law

cials, along with state-sponsored The Philippines launched a media and individuals, continue comic book on Friday to to spread distorted and twisted counter what the country says narratives to malign our efforts is China's disinformation cam- and justify their unilateral claims, paign to push its expansive ter- national security adviser Eduardo ritorial claims in the South Ano said in a speech at the book launching in Manila. The

PUBLIC NOTICE That my client Smt. Pushpa Devi W/o Sh. Raghubir Singh R/o House No. 148, Kh No. 30/16, Gali No. 10C, Block Near RWA Office, Uttarakhand Enclave, Shastir Park Extension, Burari, Delhi-110084 has Giounad and debarced berg daubter davashebi disowned and debarred her daughter Meenaksh (Unmarried) from his/her life and properties (both moveable and immovable) and have severed all his / her relations with them in future as the above said

iour is outrageous". "Chinese offi-

daughter are totally out of control of my client and used to harass, humiliate, abuse and quarrels with him/her. My Client shall not be held responsible fo any of their acts, deed and things in whatsoever i any manner and if anyone deals with him shall be deal as per his/her own risk, cost and Akhilesh Bhardwaj (Advocate) Ch. No.B-54, B.G.S. Block, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

anch (50303), New Delhi is overdue for more than thre

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LOCKER

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Philippines will do everything to eneral public is hereby informed that Mrs. Ram amesh Chandra is the owner of House No. 785, are 15 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 4029/2889/2, situal "fight misinformation, disinformation and false narratives to put forward the truth," Ano told reporters. The Philippines has faced a lopsided battle against the Jb. 122 010, regd. at Uoc. No. 24995. The aboves all proper be finance & motogaged with my client Le, Mk. Tata Housing Finance Ltd, and The Original General Power of At ated 19.07, 1995 regd. Vide Doc. No. 464, original Agreen Bell dated 19.07, 1995 & original Will dated 19.07, 1995 per the atoresaid property has been lost and compatin Appl Number. No. 13236/602500134 was registered with H. militarily superior China in the disputed waters of the South China Sea

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I Tushar Arora. Proprietor of Ananta Buildcon is the owner of Commercial Shed No. C-95, DDA Sheds, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-1, New Delhi -110020, have applied for conversion of the aforesaid property from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original Possession Letter Demand Letter, Site Possession Slip and a

few other documents of the above plot have been lost. An FIR/NCR to this effect has lodged in Lajpat Nagar Police Station, New Delhi, vide FIR/NCR No. 2524475/2025 dated 24-Jan-2025.

Any person(s) claiming any right, interes having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9910020099 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (CE), Block A, 2rd Floor, or

State Bank of India

NOTICE FOR LOCKER BREAK OPEN

ADDRESS

A 206 SECTOR 26 NOIDA, 201301

E-90 LAUPAT NAGAR NEW DELHI

17-SRI RAM ROAD CIVIL LINES NEW DR

Director (CE, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi). ioned locker holders are informed that the rent for their lockers held with P Block Connaught Plac

Pawitra Appartments 12, Vasundhra Enclave, Delhi-110096 and Ms Abhilasha Shabnam Kotwal D/c Mrs. Shabnam Maitra R/o 2122. Oversease Appartments, Sector-50 Noida, Gautambudh Nagar (U.P.) In the office of the undersigned, any person interested therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 14-02-2025 in The office of The undersigned. Deputy Collector I/C City Magistrate/Marriage Officer Noida

date of publication of this notice failing which any laim, lien or objection shall be deemed to have bee waived. Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardoom: Court, Delhi-110092; Mobile Number : 9811215181 Phone : 9810585103 PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOT ICLE Reg: Entire Third Floor with roof/ terrace rights "said floor" built up on Property Bearing Plot No. 22, area measuring 232 sq. yds(193.98 sq. mtrs) out of Khasra No. 434/3, situated in the abadi of Krishan Nagar Extension, in the area of Village (Bhondii, Illaqa Shahdara. New Delhi- 110051.; hereinafter referred to as "said property" Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Sudhir Singh & Smt. Kiran Singh (hereinafter called the "Purchase") intend to purchase the said floor from Mr. Krishan Lai (hereinafter called the "Seller"). In this connection, the seller has informed the purchaser that he is the sole and absolute owner of the Upper Ground Floor and Third Floor with Roof Rights of the said property. The seller has further informed the general public is hereby and the that the Environmental informed Clearance bearing File No. SEAC/HR/2024/057 & EC Identification No EC24C3801HR5806685N dated 27/05/2024 has been granted to Department Central Public Works at Proposed Residential Complex for Income Tax department Sector- 53, Gurugram, Harvana Copy of Clearance Letter is available

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all concerned

roperty. Raghav Tiwari (Advocate) Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi-110001 on the website of MOEFCC/SEIAA Mob.: +91-9266768800

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that I Amit Banerjee son of late Shri Birendra Kumar Banerjee am filing application in L&DO for substitution of the property no. C-541 Chittaranjan Park, New Delhi-110019 in the name of Amit Banerjee on the grounds of Will Probate Order. If there are any objections claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nin Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at @nic.in, within 30 days of publication of

New Delhi-110019

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that We (1) Sudha Bala Prabhakar wife of late Shri Vinod application in L&DO for substitution of the documents through registered post or by visiting L&DO at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi or through an email at Ido@nic.in, within 30 days of

lication of this notice Name : Sudha Bala Prabhaka Address: A-285, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar,

PUBLIC NOTICE Be it known to all concerned that my client Ashok Chandra Son of Late Sh. Abhinash Chandra and Meena Chandra Wife of Ashok Chandra both residing at Ameya 9-A, Plumeriua Lane, East Circular Road, Dera Mandi Greens, Mustali No. 45, Kills No. D35/2, MIN ETC, Village Dera Mandi, Dera Soth Delhi-110074, do hereb hold the following 283 securities under Folio no. 2341700 In LINDE INDIA LIMITED in our name as jointholde Company Name Folio No. No. of Security Certificate No. Securities hel) LINDE INDIA LIMITED 2341700 283 361854-29794959 361862 29794677 Ankur Chawla (Advocate)

Ankur Cha PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform you that Mr. Jitender Malhotra, intends to purchase Entire First Floor of the property bearing no. 28 admeasuring 167.25 Sq. Meters, Block H, known as H-28, out of Khasra no 3/27 situated at abadi of Radhey Puri Village Khureji Khas, Illaga Shahdrar Delhi from Mrs. Arti Bhardwai, The said property purchased by Mrs. Arti Bhardwai from Mrs. Veena Goel & Mr. Sachin Goel, Mr. Nitin Goel through a Sale Deed dated 30.06.2022. This same property is being financed by RBL Bank Limited, located at AF 19, 20, 21 FF, Aditya Mall, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201012. The original Sale Deeds, Regd. No. 47 Book No. 01. HR (Application Number: LR No: 302591/2022 dated 11.04.2022) has been filed with the PS: Crime Branch. Delhi, regarding the loss of these documents. Any person having information about the lost documents is requested to inform the undersigned or the local police station. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject indires documents are dores given below and by E-mail. failing which, the claim as per aloresaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property. ASHWANI KUMAR (Advocate) Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

E-AUCTION NOTICE APPROX. 8,907 KG OF TRANSIT DAMAGED ALUMINIUM FOIL

terested Buyers are invited to participate in the e-Auction for the disposal of "Approx 8,907 Kg of Transit Damaged Aluminium Foil" on "Per Kg" Basis. The subject salvage will be sold on "As is Where is". "Whatever There Is" and "No Complaint" Basis and belongs to M/s. Alutech Packaging Pvt. Ltd. The subject materials can be inspected at Dehkora Boad. Rohad, Bahadurgarh, Harvana, Between 25-01-25 5 PM on Mr. Lalit for inspect

