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3LISHED FROM: DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA

SC orders status quo on Sambhal Mosque

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES DROP

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES NEW DELHI

ndia's forex reserves dropped by USD 5.693 billion to USD 634.585 billion in the week ended January 3, the Reserve Bank of India said on Friday.

In the previous reporting week, the overall kitty had declined by USD 4.112 billion to USD 640.279 billion.

The reserves have been on a declining trend for the last few weeks, and the drop has been attributed to revaluation along with forex market interventions by RBI to help reduce volatility in the rupee. The forex reserves had increased to an all-time high of USD 704.885 billion in end-September.

For the week ended January 3, foreign currency assets, a major component of the reserves, decreased by USD 6.441 billion to USD 545.48 billion, the data released on Friday showed.

Modi talks Godhra.

US visa refusal in

debutant podcast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his first-ever

podcast, opened up about

significant moments from

during the 2002 Godhra

riots and the United States

decision to deny him a visa

in 2005. The podcast, hosted

Nikhil Kamath, was released

Godhra riots, Modi shared,

"On February 24, 2002, I

became an MLA for the first

time, and on February 27, I

Zerodha co-founder

the

the

events

2002

political journey,

NEW DELH

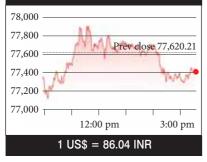
his

on Friday

Recalling

surrounding

MARKETS SENSEX 77,378.91 -0.31%



Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves. This comes in the backdrop

BALLOONS

increasing pressure on the rupee. The rupee declined 14 paise and touched the crucial 86.00-mark (provisional) for the first time against the US dollar on Friday as it failed to resist pressure from a stronger American currency and huge outflow of foreign funds.

Surging crude oil prices overseas and negative sentiment in domestic equity markets also weighed down the Indian currency, forex traders said.

Also, dollar strengthened on increased demand amid the anticipation of restrictive trade measures by the new US administration after Donald Trump takes over as president on January 20.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.88, hit the intra-day peak of 85.85 before settling at the lowest-ever level of 86.00 (provisional) against the greenback, 14 paise lower from its previous close.

Continued on page 2

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Ordering status quo, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Uttar Pradesh authorities, the Archaeological Survey of India and others not to take steps over a "private well" near the Mughal-era Jama Masjid mosque in Sambhal. Considering a plea of the management committee of Shahi Jama Masjid, Sambhal, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar issued notices to the Centre, the Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Sambhal District Magistrate and other private individuals from the Hindu side led by Hari Shankar Jain. "Issue notice returnable on 21. In the February meanwhile, a status report to be filed by the respondents in two weeks. The respondents shall not give effect to any notice in relation to the well, the bench ordered. The mosque committee, in a fresh plea, said the Sambhal district administration, was conducting a purported drive to revive old temples and wells in the city with reports indicating at least 32 old unused temples were revived and 19 wells were identified

for public use and prayers. "In the list of wells being sought to be revived by the district administration is also a water well situated in the precincts of the mosque itself," it said. The plea therefore sought a direction to the Sambhal district notices would be given effect magistrate to ensure a status quo over the private well located near the mosque entrance besides any future outside the mosque's purview action without the Supreme and used for worship

Court's permission While a covered half of the well was said to be inside the mosque, the other half protruded outside on a curved platform. Water from the well, situated at the junction of three narrow lanes leading to the main entrance of the mosque, was being used by the mosque, the plea said. It was argued that the survey led to violence and loss of lives, prompting the urgent intervention of the top court.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, representing the management mosque committee, referred to the well's historical significance and said, "We have been drawing water from the well since time immemorial." Ahmadi raised concerns over a notice referring to the site as "Hari Mandir" and plans for starting religious activities there. "No such activities will be permitted. Please file a

status report," the CJI said. The bench said the status quo concerning the well must be maintained, and no such to. Advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, representing the Hindu party, said the well was Court heard the appeal of the outside the mosque's purview mosque committee.



same day it was filed. The top court, on November 29 last year, ordered a Sambhal trial court to halt proceedings in the case over the mosque and its survey at Chandausi while directing the UP Government to maintain peace and harmony in the violence-hit town. The bench had directed "peace and harmony must be maintained" and took note of the statement of additional solicitor general K M Nataraj, appearing for the state administration. It directed the proposed report of the advocate commissioner following the mosque survey to be kept in a sealed cover, till the appellate court including the Allahabad High



2024: hottest year, global temp above pre-industrial levels

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The year 2024 was the hottest year on record, and the first with a global average temperature 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, European climate agency Copernicus said on Friday.

Every month from January to June 2024 was the warmest ever recorded for those months. From July to December, except for August, each month was the second warmest on record, behind 2023 it said

According to scientists at the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S), 2024 was the hottest year since global temperature tracking began in 1850. The average global temperature was 15.1 degrees Celsius -- 0.72 degrees above the 1991-2020 average and 0.12 degrees higher than that in 2023, the previous recordholder.

Continued on page 2





AAP promises funds for RWAs to hire guards

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

The political discourse in Delhi is currently being dominated by conversations around "freebies" ahead of the Assembly polls overshadowing other major issues including pollution, law and order, crimes against women and infrastructure. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Arvind announced his 10th freebies on Friday, pledging to provide Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) with funds to hire private security guards if the party is voted back into power, as he took digs at the BJP for turning the city into a "crime capital". This was his 10th guarantee of the ongoing freebies being offered by his government. Announcing funds for security guards in RWAs, Kejriwal said if the AAP forms the government, all RWAs will be provided with appropriate funds from the Delhi government to appoint security guards in their areas. "A systematic approach will be developed to ensure tairness and proper implementation," he added. Reacting to the new poll promise by AAP, the BJP slammed Kejriwal and accused him of making

again. from RWA

"false" promises on the RWAs assembly Kejriwal's BJP rival Kejriwal New the Delhi in a post on X, asked the AAP supremo if he supremo if he remembered his previous promises to the RWAs in 2018 and 2022. Ahead of the gates. MCD polls in 2022, Kejriwal promised to grant "financial and political powers" to the

said the private guard proposal security would enhance public security which has been a priority for the ruling party that had earlier installed CCTV cameras and colony

The security guard proposal is based on feedback received from people. It is timely as peop are feeling





Delhi to begin renovation of T2, to shift operations to T1

RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

Delhi airport's Terminal 2 (T2) will remain closed for about six months for refurbishment works in the next financial year. Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has unveiled an

for bomb threats at 23 schools STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

With fear looming over the national Capital since May last year due to a spate of bomb threats, the Delhi Police on Friday revealed that they have a Class 12 studen etainec

Delhi student held



went to the Assembly. I was a three-day-old MLA when such an incident happened in Godhra. We first received reports of fire in the train, then gradually we received reports of casualties. I was in the House, and I was concerned. As soon as I came out, I said I want to visit Godhra. "On Feb 24, 2002, I became

MLA for the first time, and on Feb 27, I went to the Assembly. I was a three-dayold MLA when such an incident happened in Godhra. We first received reports of fire in train, then graduallv we received reports of casualties. I was in the House,...," the Prime Minister described the challenges he faced in reaching the site.

Continued on page 2

refurbish Terminal 2 or T2 of

the Indira Gandhi International Airport which was built by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) four

decades ago. During the renovation, T2 will temporarily close for four to six months, with operations being shifted to the newly expanded Terminal 1 to minimise disruption. said Sources the refurbishment work is set to commence in the 2025-26 financial year, with completion targeted by the second quarter. The upgrades are expected to be completed by the second quarter of

Financial Year 2026. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked the operator of IGI airport to undertake a comprehensive overhaul of 2 (T2). The Terminal financial year starts from



impact airport operations as Terminal 1 (T1) will accommodate the additional load of passengers.T2, which was constructed 40 years ago by the AAI, will undergo extensive renovations to improve the passenger experience and increase capacity for future growth. T1 and T2 currently serve domestic flights while Terminal 3 (T3) handles while international flights. The decades-old terminal will undergo significant upgrades at elevating the aimed passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future capacity growth demands," said DIAL

in a Press statement.

Continued on page 2

The public is invited to be part

of these historic celebrations,

The Shri Ram Mandir Trust

for allegedly sending bomb threats to more than 23 schools in the city over the past few weeks as he did not want to write his exams. More than 15 educational

institutions including Lady Shri Ram College across the national Capital received bomb threats, which later turned out to be hoaxes. Since May last year, more than 100 schools have been receiving bomb threats through mails. Police sources said the south district police apprehended the Class 12 student, a minor, Thursday evening in connection with the threats. According to police sources, the content of the mail Wednesday received on mentioned that since exams are going on in the schools, this will be the best time to strike and create maximum damage

Continued on page 2



AAP national convener Arvind Keiriwa addresses a press conference

promised

Water cannons being used to disperse agitators during a protest by BJP members against AAP for allegedly making "fake" claims regarding registration of voters from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar in Delhi's electoral rolls ahead of Photos: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer Assembly polls in the Capital Detail story on page 3

with th eir own "mini councillors". due to a spurt in crime in the Earlier, before the 2015 Assembly elections, he

local

RWAs by passing a bill in the

city," he said, accusing the BJP's Central government of not doing enough to check crime in the city. area development funds after The BJP may not be worried giving legal status to the

about the residents of Delhi but for us citizens are like family, and we want to give them a sense of security," he said. AAP chief said now the Delhi government will fund RWAs for hiring private security guards and the number of security guards in each colony will be based on the number of families in the RWA.

Meanwhile United Residents Joint Action (URJA) president Atul Goyal said, We appreciate the announcement but some promises were made earlier as well, which makes it difficult to fully trust this one?

Continued on page 2

LA wildfires: 10

dead, thousands of

Ayodhya readies for first Pran Pratishtha anniversary

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA 🗖 AYODHYA

Preparations are in full **P** swing in Ayodhya to celebrate the first anniversary of Ram Lalla's Pran Pratishtha at the grand Ram Mandir. The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra Trust, in collaboration with the district administration, is organising a three-day celebration from January 11 to 13, 2025. The festivities will begin with Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath performing the sacred Abhishek of Ram Lalla on January 11.

Ram Lalla will be adorned in a specially crafted Pitambari outfit woven with gold and silver threads, symbolizing divine splendor. This outfit, crafted in Delhi, will arrive in Ayodhya on January 10 and will be used during the Abhishek. Devotees will have the opportunity to witness the sacred darshan.



he said.

the

highlight The of celebrations will be Ram Lalla's Maha Aarti at 12:20 PM on January 11. Cultural performances, devotional

rituals, and Ram Katha has confirmed the presence of discourses will follow. Champat 110 VIPs and thousands of Rai, General Secretary of the devotees. Invitations have been Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha extended to prominent saints and spiritual leaders from across the country. Public events at Angad Tila will Kshetra Trust, stated that the event is a special opportunity for those who missed last year's consecration ceremony to participate. "We have made continue throughout the three days, offering everyone a extensive arrangements to chance to participate in the

welcome saints, dignitaries, celebrations.

WHY THE ANNIVERSARY **IS ON JANUARY 11**

While the original Pran Pratishtha ceremony took place on January 22, 2024, this year's anniversary is being observed on January 11, 2025. The shift aligns with Hindu Vedic traditions, which follow the lunar calendar. According to the traditional calendar, Paush Shukla Dwadashithe same auspicious day as the original consecrationfalls on January 11 this year. This year's celebration is significant, as it coincides with ten auspicious yogas. It is believed that worshipping Lord Rama on this day fulfills devotees' deepest desires. The day offers a rare spiritual opportunity, as devotees can perform puja and seek blessings from Lord Ram Lalla.

Explore Supreme Court of India with guided tours every Saturday

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Opening its doors for public awareness, the Supreme Court has allowed guided tours for general public on designated days. The drive aimed at augmenting engagement and awareness, allows people to put to rest their curiosities on the court's mystique, and stroll through its majestic corridors every working Saturday — except the second and the fourth and declared holidays.

"Opening of the secured apex court premises will provide a great opportunity to the public to gain inside access to the interiors of the building and admire the majestic structure in its full glory," said an official. A circular issued on January 9 by Registrar Mahesh T Patankar (court and building) read, "In pursuance of the directions of the competent authority, the guided tour shall be conducted on every working Saturday, except second and fourth Saturdays and declared holidays in four slots from 10 am to 11.30 am; 11:30 am to 1 pm; 2 pm to 3.30 pm and 3.30 pm to 5 pm." Officials would accost the public during the tour and introduce them to the various

sections of historical value. For conducting



the guided tour smoothly, a pre-online booking would be mandatory. "A visitor can arrange pre-planned escorted visits with online booking made in advance," the official said, "and will be accompanied throughout the premises and introduced to parts of historical importance and they will also get a chance to see the courtrooms.

Continued on page 2

buildings destroyed PTI LOS ANGELES The two biggest wildfires ravaging the Los Angeles area have killed 10 people so far and burned at least 10,000 homes, buildings and other structures, officials said Thursday. The fast-moving Kenneth Fire started in the late afternoon in the San Fernando Valley just 3.2 km from a school serving as a shelter for fire evacuees and then moved into neighbouring areas by the evening. Officials expressed encouragement after firefighters aided by calmer winds and help from crews from outside the state saw the first signs of successfully

beating back the region's devastating wildfires that have killed 10 people so far.

Detail story on page 8

78% of regional parties' fund came Raghubar Das rejoins BJP, from corporate donations: ADR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI | SATURDAY | JANUARY 11, 2025

The regional political parties declared donations worth over Rs 200 crore for the financial year 2022-23 with JMM, JJP, TDP and TMC reporting the highest increase in their income from donations, according to an analysis by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The report highlighted the dominance of a few parties in the total donations received, significant delays in

submissions to the Election Commission of India (ECI) and gaps in disclosure of donor details.

Out of 57 regional parties analyzed, only 18 submitted their donation reports to the ECI within the stipulated time. A total of 2,119 donations,

declared by 28 regional parties, amounting to Rs 216.765 crore were analysed. It is to be noted that people donating more than Rs 20,000

are required to reveal their donations, followed by the identity.

the pioneer

Seventeen other parties delayed their submissions. with delays ranging from two to 164 days. Seven parties, including the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), declared no

donations for the year. The report highlighted significant increases in donations for some parties compared to the previous financial year. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) saw a staggering 3,685 per cent rise, followed by the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) at 1,997 per cent, and the TDP at 1,795 per cent. However, parties such as the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) reported sharp declines in donations, with drops of 99.1

per cent and 89.1 per cent, respectively. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) topped the list of total highest recipients, declaring amounting to Rs 21.45 lakh Rs 154.03 crore from just 47 from 43 donations. Among

YSR Congress Party with Rs 16 crore from five donors and the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) with Rs 11.92 crore. Notably, five parties -- BRS, YSR Congress, TDP, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK),

and Communist Party of India (CPI) -- accounted for 90.56 per cent of the total declared donations. ADR raised concerns about transparency in donation reporting. Five regional parties declared Rs 96.2 lakh donations without in providing Permanent Account Numbers (PAN) of the donors, while address details for Rs 3.36 crore worth of donations were missing. Moreover, 204 donations totalling Rs 165.73 crore lacked complete information about the mode of contribution.

Cash donations accounted for a mere 0.099 per cent of the contributions,

states, Kerala led with Rs 9.09 lakh in cash donations, followed by West Bengal with Rs 5.91 lakh.

Corporate and business entities contributed Rs 169.2 crore, comprising 78 per cent of the total donations, while individual donors accounted for Rs 45.24 crore. BRS received Rs 138.97 crore from 40 corporate donors, the highest among regional parties.

Delhi emerged as the largest donor base, contributing Rs 107.09 crore, followed by Telangana with Rs 62.99 crore and Andhra Pradesh with Rs 8.39 crore.

The ADR report emphasised the need for political parties to ensure timely and complete disclosures of donations, including donor PAN details and accurate modes of contribution. It also called on the ECI to enforce stricter compliance with transparency norms to enhance public trust in the political funding process.

vows victory in Jharkhand

PTI RANCHI

Former Jharkhand chief minister Raghubar Das on Friday rejoined the BJP here and asserted that the party will return to power in the state.

Das had earlier resigned from the post of Odisha governor on December 24 last year to return to active politics after the party's debacle in the assembly elections, in which it failed to the JMM-led dislodge coalition from power in the state. Das was given a warm

welcome into the saffron fold at the BJP's state at headquarters in the presence of the party's state unit president Babulal Marandi, working president Ravindra Rai, Union minister Sanjay Seth, and hundreds of supporters.

Speaking on the occasion, Das said that he was happy to take the membership of the party for the second time three months to them to

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

since 1980 and he would fulfill their promises. If the serve the people.

He had to quit the party after assuming the position of the Odisha governor in 2023. 'In the 2024 assembly polls, all party members, right from the state president to booth level workers, made their honest effort but we did not get the desired results. We should not be disheartened by the results. We will come back soon," Das said.

The party faced a major setback in the 2024 Jharkhand assembly elections, managing to win only 21 seats, despite an allout blitz. The JMM-led alliance stormed to power for the second consecutive term, winning 56 seats in the 81member assembly.

"People of Jharkhand have given their mandate to the alliance government. We respect the mandate and hope the government will fulfill the promises made to the people. We will give two-

infiltration

resources. This incident follows

reports of the BGB obstructing

fencing projects by the BSF

along the border. On Monday,

similar tensions were reported

in Sukdebpur, Kaliachak, Malda

district, where BGB forces hindered BSF attempts to

Locals indicated that BGB had

set up bunkers and incited

resistance from Bangladeshi

construct fences.

and

Bangladeshis.

New pangolin species found in India

PTI KOLKATA

 $Z^{\rm oological}_{\rm (ZSI)}$ scientists identified a new pangolin species which diverged from the Chinese pangolin (Manis pentadactyla) around 3.4 million years ago, the organisation said in a statement on Friday. The ZSI said the discovery of the Indo-Burmese pangolin (Manis indo-burmanica) sheds light on the evolutionary diversity of pangolins, influenced by climatic changes in the region, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.