CALIBRATION OF 923 NOS. TOOLS & GAUGES IN NEW BONGAIGAON Tender No.: IMF-115-165-Cali-2024-25 Dated: 21-01-2025, E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work

lame of Work : Calibration of 923 (Nine Hundred Twenty Three) Nos. Tools & Gauges of INSP, CPS, MWS, RBS, MS TR, WRS, BSS, NC, CLS, CTRB, CBS WTS, BRS, DEMU, WELD, CMT and STC of C&W Workshop and STC, Nev Bongaigaon, N. F. Railway for the yea 2025-26 from Outside agency" on Ope Tender basis. Approximate cost of the work: ₹3,90,290.94/-; Earnest Money ₹7,800/-; Date & time of closing of abov tender at 15:00 hrs. on 11-02-2025. Fo details please visit in websit

ww.ireps.gov.in CWM, New Bongaigao O NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

ASSOCIATE SIGNALING WORK FOR REMOVAL OF LC GATES

F-Tender No. SNT-46-I MG-2024-29 Dated: 22-01-2025. E-Tenders are nvited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work Associate Signaling work fo Removal of LC Gates in connection with construction of ROB/RUB at LC Gates No. ST-20, ST-22, ST-27



Gautam Budh Nagar

Proble NOTICE My client Smt. Prem Lata w/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Owner of House no. 411, Ground Floor and First Floor, area measuring 41.80 sq. meter, Regn. no. 874, Khasra no. 10/2/1/1, situated at Colony Known as Shaheed Bhagat Singh, West Karawal Nagar, North East, Delhi-110094. Through Registered Authorization Slip Dated 28.12.2024 executed by DDA Vide Reg no. 2024/12/04/324 as SD III The /ide Reg. no. 2024/12/1/4334, at SR-IV DELHI The bove-mentioned property is going to be mortgage with Fedbank Financial Services Limited. If any erson/bank/financial institution having any claim person yobicition whatso every in regard to the above property, should notified to the undersigned/ Adv. Vishal Mehan, E-713, Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 along with documentary evidence under address through registered within 15 days from the data of unkinghang of the ordin failed within 10 days from the

Name : Amit Banerjee

Address: C-541. Chittaranian Park

Kumar Prabhakar, (2) Reena Prabhakar daughter of late Shri Vinod Kumar Prabhakar are filing property no. A-285, Shivalik Colony, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017 in the name of (1) Sudha Bala Prabhakar, (2) Reena Prabhakar or the grounds of Legal Heirs. If there are any objections/ claims from the general public on this application, the same shall be communicated to L&DO with supporting

New Delhi-110017 Phone : 9899100088

Baba Farid University of H

PUBLIC NOTICE

opperty. The seller has further informed the rchaser that the said property was owne Mrs. Satwant_Kaur vide Sale_Deed

gistered as Document No.673 o .05.1973 and Sale Deed dated 05.07.1973

ddress mentioned herein below within 0 lays of publication of this notice and in the vent of no response having been received the notice, the title of the seller to the said floo hall be deemed to be clear of any charge of encumbrance of any nature whatsoever an any subsequent claim shall not bind or clients/Purchaser, in any manner whatsoever SHIVKANT ARORA, Advocate

Delhi -110024

by this, batwain hater the back back of the said property was subsequently transferred to Mrs. Mayawati by means of POA documents viz, ATS dated 31.12.1973, GPA and Will dated 13.02.1974. Mrs. Mayawati expired and the said property was inherited by her legal heirs viz., (1) Ms Renu Sachdev, (2) Mr. Krishan Lal; and (3) Mr. Tilak Raj. Ms Renu Sachdev relinquished her undivided share in the said property in favour of Mr. Krishan Lal; and (3) Mr. Tilak Raj. Ms Renu Sachdev relinquished her undivided share in the said property in favour of Mr. Krishan Lal; and Mr. Tilak Raj vide Relinquishment Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed Registered as Document No. 2067on 18.04.2017. Later on, Vide Release Deed Registered as Document floor with Roof/Terrace Rights of the said property. Thus, Mr. Krishan Lai and Thire is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said floor. Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution's. relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the adoressid floor is hereby called upon to make the same known, in Videy Side AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the

M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony,

Advt. No.BFU-25/03

Sd/

REGISTRAR

makers from Imran Khan's party. Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq presided over the joint session of the Senate and the National Assembly. Commerce Minister Jam Kamal Khan presented the Trade Organisations Amendment Bill 2021 and the Imports and Exports Regulation Amendment Bill 2023 both of which were approved.

5	6503035	277	SMIT MURTI AND SH RAM NATH	1. 288 JANAK PURI: NEW DELHI 2. 33, UB BHAMBHRA BUILDING JAWAHAR NAGAR NEW DELHI
6	1537503039	271	SATISH CHANDRA YACAV	A-2 POLICE STATION TILAK MARG NEW DELHI
ý.	1537503038	215	JAJ DEV VIDYALANKAR INDIRA VIDYALANKAR	3449 GALI BAJRANG CHAWRI BAZAR DEUHI
	6503034	166	RITU MALHOTIKA AND SHAILENDRA MALHOTIKA	A-2/71 AZAD APPTT. SRI AUROBINDO ROAD NEW DELH
	1537503037	112	ASHOK DAVAR	CONNAUGHT CIRCUS NEW DELHI
10	#2	111	MEENAKSHI DEVI BATRA AND VIJAY KUMAR	89795 SCOTTSDALE DR. CANTON M. MICHIGAN-48188. UNITED STATES INDIA.
	12	101	JAGJIT SINGH, PUSHPA SINGH AND IYOTI SINGH	C/0 DR.VASUDEV 1-196 SAKET NEW DELHI NEW DELHI
12	P2	98	BENU SHARMA AND O N SHARMA	FLAT NO. 127 POCKET A-1 SECTOR-VII ROHINI NEW DELHE-34
13	P 2	75	SUSHIL KUMAR	STATE BANK OF PATIALA EAST PATEL NAGAR NEW DELHI
14	12	67	ASHOK KUMAR KAPILA	1. 22 NO PHATAK BEHIND JAGGI SWEETS PATIALA 2. 77 UPKAR NAGAR, PATIALA

Office of Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur Distt. Dhar (M.P.)

NIT no. 591/2025

DATED: 23.01.2025

date: 22.01.2025

Notice Inviting Tender

Online Item Rate bids are invited from registered contractors/firms of repute for Sewerage Project of Pithampur town under AMRUT 2.0 NIT No: 2025 UAD 397964 1 date: 23.01.2025 Probable amount Rs. 16504.05 Lacs, EMD Rs. 8252024/- Cost of bid document Rs. 50000/- Last date and time of submission of bid: 24.02.2025 & time: 17:30 Hrs. All other details are published on website www.mptender.gov.in further information or clarification (if any) shall be published on website only, and not in Newspaper.

СМО President Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur

	0-1333		RURAL WO	ORKS CII	RCLE, BA	LASORE ge Work	ENGINEER By F. Mail/e-Despato F. Mail ID : Serge Jalance By Despato Fib-No-66782/26031 Ballio, Balasco
		Identificat		ne Tender No. 213		B No. 21 of 2 te. 20.01.25	2024-25
1.	Name of t	the work	:- Bridge w	orks.			
2.	2. Total No. of work :- As per annexu						
з.	3. Estimated Cost :- As per a						
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Procu	rement Officer	Bid	Availability of ten biddi		Last Date & Time of seeking		pening of Tender in Circle, Balasore
11000	Content Onicer	No.	From	То	Tender Clarification.	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7 .
Engi Wo	Construction ineer, Rural orks Circle, Balasore	NCB No 21 of 2024-25	28.01.2025 at 11.00 A.M	12.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	11.02.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	13.02.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later
•	Furt	her details c	an be seen f	rom the we	ebsite: <u>www</u>	.tendersodis	sha.gov.in
DIPR-251	105/11/0027/24	25		. •		S/d- Er.Tapan Chief Construc R.W. Circle	tion Engineer,



LOST & FOUND

I, Saumya Tiwari D/o Sh. Rajesh Kumar R/o Rohini Hostal. Room No-311. International Management Institute, Qutab Inst. Area New Delhi have lost my B.Sc certificate year 2016-19, Roll No-504126, Allahabad University. If found contact saumya.p23@imi.edu PD(1315)C

CHANGE OF NAME

I, hitherto known as Aditi D/o-Roop Tanwar, R/o- RZ - 18/2, Street No. 1, Main Sagar Pur, Delhi - 110046, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Aditi Tanwar for all purposes.

PD(1316)C I, JC-857510F Nb/Sub Mahesh Kumar, R/o- Vill & PO- Raipur, Teh- Mant, Dist- Mathura, U.P.- 281203, have changed my son's name from Nitin to Nitin Singh, vide affidavit dated 24/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1317)C

I, Nishanti T W/o- No. 17005995X NK Thomas Rajan J, R/o- Vill- Nellimarathupatti, PO- Kelavalli, Tal- Harur, Dist-Dharmapuri, Tamilnadu-635202, have changed my name from Nishanti T to Nishanthi D, vide affidavit dated 24/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1318)C I, Beer Singh Tomar, Father of-No.16022540F Hav Dheeraj Singh Tomar, R/o- Sunawali, Morena, Senthara, Ahir, M.P.-476115, have changed my name from Beer Singh Tomar to Veer Singh & my correct DOB is 01/01/1970, vide affidavit dated 24/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1319)C Ph: 01639-256232, 256236

VACANCIES

Online applications are invited w.e.f 28/01/2025 to 17/02/2025 from eligible candidates through Universit website i.e www.bfuhs.ggsmch.org for the recruitment to the posts of Professor-(Nursing)- 1 (SC) on regular basis at constituent colleges/institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot i.e State nstitute of Nursing & Para Medical Sciences, Badal, University College of Nursing, Faridkot, Institute o Nursing, University Regional Centre, Sri Goindwal Sahib, University Institute of Nursing, Jalalabad

For Application form, fee, detail of post, Category wise distribution and other terms & conditions, visi University website: www.bfuhs.ggsmch.org

RO NO. NIL/12/256/2023/41093 Date 25-01--2025

Read. Off: No. 29/1, 1st Floor Sir M N Krishna Rao Road, Near Lalbagh West Gat Can Fin Homes Ltd Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 Web: www.canfinhomes.com WANTED OFFICE PREMISES

Can Fin Homes Ltd. a Housing Finance Company requires space of 800-1000 sq. ft in Ground First / Second Floor in a good locality on lease for 5 to 10 years at the following location

SI. No.	Location	Contact Person &	Contact No.						
		Designation	Mob. & Landline						
1.	Pitampura,	Mr. Sonu Sharma	Mob-7625079150						
	Delhi	(Senior Manager)	Ph.: 011-41761717						
		s may send their offers in a closed enve							
		DP, Local Shopping Complex, In fron							
		-34 as per our format in our website wy							
		25. Premises should be ready for o							
		prokers / intermediaries will not be ente							
reserves the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.									
Canvassing in any form will disqualify the offer. No brokerage will be paid.									
Place:De	lhi		Sd/-						
Date: 25.			Senior Manager						

HARYANA SHEHRI VIKAS **PRADHIKARAN**

PUBLIC NOTICE

HSVP invites Online Applications from the land owners whose land has been acquired for Sector-15, Sonipat. The oustees should apply online on HSVP website i.e. www.hsvphry.org.in. The oustees are requested to apply alongwith application money Rs. 50000/- The claims of the oustees shall be decided in terms of policy dated 04.12.2015, 11.08.2016 and 08.05.2018. The scheme will start w.e.f. 14.01.2025 and close on 14.03.2025 at 5:00 P.M. The allotment shall be made on current reserve price and in case finalization of allotment takes time for any reason in that eventuality bank rate of interest will be charged till the date of allotment on the rate mentioned in the advertisement. For detailed terms and conditions, current reserve price, terms of payment, policy guidelines and sector wise & category wise details of the plots are available on the HSVP website i.e. www.hsvphry.org .in.

RO NO. 1083/11/187/2025/31985/C/27/7 Date: 24-01-2025

Estate Officer **HSVP**, Sonipat

Date: 25.01.2025

Place: Gurugram

1	1	Motropoliton	CrC 9527/2017	Section 270 IBC Negligent
	SINO.	Name of Court	Case No and Status of case	Sections of Acts and brief description on Offence
	SI No.	Convicted Case	-	Or other of Arts and brief
		information the follo	owing details about my c	
		ame of Constituend	,	mentioned election, declare for
				lative Assembly to NCT of Delhi
			ty: Indian National Con	•
			candidate: Arjun Sing	
1		per the judgment Cour Public Interest F	rt of WP (Civil) No. 5 Foundation & Drs. Vs	r, 2018, of Hon'ble Supreme 36 of 2011 Union of India & Anr.)
	register Secto	neers: Seal The De ed office at 148, F r 5, Rohini, Delhi TE OF SUBMISSIO EMAND DRAFT IS	Pocket C2, www.ir 110085 N OF FORM	er will be available in website eps.gov.in DSTE, Lumding DRTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile
	8369652 terms	Ily contact Mr. Bibhu 088 to obtain the for 5 & conditions of e-A download from web ://www.sealthedea	I Jha at m containing uction or site l co in/ x 3,15,8 of Ten & will I 02-202	00/ Date & Time of Closing der: 15.00 hrs. of 14-02-2025 be opened at 15.30 hrs. of 14- 5. The complete information e tender documents of above
- L		N WILL BE HELD (NI 0 1 00 0F	ng division. Tender Value: 53,107.60/ Earnest Money
	Mr. Lalit S for inspect	Shanker Sharma at ion.	Lumaii	ng and Guwahati Station of
		working days only.	Kindly contact 41, ST	-44, ST-45 & ST-50 between
		to 03-02-25 betwe	10 111 1	ST-35, ST-38, ST-40, ST-

SI No. Section 279 IPC, Negligent Metropolitan CrC 8527/2017 Magistrate Driving Date of Conviction Conviction Details: Fine of Patiala House Order: 06.05.2024 Rs. 1000 imposed Courts

Arjun Singh Bhadana 53. Badarpur AC, Candidate, Indian National Congress

PUBLIC NOTICE

SOBHA LIMITED (CIN NO. L45201KA1995PLC018475) Registered Office:- Sarjapur, Marathahalli, Outer Ring Road (ORR), Devarabisanahalli, Bellandur Post, Bangalore-560 103 Reglonal Office:- 5th Floor, Rider House, Plot No-136P, Sector-44, Gurugram-122 003, Haryana Email:- haryana.rera@sobha.com • Phone:- 0124-4855-555

Whereas M/s Sobha Limited is in the process of developing a mixed land use project Sobha Altus situated in Sector - 106, Pawala Khusrupur, Gurugram, Haryana over an area of 5.51 acres under license no - 91 of 2023 dated 21.04.2023 granted by the Director, Town and Country Planning, Haryana and having HRERA registration no. RC/REP/HARERA/GGM/ 828/560/2024/55 dated 27.05.2024

And Whereas M/s Sobha Limited (hereinafter referred "Company") has applied for change in Bank Account from Axis Bank Limited to ICICI Bank Limited and accordingly Company has obtained In - Principal approval for change of bank accounts from Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Gurugram. Accordingly vide this public notice, the general public is hereby notified/informed that the following changes in bank accounts:

Previous Bank Accounts	New Bank Accounts
Axis Bank Limited	ICICI Bank Limited
UTIB0000009	ICIC0000002
923020036596166	000205038972
923020036596182	000205038968
923020036596344	000205038969
	Accounts Axis Bank Limited UTIB0000009 923020036596166 923020036596182