The study, led by Mukesh Thakur of the ZSI, used cutting-edge genomic tools to analyse mitochondrial genomes. "This is a testament to the power of modern genetic tools in uncovering hidden diversity. The Indo-Burmese pangolin not only enriches our understanding of Asian pangolins but pangolins emphasises region-specific conservation efforts," Thakur said.

No jail time for Trump after conviction in hush money case

PTI NEW YORK

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above

President-elect Donald Trump was sentenced on Friday in his hush money case, but the judge declined to impose any punishment.

The outcome cements Trump's conviction before he returns to power before while freeing him to return to the White House unencumbered by the threat of a jail term or a fine.

Trump's sentence of an unconditional discharge caps a norm-smashing case that saw the former and future president charged with 34 felonies, put on trial for almost two months and aggravating factors before convicted by a jury on every

2024: hottest year, global temp

above pre-industrial levels

1850-1900

count. Yet, the legal detour -

and sordid details aired in court of a plot to bury affair allegations - didn't hurt him with voters, who elected him to a second term. Manhattan Judge Juan M.

Merchan could sentenced the 78-year-old Republican to up to four years in prison. Instead, he chose a sentence that sidestepped thorny constitutional issues by effectively ending the case but assured that Trump will become the first person convicted of a felony to assume the presidency. Merchan said that like when facing any other defendant, he must consider any

imposing a sentence, but the legal protection that Trump will have as president "is a factor that overrides all others"."Despite extraordinary breadth of those legal protections, one

have power they do not provide is that they do not erase a jury verdict," Merchan said. Trump, briefly addressing the court as he appeared virtually from his Florida home, said his criminal trial and conviction has "been a very terrible experience" and insisted he committed no crime. The

Republican former president, appearing on a video feed 10 days before he is inaugurated, again pilloried

INDIA'S FOREX RESERVES DROP

From page 1

the case, the only one of his four criminal indictments that has gone to trial and possibly the only one that ever will. "It's been a political witch

the

hunt. It was done to damage my reputation so that I would lose the election, and obviously, that didn't work," Trump said. Trump called the case "a weaponisation

government" and "an embarrassment to New York". With Trump 10 days from inauguration, Judge Juan M. Merchan has indicated he plans a no-penalty sentence called an unconditional discharge, and prosecutors aren't opposing it. That would mean no jail time, no probation and no fines would be imposed, but nothing is final until Friday's proceeding

of

villagers. The BSF has urged said. The villagers cited ongoing Indian villagers to remain calm issues with cross-border activities, including destruction to prevent further escalation. Meanwhile, construction worl of crops by Bangladesh's cattle, theft of paddy and livestock, at the Sukdebpur border remained suspended for the

Delhi student held for bomb threats at 23 schools

Earlier in the day, officials said police will address a press conference at its headquarters to share more details but it recent reports revealed that cancelled The was later sources said the accused had sent bomb threats to 23 different schools as he did not want to take school examinations. He used this method to trigger panic. "The student got the idea from previous incidents and hatched a plan to change his IP address by using Virtual Private Network (VPN) and

turned into a crime capital

under the BJP and Home

Minister Amit Shah. People

are scared and feeling unsafe?

he said, adding, "Gang wars

are now common in the city.

BJP doesn't care for Delhi

residents, but AAP does.

Asserting that the two crore

people in Delhi were like

family to him, he said their

safety was the top priority of

The AAP leader also raised

concerns about alleged voter

irregularities in the New Delhi

Speaking about his recent

meeting with the Election

claimed, "Between December

constituency.

Kejriwal

the AAP.

Assembly

Commission,

send threat e-mails to different schools. Further investigation is underway," said a source.

later released after their This development comes after parents received strict warnings. rom within at least Similar

take border security into own hands second day on Friday. Indian authorities are reportedly avoiding direct confrontation for diplomatic reasons to

government fails to do it, we

will launch our struggle on

Das, who was the first non-

tribal chief minister of

Jharkhand from 2014-2019.

was appointed the governor of Odisha on October 18,

2023 after the party's defeat in

the 2019 assembly polls in the

Das had joined the BJP as a

worker and then gradually

rose through the party ranks

before getting the first break

when he was nominated as

candidate

Jamshedpur (East) in the 1995

undivided Bihar. He went on

He became a minister for the

first time in the Babulal

Marandi government after

the creation of Jharkhand

and got berths in the

subsequent two governments

led by Arjun Munda, before

becoming the deputy chief

minister in the Shibu Soren-

led government in 2009.

to win the seat five times.

elections

from

in

the streets," he said.

state.

party

Bengal villagers defy Bangladesh guards,

assembly

prevent any opportunity for Bangladesh to portray India as the aggressor In a separate development, central intelligence agencies

have warned about the possible presence of 150,000 Rohingyas hiding in Bengal. Security agencies have intensified surveillance in both rural and urban areas, particularly in the ten districts bordering Bangladesh. "There are reports of Rohingyas hiding in Kolkata, Howrah, Asansol, and Siliguri slums. Police are closely monitoring potential hideouts,"

official said. senior Intelligence reports also suggest that villages in Malda, Birbhum. and Murshidabad are under scrutiny. The heightened vigilance

follows recent border tensions, with many Bangladeshi nationals reportedly fleeing to India for safety. The alert comes amid investigations into the Mujahideen Jamat ul Bangladesh (JMB) terrorist network.

Security agencies revealed that JMB operatives Tarikul and Sajibul had been recruiting science students, particularly those with chemistry backgrounds, to train in explosives manufacturing.

Explore Supreme Court of India with guided tours every Saturday

then 296 such tours have

Public members would have a chance to sightsee the grounds which usually takes students admitted to being inspired by past bomb threat about an hour and guided incidents. Both students were through the courtrooms aside from the National Judicial Museum and Archive. Visitors will have a chance to see the new judges' library in SC's administrative building complex where entry is otherwise restricted. The first such tour happened on allowing prospective visitors November 3, 2018, and since glimpse to what lies in store.

taken place. The Supreme Court building was constructed in 1958, with its foundation stone laid by India's first President, Dr Raiendra Prasad in 1954. The architecture and history make it a landmark manifesting legal importance and rich cultural heritage ' section of the top court's official website has photos and details of the past tours, allowing prospective visitors a

clean energy quickly and Meanwhile, the dollar index, fairly, making sure no one is which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.01 per cent higher at 109.01. The 10-year US bond yields also rose to its April 2024 level at

human activities like burning 2024, greenhouse gas levels in fossil fuels began significantly the atmosphere hit their annual est leve ever recorded. Carbon dioxide levels were 2.9 parts per million (ppm) higher than in 2023, reaching 422 ppm, while methane levels rose by 3 parts per billion (ppb), reaching 1897 ppb. Sea ice extent in the Arctic around Antarctica, and which is an essential indicator of the stability of Earth's climate, reached "record or near-record low values" for the second year in a row. The year 2024 will also be remembered as the year developed nations had their last big chance to prevent the world from permanently crossing the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold by funding climate action in the Global South, but that didn't seem to materialise. Relentless warming fuelled record-breaking heatwaves, deadly storms, and floods that devastated lives and homes by the thousands in Millions 2024. were displaced, and all eyes turned to the UN climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, hoping for a climate finance package capable of ramping up action in the Global South.

left behind, and that rich countries have a bigger responsibility to take bold

steps. baseline, the period before C3S scientists said that in AAP promises funds for RWAs to hire guards From page 1 Kejriwal said hiring private security guards by RWAs is just a measure to instill a feeling of safety among residents and in no manner an attempt to "replace police who are responsible for providing security". The AAP National Convener hoped the posting of private security guards would help regulate the movement of unauthorised persons in colonies and prevent petty crimes. Kejriwal used the occasion to criticise the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for its handling of Delhi's law and order situation. "Delhi has been

From page 1

is done.

Tillagers in Mekhligani, We are determined to put up Cooch Behar district of our own fences with the BSF's North Bengal, set up temporary assistance," one local added. While standard fences are 10 barbed-wire fences along a 1.5 feet high, the villagers managed to construct five-foot-high km stretch of land on Friday, defying threats from the Border barriers due to limited

Guards Bangladesh (BGB). The incident began when villagers started erecting the fences early in the morning. BGB personnel and villagers from the other side ordered them to stop, but the locals continued the work on their own fields. "We contacted the Border Security Force (BSF), and with their help, we completed the 1.5 km stretch. We plan to finish the next 2.5 km in a few days," a villager

This is the first time the average global temperature has remained 1.5 degrees Celsius above the 1850-1900 average for an entire calendar year. However, a permanent breach of the 1.5-degree Celsius limit specified in the Paris Agreement refers to long-term warming over a 20- or 30-year period.

Scientists noted that the

average temperature in 2024

was 1.60 degrees Celsius

the

That said, experts feel that the world is now entering a phase where temperatures will be consistently above this threshold.

Harjeet Singh, climate activist and the founding director of Satat Sampada Climate Foundation, said the world is entering a new climate reality one where extreme devastating heatwayes. floods, and intense storms will become increasingly frequent and severe.

"To prepare for this future, we must urgently scale up adaptation efforts across every level of society -redesigning our homes, cities, and infrastructure, and transforming how we manage water, food, and energy systems," he said.

Singh said the world must move from fossil fuels to

4.69 per cent. India's gold reserves increased by USD 824 million to USD 67.092 billion during the week, the RBI said. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) were down by USD 58 million to USD 17.815 billion, the apex bank said.

India's reserve position with the IMF was down by USD 18 million at USD 4.199 billion in the reporting week, the apex bank data showed.

students three Delhi schools were responsible for bomb threats targeting their institutions. According to a police official from the Delhi Police special cell, an investigation uncovered that two siblings within one of the schools had orchestrated the threats in an attempt to delay their exams. During counseling, the

15 and January 7, 5,500 votes

were flagged for deletion in

New Delhi, which accounts

for 5.5% of the total voter

base. Additionally, 13,000 new

voter applications have been

filed in this period, suggesting

BS Vohra, president of North Delhi RWA Federation, the

AAP should empower RWAs

but expressed reservations

over the new promise. "Last time, it was promised that

appointed, but we are still

waiting for them," he said. It

would be fine if funds were

provided for private guards

and hoped previous promises by the party would also be

would

be

potential fraud."

councillors

reported in schools located in Rohini and Paschim Vihar, where students were found to have sent threatening emails. Since May, more than 50 bomb threat emails have targeted not only schools but also hospitals, airports, and airline companies across Delhi, creating widespread concern and fear.

met, Vohra added.

free

hospitals.

electricity,

Modi talks Godhra, US visa refusal in debutant podcast

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From page 1

"There was only one helicopter... I guess it was ONGC's, but they said that Eyeing a third straight term, since it is a single-engine, they cannot allow a VIP to use it. the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), under former Delhi We had an argument, and I Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, is leading the charge said that I would be responsible for whatever happened" he stated. with its campaigns like "Revdi reached Godhra, and Par Charcha^{*}, emphasising its Ι water, witnessed that painful scene, healthcare, education, and those corpses. Ι felt everything, but I knew I was public transport initiatives for women. It has also announced sitting in a position where I new schemes, including the had to stay out of my and natural Mukhya Mantri Mahila emotions tendencies. I did whatever I Samman Yojana, promising could to control myself," he Rs 2,100 monthly for women, and the Sanjeevani Yojana, remarked.

During the podcast, Modi ensuring free healthcare for senior citizens in both also revisited the American government and private government's decision to deny him a visa in 2005 when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. Reflecting on the incident, he said, "Talking incident, he said, "Talking about setbacks, I was the MLA when the American government refused to give me a visa. As an individual, going to America was not a big thing, I had visited before also; but I felt the disrespect of an elected government and the country, and there was a dilemma in my mind as to

what was happening." "That day, I held a press conference, where I said that the American government had rejected my visa. I also said that I see an India, where the world will stand in queue for a visa. This is my statement in 2005, and today we are standing in 2025. So, I can see that now, the time is of India," remarked Modi. In the conversation, Modi

also reflected on leadership, admitting that mistakes are part of being human. He said he is willing to discard old ideas and embrace new ones as long as they fit into his essential ideology of "nation first".

Noting that one-third seats for MLAs and Lok Sabha members will be reserved for women in near future, the PM said women are already present in local bodies due to 50 per cent reservation for them in many states and asked them to work to become as capable as they can be to prepare themselves for assemblies and Parliament.

The prime minister described himself as not a typical politician, and his time is mostly spent on governance. Asserting that he has never confined himself to a comfort zone, Modi said his risktaking ability has hardly been utilised. "My risk-taking ability is several times more, he said, adding that it was because he never bothered about himself.

In his third term, he said he felt more emboldened and his dreams have widened. In first two terms, he used to judge his work by the progress it has made since he began. "Now my thoughts are in the

context of Viksit Bharat by 2047," he added. On the current trend of evolution of social media, PM said the platform has strengthened democracy by opening up ways to verify information which earlier was available from a handful of sources with little alternatives.

Delhi to begin renovation of T2, to shift operations to T1

connectivity

From page 1

elements of the Kev refurbishment include the installation of six state-of-theart Passenger Boarding Bridges (PBBs) featuring autonomous docking technology, the first of its kind in India. These advanced PBBs will offer features such as elevated ramps for wheelchair access and adjusted cabins for a seamless experience. The terminal will also receive mechanical and electrical upgrades, including new HVAC systems for better air quality and enhanced fire safety measures. According to airport operator,

DIAL will procure six state- include smart washrooms, of-the-art Passenger Boarding advanced flooring, and better Bridges (PBBs) from South road Korea, incorporating improve advanced features including convenience. Canopies at the elevated ramps to assist forecourt will ensure a dry, wheelchair passengers; comfortable experience for Adjusted cabins for a seamless passengers, especially during passenger experience; the monsoon. T2 opened in May 1986, and Autonomous docking technology (first time in was initially used for international flights till July India); Side-covering cushions for enhanced safety 2010, when those operations and aesthetics and swing shifted to T3. After this, the doors for operator safety and terminal operational for only three a better aesthetic appeal. The terminal's aesthetics will months every year, catering to be upgraded with modern Haj flights. It was then shut for a few years, and in 2017, ceilings and skylight designs, was renovated, and nowcreating a more appealing environment. The civil works bankrupt airline Go First and

a few IndiGo flights started operations from here.

will Officials said IGI is scheduled passenger to host the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific & Middle East Regional Assembly conference in mid-April, and officials from the ministry of civil aviation confirmed that the expanded Terminal 1 (T1) will be ready by early April to ensure that the country's largest airport gets the best remained display.

On completion of the ongoing work, T1 will have a capacity of 40 million passengers annually. T2's renovation will begin only by the end of April or May once the ACI

conference concludes," officials confirmed

DIAL CEO Videh Kumar Jaipuriar said the refurbishment of the fourdecade-old T2 is the need of the hour. "The decades-old terminal will undergo significant upgrades aimed at elevating the passenger experience and increasing the airport's capacity to meet future growth demands," he said.

DIAL CEO said the overall passenger experience will be enhanced by upgrading key infrastructure, improving operational efficiency, and elevating passenger comfort. the "With terminal's

projected passenger capacity expected to reach its peak by 2025-26, these FY enhancements will be crucial in supporting the growing demand for air travel particularly for domestic

passengers," he said. Last year, the improvement work of Delhi airport's Terminal 1 was done. Functions in T1 were resumed from August17, in phases. A large section of Terminal 1's roof collapsed in the early hours of 28 June following heavy rain, leading to the closure of the entire

injured in the accident.

terminal. One person was killed and eight others were



AAP and BJP engage in fierce tug of war for Purvanchali voters

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) are engaged in a fierce tug of war for Purvanchali voters following recent remarks by AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal about the voter list. Kejriwal's statement, which accused the BJP of bringing people from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to create fake voters in Delhi, has sparked a heated debate. The comments have escalated tensions, especially within Delhi's Purvanchali communities, leading to widespread discussions on voter manipulation. Congress leaders also slammed the AAP for commenting on

the purvanchali people. It is estimated that 40- 50 lakh Purvanchali voters spread in all 70 assembly seats, who play a major role in deciding the fate of the political parties here. The BJP sees an opportunity to capitalise on growing discontent with the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), driven by anti-incumbency sentiments and recent controversies. By leveraging its strong historical ties with the Purvanchali voters, the BJP aims to stage a comeback in the national capital

The Delhi BJP held a protest on Friday against the AAP and its chief Arvind Kejriwal. Hundreds of protesters holding placards like "Purvanchal Virodhi Kejriwal" raised slogans against AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal, with some attempting to breach the security barricades near his residence. Slogans such as "Litti chokha khayenge, Kejriwal bhagayenge", "Chhathi Maiya ki jai", and "Purvanchal Virodhi Kejriwal murdabad" echoed during the protest.

During the protest, the demonstrators attempted to breach security barricades and move closer to Kejriwal's residence. However, the police used water cannons to disperse the crowd and prevented them from advancing further. According to police officials, more than 20 protesters were detained for protesting without valid per-mission. "They were bundled into police buses and taken to



different police stations," a senior police officer said. As electioneering gathers steam for Delhi assembly polls next month, Delhi BJP on Friday launched a scathing attack against AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal claiming he was anti-Purvanchal after his remarks

on Thursday calling them "fake voters" have once again revealed the dark truth about his mindset. This was first visible in 2019.

Leveling this charge besides others, state BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva said Kejriwal is taking revenge on the people of

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

issue written instructions to police to maintain discipline

on polling day, ensuring that

party workers are not

Delhi for losing power. He added, "Kejriwal ji, you can curse BJP, but please do not spread tension in Delhi. You have already caused significant harm by halting Delhi's development and looting its treasury. Please don't disturb the harmony of Delhi anymore."