M/s Sobha Limited

money 10



Government approves ₹500 Crore capital infusion in IFCI

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

omestic financial institution IFCI on said the Friday government has approved \$500 crore capital infusion in the company through the

preferential issue of shares. The Department of Financial Services has conveyed sanction of the President of India to release funds of ₹500 crore to IFCI Ltd towards subscription to the share capital during FY 2024-25, the state-owned entity said in a regulatory filing

Following this, the meeting of the board of directors of the company is called on January 29, 2025, to consider the Preferential Issue of equity shares to the central government, subject to the approval of shareholders, stock exchanges and such other regulatory authorities



as may be required. With the infusion, the government's holding in the company is expected to further increase from the existing 71.72 per cent as of September 2024 The capital infusion plan for IFCI was approved through



Industrial Finance The Corporation of India was set up by the government on July 1, 1948, as the first financial development institution in the country. Venture Capital Funds Ltd and MPCON Ltd shall be

The Finance Ministry, in November 2024, in principle the passage of the first approved the Consolidation Supplementary Demand for of IFCI Group', which entails Grants for 2024-25 in the the merger/amalgamation of approved the 'Consolidation

FM Sitharaman takes part in customary halwa ceremony

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $F_{\text{Sitharaman}}^{\text{inance Minister Nirmala}}$ participated in a traditional ^thalwaⁱ ceremony, marking the final stage for the preparation of Union Budget 2025-26 to be unveiled on February 1 in the Lok Sabha. The ceremony is a customary ritual in which traditional dessert 'halwa' is prepared and served to officials and staff members of the finance ministry who are involved in the preparation of the budget. It is organised in the

basement of North Block, which houses the ministry in the national capital and is attended by the finance minister and other highranking officials.

According to sources, the Finance Minister participated in the ceremony and also took a round of the Budget Press and reviewed the preparations besides extending her best wishes to



known the officials concerned. (commonly Budget), Demand for Grants (DG), Finance Bill etc. As Sitharaman is going to present Budget 2025-26, the eighth straight budget in a row, on the backdrop of GDP prescribed Constitution, will be available on the 'Union Budget Mobile growth moderating to 6.4 per App' for hassle-free access to cent in the financial year as Budget. against 8.2 per cent recorded Besides Sitharaman, Minister in the previous fiscal.

Like the previous four full Union Budgets and one Interim, the full Union Budget 2025-26 will also be of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and other senior officials, including Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth and other senior officials were present at the ceremony.

Switzerland, US President Donald Trump called for an

immediate interest rate cut by

the Federal Reserve, a move

that will generate a negative

sentiment for the DXY, Pabari

Meanwhile, Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.47

per cent to USD 78.66 per

added.

RBI penalises J and K Bank, Bank of India, Canara Bank

PTI MUMBAI the

as

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m T}^{
m he}$ Reserve Bank on Friday said it has said it has Iammu penalised and Kashmir Bank, Bank of India, and Canara Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

Jammu and Kashmir Bank has been penalised Rs 3.31 crore for contravention of certain norms related to financial inclusion - access to banking Services - Basic Deposit Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA)', 'Know Your Customer' and 'Loans and Advances - Statutory and Other Restrictions'.

In another release, the RBI said Rs 1 crore penalty has been imposed on the Bank of India for non-compliance with certain provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

A penalty of Rs 1.63 crore has been imposed on public sector Canara Bank for noncompliance with certain directions on priority sector lending, the interest rate on deposits and financial inclusion - access to banking services - BSBDA, the RBI said.

Also, a penalty of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on Datson Exports, West Bengal for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in

Outsourcing of Financial Services by NBFCs'. In each case, the RBI said penalties were based on deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and were not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

Insurers expect tax benefits, concessions for healthcare sector in Union Budget

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Insurers are hopeful of a host Lof tax benefits, including concessions for the insurance and healthcare sectors, from the Union Budget 2025-26 to be unveiled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1.

SBI General Insurance MD and CEO Naveen Chandra Jha said that as India advances toward financial inclusivity and universal healthcare, the upcoming Budget is expected to further strengthen the

healthinsurance sector. Initiatives like Bima Sugam designed to achieve the goal of 'Insurance for All' by 2047, are expected to receive regulatory and fiscal support to address the protection gap, he noted. "Additionally, the budget is likely to focus on expanding access in underserved regions through government-private partnerships, targeted subsidies, and advancements in digital infrastructure," Jha products.

added. Bajaj Allianz Life MD and CEO Tarun Chugh said India's economic growth presents immense opportunities for the insurance sector to enhance financial resilience.

"Aligning tax deduction of life Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and insurance annuity products with the Pension



Pension Scheme will provide to the non-life insurance industry remained the same at 1 per cent during 2023-24. both greater choice and allow diversification of assets into Subrata Mondal, MD and CEO of IFFCO Tokio General multiple pension plans," he said.

Insurance said the Union also urged the Bansal Budget provides an essential government to consider removing GST on premiums the government to implement for annuity plans to support reforms that can address pensioners and make industry challenges and encourage the broader adoption of insurance annuities more affordable and accessible. Universal Sompo General Insurance Managing Director and CEO Sharad Mathur opined that strengthening the insurance One key expectation is the enhancement of tax incentives for policyholders to promote sector is essential for driving wider uptake of insurance, he financial resilience, economic stability, and inclusive growth. Another priority is increasing With targeted reforms and

budgetary support for government-backed insurance of GST on Health insurance, schemes, such as the Pradhan we can unlock the true potential of insurance, isuring wide

Officer,

Rupee rises 22 paise to close at 86.22 against US dollar

PTI MUMBAI

Document

that is IFCI.

Rupee appreciated 22 paise Rto close at 86.22 against the US dollar on Friday, as a decline in the US dollar index supported investor sentiments. Forex traders said weak crude oil prices also boosted the local unit, while surfained forcing unit, while sustained foreign fund outflows weighed on the local unit.

IFCI Limited and Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited and other

Additionally, StockHolding

Services Ltd, StockHolding

Securities IFSC Ltd, IFIN

Securities Finance Ltd, IFC

direct subsidiaries of the

consolidated listed entity

Management

Traders further noted that the upcoming Union Budget will play a crucial role in shaping market sentiment and the rupee's trajectory

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a strong note at 86.31 against the greenback. During the day, the local unit touched an intraday high of 86.16 and a low of 86.36

It finally closed at 86.22, rising 22 paise against the US dollar from previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee declined 9 paise to settle at 86.44 against the US dollar. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said the rupee strengthened this week as the dollar index saw a

of herbicide Glufosinate



significant decline. He said the drop in the dollar came after ÛS President Donald Trump's oath taking on January 20, while concerns over heavy tariffs on China were alleviated after no such drastic measures were announced. This brought relief global markets and to supported emerging market currencies like the rupee.

"Adding to the rupee's strength was a softer trend in crude prices, which reduced import pressure and supported the domestic currency. The rupee is likely to remain in a range of 85.80–86.50, with further movement depending on global cues, crude price trends,

and any fresh policy signals from the Indian government," Trivedi said.

delivered in paperless form. All the Union Budget

documents, including the

Annual Financial Statement

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading down 0.56 per cent to 107.44.

The Dollar Index has recently surged, reaching a high of 110, fuelled by escalating uncertainty surrounding the Trump factor". However, this rally in the Dollar Index is unlikely to be sustained as global uncertainties subside and Trump-related risks diminish, CR Forex Advisors -MD Amit Pabari said. World Moreover, at the

Economic Forum in Davos,

barrel in futures trade. Brent oil was trading at USD 78.03 per barrel as Trump asked Saudi to lower prices so that he could make Russia stop the war. He has also threatened sanctions against Russia if they do not get out of the war, Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Finrex Director Treasury

Advisors LLP, said. In the domestic equity market the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 329.92 points, or 0.43 per cent, to settle at 76,190.46 points, while the Nifty declined 113.15 points, or 0.49 per cent, to 23,092.20 points.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) remained net sellers in the capital markets on Friday, as they offloaded shares worth Rs 2,758.49 crore, according to exchange data.