Issue written instructions to police to maintain

discipline on polling day: Yadav to Delhi's CEO

Sachdeva also said "Kejriwal ji, you have always been anti-Purvanchal and will remain so. This bitter truth emerged once again yesterday, January 9. Why do you hate the people of Purvanchal so much?

The BJP Delhi President declared that the people of Delhi will no longer tolerate this and will liberate Delhi from the sinful rule of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on February five. BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said, "Arvind Kejriwal has always insulted the Purvanchali community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he made several objectionable statements, and now he has referred to them as 'fake voters'. We will not forget this insult, and neither will the people of Uttar Pradesh, Ĵharҟhand, and Bihar. This betrayal will remain etched in the memory of Delhiites as well.

After the controvery, Kejriwal was seen in a damage control mode today highlighting the work done by his party to improve the living conditions of the unauthorised colonies which are home to many peo-

ple of this community. Kejriwal also blamed the BJP for doing nothing to improve the condition of Puravanchali people. 'People from Purvanchal come here and live in slums. Before 2014, it was difficult to live in these slums. It was a life of hell, with mud and sludge everywhere. There was no development. According to the Supreme Court and central government orders, no devel-opment could take place there. More than 90 per cent of the people in these slums are from Purvanchal. I want to ask the BJP, what have you done for slums in the last 10 years?" said Kejriwal. "BJP is just a party for protesting. They only hold dharna and protest and indulge in dirty politics. They can't work for the people," he said. AAP MP Sanjay Singh accused the BJP of attempting to delete the names of Purvanchali residents from the voter list in Delhi and said the saffron party was targeting "our Purvanchali brothers, calling them Bangladeshis and

including Shahdara, Janakpuri, Palam, Rajouri Garden, Hari Nagar, Karawal Nagar, and Mustafabad, have submitted applications to delete the votes of Purvanchalis. He further alleged that in Palam, nine BJP workers filed requests to remove 1,641 votes, while in Rajouri Garden, six BJP workers sought the deletion of 571 votes. The AAP leader alleged that the BJP has been caught "red-handed" while attempting to manipulate the voters list. In a formal complaint to the Election Commission, Kejriwal raised concerns over applica-tions for the addition of 13,000 new voters between December 15 and January 8.

capital 03

Addressing the media after lodging the complaint, Kejriwal said, "Apparently many of these voters have been brought in from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other neighbouring states to create fake voter registrations. This manipulation undermines the election process."

Kejriwal's remarks sparked an immediate backlash from BJP with party leaders condemning his comments.

BJP's CEC meets to finalise candidates to be nominated for city's Assembly polls

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

The Central Election Committee (CEC) of the BJP met on Friday to finalize the remaining candidates to be nominated for the upcoming high-octane Delhi Assembly elections, slated to be held on February 5. Two separate meetings were held throughout the days to narrow down the names of the candidates for the remaining constituencies.

The first meeting, which took place at the residence of Nadda, included senior leaders including Shah, BJP National General Secretary BL Santosh, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva, Co-Election Incharge MP Atul Garg and Organizational General Secretary Pawan Rana among others

The BJP has already released its first list, featuring 29 candi-dates, including eight promi-nent leaders who switched from AAP and Congress. Notable turncoats like Kailash Gahlot and Arvinder Singh Lovely have made their way into the BJP fold.

The focus of the meeting was on key discussions regarding the party's strategy and preparations for the elections. All seven Lok Sabha MPs from



Khandelwal, Northeast MP that Union Home Minister Manoj Tiwari, Northwest MP Amit Shah and other senior Yogendra Chandolia, New leaders are meticulously Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj, West reviewing nominations for all Delhi MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat, 70 seats, with a particular focus East Delhi MP Harsh Malhotra on the remaining 41 conand South Delhi MP Ramvir stituencies. Singh Bidhuri were called in for Today, Union Home Minister

the meeting one by one to Amit Shah and all the leaders review the names of the canin charge of Delhi are disdidates from their constituencussing the nominations for all cy for the Delhi polls. Later in the day, the BJP conseats. BJP National President IP Nadda has asked for our vened a Central Election opinions on the 41 remaining Committee (CEC) meeting at seats, and national leadership the party headquarters, which was attended by Prime Minister is thoroughly discussing each constituency. If the parliamentary board meeting con-Narendra Modi, to confirm the

final list of candidates for the upcoming Delhi Assembly elections. The party is set to announce its row," Chandolia shared.

अतम

Meanwhile, Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva claimed, "We have concrete information that Kejriwal is deliberately arranging for large numbers of votes to be registered in the homes of his

party workers in certain constituencies. These votes are of people who do not reside in Delĥi and will suddenly show up to cast their vote on election day."

harassed.

He also said that in this regard, they have requested an appointment with the Election Commission and will file a complaint as soon as they are granted time.

Yadav, along with other lead-ers, met the Delhi CEO and submitted a letter. In the letter, Yadav highlighted the Election Commission of cludes today, the list will be India's announcement of the released tonight; otherwise, it schedule for Delhi Assembly will be announced tomorelections and expressed the party's concerns regarding



which arises for concern on the voting day is about the non-issuance of clear-cut guidelines/directions to the local police regarding the number of tables and putting up of party flags, symbols and other material used by the workers of different political parties outside the polling stations.

"It had been experienced that the Congress workers are mostly harassed by police in disguise of the Model Code of Conduct, which is against the electoral practices and healthy democratic process," he wrote in the letter.

It had also been witnessed in

stituencies, wherein the voting percentage was higher than other constituencies, it said. It was also seen that due to a heavy turnout in many constituencies, there were long queues due to "poor management" at sev-eral booths, unnecessary delays and interruption in voting for hours, which resulted in the harassment not only for voters but also for the election machinery, including political party workers, till late night, Yadav mentioned.

It is further requested that no deletion or addition in the voters list should be carried

Congress promises to build Chhath Puja ghats like the ones built in 'Maha Kumbh'

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Rohingyas". Singh said that

BJP leaders in several areas,

Delhi Congress on Friday promised to build Chhath Puja ghats, like the ones built in the 'Maha Kumbh', on the Yamuna banks, which will be declared a separate district and named after the iconic singer and Padma Bhushan Sharda Sinha, who passed away recently.

"Congress has taken a pledge to make Chhath Puja like the 'Maha Kumbh' when it returns to power, and will build a separate Chhath Ghat at the Yamuna banks, which will be declared as a separate district and named as "Sharada Sinha Ghat"," Bihar Congress President Akhilesh Prasad Singh said addressing a press conference.

He added that people from Poorvanchal have played a major role in the development of Delhi. "However, their contributions have been forgotten by the AAP and the BIP. Both of them used them as a vote bank to be insulted and humiliated after winning elections," Singh said.

The Congress MP said the Kejriwal government ignored

Ahead of the upcoming Delhi

assembly election, AAP

Convenor Arvind Kejriwal, has guaranteed the "Pujari-

Granthi Samman Yojana,"

under which Pujaris and

Granthis will receive Rs 18,000

While welcoming the priests and saints into the party fold on January 8, AAP chief expressed his gratitude, saying, "I con-sider myself very fortunate

that God has given us the

opportunity to serve the priests

and saints who work tirelessly

for Sanatan Dharma. The BJP

has done nothing for the mem-bers associated with its Mandir

Prakoshth, but the Aam Aadmi

Party delivers on what it

During the event, prominent

religious figures, including

Jagadguru Ramanujacharya

Swami, Yogeshwaracharya

Maharaj, Jagadguru Swami Awadhesh Prapannacharya

Maharaj, and Acharya Shri

Madhur Das Maharaj, among

others were present.

per month.

promises."

forced them to trek back home risking their lives, which was

inhuman and degrading. "BJP and AAP deeply hurt the sentiments of Poorvanchalis by preventing them from holding their most important religious festival, Chhath Puja, at the Yamuna river banks, as it was highly polluted and the High Court had put a ban on holding the festival in the polluted water. The AAP government took no step to clean up the toxic river," he said.

The Congress leader alleged that BJP President J P Nadda, whose father graduated from the Patna University, had equated Poorvanchalis in Parliament with Rohingya and Bangladeshi illegal immigrants while Kejriwal said Poorvanchalis were adding

fake votes in Delhi. "A majority of people living in the 1,797 unauthorised colonies in the capital are Poorvanchalis, who live in inhuman conditions without even basic civic facilities, like sanitation, potable water, roads, but neither Kejriwal nor BJP showed any interest in saving them from inhuan living claimed.

Chowk MP

Praveen with Chandolia confirming will be held on February 8. One of the important issues, were many assembly con-

tion, the letter said.

COVID-19 pandemic and

AAP and BJP spar over fake voters

question the BJP over the

alleged stolen money and

expose their "corruption", it

Bhardwaj, also present at the

press conference, accused the

BJP of undermining democra-

cy not just through vote-buy-

ing but also through voter list

The people of Delhi are going

to cast their votes on February 5 with counting to take place

less than a month away and

AAP aiming for a third con-

secutive term while the BJP

pulling out all stops to defeat it

and come back to power after

more than 26 years.

added.

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The AAP and the BJP are sparring over the fake voters ahead of the assembly polls. The AAP on Friday alleged that the BJP is buying votes and Delhi BJP's leaders have embezzled funds meant for

"buying votes with money". Addressing a press conference, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh alleged that the BJP has allocated Rs 10,000 per voter to its leaders for buying votes but only a fraction of the money reached the intended recipients.

"Instead of distributing the full amount, BJP leaders allegedly handed out only Rs 1,000 or Rs 1,100 to voters, pocketing the remaining Rs 9,000 for themselves," Singh said.

AAP convener and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal took to social media platform X to accuse the BJP of resorting to "buying votes" and banking on "money" to win the election.

"The abusive party is losing the Delhi elections badly. That is why it now wants to contest the elections by buying votes with money," Kejriwal said on X. Meanwhile, Delhi BJP retorted by statig that AAP leaders, who are exasperated, have been masters at eating NGO funds and pretty well know that their misappropriation of public funds stands exposed today and Tihar and Vaishali are team Kejriwal's ultimate abodes.

South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said, "Sanjay Singh should note that yes the people of Delhi have decided to ultimately expose the scams and corruption of AAP government by widely voting against it. The entire AAP



stands shattered since the announcement of Parvesh ment said. He called on the Delhiites to

Sahib Singh as the New Delhi candidate which has changed the entire political climate of

Delhi." Former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia described the situation as a "fraud" in a post on X and urged the Delhi residents to confront BJP leaders about the missing funds.

"The BJP has crossed all limmanipulation. He raised conits of fraud in the Delhi eleccerns about thousands of legitimate voters being removed from the list and fake entries tions. The top leaders of the abusive party sent Rs 10,000 to distribute but to earn money, being added. their leaders kept Rs 9,000 and distributed only Rs 1,100," the Election Commission to Sisodia said on X́. He said people working with fair election process in Delhi, the BJP leaders know that the the statement said.

saffron party cannot win against Kejriwal in Delhi, "so why not take Rs 9,000 from the people of Delhi?'

"People of Delhi, if they come to you asking for votes, ask them — where is the other Rs 9,000?" Sidodia added. Sanjay Singh further alleged that the BJP leaders had orchestrated this scheme, knowing they were likely to lose the election to AAP, an official state-

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Series of poster campaigns escalate

political rivalry between AAP and BJP

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI Delhi minister Saurabh

> The political rivalry between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has escalated through a series of pointed poster campaigns ahead of the Delhi assembly elections.

AAP initiated a new round of poster advertisements targeting the BJP, triggering a swift retal-iation from the BJP on the The AAP leaders have called on intervene and ensure a free and

social media platform X. AAP released an additional poster titled "BJP ke Gaalibaz Daanavon Se Delhi Rahe Satark," displaying images of BJP officials including Amit Shah, Manoj Tiwari, Ramesh Bidhuri, Virendra Sachdeva, and Pravesh Verma.

on February 8. An intense political battle is unfolding in the national cap-ital with assembly elections In response, the BJP issued a poster criticising AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal's treatment of the Purvanchal community. With the caption "Purvanchal ka Samaj Apmaan, Sheeshmahal ke Nawab

Kejriwal ki Pehchaan!," the poster labelled Kejriwal as hostile to the Purvanchal com-

munity, claiming he dismissed them as illegitimate and deserted them during the Covid-19 crisis, whilst consistently ridiculing them when opportunities arose.

AAP took a dig at the BJP for not declaring a chief ministerial candidate and shared with the caption "Delhi ka CM Kaun?". The poster positioned Arvind Kejriwal as the face of the "Aam Aadmi Party" while labeling the BJP as the "Gaali Galoch Party".The poster accused BJP leaders of making derogatory remarks, includ-ing calling out Amit Shah for allegedly disrespecting Baba Saheb, JP Nadda for insulting Purvanchalis, Ramesh Bidhuri for targeting a female CM, Virendra Sachdeva for insulting a former CM, and Manoj

Tiwari for making obscene

remarks about women.

AAP announces office bearers of newly formed 'Sanatan Seva Samiti'



STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI state joint secretary.

AP on Friday announced Athe office bearers of the newly formed 'Sanatan Seva Samiti' on Friday with Ghanendra Bhardwaj appointed as the state in-charge, while Vijay Sharma named the state president.

AAP's state convenor Gopal Rai released a list of eight office bearers, including the state in-charge and state president. The committee aims to provide a platform for priests and saints dedicated to Sanatan Dharma. Recently, the AAP claimed that many priests and saints have joined its Sanatan Seva Samiti after leaving the BJP's Mandir Prakoshth.

According to the list of office bearers of the Sanatan Seva Samiti released by Rai, Jitendra Sharma as the state executive president, Sardar Rajinder Singh as the state vice-president, Brijesh Sharma as the state organizational secretary, and Manish Gupta and Sardar Rajinder Singh (Honey) as state secretaries. Dushyant

Illegal Bangladeshi migrant, aunt held for possessing 768 grams of heroin

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested an ille-gal Bangladeshi migrant and his maternal aunt for allegedly possessing 768 grams of heroin, valued at Rs 8 crore in the market, an official said on Friday.

The Anti-Narcotics Squad (ANS) of the southeast district arrested Hamidul and his aunt Naseema from the Sunlight Colony area in Delhi, the official said.

Hamidul (23) had entered India illegally three months ago and became involved in drug peddling to earn quick money, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Southeast) Ravi Kumar said.

Naseema who previously worked for a news channel allegedly supplied the heroin, he added.

Acting on a secret tip, the ANS conducted a raid at Jungpura Extension, where Hamidul was apprehended. A search of his accommodation led to the recovery of 75 grams of highquality heroin.

During interrogation, Hamidul revealed that Naseema had supplied the heroin to him for distribution and a subsequent raid at her residence yielded an additional 80 grams of heroin, Kumar said.

The team located her at a hotel in Sunlight Colony, where 693 grams of heroin were seized from her possession, said the DCP

Hamidul disclosed that he joined the drug trade to make quick money after arriving in India illegally, the DCP said.





Rajnath calls for enhanced cohesiveness of global community

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday here called for enhanced cohesiveness of the global community in view of the current security environment which, he said, is in a state of flux with multiple conflicts and challenges. Addressing Ambassadors' Round-Table, organised as a

prelude to Aero India 2025, he stressed on the need to overcome the present geopolitical tensions for ensuring mutual prosperity and global peace. This 15th edition of Aero India is scheduled to be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 10 to 14.

"It is of paramount importance that the like-minded countries should strive together for collective actions for peace and prosperity. Without these, our future generations will not be able to take advantage of economic growth or technological innovations that we are experiencing in today's

era," the defence minister told the Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries attending the event.

He pointed out that India is emerging as a leading voice for the Global South, and it advocates for a multi-aligned policy approach, which ensures that diverse views are considered in the collective pursuit of

prosperity. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has articulated India's commitment to addressing global challenges through five guiding principles: Respect, Dialogue, Cooperation, Peace and Prosperity. In today's geopolitical landscape, fostering unity among like-minded nations is essential for ensuring mutual prosperity and peace, while addressing contemporary challenges. India has always championed shared prosperity and shared responsibility based on the fundamental principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, 'One Earth, One Family', which was also the theme for G-20 Summit in



Rajnath Singh described Aero India, Asia's largest aeroshow, as one such event, where nations come together and form bonds beyond boundaries. Elaborating on the vision behind the biennial event, he stated that it has proven itself to be the meeting ground for the aerospace and defence sectors showcase their to products/technologies.

He defined it as a forum to forge strategic partnerships towards increasing opportuni-ties for business, Transfer of Technology, joint development and co-production between various industries.

The defence minister emphasised that, today, India possesses one of the largest defence industrial ecosystems in Asia and the government is committed to further enhancing the capabilities. He added that the Indian aerospace and defence sector represents an attractive opportunity for foreign companies seeking to establish new ventures and partnerships.

He cited the significant milestone of setting-up of the manufacturing facility of C-295 transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force through collaboration between Tata Advanced Systems Limited and Airbus Defence & Space.

Rajnath Singh asserted that India has emerged as an attractive destination for investment, and Aero India 2025 presents an opportunity for friendly nations to jointly explore strengths and capabilities in the defence sector, addressing both strategic needs as well as tacti-

cal requirements. He added that the event will facilitate industry captains, technology leaders, intellectuals and entrepreneurs with new avenues for collaboration in defence industrial enterprises. "Aero India 2025 will serve as a vital forum for exploring partnerships that will from the base for future challenges. Together, we can create pathways for growth that are inclusive and sustainable," he said. The defence minister emphasised that air and space power have become pivotal elements in shaping strategies as such assets,

level. The winners are divided

into four categories, with 25

Preparatory Stage (Grades 3-

5), Middle Stage (Grades 6-8),

Secondary Stage (Grades 9-10)

and Secondary Stage (Grades

11-12). The first 100 winners

will witness the traditional

parade at Kartavya Path as

Launched on September 05, 2024, Project Veer Gatha 4.0

presented a variety of thoughtprovoking topics for essay and

paragraph writing. Students

had the opportunity to write

about their chosen role mod-

els, particularly focusing on

winners

Special Guests.

from

each:

incorporated with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning systems, provide an unprecedented advantage in battle-field scenarios. He described Aero Space Power as the new frontier of military dominance which acts as strate-

nation 04

gic deterrence. During the Round-Table, Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries were briefed on the major events of Aero India 2025, and extended a personal invite from defence minister for

their senior most leadership. Chief of Defence Staff(CDS)General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar and other senior officials of the Ministry of Defence as well as the Government of Karnataka attended the Round-Table.

No tree felling in Mumbai's Aarey without our nod: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday directed the tree authority of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation not to allow any further tree felling in Aarev forest. Mumbai's Aarey colony with-

out its permission. A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Aravind Kumar said the authority could process the applications and then seek orders from the court

The order came after the Mumbai Metro Rail Limited Corporation (MMRCL) informed the bench there was no pending propos-

al to cut of more trees in the area.

2023," he added.

The top court posted the hearing on March 5. The apex court had directed the Maharashtra government to inform if there was any pro-posal to fell more trees in

The court in 2023 permitted some forest-dwelling com-munities to move the Bombay High Court with their grievances over felling of trees in the forest for the metro rail project.

On April 17, 2023, the apex court came down heavily on Mumbai Metro for trying to



forest for a car shed project and colony. directed it to pay Rs 10 lakh as On N

penalty. The court said it was improper on the part of the MMRCL to move the tree authority for felling of any trees in excess of 84

The top court, however, permitted the company to remove 177 trees from Aarey forest, saying a stay on tree felling would bring the public project to a standstill which was not desirable.

The apex court in 2019 took suo motu cognisance of a letter petition addressed to the chief justice of India by law student Rishav Ranjan seeking a stay on the felling of trees in the

On November 29, 2022, the apex court permitted Mumbai Metro to raise its plea to fell 84 trees at Mumbai's Aarey Colony with the authority con cerned.

The top court had directed MMRCL to strictly abide by its undertaking on no tree felling and warned of strict action in case of violation.

The apex court had restrained the authorities from felling any more trees after the solicitor general submitted on behalf of Maharashtra government no more trees would be cut. competition, defence ministry

The felling of trees in the said here on Friday. colony was opposed by green activists and Aarey residents. One hundred (100) winners are selected at the national

Former UP **Police DG** appointed president of IPF -PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Former Uttar Pradesh Police director general O P Singh has been appointed the new president of the Indian Police Foundation (IPF), an inde-ner dert thigh task on policier pendent think tank on policing subiects.

A message shared by outgoing

of R-Day celebrations garners incredible nationwide response PIONEER NEWS SERVICE 2 CONTRAL 2 Elizabeter 1 NEW DELHI

Project 'Veer Gatha 4.0' as part

The fourth edition of Project 'Veer Gatha 4.0,' a joint initiative by Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education as part of Republic Day celebrations, has garnered an incredible nationwide response. This year, approximately 1.76 crore students from around 2.31 lakh schools participated in the

where top 100 entries were selected as SUPER-100 winners. These winners will be felici-

tated jointly by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education in New Delhi. Éach winner will receive a cash prize of Rs 10,000.

În addition to the 100 national-level winners, eight winners at the State/UT level (two from each category) and four winners at the district level (one from each category) will be selected and honoured by State/UT/District authorities. Project Veer Gatha was launched in 2021 as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate India's 75th year of Independence. The project aims to raise awareness of Gallantry awardees' acts of bravery and the life stories of

these heroes. otism and civic values in students. The journey of Project Veer Gatha from Édition 1 to Edition 4 has been inspiring, expanding the reach of the competition across the length



Competition' for cadets PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Director General National Cadet Corps (DG NCC) Lt General Gurbirpal Singh here on Friday inaugurated 'Idea and Innovation Competition', to provide cadets with tools and guidance to develop solutions to real-

"overreach" its order permitting the felling of only 84 trees in the Shah to chair regional conference on 'Drug Trafficking and National Security'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Saturday here will chair a regional conference on "Drug Trafficking and National Security" National Security?

The conference, organized by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), aims to address the growing concern of drug trafand its impact national security, with a special focus on eight states and Union Territories of northern India, home ministry said here on Friday. During the event, Shah will launch the Drug Disposal Fortnight, inaugurate the new office complex of the NCB's Bhopal zonal unit and extension of the MANAS-2 helpline to all 36 states and Union Territories. The conference will focus on the sharing of real-time information from the National Narcotics Helpline 'MANAS' portal with the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of States and Union Territories, evaluating the progress of States in combating drug trafficking, and assessing the effectiveness of the Narcotics Coordination



NEW DELHI

Gallantry Award recipients. They were also encouraged to e the inspiring

VEERGATHA for national-level evaluation,

Mechanism (NCORD) night starting from January It will also address strength-11-25, a total of 44,792 kiloening and enhancing the grams of seized narcotics, functionality of State Forensic whose international market Science Laboratories (SFSLs), value is Rs 2,411 crore, will be utilizing the NIDAAN datadisposed of. base to bolster efforts against Under the leadership of Prime drug trafficking, implement-Minister Narendra Modi, the ing provisions of the Government of India has Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (PIT-NDPS) Act, establishing special NDPS courts for the speedy trial of drug-related cases, and fostering a Wholeof-Government approach to ensure comprehensive collaboration among all agencies to combat drug trafficking

and abuse effectively.

adopted a Zero Tolerance Policy against drug trafficking. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is implementing a three-pronged strategy to achieve a drug-free India by 2047. This includes strengthening institutional frameworks,

enhancing coordination among narcotics agencies, and launching a massive public awareness During the drug disposal fortcampaign.

NEW DELHI

This unique initiative which was taken up for the first time in NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) provided cadets with the tools and guidance to think critically and develop solutions to real-world challenges, defence ministry said. Before the competition, the NCC organised a series of workshops and contests pan India under the aegis of all 17 NCC State Directorates, with the aim to inspire and meet the aspirations of cadets. The initiative yielded remarkable results, with cadets gen-

erating an impressive 256 innovative ideas and solutions. Out of these, 56 top innovations were shortlisted and showcased during the Republic Day Camp 2025. The innovations highlighted Bharat.

the cadets' ability to think outside the box, demonstrated creativity, teamwork, and a commitment to nation-building

The Idea and Innovation competition resonated deeply with the cadets, emphasised entrepreneurship, problem-solving, and the spirit of innovation in the cadets. These initiatives not only underlined the NCC's dedication to nurture future leaders but also boost the potential of young minds in addressing pressing societal challenges. The aim of the initiative was to align NCC training with contemporary aspects and give exposure & opportunities

Friday The 1983-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer retired from service in January 2020. Apart from heading the Uttar

Pradesh Police, he served as the director general of two central forces -- the Central Industrial to cadets towards 'Yuva Setu' Security Force and the National and prepare them for 'Viksit Disaster Response Force.

with other members of the freedom fighters such as Rani organisation said Singh's skills Laxmibai, the 1857 First War of Independence, and the sigand "team building" abilities apart from "remarkable connificant role of Tribal Uprisings tributions and visionary leadin India's Freedom Struggle. ership make him the ideal This diverse array of topics not choice to further the vision and only enhanced the quality of mission of the Foundation." the entries, but also deepened According to the message, Singh was "unanimously" electparticipants' understanding of India's historical and cultural ed as the IPF president and legacy. CEO during a meeting of the executive council held here on The project involved schools

conducting activities at the local level, nationwide interaction programmes by Gallantry awardees (both offline and online), and the submission of top entries via MyGov portal.

The school-level activities concluded on October 31, 2024. Following evaluations at the State and District levels, nearly 4,029 entries were submitted

and breadth of the country. In the first two editions of Project Veer Gatha, 25 winners were selected at the national level, with around eight lakh students participating in the first edition and 19 lakh in the second edition.

The third edition marked a significant milestone, with the selection of 100 national winners for the first time and an increased participation of 1.36 crore students. The momentum continued to grow in Veer Gatha 4.0, reinforcing the widespread impact of this ini-

India marks significant milestone in journey towards achieving climate goals with launch of Bharat Climate Forum

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

India marked a significant milestone in its journey toward achieving climate goals and economic self-reliance with the launch of the Bharat Climate Forum on Friday. A national platform dedicated to unifying stakeholders from policy, industry, finance, and research to accelerate cleantech manufacturing in India, the Bharat Climate Forum aims to drive sustainable economic growth and innovation. Hosted by the Centre for

Economic Indigenous Understanding (CIEU) and Dalberg Advisors, the Bharat Climate Forum is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), NITI Aayog, and International Solar Alliance (ISA). Addressing the launch, Union

Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said Atmanirbhar Bharat embodies India's drive for eco-



nomic sovereignty and techable future," he said in a state nological leadership through ment.

innovation and collaboration. The forum comes at a time "Our 4G-5G telecom stack when India is pursuing ambishowcases this spirit which tious climate targets, including the cleantech sector can imbibe, achieving net-zero emissions with public-private partnerby 2070 and scaling up nonships enabling world-class, fossil fuel capacity to 500 GW competitive solutions. I thank by 2030. Despite progress in the Bharat Climate Forum renewables, challenges such as organizers for highlighting reliance on imports for solar India's commitment to cleanand wind infrastructure persist. tech innovation for a sustain-Ashwani Mahajan, National

Co-Convener of Swadeshi Jagran Manch and Member-Secretary of the Bharat Climate Forum, emphasized the need for a comprehensive manufacturing policy to address these challenges.

The forum also spotlighted the economic opportunities in cleantech. By 2030, Dalberg estimates suggest that cleantech manufacturing could create a domestic market worth \$120-150 billion annually and generate export opportunities of \$40-45 billion while generating 50 million new jobs by 2070. Jagjeet Singh Sareen, Partner, Global Climate Practice at Dalberg Advisors and Member-Secretary of the Bharat Climate Forum mentioned, achieving the 1.5degree target requires urgent acceleration in our efforts. The inaugural event witnessed the launch of Bharat Cleantech Manufacturing Platform by Commerce Minister Piyush

en India's clean tech value chains-spanning solar, wind, hydrogen, and battery storage. The Forum launch was also addressed by several distinguished attendees including Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa who provided insights into delivering cost-competitive clean tech solutions. Bharat Climate Forum 2025 is an influential platform that brings together key stakeholders from the government, industry, and global commu-nity to accelerate India's clean energy transition. CIEU is committed to fostering comprehensive research, facilitating dialogues, and curating innovative ideas that address the needs of diverse communities. Dalberg Advisors is a strategic advisory firm that combines the best private sector strategy skills and rigorous analytical capabilities with deep knowledge and networks across emerging and frontier Goyal an initiative to strengthmarkets

New FIR against Karti Chidambaram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

CBI has registered a fresh case against Congress MP Karti Chidambaram, accusing accepting bribes for lifting the ban on liquor manufacturer Diageo and FDI clearance for Sequoia Capital and routing bribe money through Vasan Eye Care and his own firm Advantage Capital. As per the CBI FIR, Karti got around Rs.87 crore on these deals by misusing father and former Minister Finance Chidambaram's office.

Apart from Karti, other accused are Chidambaram family's Chartered Accountant S Bhaskararaman, Vasan Eye Care promoter (late) Dwarakanathan, bribe givers liquor company Diageo Scotland and venture capital firm Sequoia Capital and Karti controlled firms Advantage Strategic Consulting, Vasan Eye Care, which is now defunct.

CBI FIR charges Karti and his firm Advantage for accepting



tiative.

bribe of 15,000 Dollars for lifting ban on liquour company Diageo Scotland which supplies famous brand Johnnie Walker Whiskey. CBI FIR says more than 86 crore was routed by Karti controlled firms Vasan Eye Care and Advantage Strategic Consulting in pro-viding Foreign Direct Investment clearance for Mauritius based venture capital firm Sequoia Capital's proposals from Finance Ministry then headed by Chidambaram. Detailing the money trail, CBI FIR says these

2008 to 2010. Karti is currently facing three CBI cases - Aircel Maxis deal, INX Media bribery and Chinese Visa case. This is his fourth case, facing corruption, misusing his father former Finance Minister Chidambaram. He is also facing Enforcement Directorate's case in Aircel Maxis and INX Media bribery case. In Aircel Maxis deal and INX Media bribery case, Karti is a Co-Accused with his father P Chidambaram.



nation 05

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveils upgraded Amrit Bharat trains with 12 key enhancements

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHENNAL

The Ministry of Railways has added 12 major improvements on the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 trains and 50 such trains will be manufactured at ICF over the next two years Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday.

Vaishnaw, who inspected the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) along with its General Manager U Subba Rao, said the state government should place service to people above politics and the Centre and his Ministry is committed to take measures for the welfare of the

people. "Very happy to see the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 (being manufactured here). As you can recall, the Amrit Bharat Version 1.0 was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi last January 2024 and based on the experience in the last one vear, many improvements have been made in the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0," Vaishnaw told reporters at the ICF here. Sharing some of



the salient features that have been improved in the Amrit Bharat trains, he said, "12 major improvements have been done in the entire train. Semi-automatic couplets, modular toilets, chair pillars and partitions, emergency talk back feature, emergency brake system, continuous lighting system like Vande Bharat trains, seats and berths with

new ergonomic design have been improved. He said the entire pantry car in the Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 trains have been built using a new design. Targeted at low income and low middle income families, he said, "50 such Amrit Bharat Version 2.0 trains would be manufactured in the coming two years (at the Integral Coach Factory.). This

will provide a very affordable service and very high quality of travelling experience to people

travelling long distances. Responding to a query about the apprehension raised by the Commissioner of Railway Safety on the construction of the historic Pamban bridge in Rameswaram, he said the designing of the bridge was done based on the Research

Designs and Sta Organisation (RDSO). Standards "When you do the RDSO standard, such a standard of designs is done for bridges which are constructed in large numbers. This is a unique bridge. Pamban Bridge is once in a lifetime that you design and construct a bridge of this type," he said.

He cleared the air that the Commissioner of Railways Safety was explained that this is not a standard bridge and uniquely designed bridge and the services of the best international experts have been taken for designing. "The CRS has understood and they have now given the clearance on the bridge design. Panel report has also come," he said. The minister said the Railways has installed the KAVACH (a facility to help prevent train accidents) 10,000 in locomotives and 15,000 km of track side fittings are also being

done. "Telecom towers are also being installed. Cameras are being installed on the front of the locomotives.

Trinidad, Tobago President Christine Carla Kangaloo wins Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award by President Murmu



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE BHUBANESWAR

Trinidad & Tobago President Christine Carla Kangaloo and 26 others were conferred the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award by President Droupadi Murmu on the last day of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention here.

Murmu congratulated all the awardees and appreciated them for working for the society in different fields. She said that their success

stories are not just a matter of pride for India, but they also inspire millions across the world to strive for excellence. Murmu said Kangaloo's outstanding contributions in leading her nation, with a special focus on women and the Indian diaspora, have set a high benchmark on the world stage. The Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award is the highest honour conferred on overseas Indians. The awardees excellence represent the achieved by the Indian diaspora in various fields.

Trinidad & Tobago The President got the award in the public affairs category Other awardees included Ajay Rane (Australia, community service), Marialena Joan Fernandes (Austria education), Swami Sanyuktanand (Fiji community service), Saraswati Vidya Niketan (Guyana community service), Lekh Raj Juneja (Japan, science and technology), Prem Kumar (Kyrgyz Republic, medical science) and Soukthavy Chowdhury (Laos, business).

BSF foils cattle smuggling attempt on India-Bangladesh border, recovers 10 bulls

warning and

subsequent search of the area

led to the recovery of 8 bulls of

Haryana origin and three

sharp-edged spears left behind by the attackers," the statement by BSF South Bengal Frontier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KOLKATA

BSF jawans were attacked by Bangladeshi cattle smug-glers on the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district on Thursday night, a statement from the paramilitary force said. In a retaliatory action carried out in self-defence, the jawans successfully foiled the smuggling attempt and recovered 10 bulls, it added.

The incident took place at

Khutadah border outpost

(BOP), where BSF personnel

saw smugglers approaching

the border fence from the

Indian side with cattle. Simultaneously, smugglers from the Bangladesh side crossed the international border into India.



Previous incidents of similar smuggling attempts and advanced assaults have been reported at aggressively, wielding sharp-Pipli BOP (Kolkata sector) and BOPs HC Pur and Nawada edged spears while attempting to cut the border fence. In (Malda sector), where BSF response to the threat, a BSF jawans were forced to defend jawan fired a blank round as a themselves using stun grenades and other weapons, warning. "Taking advantage of the darkness and uneven terrain, the smugglers fled the statement added. A BSF spokesperson said back to Bangladesh. A

despite frequent flag meetings with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to raise concerns about these attacks no concrete action has been taken by Bangladeshi authorities.

Assam coal mine tragedy: 'Sardar' of trapped **AAP's Sanjay Singh** miners arrested as rescue efforts continue assures Goa court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE GUWAHATI

The 'sardar' of workers of the coal mine in Assam's Dima Hasao district, where eight min-The 'sardar' of workers of the ers remained trapped, was arrested, even as a dewatering exercise continued in the quarry to facilitate the resumption of rescue operations, police said on Friday.

The fate of the trapped miners appeared to be grim with personnel involved in the rescue operations racing against time to bring them out of the ill-fated quarry, while the body of one labourer,

hailing from Nepal, has been recovered from there, an official said. "The 'sardar' (head) of the miners, who had fled the quarry site soon after the incident on January 6, was arrested on Thursday night from a place after an extensive search operation. This is the second arrest in connection with the case," said a senior officer who did not divulge the place of arrest.

The arrested person has been identified as Hanan Laskar, and Punish Nunisa, the leaseholder of the quarry, was held on the second day of the incident in connection with

the case, the official said. The labourers were on Monday trapped inside the 3-Kilo Coal Quarry in Umrangso area, around 250 km from Guwahati, after a sudden gush of water flooded the site.