Goverment restricts import Used-car sales in India to cross one crore annual mark by 2030: Report

Scheme (NPS) and addressing the issue of tax on principal component on annuity products can evolve retirement needs effectively, he added.

Chugh also made a case for the introduction of a separate tax deduction for term insurance and extending the tax deduction on life insurance premiums under the new tax regime.

According to the Annual Report of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai), the country's insurance penetration in 2023-24 was 3.7 per cent compared to 4 per cent in 2022-23. The penetration for life

insurance industry marginally declined from 3 per cent in 2022-23 to 2.8 per cent during 2023-24.

The penetration with respect on par with the National

Avus "They would significantly improve access to insurance for underserved populations, particularly in rural and economically weaker regions," Mathur said.

for

opportunity

added.

Mondal said. Sameer Bansal, MD & CEO. PNB MetLife, said that while India is a fast-growing economy fuelled by its rising middle-class population of 25-45-year-olds, the proportion of people above the age of 60 is equally increasing at a rapid pace. Financial stability is a

Financial ManipalCigna Insurance, said that given the rising healthcare costs and the need for higher sum insured cover, the government should reduce the tax burden by

increasing the limits under Section 80D of income tax for premiums paid for health insurance to Rs 50,000 for all cornerstone of a secure future.

and Rs 1 lakh for senior One of our hopes for the citizens. This is crucial for achieving upcoming budget is to see the government's vision support for pension and 'Insurance for all by 2047' and annuity plans, which are key financial instruments for the would substantially reduce the

retirement planning needed to financial burden on families create that stability, he added. investing in their health and "Tax support for pension plans offered by life insurers wellbeing," financial Kandikonda added.

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI encouraging innovation, and building a secure future for every individual and business,

The government on Friday imposed restrictions on Srikanth Kandikonda, Chief imports of herbicide Glufosinate priced below ₹ Health 1,289 per kg, with a view to discourage inbound shipments of the chemical. However, if the prices are above this value, imports are allowed without any restriction.

"Import of Glufosinate and its salts (purity - minimum 95 per cent) is restricted for CIF value below ₹ 1,289 per kg. However, import Glufosinate and its salts is free if CIF value is ₹1,289 per kg and above," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification. CIF value (cost, insurance, and freight) is a trade term used in international During 2023-24, the non-life commerce to determine the



total value of goods being imported.

Products under the restricted category need a licence from the government.

The import of the herbicide stood at USD 177 million during April-November this fiscal. It was USD 238.13 million in 2023-24. During the first eight months of this India imported fiscal, Glufosinate mainly from China (USD 58.72 million), US (USD 46 million) and Israel (USD 30.50 million).

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

The Indian used-car market L is expected to cross 1 crore sales mark annually by 2030 with offtakes increasing across both urban and smaller towns, according to a report by CARS24.

As per the 'Gear of Growth: The 2024 Indian Used-Car Market Report, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are driving the country's used-car boom.

The market is projected to grow from 4.6 million sales in CY23 to a whopping 10.8 million by CY30, cruising ahead with an impressive CAGR of 13 per cent," CARS24 Co-Founder Gajendra Jangid said.

As the customer preferences change for more affordable and dependable options, the



used-car market is witnessing an uptick vis-a-vis the new car market, he added.

As per the report, SUVs continue to dominate the used car market with a share of 16.7 per cent in 2024.

Their spacious design, versatility, and premium appeal make them a favourite across both urban and rural markets, it noted.

The report highlighted that the post-COVID era has seen a significant shift in consumer preferences, with 12 per cent shared transportation. Maruti Suzuki Swift has become the most sought-after model across both metro and non-metro cities, the report

mobility

Additionally, models like the Hyundai Santro, Tata Tiago NRG, and Maruti Wagon R have consistently delivered exceptional resale value, solidifying their popularity among budget-conscious and value-driven buyers, the report said.

As per the report, financing for new cars has seen significant growth, climbing from 60 per cent in 2010 to 84 per cent in 2024, highlighting the increasing consumer reliance on loans for vehicle ownership.

AIMTC urges government to address CBIC notifies rules for entities to get TIN

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

 $E_{required \ to \ get \ a \ GST}^{ntities \ that \ are \ not}$ registration but are required to make a tax payment under the GST Act provision can now obtain a Temporary Identification Number (TIN) The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has notified an amendment to GST rules to issue TIN to entities that are not required to register under the GST Act but need to make payments under some specific provision.

Under Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules, registration is mandatory for businesses with an annual turnover of ₹40 lakh and ₹20 lakh in the manufacturing and services sectors, respectively.

"Where a person is not liable to registration under the Act



but is required to make any payment under the provision of the Act, the proper officer may grant the said person a temporary identification number," CBIC said while introducing Rule 16A in Central GST Rules. The decision to issue TIN to

entities that are otherwise not required a GST registration was taken by the GST council in its meeting last month. This would ensure smooth tax payments while reducing the compliance burden on those who do not regularly engage in taxable activities.

PTI NEW DELHI

ll India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) A^{II India Ivi} Congress national president Harish Sabharwal on Friday asked the government to address issues like exorbitant increase in toll tax rates and misuse of

The charge handover and oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of AIMTC was held on where Friday, Amritlal the Madan, outgoing AIMTC. President of officially passed on his responsibilities to the newly elected president Sabharwal

AIMTC in a statement said some of the key issues that will be high on Sabharwal's agenda include abolition of border checkposts in the states



Maharashtra, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

The truckers body said exorbitant increase in toll tax rates, checking misuse of Echallan system and impractical ban on 10-year old diesel vehicle in Delhi-NCR are also on

agenda of the newly-elected president of AIMTC. AIMTC also demanded that

the government should constitute 'Drivers Samajik Suraksha Welfare Board' with representatives from AIMTC

It also demanded that drivers

should be covered in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

According to the statement, the transportation sector is a key contributor to India's economy, accounting for approximately 7.7 per cent of India's GDP (PPP adjusted). AIMTC also announced that every year the 24th Day of January will be celebrated as 'National Drivers Day'. In 1936, AIMTC was established as a non-political

established as a non-political, not-for-profit apex body representing India's road transport sector in both cargo and passenger segments.

It encompasses over 95 lakh truckers, 50 lakh passenger vehicle operators, and 3,500 associations nationwide, impacting over 20 crore people directly or indirectly.