A case was registered in connection with the incident at PIONEER NEWS SERVICE the mine which appears to be PANAJ Chief 'illegal', Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said.

Nine labourers were trapped inside the mine after a sudden gush of water flooded the quarry, and the body of one labourer has been recovered so

Aam Aadmi Party's Ràjya Asabha MP Sanjay Singh has assured Goa court that he will refrain from making any defamatory statements against CM Dr. Pramod Sawant's wife Sulakshana Sawant. Sanjay Singh's lawyer submitted in Bicholim Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC) court that his client will refrain from commenting against CM Dr. Pramod Sawant's wife

he will refrain from

defaming CM's wife

Sulakshana Sawant. The court in Goa had issued a notice to Sanjay Singh in a Rs 100-crore defamation case filed against him by Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant's wife for allegedly naming her in the cash-for-jobs scam. The court had sought Singh's reply by January 10, 2025. Next hearing on the matter is kept

anuary 202

on 241

platforms.

Farmer leader Dallewal challenges Punjab BJP: meet Modi instead of Akal Takht Jathedar to end fast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CHANDIGARH

The Punjab BJP has appealed to the Akal Takht but should approach Prime Minister Narendra Modi if they want him to end his hunger strike, eader Iagii Dallewal said on Friday as his fast-unto-death entered day 46. In a three-minute video message released on Friday, the 70-year-old farmer leader asserted he will end his fast only after the Centre accepts farmers' demands which include a legal guarantee for Minimum Support Price for crops. A BJP delegation, comprising Sukhminder Pal Singh Grewal and Sarchand Singh, appealed to Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh on Thursday to intervene to end the indefinite fast of the farmer leader. The delegation expressed concern over Dallewal's deteriorating health.



Gurugram police busts international scam: two airtel employees arrested for aiding Indonesian and Chinese fraudsters

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

cybercrime team of the AGurugram police has arrested two Airtel company employees who had provided and Chinese fraudsters to cheat people through WhatsApp/Telegram in the name of part-time job/investment. As per the instructions of Priyanshu Diwan, Assistant Commissioner of Police Cyber Crime, (ACP) Gurugram, the police team of Cyber East, Gurugram and the joint team of Indian Cyber Coordination Center (I4C), MHA, Govt of India, took action based on technical analysis and nabbed the suspects on Thursday.



which the complainant/victim had to post reviews of different

hotels. On completing the task, Rs victim's bank account. After tim was added to

Services Pvt Ltd. Despite the above company not being present on the mentioned site, the accused violated TRAI rules and issued a 200 were transferred to the landline number in the name of the above company,"

Diwan s

In his video message Dallewal said, "We have got information that the leaders of the Punjab unit of BJP appealed to the Akal Takht to intervene in order to end Dallewal's fast-unto-death. (They appealed to the Akal Takht that) a direction be given so that he should end his fast. I respect the Akal Takht." "But the Punjab BJP should approach (PM) Modi ji, the vice president (Jagdeep Dhankhar), Agriculture Minister (Shivraj Singh Chouhan), (Home Singh Chouhan), (Home Minister) Amit Shah ji. Instead of meeting them, they are

leaders camped at the Punjab-Haryana border also burnt effigies of the central government on Friday. Dallewal, who is the convener of the Samvukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political), has been on the indefinite hunger strike at the Khanauri border point between Punjab and Haryana since November 26 last year over farmers' various demands including seeking a legal guarantee on the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.

The accused have been identified as Neeraj Walia, a

For

resident of District Baghpat (Uttar Pradesh), and Hemant Sharma. The accused were arrested as per rules in the case under sections 318(4), 319, 61(2) BNS at Police Station Cyber Crime East, Gurugram.

According to the police, the complainant filed a complaint that he received a call from a landline number landline in Gurugram in which he was offered a part-time job.

the Telegram group by the accused. After that, while giving him the task, small amounts were transferred to his account 2-3 times. Later on, money was transferred from him in the

name of investing for these tasks. After that, more money was demanded to withdraw this money.

During police interrogation, it was found that Neeraj works as a site verifier in Airtel company and Hemant is his team leader.

'The accused had issued the number/DID number used in the crime in the name of Ekamdarsh

Using the above number, the companions of the accused cheated people in the name of task-based investment. The accused also disclosed that, in connivance with the operational manager of Ekamdarsh Services Pvt Ltd,

a company registered at a fake address, had provided many more numbers to an Indonesian person apart from the above landline number/DID number.

"In connection with the matter further investigation is underway. The accused have been taken on police remand for intensive interrogation," he added.

wife Pramod Sawant's Sulakshana Sawant had filed a case in the court of Civil Judge Senior Division, Bicholim, North Goa. Sulakshana Sawant, in her complaint, had requested the court to direct Sanjay Singh to publish an apology clarifying that the said defamatory video/article and interview are false, not based on facts, and tender an unconditional apology. The complainant had also urged the court to restrain Sanjay Singh from making any public statements maligning her by injunction on social media or other

Prayagraj transforms into mega tent city for Maha Kumbh 2025

BISWAJEET BANERJEE PRAYAGRAJ

∎he Maha Kumbh 2025 has I transformed the sandy banks of Prayagraj's Sangam into a spectacular tent city, a temporary settlement capable of accommodating more than 20 lakh devotees at a time. With over one lakh tents ranging from basic to luxurious, this extraordinary project represents a harmonious blend of engineering, tradition, and spiritual fervor.

The scale of this undertaking is staggering. Approximately 68 lakh wooden poles have been used, their combined length exceeding 20,000 kilometers-greater than the distance from Prayagraj to Washington, D.C. Washington, Additionally, 100 kilometers of fabric and 250 tonnes of CGI sheets were used for roofing. Over 3,000 workers have been laboring in three shifts for months, meticulously converting these raw materials into a vast, functional city. Each tent is crafted with care, employing durable fabrics



Lalluji

and

repairing

began

Sons

Agarwal, Managing Partner often lined with polythene to ensure protection against of preparations rain.

A project of this magnitude months ago, encompassing owes its success largely to the tasks such as crafting new expertise of Lalluji and Sons, tents, structures, and executing a company with a 104-year extensive logistical planning. legacy of managing Kumbh Despite challenges, including delays caused by prolonged preparations. Known as the "Vishwakarma of Kumbh," the company has constructed monsoons, the team has 75% of the tent city. worked tirelessly to meet the like cotton and terrycot, According to Deepanshu deadlines.

Kumbh is not just an event but a lifelong calling. Rambachan, a 60-year-old veteran, reminisced about the days when wages were ?10 per day. "Now we earn ?500 daily, but the joy of contributing to something this significant is priceless, he said. Younger workers like Kuldeep echoed his sentiments, describing the pride they feel in their work. The tent city is a marvel not only in its scale but also in its offerings. While some tents cater to Kalpwasis, who live in simplicity and gather around bonfires for prayers, others provide modern Premium luxuries. accommodations include flooring, marble Wi-Fi, electric blankets, and even televisions, blending comfort 18 with tradition. Pilgrims like Raghunath, a 68-year-old from Rajasthan, and Sushila, old a 50-year-old from Varanasi, expressed awe at the modern amenities, describing the experience as unparalleled.

hectares more than in 2019-

administrative offices, and facilities for millions, it stands as a testament to human ingenuity, devotion, and the enduring spirit of one of the world's largest

spiritual gatherings. CM inaugurates 'Kumbhvani' Minister Chief Yogi Adityanath inaugurated Prasar Bharati's FM channel 'Kumbhvani' at the Circuit House on Friday, during the

Expressing his best wishes for the success of the channel, CM Yogi stated his confidence that 'Kumbhvani' will not only reach new heights of popularity but also extend the spirit of Mahakumbh to remote villages where many people, despite their desire, cannot physically attend the event. He emphasized that the channel would serve as a vital medium to deliver all relevant information about Mahakumbh to these distant communities.

the Maha Kumbh 2025 tent

many workers, the city is twice the scale of its of live broadcasting, CM Yogi abh is not just an event predecessor. With temporary said, "Such efforts would a lifelong calling. police stations, enable those in far-flung areas to experience and understand the grandeur of Mahakumbh.

> He said this would allow them to share the pride of this grand celebration of Sanatan Dharma with future generations. He also thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Prasar Bharati for their efforts in launching Kumbhvani.

> "It is a remarkable moment, and Prasar Bharati has beautifully captured its essence through Kumbhvani," he said.

The Kumbhvani FM channel will not only broadcast live coverage of the daily events but will also share religious references and stories related to the Mahakumbh in remote villages, making the spiritual essence of the event accessible to all.

Kumbhvani on 103.5 MHz Prasar Bharati has launched the OTT-based Kumbhvani FM channel to disseminate Highlighting the importance comprehensive information

about the Maha Kumbh. Broadcasting at a frequency of 103.5 MHz, the channel will be on air from January 10 to February 26, operating daily from 5:55 AM to 10:05 PM

Kala Kumbh' serves as an authentic document of Kumbh's developmental journey

In another development Minister Chief Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Kala Kumbh in Sector 7. After opening the UP State Pavilion, CM Yogi visited the Kala Kumbh, a unique camp created by the Uttar Pradesh Culture Department, located right across from the pavilion..

Chief Yogi Minister proceeded to the exhibition hall, where he admired the distinctive artworks, temple replicas, and thematic exhibitions. Praising the initiative, he described Kala Kumbh as an authentic documentation of the developmental Kumbh's journey. On this occasion, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture, Mukesh Meshram, presented the Chief Minister with a memento. Spanning approximately 5

acres within the fairgrounds, the Kala Kumbh features an exhibition gallery and a stage for cultural performances. The gallery displays photographs, replicas, and exhibits tracing the journey of Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya, monuments of Uttar Pradesh, protected heritage sites, manuscripts, and

artefacts. A key highlight of the Kala Kumbh is the section dedicated to the historical perspective of Mahakumbh. This eighth segment of the exhibition delves into administrative insights from all Kumbh events held in Prayagraj between 1866 presented and 1954, through government letters, records, and official documents. This section includes reports, correspondences administrative orders, and other records, offering a comprehensive view of Kumbh over the last 150 years.

second day of his Prayagraj tour.

Spanning 3,200 hectares-800

the pioneer

The trust factor in human interaction

The temperament and conviction of individuals play a pivotal role in shaping trust, whether in personal relationships or organisational dynamics

here is a general feel-ing that if something is committed on paper, with other things being equal, it is reliable evidence that it will be carried out. If it is on a legal document, the credibility quotient is still higher, and if there are clauses that recognise the punitive element of violation, the feeling of reliability further goes on. This, like many truths, goes a certain distance.

This cannot be the place to explore the veracity of such belief, but there is an occasion to look at certain other aspects of reliability, especially the temperament of the people involved. Some people take their words seriously, and others casually. This attitude permeates their entire behaviour. and in certain matters, it becomes even more evident that they take their words seriously.

Other types of people are quite figuratively the opposite, and they take their own words so lightly that when they utter them, they are not sure what conviction they carry. Between these two extremes, the larger part of the population rests with varying degrees of reliabil-ity and different levels of conviction.

This simple truth makes the entire range of human conviction open to many shades of possibilities and makes dealing with each other either at a direct level or at a group level, an extremely dubious proposition wherein liability is concerned. This even affects official interaction as indeed it does personal interaction. It is therefore necessary in a group culture to inculcate the correct values of interpersonal dynamics.

People cannot be 'taught' to be reliable. This is because the fundamental principles of values, like eternal values, remain the same. Every domain of human life talks about what is right, what is beautiful, and what is essential to keep groups and factions and through sustainable and harmoniously manipulations, there are together. In such circumstances always dangers of somebody where it is recognised that calling the bluff or indeed observing pristine standards power slipping out of his

may be difficult, many peo-ple practice silence. They simply do not talk about values at all. This may or may not work because silence and lack of communication would allow each one to create his norm and use his interpretation. What matters most then is how the leader of the group behaves as an exemplar and what other members of the group see as

the essence of acceptable behaviour. Positive or negative recognition then follows. For this, the informal and formal leaders of the group must agree on certain examples and set an example collectively. It is difficult, especially when there is no clear reference point and no way of verifying what rules the roost.

If the group has a powerful man, his behaviour is noticed and others try to imitate him. If the powerful man acquires power by formal position, it is one story. If, however, he acquires power through organising cliques hand. All this is not conducive to

organisational stability or, for that matter, even clarity. It makes the job of a new entrant particularly complex. The complexity would be enhanced if the new entrant could not navigate his way IF THE POWERFUL intelligently with perspicacity and shrewdness. If the MAN ACQUIRES group has a large number of POWER BY FORMAL turnovers, then the complexity is further compounded. POSITION, IT IS ONE Under the circumstances, it's perhaps best to recognise that, like all truths, simplic-STORY. IF, HOWEVER, HE ACQUIRES ity is the best approach. Being truthful, simple, and **POWER THROUGH** straightforward is the foun-dation of sound behaviour, stable relationships, and the ORGANIZING CLIQUES AND achievement of goals constructively and dependably. FACTIONS AND Like all foundations of a sound civil society, positive THROUGH thinking, straightforward action, and dependable fol-MANIPULATIONS, low-up is the way to go for-THERE ARE ALWAYS ward.

It is the human mind that DANGERS OF creates complications. SOMEBODY CALLING Legality and other elements gate one's way. that try to substitute the THE BLUFF basic character of depend-ability, without the right ambience, will remain halfway houses. It can lead to

quibbling, litigation, and, at times, disappointment. However, stability will remain a matter of character, and that is where civil societies need to pitch. Whether this is in a formal organisation or an informal civil setup, it would hardly make a difference. Truth remains the truth and for the best way, it is important to follow it up relentlessly with simplicity and dignity. Like many tales, this too has a tailpiece.

There is a Sanskrit dictum, "Satyam bruyat, priyam bruyat naa bruyat satyam apriyam". A free translation of this shall be "Speak the truth, speak the pleasant; do not speak the truth which is unpleasant".

There can be many views on this, and each will have its assumptions and derivations. If assumptions vary, as do the derivations, conclusions would be also varied. That is the nature of truth: multifaceted, each appearing right in its way. One has to navi-

(Ine writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal)

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Transforming defence

The 'Year of Transformation' can give necessary momentum for defence manufacturing and innovation

ndia's defence landscape is set to undergo a transformative shift in 2025, as the Ministry of Defence (MoD) embarks on an ambitious overhaul aimed at modernising procurement processes, expanding indigenous manufacturing capabilities and boosting research and development (R&D). The year has been declared as the 'Year of Transformation,' with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and other top officials outlining a vision to address long-standing challenges while positioning the country for greater self-reliance and competitiveness in defence. One of the key focus areas for the government is to revamp the Defence Acquisition Procedures (DAP). These procedures, which have been criticised for their complexity and inefficiency, are set to be replaced with a more streamlined, lighter, and faster version. The aim is to cut down delays in procurement timelines and eliminate bureaucratic hurdles that have long impeded defence modernisation. The new framework will not only make the system more efficient but will also create a level play-



ing field for both established players and newcomers in the defence sector. In addition to reforming procurement, the government has placed a strong emphasis

on boosting indigenous manufacturing and R&D. While India is the world's fifth-largest manufacturing economy, its defence manufacturing capacity remains relatively small in comparison to its overall economic standing. To address this gap, the government plans to allocate more resources to defence R&D, with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) targeting an increase in R&D spending from 5 per cent to 15 per cent of the defence budget in the coming years. One area that has garnered particular

attention is the development of aero engines. India has faced challenges in developing these critical technologies domestically, and the government has signaled that joint ventures with foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) will be essential for progress. With significant investments required—potentially as high as Rs 50,000 crore—the government is determined to make the necessary commitments to build the infrastructure and expertise required for successful co-development of aero engines and related technologies. Another significant initiative is the creation of a more competitive defence industry ecosystem. Currently, India's defence sector is largely dominated by Public Sector Undertakings. The government aims to level the playing field by encouraging the participation of startups and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through policy changes. Despite these ambitious plans, India's defence ecosystem still faces several challenges. One of the most significant hurdles is the relatively small manufacturing base in sectors like aerospace, where India's ability to scale production and develop cutting-edge technologies has been limited. Besides, archaic policies, delays in preparing Requests for Proposals and overly complicated procedures have often led to extended timelines. This must change if defence sector is to become competitive and innovative.









Devotees carry 'kalash' during 'Hindu Rashtra Seva Mela' at Goregaon

Breaking barriers: The rise of women investors in India's equity markets



ARUN CHAUDHARY

Among the most notable trends in the equity market is the surge in women investors, whose participation has grown 6.8 times since 2015

he Indian equity mar-ket has radically transformed over the past two decades. The advent of smartphones, digital trading platforms, and increased financial literacy has ushered in a new era of investors young, financially aware, and open to taking calculated risks. Recent data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE) reveals that women now constitute over 22 per cent of equity market investors in India, a 6.8X growth since 2015.

This surge in female participation is particularly noteworthy given the tepid adoption of demat trading in its early days. It could be attributed to women enjoying greater financial independence, a growing interest in equities, and a disciplined approach to sustainable wealth creation. The rise in women's financial awareness has also been a critical driver of this growth. A study by CRISIL and DBS found that 47 per cent of women now make independent financial decisions. This newfound autonomy is reflected in the increasing

number of women investing



in mutual funds. According to AMFI data, women's share in industry AUM rose to nearly 21 per cent by the end of December 2023, against 15.2 per cent in March 2017. Importantly, this trend is not limited to major cities; women in smaller towns show equal enthusiasm for capital market investments. However, the same CRISIL and DBS study revealed that women still allocate 51 per cent of their investable assets to fixed deposits and savings bank accounts, 16 per cent to gold, 15 per cent to mutual funds, 10 per cent to real estate, and just 7 per cent of their investible corpus-being the least preferred option. Given the proven potential for substantial market returns, women's risk-averse attitude towards equities is particularly perplexing.