INBRIEF

AMPHENOL LAUNCHES TWO MADE-IN-INDIA TECH SOLUTIONS

Amphenol, a world leader in interconnect solutions for Communications, Mobile Consumer Products, RF, Optical Broadband and Commercial electronics markets, today ushered into the next era



of sustainable technology solutions with the launch of DuraSwap Concentric Connectors and Type 6 Charging Gun solution designed and manufactured in India at the country's premier battery technology showcase, the Bharat Battery Show 2025 organised under the aegis of Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

WORKSHOP ON BEAUTY FOR BETTER LIFE

AMRITSAR: Directorate of Placement and Career Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University in coordination Life Long Learning Department organised a workshop on the topic of "Beauty for Better Life" under the CSR of Loreal implemented by Naandi



Foundation - Mahindra Pride classroom. Workshop offered 40 hours of free training for Cosmetology and Beauty culture to the students of Life Long Learning Department. The students were trained on the said domain and life skills. More than 50 students have undergone the skill training from an Industry expert.



challenges faced by transport sector CARRIER

the e-challan system.

and his team. especially

www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

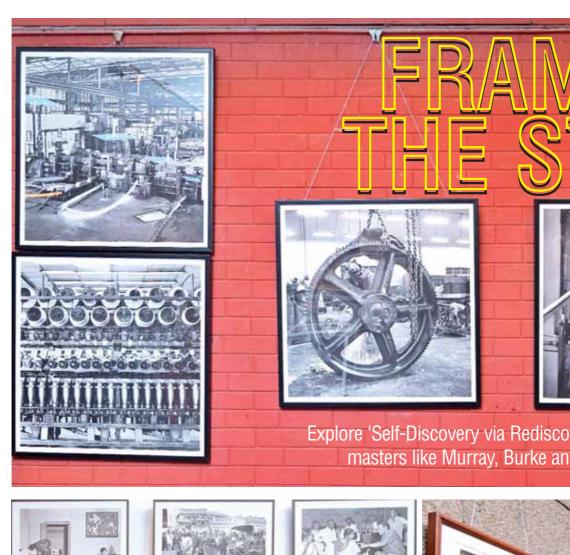
he pioneer

ART & CULTURE VIVACIUY



hotography has a way of preserving moments, not just in images but in emotions, in stories and in history. Stepping Rediscovering India exhibition, curated by Neville Tuli, feels like embarking on a personal journey through time. Hosted by the Tuli Research Centre for India Studies (T.R.I.S.), the collection showcases photographs that capture the essence of India, spanning over a century.

This third installment of the series presents a stunning collection of photographs that bring together India's rich cultural heritage, its landscapes, and the people who have shaped its story. The exhibition offers a unique opportunity to experience not only the visual beauty of India but the depth of its historical and emotional connections. The collection highlights some of the earliest photographs from the mid-1800s, including Dr. John Murray's Bishessur Nath Temple, Benares (1858). The albumen print, preserved in its pristine form, speaks to the timeless spirituality of Varanasi. Similarly, Colin Roderick Murray's Jagmandar Water-Palace at Udaypur (1873) captures the reflective beauty of Rajasthan, where the delicate interplay of water and architecture tells its own story. As one moves through the exhibition, it



Explore 'Self-Discovery via Rediscovering India' exhibition featuring masters like Murray, Burke and Rai, says SAKSHI PRIYA

becomes evident how photography has documented India's evolution. Early works by pioneers like Linnaeus Tripe and Samuel Bourne provide a visual history of India's landscape and architecture. Their photographs are windows into a bygone era, evoking a sense of nostalgia for a time that is both familiar and distant.

The collection doesn't just stop at capturing landscapes or monuments, it explores the lives of people, the complex relationships between humans, animals and nature and the political shifts that have shaped the country. Works by contemporary masters like Raghu Rai and Jyoti Bhatt add a modern perspective, demonstrating how photography has continued to evolve as an art form while remaining true to its roots as a medium for storytelling. The exhibition's focus on India's cinematic and political history further enhances its significance. Photographs from the sets of iconic films, as well as snapshots from key political



moments, provide an intimate look into the country's cultural and social landscape. These images not only reflect history but also shape the way we remember it.

With access to an extensive digital archive containing over 22,000 photographs, the exhibition offers a deeper dive into India's history, allowing visitors to explore beyond the gallery walls. This combination of physical and digital resources provides a comprehensive view of India's rich visual heritage.

The Self-Discovery via Rediscovering India Part III exhibition is a reflection of India itself. It is an invitation to reconnect with the nation's history, to see it through the eyes of those who have captured its most defining moments. For anyone interested in understanding the soul of India, this exhibition is a rare and valuable opportunity to experience the country's past, present and future through the lens of some of the greatest photographers.

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR





By SAKSHI PRIYA

n Terraform, M. Pravat invites us to walk through a world that feels both familiar and unsettlingly fragmented. This solo exhibition, hosted at STIR Gallery, Delhi, is an ambitious exploration of how our built environments intersect, clash and coexist with nature. By using materials like bricks, pigment, dust and LED lights, Pravat creates pieces that feel like echoes of urban landscapes, half-built, half-ruined and wholly captivating.

Walking into the gallery feels like stepping into a suspended reality. The sculptures and installations seem to hold secrets, each fragment whispering stories of cities in transition. Pravat's work doesn't just replicate the urban environment; it deconstructs it, laying bare the tensions between construction and destruction, between human ambition and nature's quiet defiance. As I moved through the space, I found myself reflecting on my own relationship with the city, its noise, its life. Pravat has a remarkable ability to chaos and its beauty.



What struck me most was how each piece felt alive, as if caught midmetamorphosis. There's a raw, unpolished energy to the work that mirrors the constant flux of modern take the ordinary, bricks, stone, dust



land elevate it into something profound. The interplay of light and shadow adds another layer, creating moments that feel almost cinematic, as though you're watching the city breathe. But beneath the aesthetic appeal lies a deeper message. Terraform is a powerful commentary on the relentless pace of urbanisation and its cost to the natural world. Pravat's art is not preachy; instead, it nudges you gently, encouraging introspection. It's a reminder that we are living in a delicate balance, one that we often take for granted. For me, the most thoughtprovoking aspect of the exhibition was its sense of incompleteness. These aren't polished, finished works, they're intentionally raw, mirroring the way cities are always in a state of becoming. It's both unsettling and oddly hopeful, a

expression to human resilience and the possibility of change.

Pravat's ability to turn complex themes into visceral experiences is what makes this exhibition so memorable. Pravat's Terraform goes beyond being a traditional art exhibition. It's an

immersive experience that urges us to pause and reflect on the way we shape and inhabit the world around us. It encourages a deeper look at the delicate balance between creation and destruction, challenging us to rethink our relationship with the spaces we build and the nature we often overlook. As the artist explained, "This landscape is actually magical lands, a digital landscape. I'm inspired by the digital format and I started rendering a digital feeling. When you see it from a distance, it looks consciously faded, like it's mathematically exercised in certain ways, cutting your land and developing your shape. The challenge is how mixed everything together, where contrast exists between the elements, and people should think about why this context has changed."

Steps of Serenity

By TEAM VIVA

n moments where words cannot express the depth of emotion, dance becomes a powerful form of communication. Rangapravesham Chauhan's Samaya performance in New Delhi was a beautiful example of this truth. At just sixteen, Samaya's talent shone brightly, captivating the audience and bringing to life the rich tradition of Kuchipudi. The evening marked her transition from a student to a full-fledged performer, celebrating her growth as an artist.

The recital opened with the graceful Ganpati Vandana, a prayer to Lord Ganesha, followed by Dashavtar, in which Samaya depicted the ten avatars of Lord Vishnu. Through her precise footwork and expressive movements, she brought each avatar's story to life.

A particularly emotional part of the performance was Saanson Ki Maala pe Simrun Main Pii Ka Naam, choreographed by Padma Bhushan Shri Raja Reddy, where Samaya beautifully expressed the spiritual

connection between two souls.

The performance concluded with Tarangam, in which Samaya danced on the rim of a brass plate, telling stories of Lord Krishna's childhood. The complexity of the rhythmic patterns and Samaya's graceful footwork demonstrated her technical skill and deep understanding of the dance form.

Dr. Aseem Chauhan, Chancellor of Amity University, presented a Vote of Thanks, saying, "The essence of today's incredible performance by my daughter Samaya is the notion of Guru Shishya Parampara, the sacred bond between the Guru and his disciple." This connection was evident in the performance, with Samaya drawing on the teachings and guidance of her esteemed gurus, Padma Bhushan Shri Raja Reddy, Smt. Radha Reddy and Smt. Kaushalya Reddy.

The evening was a celebration of culture, tradition and the bond between mentor and disciple. Samaya's performance highlighted the beauty of Kuchipudi, reminding the audience of the timeless connection between dance, history and emotion.







By TEAM VIVA

he National School of Drama (NSD) is set to host the 25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) from 28 January to 16 February 2025, marking a significant milestone in its history as the world's largest theatre festival.