Over the past five years, benchmark indices have delivered over 100 per cent returns. For instance, based on a daily rolling return analysis, the Nifty 50 Total Returns Index has shown positive returns of approximately 93 per cent over three

These double-digit returns from long-term equity investments have far outpaced the single-digit interest rates offered by traditional savings accounts and fixed deposits. However, women tend to be cautious when it comes to equities. The potential impact of increased women's participation in equity markets is substantial. A BCG study found that women contribute \$5 trillion annually to the global wealth pool. Encouraging more significant equity investment among women and prudent risk management practices is crucial for building a stronger financial future for individuals and the nation.

Regulators are already implementing measures to create a safe and transparent market environment for women investors. For instance, initiatives like the Women's

Awareness Investor Programme actively educate and empower women by simplifying stock market concepts and encouraging them to take control of their financial futures. Simultaneously, the industry complements these efforts by developing accessible and informative

content in regional languages and diverse formats, such as podcasts and video tutorials, to make complex financial concepts easier to understand. Women themselves must actively participate in the stock market by engaging in discussions, seeking knowledge, and taking the initiative to invest. Starting with a systematic investment plan is a smart approach to building over wealth time. Additionally, consulting financial experts can help women navigate the market with confidence. It is time for women to seize this opportunity, take control, invest wisely, and contribute to rebuilding a more equitable and financially robust India.

(The writer is Director & Chief Business Officer at m.Štock by Mirae Asset Capital Markets; views are personal)

THE EDITOR LETTERS 10

TWO TIER SYSYEM IN TEST CRICKET

Madam - There are talks between Australia, England, and India and the International Cricket Council's (ICC) new chair, Jay Shah to split Test (cricket) playing nations into two tier, with Australia, England and India in one tier and the rest in a different tier. The concept has gained impetus post the BGT series, where the attendance and TV view ership touched new records. If agreed upon by the ICC council, this will come into effect post-2027 after the present commitments are met by these nations. The objective is that these three nations will play against each other twice in three years as against the present four-year schedule. While the idea may have sprung up from the revenue point of view, ICC must focus on its unwritten objective of improving the quality and skill level of the weaker member nations and making all the members play competitive cricket.

The choice of three nations-India, Australia, and England-also in the upper tier, is arbitrary if it is on the basis of the quality of cricket displayed. If it is so, India has not displayed quality cricket, both in the home series against the Kiwis and down under in the BGT series recently. Also, the Windies have stunned the Aussies in Gabba in a pink ball test in 2024. The recent entrants to the test-playing nations, like Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, and Afganisthan have also displayed talents and enthusiasm. Hence such an idea of an arbitrary split must be shunned. If the ICC is serious about splitting, it must be based on the performance in a given time period, say between 2025-28, on the number of points scored by each nation on the number of test wins/losses and can consider having two or three divisions amongst the twelve member countries. Having done that on the basis of points scored, one can consider promotion or demotion of the first and last two, respectively, which will also instill a sense of competitiveness and thereby sustain interest in the test cricket.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

A policy shift for Afghanistan



a major and surprising development India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met Afghan Acting Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttagi in Dubai on Wednesday. Though its relations with Afghanistan had nosedived after the Taliban seized power in the mountainous, landlocked republic in 2021, New Delhi, in a smart move, kept providing humanitarian and economic assistance to Afghanistan. The Taliban also requested the Indian delegation to reopen its diplomatic mission in Afghanistan. Now, Misri's meeting marks a major shift in New

HONOURING INDIAN DIASPORA

Madam—The city of Odisha turned out to be the venue for the 18th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas this year. In order to honour the immense contribution of the Indian diaspora, it is particularly required to appreciate the exceptional contribution of Indians overseas. For many decades, millions of Indians have paid visits to foreign countries to grab vibrant opportunities in different spectrums of life.

Indians made exceptional contributions to the economic success of the different nations, assisting India to create its own niche soft power on the basis of its people settled overseas. Indians are globally renowned for contributing the world's highest remittance back to India with 129 billion USD in 2024. The spirit of the Indian diaspora is ever vibrant and zealous, and this celebration at Odisha's Bhubaneswar for appreciating Pravasi Bhartiya is a welcoming initiative. Let's take a moment to thank & appreciate the Indian diaspora, who are continuously extending the legacy of India all around the world.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Delhi's policy towards the Taliban. This meeting has taken place at a time when Afghanistan is witnessing heightened tensions with Pakistan concerning the Durand Line-the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan-as well as regarding the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

By condemning Pakistan's airstrikes in Afghanistan. New Delhi has played a well-calculated diplomatic move. Besides the Pakistan factor, Iran's Chabahar Port is also going to play a major role in India-Taliban relations as Kabul is looking to leverage its ties with India by using the Chabahar Port. Thus, both the Taliban and New Delhi have realised that bilateral ties are mutually beneficial for both countries. By playing a vital role in restoring peace, stability, and development in Afghanistan, New Delhi can secure geopolitical leverage over Pakistan at the crossroads of South and Central Asia.

Manoj Parashar | Ghaziabad

MAHAKUMBH MELA IN PRAYAGRAJ

Madam — The Great Mahakumbh Mela 2025, set to take place in Prayagraj, which is held only once in a period of 144 years, which is beginning from January 13 to February 26, is much more than a religious gathering-it is a profound celebration of spirituality, culture, and cosmic alignment. This ancient festival, rooted in the Sanatan tradition, is believed to influence not only human affairs but also cosmic and terrestrial energies.

The event is centred on the holy confluence of three rivers-the Ganga, Yamuna and the Saraswati. The Mahakumbh exemplifies India's rich cultural diversity, drawing millions of devotees, ascetics, and pilgrims from all walks of life. Through practices like ritual bathing, chanting, meditation, and spiritual discourses, it becomes a unifying force, blending traditions and beliefs into a harmonious whole.

Anushka Bohra | Ujjain

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FIRSTCOLUMN

HOMESCHOOLING: AN OPTION WORTH EXPLORING

While it comes with challenges, its benefits make it an increasingly compelling choice



SAKSHI SETHI

C hildhood is a short season, and homeschooling gives a child more time to truly enjoy it. In recent years, homeschooling has seen a significant rise in popularity as parents increasingly opt to educate their children at home rather than through traditional schooling systems. This shift reflects a combination of concerns about conventional education and the desire for more tailored learning experiences. One of the primary reasons parents choose homeschooling is the ability to customise education to suit their child's unique needs.

There is no denying that curriculum is a valuable tool but at the same time a terrible master. Traditional classrooms often struggle to accommodate different learning paces and styles, whereas homeschooling allows parents to tailor lessons, fostering deeper understanding and engagement. Many parents cite dissatisfaction with public or private school systems as a motivator for homeschooling. Issues such as overcrowded classrooms, underfunding, and lack of individual attention can negatively impact the quality of education. Additionally, concerns over bullying, peer pressure, and exposure to harmful influences prompt parents to seek alternatives.

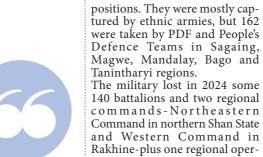
Homeschooling allows families to integrate their cultural, ethical, or religious values into the curriculum. Parents can teach their children in alignment with their personal beliefs, creating an educational experience that reflects their family's principles. Unlike traditional schooling, homeschooling offers flexibility in schedules and teaching methods. Families incor-



porate travel, extracurricular activities, or non-traditional subjects into their routine, enhancing the learning experience. This adaptability appeals to families seeking a more balanced lifestyle.

Unlike traditional schooling, homeschooling offers flexibility in schedules and teaching methods. Families can incorporate travel, extracurricular activities, or non-traditional subjects into their routine, enhancing the learning experience. This adaptability appeals to families seeking a more balanced lifestyle. While homeschooling offers many benefits, it is not without its challenges. Parents often need to dedicate significant time and effort to planning and teaching. Additionally, concerns about socialisation can arise, as homeschooled children may have fewer opportunities for peer interaction. However, many families address this y all indications, 2025 is going to be, militarily, a dismal year for Myanmar's ruling junta. It is clearly losing its war against the opposition National Unity Government (NUG) and its armed wing, the People's Defence Force (PDF), ethnic armed organisations (EROs), and the Three Brotherhood Alliance (Henceforth the Alliance). Comprising the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), active in the Kokang Special Region of northern Shan State, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), also active in the Shan State and the Arakan Army (AA), based in the Rakhine State in the country's western part, the alliance has been acting in close cooperation with the PDF and other ethnic armies.

Crystal-gazing is a hazardous business. Nevertheless, a fling at it is warranted by the unfolding events in that star-crossed country. A report under the headline, 'Junta's Writ Only Runs in One-third of Myanmar: NUG,' (datelined January 6, 2025), in the news website The Irrawaddy, cited the NUG as stating that the military regime controlled only of the country's 330 townships. The PDF and EROs fully or partly controlled 144 townships or 44 per cent of the country. The website, which enjoys a high-measure of credibility, carried an article by Maung Kavi (datelined January 8, 2025) under the headline, 'Myanmar Junta Boss warns resistance as Regime Loses Ground Nationwide,' saying that the NUG had further claimed that nearly 1,500 of the junta's soldiers and police personnel had defected to the civil disobedience movement and 480 of them had taken up 'revolutionary duties.' The report titled 'Junta's Writ Only Runs in One-third of Myanmar: NUG, further states that 315 officers were killed and 127 injured in course of the last year. In the same period, 53 senior officers ranging in rank from colonel to major general, were either killed, injured, or taken prisoner. Among the rank and file, 14,093 soldiers and border guard policemen were killed and 7,363 injured. Anti-regime groups seized 741 junta



THE ODDS ARE NOW RAPIDLY STACKING UP AGAINST THE

JUNTA. NO JUNTA. NO DOUBT, THE LATTER NUG's claims at face value reports from the ground indicate that the Sit-Tat (as the junta's army is called) has suffered severe body blows during the last year. The Three Brotherhood Alliance has

gained significant ground since HAS TANKS AND OTHER launching its offensive, code-named Operation 1027, on ARMOLIBED October 27, 2023. The AA had ARMOURED established control over almost VEHICLES, the entire Rakhine State by April, 2024. In a major development, the ARTILLERY AND MNDAA claimed on July 31, 2024, that it had captured Sit-Tat's AIR FORCE. military base in Lashio, a city in Shan State close to the border TANKS AND with China, and its airport. This ARMOURED was a major loss for the junta. As Vivek Shankar has pointed out in a piece in The New York **VEHICLES ARE VERY DIFFICULT** Times datelined August 5, 2024, the 'city of Lashio and its airport TO DEPLOY lie on a crucial trade corridor to Yunnan Province in China, which IN THE AREAS is spending hundreds of mil-DOMINATED BY lions of dollars on a high-speed rail link and other infrastructure THE ETHNIC projects on both sides of the border. FORCES Besides gains in the north, the anti-junta forces had captured four towns in northern Mandalay.

According to a report by Andrew
Nachemson published in Al
Jazeera dated September 23, 2024,
their capture had placed them
within striking distance of the city of Mandalay, Myanmar's second
largest urban centre, with a population of nearly two million.

On October 8, 2024, the Sit-Tat suffered a serious reverse with the fall of the township of Pinlebu to the Kachin Independence Army ations command, five military (KIA), an important part of the coalition of forces fighting the operations commands, six operational bases, two airbases, 17 junta, and its allies. Located on the border of the Sagaing Region and Kachin State, its capture border guard police bases, as well as many infantry and light infantry battalions, and artillery, logistics, signal, and military opened up to the opposition forces the routes leading to the engineering units. While one should not take the Kawlin township and the sur-

rounding areas. Besides its geo-strategic significance, the township's fall is important for what it revealed of the Sit-Tat's state. A report by Saw Lin, published in the news website, The Irrawaddy, on October 14, 2024, cites the NUG as claiming that the juntas troops, numbering 800, were defeated despite 670 airstrikes and the dropping of over 5,000 bombs, that around 70 junta soldiers were killed, 275 were missing, 225 were wounded, 48 surrendered and 102 captured during the fighting. Around 400 firearms and other military equipment were seized. In keeping with the trend, the Junta had ceded three townships and the Western Command headquarters in Rakhine State in December, 2024, as the ethnic Arakan Army gained control over 14 of the 17 townships in the westernmost state. On January 1, 2025, the Sit-Tat retreated from a heavily-fortified police station in Sagaing Region's Budalin Township after a yearlong siege by regional resistance forces, making it easier for the latter to operate in the region.

According to Maung Kavi's report

cited earlier, the junta, which has been losing towns and bases to EROs in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin and Karen states, has not been able to launch any military operation to retake the northern Shan State, almost the whole of which it had lost in 2024. The Sit-Tat is in a bad way.

Its morale is low. There is internal discord. Several three-stars generals have been removed. Many younger officers are unhappy as they recognise that almost the entire country is against them. According to a piece by Ye Myo Hein (datelined May 4, 2023) featured by the United States Institute of Peace, it was found the Sit-Tat, whose "headcount," showed a "strength of a total 300,000-400,000 before the coup," showed that it currently "had a strength of about 150,000 personnel.

Roughly 70,000 are combat sol-diers. At least 21,000 service members have been lost through casualties, desertion and defec tion since the coup. At this troop level, the Sit-Tat is barely able to sustain itself as a fighting force, much less a government. The odds are now rapidly stacking up against the Junta. No doubt, the latter has tanks and other armoured vehicles, artillery and air force. Tanks and armoured vehicles are very difficult to deploy in the areas dominated by the ethnic forces. With densely forested mountainous terrains, deep gorges and steep climbs, these are ideal for staging ambushes. Moreover, air-strikes and artillery do not win wars, even when backed by heavily armed and trained infantry. Otherwise, the United States would have swept to a victory in Vietnam.

Junta faces collapse amid escalating defeats



analys \$ 07

HIRANMAY KARLEKAR

Losses across key regions, coupled with mass defections and severe military setbacks, suggest a crumbling grip of Military on power in Myanmar



by participating in extracurricular activities, and community events. Homeschooling is not a new phenomenon.

In olden times, education often took place at home, with parents or private tutors guiding the learning of their child. The rise of formalised schooling in the 19th and 20th centuries shifted education to institutions, but homeschooling remained a choice for families who sought alternatives. Modern homeschooling driven by educational reformers and parents seeking greater control over their children's education began gaining traction in the 1970s and 1980s. Today, it continues to evolve, integrating technology and innovative teaching practices. Technology undoubtedly has played a pivotal role in making homeschooling more accessible and effective. It has also enabled collaboration and connection among homeschooling communities. Online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and educational applications such as Scholastic Kids, Udemy, Duolingo, Funbrain and many more provide parents with resources to create comprehensive curricula. The shift to homeschooling reflects a broader desire among parents to take control of their children's education and provide a more personalised, values-driven learning environment. While homeschooling comes with its challenges, the benefits of flexibility, individualised attention and alignment with family priorities make homeschooling an increasingly appealing choice for families worldwide. (The writer is an educator; views are personal)

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

Real-time travel assistance: Transforming the Indian travel experience

From the integration of cutting-edge technology to the emergence of unique destinations, the way we explore has been redefined

The travel industry in India has undergone a significant transformation in the past decade. The advent of technology, the emergence of unique destinations, and travellers' shifting preferences have reshaped the way we experience travel. While convenience and connectivity have expanded exponentially, so have the challenges that come with travelling through this vast and diverse country.

In such a scenario, the idea of real-time travel assistance is much more than a luxury, gradually becoming a necessity. India is a land of incredible diversity, which often presents challenges for travellers, both domestic and international. With 28 states and countless languages, customs, and tradi-

The travel industry in tions, exploring India can be as India has undergone a overwhelming as it is enrich-

ing. A misplaced document, a language barrier, or a medical emergency in an unfamiliar city can turn a dream vacation or a crucial business trip into an overwhelming ordeal. This is where the concept of realtime assistance steps in, bridging the gap between exploration and ease.

The Need for Immediate Support: Travelers today demand solutions that are immediate, efficient, and humanised. The expectations from travel experiences are no longer confined to curated itineraries and luxury stays. Safety, comfort, and resolution to unexpected issues are just as critical to creating memorable journeys. Whether it's assis



HARISH **Khatri**

tance in locating a nearby pharmacy late at night, navigating bureaucratic hurdles in a foreign environment, or finding reliable medical aid during emergencies, travellers increasingly rely on services that ensure a smooth journey. Real-time assistance goes beyond static travel guides or pre-recorded helplines. It operates as a different system where timely, empathetic, and

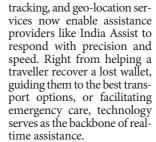
accurate support becomes a part of the travel experience. It is this proactive approach that helps mitigate common traveller challenges and allows for a seamless journey, irrespective of the destination. **Empathy in Travel**

Assistance: A game-changer at its core, real-time travel assistance is about offering humanised solutions. Travellers often find themselves in vulnerable situations where a touch of empathy can go a long way. Imagine being stuck at a remote train station with no one to guide you to your next stop or dealing with a sudden health scare in a busy urban centre where you don't know the language. These are moments when an

empathetic, knowledgeable professional on the other end



of a call or chat can provide not just solutions, but also reassurance. It is this empathy paired with technology that is revolutionising travel assistance in India. Real-time support services aim to address the emotional and logistical needs of travellers in equal measure.
Utilising Technology to Enable Seamless Experiences: The amalgamation of technology and travel assistance has unlocked possibilities previously deemed unattainable.



Moreover, AI-powered systems can predict and preempt potential challenges, ensuring that travellers are equipped with solutions even before they face a problem. Combined with human expertise, such systems provide an unprecedented level of service that adapts to the ever-changing needs of travellers. A Vision for the Future of

A Vision for the Future of Indian Travel

Advanced algorithms, live As India continues to grow as ties. Real-time assistance also

a preferred travel destination for global tourists and a thriving market for domestic explorers, the need for reliable, real-time support systems will only increase. From first-time solo travellers to seasoned professionals on the move, everyone stands to benefit from a travel arena where assistance is no longer a reactive measure but an integral part of the journey.

The impact of such assistance goes beyond individual convenience. It enhances the overall travel ecosystem, fostering trust and confidence among travellers. When individuals feel supported, they are more likely to venture into lessexplored destinations, bolstering local economies and creating new tourism opportunialigns with India's vision of creating a more inclusive and welcoming travel environment. Addressing the unique needs of every traveller, be it accessibility, safety, or cultural understanding - opens the doors to a more diverse and enriching travel experience. As we move forward, the travel industry must imbibe the ethos of real-time assistance, not as an add-on service but as a core pillar of the travel experience. After all, the most unforgettable journeys are not just about the destinations we visit — they are about the challenges we overcome and the moments of human connection that transform challenges into memories.

(The writer is founder and MD of India Assist; views are personal)



Over 10,000 structures lost in LA blaze

PTI LOS ANGELES

◄ he two biggest wildfires ravaging the Los Angeles area this week burned at least 10,000 homes, buildings and other structures, officials said Thursday as they urged more people to heed evacuation orders after a new blaze ignited and quickly grew.

The fast-moving Kenneth Fire started in the late afternoon in the San Fernando Valley near the West Hills neighbourhood and close to Ventura County. Only hours earlier officials expressed encouragement after firefighters aided by calmer winds and help from crews from outside the state saw the first signs of successfully beating back the region's devastating wildfires that have killed seven people so far.

"We are expecting this fire to rapidly spread due to high winds," Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said, echoing the forecast that called for winds to strengthen Thursday evening through Friday morning.

The orders came as Los Angeles County officials

synagogue, seven schools, two announced the Eaton Fire near Pasadena that started Tuesday libraries, boutiques, bars, restaurants, banks and gronight has burned more than 5,000 structures, a term that ceries were lost. So too were the Will Rogers' Western Ranch includes homes, apartment House and Topanga Ranch buildings, businesses, outbuildings and vehicles. To the west Motel, local landmarks dating in Pacific Palisades, the largest to the 1920s. The government has not yet released figures on of the fires burning in the LA the cost of the damage or area has destroyed over 5,300 specifics about how many structures. Between the Eaton and Palisades fires, more than structures burned. 10,000 structures have burned.

AccuWeather, a private company that provides data on weather and its impact, on Thursday increased its estimate of the damage and economic loss to USD 135-USD 150 billion. Firefighters made significant gains Thursday at slowing the spread of the Eaton and Palisades fires, though both

School, where people are sheltering from the fire in Palisades. remained at 0% containment, The two fires are about 10 miles officials said. Crews also knocked down a blaze in the Dozens of blocks were flattened Hollywood Hills, allowing an to smoldering rubble in scenic evacuation to be lifted Thursday. The fire that sparked Pacific Palisades. Only the outlines of homes and their chimup late Wednesday near the nevs remained. In Malibu, heart of the entertainment industry came perilously close blackened palm strands were to igniting the famed all that was left above debris Hollywood Bowl outdoor conwhere oceanfront homes once cert venue. "While we are still stood. At least five churches, a



(Above) President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris lead a briefing regarding the federal response to the spread of wildfires in the Los Angeles area, in the Roosevelt Room at the White House in Washington. (Right) An emergency vehicle drives through a neighborhood devastated by the Eaton Fire in Altadena Calif. AP/PTI

facing significant threats, I am hopeful that the tide is turning," Los Angeles County Supervisor Kathryn Barger said Thursday. Water dropped from aircraft helped fire crews quickly seize control of the fires in the Hollywood Hills and Studio City, officials said. Much of the widespread destruction occurred Tuesday after those aircraft were grounded due to

confidence of the investors.

In an apparent reference to the

military, Khan further said,

'Tragically, those responsible

for countering terrorism are

Qty.

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high winds. Fire officials said Thursday that they don't yet know the cause of the fires but are actively investigating. Enormity of destruction emerges: Earlier in the week, hurricane-force winds blew embers, igniting the Southern California hillsides.

Right now, it's impossible to quantify the extent of the destruction other than "total

devastation and loss," said Barbara Bruderlin, head of the Malibu Pacific Palisades Chamber of Commerce. There are areas where everything is gone, there isn't even a stick of wood left, it's just dirt," Bruderlin said. Of the seven deaths so far, Los

Angeles Fire Chief Kristin Crowley confirmed two were in the Palisades Fire. County offi-

cials said the Eaton Fire had killed five. Cadaver dogs and search crews are searching through rubble, Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said. Anthony Mitchell, a 67year-old amputee, and his son, Justin, who had cerebral palsy, were waiting for an ambulance to come, but they did not make it out, Mitchell's daughter, Hajime White, told The

Washington Post. Shari Shaw told KTLA that she tried to get her 66-year-old brother, Victor Shaw, to evacuate Tuesday night but he wanted to stay and fight the fire. Crews found his body with a garden hose in his hand. On Thursday, recovery crews pulled a body from rubble of what was a beachfront residence in Malibu on the scenic Pacific Coast Highway.

The federal appeals panel agreed Thursday evening to a temporary stay. It stressed

that the stay would hold only as long as it took to more fully

consider arguments in the government's request, and

should not be considered a

final ruling. It stalls an attempt

Imran warns of plan to impose 10-year dictatorship in Pak

PTI LAHORE

Pakistan's incarcerated for-mer prime minister Imran Khan has said that economic progress can never happen as long as the current "fascist system" is in place and warned that there is a plan to impose a "10-year dictatorship" in Pakistan. Khan, 72, has been lodged at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi since mid-2023 in multiple cases and his party



I, RAINA GUPTA W/o Dwarika Prasad Gupta R/o RZ-179, Gali No.4 Dabri Vaishali Dabri South West Delhi-110045 have changed my name to RITU GUPTA for all future purposes

PD(1225)C I, Shahzadi Khatoon W/o Imamuddin R/o A-384, New Panchwati Colony, Ghaziabad have changed my name to Shahiadi Khatoon.

PD(1227)A I, Mohd Imamuddin S/o Ajijshah R/o A-384, New Panchwati Colony, Bairiya,

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been at loggerheads with the federal government since the general elections in February 2024. Several leaders of the PTI are

All of the large fires that have

broken out this week in the Los

Angeles area are located in a

roughly 25-mile band north of

downtown. The Kenneth blaze

ignited less than 2 miles (3.2

kilometers) away from the El

Camino Real Charter High

(18 kilometers) apart.

currently in talks with the gov-ernment and Khan on Wednesday said his party will participate in the third round of talks to help ease the political tension in the country. "There is a plan to impose a ten-year dictatorship in

Pakistan, of which two years have already passed. Judges or in place. police officers who become a party to oppression are rewarded with promotions here," Khan said in a tweet on X on

Thursday. "Judge Humayun Dilawar, who gave an illegal verdict against me was promoted, while judges from Rawalpindi and Sargodha, who gave fair decisions, were dismissed," he pointed out and added, "Such actions have obliterated merit and rule of law in the country."

using all their resources Khan, who often interacts with and energy to corner our journalists and also seen postparty. He suggested rising above pering several times on his social sonal egos and temporary gains media handle, further said that and focus on the decency and economic progress in the country can never happen as long as prosperity of the country

and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tende

system for supply of the following items :-

STATIONERY

19242115 GEAR WHEEL 65 TEETH

14250835 REFRIGERANT R-407C,

04 77246604 37 DEGREE ANGLE PROBE

for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained

Tender Notice No. 88/2024-2025 Dated:- 10.01.2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement systems

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi - 110001, for

Brief Description

CONTINUOUS PAPER COMPUTER

Note : 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

the current "fascist system" is The PTI supremo reminded that many of his party men who took "Economic prosperity requires part in the November 26 protest

process.

Closing Date

03-02-25

05-02-25

06-02-25

10-02-25

investment, which is impossiin Islamabad are still missing. "These individuals disappeared from D-Chowk in Islamabad, not ble without institutions adhering to their boundaries and responsibilities as defined by from some remote tribal area. The government has neither the Constitution. Surging terproduced them in court nor rorism in the country is causing irreparable damage to the taken any serious measures to recover them," he said.

This clearly reflects the govern ment's lack of seriousness regarding his party's demands and the negotiation process, he added.

He also reiterated his demand to the government to form a judicial commission to probe May 9, 2023 and November 26, 2024 incidents till the next meeting between the government but said the PTI will discontinue the negotiation



Biden admin succeeds in temporarily blocking plea deal for accused 9/11 mastermind

PTI WASHINGTON

The Biden administration $T_{succeeded}$ Thursday in temporarily blocking a guilty plea by accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, stalling a plea deal that would spare him the risk of the death penalty for al-Qaida's September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. Administration lawyers had urged a federal appeals panel to block Mohammed's guilty plea from going forward as scheduled Friday at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Defence lawyers described the attempts to throw out the agreement as the latest in two decades of "fitful" and "negligent" mishandling of the case

to wrap up more than two decades of military prosecu-tion — beset by legal chal-lenges — in one of the deadliest attacks in US history. Thursday's legal action marked a last-ditch government request to prevent Mohammed from entering a guilty plea Friday.

by the US military and successive administrations.

For and o

Northern I

form for the

Name

work

	vay, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites E- Tender' in prescribed tender owing work. upply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, and integration of complete quipment's of Terminal Support System (Hardware) & allied accessories
	E-NOTICE INVITING TENDER
R	behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (RSO), ailway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites E- Tender' in prescribed tender following work.
	Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning, and integration of complete Equipment's of Terminal Support System (Hardware) & allied accessories for computerized crew management system application at various lobbies Shakurbasti Delhi Sarai Robilia Delhi Meenut City Robtak. Jind

with its c Jine & Jakhal over DLI division as per CRIS Specification no. 2007/CRIS/ NDLS-HQ/CMS/Project/Rollout-II/0030/Pt-II date 26.07.2024. Rs. 48,51,137.89/- (including GST) 2. Approx. Tender value (Rs.) Rs 97.100/-. Note:- Online payment mod . E.M.D (Rs.) available on IREPS website. 4 Date & time of tender opening 03.02.2025 on 15:00 hrs (immediately when tender bmission ends) Website particulars where www.ireps.gov.in omplete details of tender documents can be seen

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed



world 08

Ghaziabad have changed my name to Imamuddin.

PD(1228)A I, here to known as Buggu Jain D/o. Rahul Jain, R/o. B-8/ 224, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi, 110085 changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Raaisha Jain for all future purposes.

PD(1229)A

I, No. 15437480M NK Deoraj Bishwakarma, R/o- Ord Terai Tea Garden Po- Belgachi, Ps-Naxalbari, Teh- Siliguri, Dist-Darjeeling, W.B.- 734423, declare that Hira Kami is my father, in my service document's his name is wrongly written as Hira Bishwakarma, whereas his correct name is Hira Kami, affidavit dated vide 10/01/2025 before Notary **Public Delhi**

PD(1230)C I, No. 15437480M NK Deoraj Bishwakarma, R/o- Ord Terai Tea Garden Po- Belgachi, Ps-Naxalbari, Teh- Siliguri, Dist-Darjeeling, W.B.- 734423, declare that Lachmi Kami is my mother, in my service document's her name is wrongly written as Laxmi Bishwakarma, whereas her correct name is Lachmi Kami, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1231)C

I, Isita Karmakar, W/o No.3200947F Hav Chanchal Kumar Betal, R/o- Vill-Ramnagar PO- Ramnagar Mobarakpur, P.S- Arambagh, Dist- Hooghly, W.B.- 712616, have changed my name from Isita Karmakar to Isita Karmakar Betal, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(1232)C

Jagmal Singh to Jagmaal Singh vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(1236)C

I, Mansaram Betal, Father of-

No.3200947F Hav Chanchal

Kumar Betal, R/o- Vill

Ramnagar PO- Ramnagar

Mobarakpur, P.S- Arambagh.

Dist- Hooghly, W.B.- 712616,

have changed my name from

affidavit dated 10/01/2025

I, Jagmal Singh, Father of- No.

16012348K Hav Rajesh

Mitharwal, R/o- Ward No.- 15,

Kotri Luharwas, Kotri, Dist-

Sikar, Rajasthan- 332709, have

changed my name from

before Notary Public Delhi.

Mansaram

Manasharam

Betal

Betal.

vide

PD(1235)C

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Tende

No.

18241073

Earlier, my name was BEERMATI TYAGI (बीरमति त्यागी) and BRAHAMAVATI (ब्रह्मावती) and now I have changed my name to BARMAWATTI. In the future, I want to be recognized and identified by this name. BARMAWATTI, Wife of Late Shri Prempal Tyagi, Resident of A-545, Ganeshpuri, Near Shiv Shalimar Garden, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad.

PD(1237)C I, Sudeep Punia S/o Umed Singh R/o k-2/25 Dharam Market, krishan Vihar, Nithari, North West Delhi -86, have changed my name Sudeep Kumar to Sudeep Punia for all purposes. PD(1238)C

I, Rajni Gupta W/o Sandeep Gupta R/o B-14 First Floor, Hargovind Vihar, Sector 4, Rohini, Delhi - 85, have changed my name Rajni Bala Garg to Rajni Gupta for all purposes. Rajni Bala Garg and Rajni Gupta Both are same person.

PD(1239)C I, Smt Arti Betal, Mother of-No.3200947F Hav Chanchal Kumar Betal, R/o- Vill-Ramnagar PO- Ramnagar Mobarakpur, P.S- Arambagh, Dist- Hooghly, W.B.- 712616, have changed my name from Smt Arti Betal to Arati Betal, vide affidavit dated 10/01/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

DELHI

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HSIID

DATED : 07-01-2025

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PD(1234)C I, Raj Kumari, W/o Satinder Singh, R/o- RZ- 46 J, Street No. 2, Main Sagar Pur, Delhi -110046, declare that Abhishek Singh is my son, in his educational Certificate, my name is erroneously written as Shashi Singh, whereas my correct name is Raj Kumari, both names pertain to one and same person, i.e. myself. PD(1233)C

THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. 13 11-25611042, 25611043, 2561104 APPENDIX IV

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

[See rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property)

The undersigned being the Authorised officer of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.", Head office at, C-29,Community Centre, Pankha Road, Janak Puri, New Delhi - 110058, having its registered office at 1916, Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055, under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (54 of 2002) and n exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule [3] of The Security Interest Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Bank had issued a demand notice on dated 10-10-2024, cal the borrower & mortgagor Smt. Mamta Dangwal, Wo.Sh.Deepak Mahindru Rio. C-104, Street No.8, West Vinod Nagar Delhi-110092 also at Smt. Mamta Dangwal Wio,Sh. Deepak Mahindru Clo. New Saraswati House (India) Pvt. Ltd. 2" Floor, MGM Tower, 19, Ansari Road, Darya Ganj New Delhi-110002, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.8,30,584/- (Rupees Eight Lakhs Thirty Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty Four Only), together with further interest, pena interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, from the date of the otice till the date of payment, with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the notice.

The above mentioned borrower & mortgagor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower, mortgagor and the public in general that the Bank has taken Symbolic possession of the property described here in below in exercise of powers conferred under sub-section (4) of section 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security terest Act, 2002, read with rule [8] of The Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, on this 07th day of January, 2025.

The borrower & mortgagor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to dea with the mortgaged property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of "The Kangra Co-operative Bank Ltd.",for an amount of Rs.8,30,584/- together with further iterest, penal interest and other charges as are applicable to this Loan account from time to time, om the date of notice slit the date of realization together with all the costs incurred by the Bank in alizing the said amount

The borrower & mortgagor attention is also been invited towards provisions of Sub-Section (8) of ection 13 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of the Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, in respect of time available, to redeem the below mentioned mortgage operty/Secured Asset

DISCRIPTION OF THE PROPER

The property under All that part and parcel of the BUILT UP ENTIRE FIRST FLOOR, UPTO is a THE EXTENT OF CEILING LEVEL, HAVING ITS PLINTH/COVERED AREA Built-up Entire 41.80 SQ. METERS, I.e. 50 sq. ds. COMPRISING OF TWO BED ROMS. First Floor without ONE DRAWING CUM DINING ROOM, ONE KITCHEN AND roof rights, area measuring 50 Sq. PASSAGE, ENTRANCE AND ROOF/TERRACE OF TOP FLOOR, BUILT Yds. ON PART OF PROPERTY BEARING NO.C-104, OUT OF KHASRA

NO.811, SITUATED AT ABADI OF C-BLOCK, GALI NO.8, KUMAON SQUARE, WEST VINOD NAGAR, IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE MANDAWALI FAZAL PUR, ILLAQA SHAHDARA, DELHI-110092, Falling Under the Registration of Sub-Registrar-VIIIA, Preet Vihar, Delhi.

Bounded as under which is bounded as- EAST : PROPERTY OF OTHERS. WEST : PROPERTY OF OTHERS. NORTH : ROAD, SOUTH : PROPERTY OF OTHERS. (HARISH SHARMA)

(HARISH SHARMA) AUTHORISED OFFICER THE KANGRA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. HEAD OFFICE AT, C-29, COMMUNITY CENTRE PANKHA ROAD, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-58.

CLEANING OF METALLED ROADS AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE FROM ROAD BERMS IN SECTOR - 17, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BAHADURGARH,

👧 Indian Overseas Bank

Wazieabad Branch (Shyam Chowk, Near Girls, Govt. High School, Wazirabad, Gurgaon, Haryana 122003, Phone - 0124-2577240, E-mail Id : lob3714@iob.in

APPENDIX IV POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property) [Rule 8(1)]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Indian Overseas Ban nder the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred nder section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 29.03.2022 Calling upon the borrowers/ mortgagors/ guarantors Shri Dipankar Das H. No. 1206, Spring Green Apartment, Anora Kala, Faridabad Road, Lucknow-226028 (Give full address) (hereinafter referred as 'borrowers') to repay the amount men in the notice being Rs.1,01,03,795.80 as on 28.02.2022 with further interest at ntractual rates and rests, charges etc. till date of realization within 60 days m the date of receipt of the said notice

(1) The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken consession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the aid Rules on this 9" day of January of the year 2025.