For the first time, the festival will expand beyond India, with performances in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Kathmandu, Nepal, alongside 11 Indian cities including Bengaluru, Jaipur and Ranchi. Themed One Expression, Supreme Creation, BRM 2025 will feature over 200 productions from nine countries, including Russia, Germany and Taiwan, creating a

global platform for collaboration and cultural exchange. Renowned actor and NSD alumnus Rajpal Yadav has been named the Rang Doot (Festival Ambassador) of this year's event.

The festival will also emphasise inclusivity by featuring productions involving marginalised communities such as Santhal tribes, sex workers, transgender persons and children. Virtual performances under the initiative Vishwa Jan Rang will include NRIs and youth from all seven continents.

NSD Director Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy said, "Bharat Rang Mahotsav has evolved into a global celebration of theatre, providing a platform to share and celebrate diverse creative expressions. With its expanded reach, this year's festival sets a new benchmark?

BRM 2025 will also include director-audience dialogues, masterclasses, seminar and cultural experiences like folk and traditional performances, Rang Haat exhibitions and a vibrant food bazaar. The Opening Ceremony at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi, will feature Rang Sangeet, a musical performance by the NSD Repertory Company, as part of celebrations marking NSD's 65th anniversary and the Repertory's 60th year.

With its unique blend of global outreach, inclusivity, and cultural immersion, BRM 2025 promises to be a landmark event in the world of theatre.





Bumrah, Jadeja and Jaiswal named in ICC Test Team of the Year

PTI 🗖 DUBAI

Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal deservedly found a place in the ICC's Test Team of the Year 2024 that featured four Englishmen Australian with Pat Cummins as its captain.

The team also had two New Zealanders, including the redoubtable Kane Williamson. Cummins was the lone Australian to make the all-star XI.

Bumrah was nothing short of magical in 2024, dominating every team and every batter he bowled to. He became the first bowler to average under 20 with a minimum of 200 wickets in Test cricket, solidifying his place in history

In total, Bumrah took 71 wickets in 2024 at an astonishing average of 14.92, finishing as the highest wicket-taker in Test cricket for the year. Thirty two of these scalps came in the

Border-Gavaskar recent series against Australia,

which India lost 1-3. He began the year with a stellar performance against England, taking 19 wickets in four matches, including a remarkable nine-wicket haul in Visakhapatnam. At home against Bangladesh, he further extended his tally with 11 wickets in just two

games. Although his outing against New Zealand was subdued, where he picked up three wickets, it was against Australia that Bumrah truly cemented his legacy as one of the greatest bowlers of all time

Jadeja, meanwhile, scored 527 runs in 2024 at an average of 29.27 and picked up 48 wickets at an impressive average of 24.29. Jaiswal established himself as a premier Test opener and a standout figure in Indian batting during 2024. After a challenging series in South Africa, he made an impressive comeback in the



amassing a staggering 712 runs. This included two double centuries and three all-star team. Williamson was also one of the stand-out performers in fifties, showcasing his 2024 as he accumulated 1,013 runs in 2024 at an

dominance. The 23-year-old left-handed batter continued his fine form with three halfcenturies in four innings as India thrashed Bangladesh at home. He was also one of the few bright spots in an otherwise disappointing series for India, as New Zealand achieved a historic

whitewash on Indian soil. In the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Jaiswal demonstrated his class with a magnificent 161 in the second innings at Perth, bouncing back strongly after a first-innings duck. He finished as India's top scorer in the series, accumulating 391 runs.

Over the calendar year, Jaiswal scored a remarkable 1,478 runs at an impressive average of 54.74, a tally second only to England's Joe Root (1,556 runs in 2024 at an average of 55.57), who was also named in the ICC

West Indies, New Zealand, and most notably India. He took 37 wickets in 2024 at an average of 24.02 and scored 306 runs, averaging 23.53. ICC Test Team of the Year 2024: Pat Cummins (c) (Australia), Yashasvi Jaiswal (India), Ben

outstanding average of 59.58,

making him the sixth-

highest run-scorer of the

Śri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis

also figured in the team after

his 1,049 runs in 2024 at an

extraordinary average of

Cummins led his team to

series victories against the

74.92.

sports 12

Duckett (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Joe Root (England), Harry Brook (England), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Jamie Smith (wk) (England), Ravindra Jadeja (India), Matt Henry (New Zealand), Jasprit Bumrah (India).

Zverev in Australian Open final as injured Djokovic left Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma in

PTI MELBOURNE

Spectators booed an injured Novak Djokovic as he left the court in Rod Laver Arena after quitting one set into his Australian Open semifinal against Alexander Zverev on Friday.

Dealing with a what he said was a torn muscle, Djokovic lost the opener 7-6 (5) when he put a forehand volley into the net, then began shaking his head and immediately walked over to shake Zverev's hand. The 37-year-old Djokovic packed up his equipment and walked off toward the locker room, pausing to respond to the jeers by giving two thumbs-up.

At his news conference, Djokovic said the pain in his taped left leg was "getting worse and worse." He hurt it during his quarterfinal victory over Carlos Alcaraz on Tuesday night.

"I knew," Ďjokovic said, "even if I won the first set, it was going to be a huge uphill battle for me.

He was bidding for an 11th



match at Melbourne Park and

on Sunday will face the winner

of Friday's second semifinal

between number one Jannik

Sinner of Italy, the defending

champion, and number 21 Ben

Zverev, a 27-year-old German,

is a two-time runner-up at

other major tournaments,

losing finals in five sets at the

2020 U.S. Open and 2024

"My goal is still to compete with the big guys and to compete for these kind of

tournaments and try to win

French Open.

them," Zverev said

Shelton of the United States.

championship at the Australian Open and record 25th Grand Slam title overall. But this is the second time in past the four major tournaments he was unable to finish because of an injury: He withdrew from last year's French Open before the quarterfinals because he tore the meniscus in his right knee during a match. Djokovic underwent surgery

in Paris and, less than two months later, reached the final at Wimbledon, then won a gold medal for Serbia at the Paris Olympics. The number two-seeded The

"For that, I need to get better. I need to improve on the court. I need to improve physically." During his on-court interview, Zverev pleaded with the fans not to give Djokovic a hard

time. "I know that everybody paid for tickets and everybody wants to see hopefully a great five-set match," he said. "But vou've got to understand -Novak Djokovic is somebody that has given this sport, for the past 20 years, absolutely everything of his life."

The only set of Djokovic vs. Zverev lasted one hour, 21 minutes and included 19 points that lasted nine strokes or more apiece. The first four games alone lasted 31 minutes, slowed both by the lengthy baseline exchanges and Djokovic's deliberate pacing between points, taking the 25second serve clock down to and occasionally slightly beyond - the full allotment.

The match was grueling - and would have been even without dealing with a leg problem that initially became an issue late in the first set against Alcaraz.

Star batter Smriti Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma were on Friday named in the ICC women's

ODI Team of the Year 2024 but none of their male counterparts found a place

in the men's side that was dominated by Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The women's all-star team has three players from England, two Australians, two South Africans and one each from Sri Lanka and West Indies, besides the two Indians. South African batter Laura Wolvaardt, who scored 697 runs in 12 matches in 2024, was named

ICC women's ODI Team of the Year PTI 🗖 DUBAI

captain of the ICC team. The men were, however, absent from the ICC XI and that can be attributed to lack of ODI engagements for the country last year. India played only three ODIs -- an away series agains

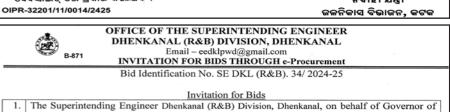
--, losing two of them while the third one ended in a tie. The 28-year-old Mandhana accumulated 747 runs in 13 matches to be the highest run-scorer in women's ODIs in 2024. She is also in the

Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award. In the home series against

South Africa, Mandhana was in sublime form, beginning with back-to-

way series against Sri Lanka				two ODIs.						
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କଟକ-୭୫୩୦୦୩; ଇ-ମେଲ : <u>eeddcuttack@gmail.com, eedrnctc-eicwr.od@nic.in</u>										
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U-19 Women's T20 World Cup: Pakistan, Indian GM P Iniyan wins title in Malaysia Nepal win fourth place play-off matches

PTI KLIALA LUMPUR

Pakistan and Nepal were hardly tested on way to winning their fourth-place play-off matches in the ICC Women's U-19 T20 World Cup here on Friday

Pakistan, riding on young pacer Haniah Ahmer's fourwicket haul, crushed Samoa by 52 runs while Nepal got the better of Malaysia by seven wickets in a low-scoring match.

Put into bat, Pakistan scored 136/8 with Maham Anees and Fatima Khan scoring 28 and 25 respectively. Norah Salima was the most successful Samoa bowler taking three wickets for 20 runs.

Right-arm pacer Haniah then unsettled the Samoan batters, returning with excellent figures of 4/20, while Quratulain Ahsen (2/13) and



Fatima Khan (2/19) were the other wicket-takers as Samoa were all out for 84 in 18.5 overs.

Malaysia were off to an inauspicious start with Nepal striking off the very first ball to dismiss Nur Aliya Binti Mohd Hairun for a duck. The team could not recover

emerging

from the early loss and folded

up for 45 runs with skipper Puja Mahato (4/9) and Rachana Chaudhary (3/5) the most as successful bowlers.

In reply Nepal reached 47/3 in 11 overs to complete a sevenwicket victory with Mahato scoring 23 runs. Left-arm spinner Suabika Manivannan took all three wickets

PTI NEW DELHI

ndian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam clinched the ninth Johor International Open chess tournament title in Malavsia with a dominating performance.

The 22-year-old from Erode in Tamil Nadu accumulated 8.5 points in nine games. He finished 1.5 points ahead of his nearest rival, winning against four International Masters and one Grandmaster.

The nine-round tournament, which ended on Thursday, had 84 participants from eight countries, out of which 24

were titled players. In fact, at the end of the penultimate round where he beat Indonesian IM Nayaka Budhidharma, Iniyan had already secured the title as he

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had



was 1.5 points ahead in the points table

Inivan beat Vietnamese GM Nguyen Van Huy in the final round in an impressive performance. Indian IM VS Raahul and

Chinese IM Li Bo finished second and third respectively. Iniyan, who had won the Chennai Open earlier in January, secured 15 rating points from the title win.

4.	Nature of work	-	Electrical Works				
3.	No. of work	:	06 Nos.				
4.	Bid Cost.	:	₹ 4,000/- & 6,000/-				
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'HT' License / Specialized agency				
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From 10.00 AM of 28.01.2025 to 5.00 PM of 12.02.2025				
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 13.02.2025 at 11:00 AM.				
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <u>https://tendersodisha.gov.in</u> . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.						
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7.	Date & time of availability of bid	: From dt.27.01.2025 (10.00 AM) to dt.06.02.2025(5.30 PM)					
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Chief Construction Engineer R.W.Circle, Berhampur

India keeps eye on Shami's fitness, looks to extend lead against England

PTI CHENNAI

 $U_{\mathrm{fitness}}^{\mathrm{nruffled}}$ by the lingering concerns concerns Mohammed surrounding Shami, the well-oiled machine that is India's T20 team will be eyeing an encore of its opening game performance against a stunned England in the second game of a five-match series, here on Saturday. India lead the rubber 1-0 after a facile seven-wicket victory at the Eden Gardens on Wednesday. The hosts would certainly want to see Shami in action but his inclusion in the eleven, as things stand now, will depend on further evaluation of his fitness.

The 34-year-old was expected to feature in the first game and he was actively involved in the nets too, but his comeback was postponed possibly because the management wanted to take a deeper look at his readiness.

However, India did not miss none of the other English Shami much in Kolkata where

pacer Arshdeep Singh, with onslaught of Abhishek Sharma the new ball, and spinner Varun Chakravarthy, in the middle phase, wrecked England, producing impressive spells. The Chepauk spin

help for both quicks and their slower colleagues but the corresponding 22-yard trampoline here could offer more assistance to the spinners, as it often has been the case in the past.

would not India be complaining whatever be the nature of the track. The home side boasts of quality and variety in a line-up consisting Varun, vice-captain Axar Patel and Ravi Bishnoi.

From England's perspective, they would require much better contributions from experienced spinners Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone to challenge the Indians Apart from pacer Jofra Archer,

and the mini cameo of Sanju Samson in the first match. Sanju-Abhishek pair on a roll Since coming together in the T20Is last year, Samson and have Abhishek considerable success, often The Eden pitch had enough

giving India a flying start. The desired double-barrel firing has been occasional, but at least one of them has produced the goods rather consistently.

In Kolkata, Abhishek hurt England with a brutal knock, striking at over 230.

Samson has three hundreds in the last six innings, and it would not be unrealistic to imagine these two as the firstchoice openers once India hit the road to next year's T20 World Cup at home.

They also offer that rare righthand-left-hand combination

at the top. Here too, the Indian openers will have to give their side a solid start considering the bowlers could survive the tricky nature of the pitch.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER ANANDPUR BARRAGE PROJECT, SALAPADA. DIST:-KEONJHAR, ODISHA, PIN: 758020 Tel No. (06731)295003 E-Mail:cceabp@gmail.co ReferenceNo-CCEABP-06of2024-25

The Chief Construction Engineer, Anandapur Barrage Project, Salapada, on behalf of the Governer of Odisha, invites Request for Proposal through online mode in double cover a from eligible bidders for the works as detailedbelow. -

SI No.	BID ID No.			Name of the work				
01	ABP-ABD- 01/06 of 2024-25	Appointment of Third-Party Inspection Agency (TPIA)	CCA includ Baitarani Le	on of distribution system for (A) 2221 Ha of ding Command Area Development (CAD) of eft Bank Canal (BLBC) from RD 0.00 km to and (B) 1229 Ha of CCA including Command				
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ur Barrage Project, Salapad

PR-32405/11/00	37/2425				Ν	Add Alechanica		Enginee Bhuban	
୍ରିଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ _{(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ} / ପୋଷ- ଆରସ୍କୁ	୦୧୧, ରାଞ୍ଚାମ, ଓଡ଼ିଶ	ୁର କଟରେ, , ।	rwbpr2004	10.00	At/Po- Ambapu	WORKS CII a, Near Incom Ganjam	RCLE, BE e Tax office , Odisha)	RHAMPU	
				BIDDING TH			E.	Mail / E-de	
	Bi	id Identifi	cation No	o. Online Tend	ler/27-2024	-25/BPR			
Identification No Name o		of work	No. of Works	Approx. Estimated Cost (In lakh)		Class of Contractor		Perlo	
Online Tender / 27-2024-25/BPR Building		s Works	04 Nos	From Rs. 163.10 Lakhs to Rs. 621.82 Lakhs		"B" Class, "A" Class or "Special" Clas as applicable		12 (Tw 15 (Fift 18 (Eig Calendar as pro	
Procurem	ent Officer	Bi	d Identifica	tion No	Availabi	ity of tender	online fo	r bidding	
						From		То	
Engineer,	nstruction R.W.Circle, ampur	Online Tender/27-2024-25/BPR			03.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M.		17.02.2025 upto 5.30 P.M.		
	EMD / Bid Sec mentioned in th		of Bid do	ocument is to b	e transferred	through O	nline as	per the p	
				locuments throu Il also liable for i			per the i	tems men	
urther details &	•								
	045/2425	any can be	Jeen trong	the negate		Chief C	onstruct	ion Engir Ierhampu	