(2) The borrowers in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Overseas Bank for an amount of Rs. 1.01.03.795.80 as n 28.02.2022 with interest thereon of contractual rates & rests as agreed harges etc., from the aforesaid date mentioned in the demand notice till date o ent less repayment, if any, made after issuance of Demand Not Dues payable as on the date of taking possession is Rs. 1,32,54,610.90 (Rupees One Crore Thirty-Two Lakh Fifty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Ten and Paisa Ninety Only) payable with further interest at contractual rates & rests, Charges etc., till date of payment. (3) The Borrowers attention is invited to provisions of Sub-section (8) of the

ction 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them, to redeem the ecured assets

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No. 1203, 12th Floor Block D- 6, Aloha, situated at AEZ inspirations, Sector 57 Gurgaon (Haryana), 122003, within the registration sub-district Gurgaon and District Gurgaon Bounded

12.33 LACS

Sd/- Authorised Office

Indian Overseas Banl

On the North by : Swimming Pool and Tower No-5 On the South by : Flat No 1204/ Entry On the East by : Left & Flat no 1201 On the West by : Road Dated: 09.01.2025 Place: Gurgaon

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE (In case there is no will)

TENDER NOTICE No. -NIT-04-2024-25-Elect-RSO, Dt. 09.01.2025

Plot / Property No-APARTMENT NO. CM633A, 33RD FLOOR, BLOCK 6A, THE CAMELLIAS, DLF 5, GURUGRAM, HARYANA, ALONG WITH CAR PARKING NOS.633A-PB1-1, 633A-PB1-2, 633A-PB1-3, 633A-PB1-4 AND 633A-PB1-5 was registered in the name of Mr RAJIV KRISHAN LUTHRA S/o Late. Mr Anirudh Krishan Luthra, R/o 3/15 Shanti Niketan, New Delhi : 110 021, who has

expired on 10th May 2023. Accordingly the name of Mrs Gayatri Luthra, Ms. Sanaa Krishan Luthra and Ms. Arshia Krisha Luthra are being noted in DLF's record in respect of the captioned Plot / Property.

anybody has any objection to this, he of she may approach M/s DLF Ltd or the undersigned within 21 days of publicati of this notice.

Luthra and Luthra Law Offices India 1st & 9th Floor Ashoka Estate 24 Barakhamba Road New Delhi - 110001

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that my client Mr. Harish Chander Chopra, S/o Late Sh. Mohan Lal has retired from oartnership firm M/s Mohan Lal Harish Chander having its office at C-98, New Subzi Mandi, Azadpur, Delhi, w.e.f 16.12.2024 and he is not a partner in the said firm anymore. All the liabilities of the firm existing at the time of his

retirement in the books of accounts have been taken over by the continuing partners of the firm. Anybody, person body corporate dealing with the said firm or continuing partners shall do so with he knowledge of fact that my client has already retired from the firm and shall not be liable for any act or liability of the firm or its continuing partners. Amit Kumar (Advocate) Narang & Associates

D-28, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014.

9416767348

13/2025/100/31630/1/27/7

NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
HSIIDC	SPRINKLING WATER ON DIFFERENT METALLED ROADS TO CURB AIR POLLUTION BY USING A WATER TANKER, EQUIPPED WITH A MECHANICAL SPRINKLER SYSTEM, AND WATERING OF PLANTS/SAPLINGS RECENTLY PLANTED ALONG THE ROADSIDES AND IN THE GREEN BELTS IN SEC-16, 17 AND 4B, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BAHADURGARH.	14.01.2025 21.01.2025	5.30 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416767348 Ia.bahadurgarh@hsiidc.org.in
HSIIDC	DE-SILTING OF STORM WATER LINES AND REMOVAL OF MALBA / DEBRIS BY USING SUPER SUCKER MACHINE NEAR PLOT NO. 30 TO 342, 273 TO 295 IN SECTOR- 17, HSIIDC, I.E, DAHADURGARH.	14.01.2025 21.01.2025	14.69 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416767348 ia.bahadurgarh@hsiidc.org.in
HSIIDC	DE-SILTING THE SEWER LINE AND REMOVAL OF MALBA/DEBRIS FROM MANHOLES USING A SUPER SUCKER MACHINE IN SECTOR 16, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BAHADURGARH.	14.01.2025 21.01.2025	14.61 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416767348 ia.bahadurgarh@hsiidc.org.in
HSIIDC	HIRING OF JCB FOR REMOVING GARBAGE CLEANING OF GREEN BELTS/PARKS, UNWANTED BUSHES AND SARKANDAS IN OPEN AREAS AND MISC. WORKS IN SEC. 17 HSIDC, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, BAHADURGARH	14.01.2025 21.01.2025	8.92 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416767348 ia.bahadurgarh@hsildc.org.in

14.01.2025 21.01.2025

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.ir

and his Wife Taruna Pal and his son Dharvik Pal and Vedant Pal fron novable-immovable properties due to their misconduct my client will not be responsible for their illegal acts and any

My client Virendra Kuma

iabilities MANISH KUMAR (Advocate) Ch. No. 646-A Western Wing, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54

hand Mohan R/o H.No 159 Gali no :

Village Tahirpur Delhi-110095 be a

now to public at largs debarred serave

relations with his son Pramod Kuma

114/2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

A notice of intended marriage has bee received from Mr. Abhik Deb S/o Mr. Biswaji Deb R/o B1 -2/3, Awas Vihar, Road No-4 (Extn.), Kajalnagar, Sonari, Jamshedpur 831011 Present Address D-39, Sector-52 Noida, Gautambuddha Nagar and Ms. Asmita Nandy D/o Mr. Somnath Nandy R/o 13/2 Sri Gopal Mullick Lane, Muchipara, Kolkata, Wes Bengal-700012 Present Address 1905 Tower-10, Lotus Panache, Sector-104, Market Sector-110 Noida in The office of the undersigned, any person interested Therein, may file objections to it on any day upto 26-01-2025 in the office of The undersigned.

Deputy Collector/ I/C City Magistrate Marriage Officer Noida Gautam Budh Nagar

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Potice is hereby given on behalf of ANUJ TYAGI AND POOJA TYAGI who are purchasing the Apartment No.D-083on 8th Floor, Tower-D, having super area measuring 166-93 sq. Mtrs.(1796.17 sq. ft.), project known as "RAHEJA VEDAS", situated in the scheme named "Raheja's Vedaanta", Vedas & Vedaanta Floors", situated at Sector-108, Tehsil Kadipur, Distric-Grungram, Haryana, from Mr. Devendra Goswami and Mr. Amit Bharti, initially the subject property was purchased by WG CDR Rajan Jaisingtani & Mona Jaisinghani from Ms Raheja Developers Limited vide Conveyance Deed dated 18.1.2019 (bearing document no.9472), further WG CDR Rajan Jaisinghani expired on 14.12.2022 leaving behind his surviving members as(1) Mona Jaisinghani (Son) R/o 10 Narpat Niwas, Airforce Road, Jodhpur-342011, Rajasthan), further East, Mumbai, Maharasthra-400072, (3) Adin Jaisinghani (Son) R/o 10 Narpat Niwas, Airforce Road, Jodhpur-342011, Rajasthan), further Kosel Consert Letter (Nos-2) dated 19.12.2023 (read vith Wild laded 25.02202) to their mother Mona Jaisinghani, finally Mona Jaisinghani alo (sourse) Consert Letter (Nos-2) dated 19.12.2023 ANUJ TYAGI and POOJA TYAGI intend to purchase the same and mortgage against the financial assistance from IDBI Bank Limited. To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienetc. Lucem Legal LLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049,Contact # 011-40046316





Canada's Indian-origin MP Chandra Arya says he'll run for prime ministership

PTI OTTAWA

anada's Indian-origin MP Chandra Arya has announced that he is running to be the next Prime Minister, hours before his Liberal Party announced that their next leader will be chosen on March

The development comes days after Justin Trudeau announced to step down but said he will continue to be the prime minister till the next leader is chosen. Arya, the MP from Nepean, Ottawa, who was born in Karnataka, made the announcement on X Thursday morning ahead of the Liberal Party's meeting later in the evening.

"I am running to be the next Prime Minister of Canada to lead a small, more efficient government to rebuild our nation and secure prosperity for future generations," he said in the post on X and added a long statement with it.

Stating that Canada is "facing

significant structural problems" that haven't been seen for generations, Arya said, adding that solving them will require tough choices. "For the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must make bold decisions that are absolutely neces-The Canadian Broadcasting

Corporation (CBC) highlighted that Arya wants to lead a small, more efficient government "with a cabinet selected on merit and not on (diversity, equity and inclusion) quotas

sary.

Arya was first elected to the House of Commons in 2015. His multi-page announcement includes a list of policy proposals, including increasing the retirement age by two years in 2040, introducing a citizenshipbased tax system and recognising Palestine as a state, it added.

"It's time for Canada to take full control of its destiny," he wrote in the statement and promised to make the country "a sover-



eign republic." It would require replacing the monarchy as the head of state.

After the meeting of the National Board of Directors, Sachit Mehra, president of the Liberal Party of Canada, said in a statement: "After a robust and secure nation-wide process, the Liberal Party of Canada will choose a new leader on March 9, and be ready to fight and win the 2025 election. The National Board of

Directors formally met on

Thursday evening to discuss and outline the initial rules of the up-coming leadership race, the party statement added. After the party's announce-ment, another CBC report said

that former central banker Mark Carney has also said he's interested and added that former finance minister Chrystia Freeland, former B.C. premier Christy Clark and House Leader Karina Gould are said to be gathering supporters, too.

Prior to Thursday's meeting along with Arya, former Montreal MP Frank Baylis both said they will be running, it said.

The CBC report also pointed out how the new leader chosen on March 9 will have a tight timeline as the Gov Gen Mary Simon has prorouged Parliament untill March 24. The main three opposition parties have vowed a 'No Confidence' vote after Parliament resumes, other media reports said.

Kremlin welcomes possibility of Trump-Putin meeting

PTI WASHINGTON

The Kremlin has welcomed US President-elect Donald Trump's readiness to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a senior Moscow official said on Friday.

Russia attaches no conditions to the possibility of face-to-face talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters during a conference call.

Trump said on Thursday that "Putin wants to meet" and that a meeting is being set up. He indicated that efforts to end the almost three-year war

were behind the overtures for talks. "We have to get that war over with," Trump said when referring to his possible meeting with Putin. Trump, who has criticised US aid for Ukraine's war effort, has

called Putin "pretty smart" for invading Ukraine and has praised Russia's military record in historical conflicts. Putin has been accused of war crimes by the International Criminal Court. Ukrainian officials are alarmed at the possibility that

sion could be doomed. relations as possible for Trump and his team," Peskov said. The outgoing Biden administration is providing Ukraine with Ukraine's President Volodvmvr as much military support as it Zelenskyy has said that in any peace negotiation his country can, including approving a new USD 500 million package of would need assurances about weapons, with the aim of its future protection from Russia, its much bigger neighputting Ukraine in the strongest position possible for any future bour, which has invaded negotiations to end the war. Ukraine twice since the turn of We are aware that the (Biden) the century. Europe alone canadministration will try to leave not provide that guarantee, he as difficult legacy in bilateral said late Thursday.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot Ph: 01639-256232-256236

6	
R	ADVT. No. BFU-25/01
U	Vacancies
	Online applications are invited w.e.f. 13-01-2025 to 03-02-2025 from eligible candidates through university website i.e. www.bfuhs.ggsmch.org, for recruitment to the posts of Divisional Accountant-01, Accounant-03, Cashier-02, Senior Assistant (Accounts)-01
P	on regular basis at University office and constituent colleges/ institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.
D	For details/ updates/ eligibility/ no. of Posts/ terms & conditions visit website
	www.bfuhs.ggsmch.org.
	00/12/343/2023/40657 Dated CHD :- 1/10/2025 Registrar
	Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot
	Ph: 01639-256232-256236
	Advt. No.BFU-25/02
	VACANCIES
	Online applications are invited w.e.f 13.01.2025 to 03.02.2025 from eligible
	candidates through University website i.e www.bfuhs.ggsmch.org for the
	recruitment to the posts of Associate Professor-Radiodiagnosis-01, Assistant
SI.	Professor-11 (Forensic Medicine-03, SPM-02, Radiodiagnosis-03, Anaesthesiology-01, General Surgery-02) and Statistician (SPM)-01 on regular
No.	Anaesthesiology-01, General Surgery-02) and Statistician (SPM)-01 on regular basis at constituent Colleges/Institutions of Baba Farid University of Health
	Anaesthesiology-01, General Surgery-02) and Statistician (SPM)-01 on regular basis at constituent Colleges/Institutions of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot (Guru Gobind Singh Medical College & Hospital, Faridkot).
	Anaesthesiology-01, General Surgery-02) and Statistician (SPM)-01 on regular basis at constituent Colleges/Institutions of Baba Farid University of Health

REGISTRAR

PUBLIC NOTICE his is to inform you that Mr. Sahabuddin, son of M I, (Ex JCO) Phool Chand S/o Rafique, intends to purchase residential freehold vacant land, measuring 44.5 square yards (37.20 Late Prabhu Daval Singh, Villsquare meters), located in Pratap Vihar, Khod

Jonawas, Teh & Distt. Mahendergarh (HR) My son Abhishek Yadav who is out of control of me and dispossessed or ousted from my movable and immovable property.

PUBLIC NOTICE My client Ms. Suman W/o Late Sh. Gurbachan Singh R/o H.No. FD-20, Ground Floor Shivaji Enclave, New Delhi-110027, her son Mr. Nawal and her Daughter in law Ms. Upasna Trikha have been doing acts and deeds against the wish and will of my client and they do not give any respect to my client, her family members and relatives. My client hereby disowns her son & Daughter-in-law from all movable and immovable properties and my client is left with no relation and concern with her son & Daughter-in-law. My client shall not be responsible for any acts and deeds done by her son & Daughter-in-law in any manner whatsoever. V.K. DAHIYA, Advocate Chamber No 204, Chander Shehar Azad Block. Distt ander Shehar A Gurugram 12200

Square meters), located in Pratap Vihar, Khoda Colony, Pargana Loni, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P., from Mr. Mohd. Sager, son of Mr. Sheikh Yakub. The property was purchased by Mr. Sageer from Mr. Abdul Rauf through a Sale Deed dated 02:12:2010. 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. 1458 Book No. 01, Vol. No. 1930, on Pages 159-165, dated 28:02:2005, SR-II Ghaziabad, and Regd. No. 1828 Book No. 01, Vol. No. 2291, on Pages 88-94, dated 16:02:2006, SR-II Ghaziabad, along with the notarized General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell, and Will dated 12:11:2009, have been lost. An Online FIR (Application Number: LR. No: 2479238/2025, dated 09:01:2025) has been filed with the PS: Crime Branch, Delhi, regarding the loss of these documents.Any person having information of these documents. Any person having information bout the lost documents is requested to inform the ndersigned or the local police station. If an indersigned or the local police station. If any person(s) objections, regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 fays from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail failing which, the claim as per below and by E-mail failing which, the claim as per below and by E-mail failing which, the claim as per foresaid shall be treated as null and void in respe f the subject property. Ashwani Kumar (Advocate) Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE JAGRITI NAGAR CO-OPERATIVE HOUSE BUILDING SOCIETY LTD. **REGN NO. - 2183** Jagriti Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092

PUBLIC NOTICE

In terms of the provisions of Schedule-VII of DCS Rules 2007, the general public is hereby informed that Smt. Ratna Mohla w/o Late Shri Pratap Kishan Jetley (Membership No. 668) of The Jagriti Nagar Co-operative House Building Society Ltd. is being forwarded by Managing committee of the society for draw of lots in her name through RCS/DDA as per the provisions of DCS Act 2003 & Rules 2007 framed thereunder & guidelines thereof. Any person/member having any objection, may file before the President/Secretary of The Jagriti Nagar Co-operative House Building Society Ltd. (Regn. No. 2183) at Regd. Office Jagriti Enclave, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092 or before the office of the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Govt of NCT of Delhi, Old Court's Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 within 3 days of publication of this notice and no objections shall be entertained, thereafter in any manner whatsoever and the society will proceed further accordingly.

hs ended 31 Dec

For & on behalf of The Jagriti Nagar Co-operative House Building Society Ltd. President/Secretary

Yaari Digital Integrated Services Limited (CIN: L51101HR2007PLC077999)

ncial Results for the guarter and nine i

(Rs.						
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Dec-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 31-Dec-23	Year to date 31-Dec-24	Year to date 31-Dec-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income from Operations	-	-	2.57	0.50	2.87	3.15
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of						
Profit / (Loss) of Associate, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(5.54)	(5.59)	(3.67)	(16.41)	(14.91)	(21.61)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Minority Interest and Share of						
Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items))	(5.54)	(5.59)	(3.67)	(16.41)	(14.91)	(21.61)
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after Tax, Minority Interest and Share of						
Profit / (Loss) of Associate (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(5.54)	(5.60)	(3.67)	(16.42)	(14.91)	(21.61)
Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss)						
for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	27.95	(3.75)	(6.13)	28.54	(4.97)	(12.31)
Equity Share Capital	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74	19.74
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)						
as shown in the audited Balance Sheet						(253.50)
Earnings per Share (EPS) before extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.55)	(0.56)	(0.37)	(1.63)	(1.48)	(2.15)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.55)	(0.56)	(0.37)	(1.63)	(1.48)	(2.15)
Earnings per Share (EPS) after extraordinary items						
- Basic (Amount in Rs.)	(0.55)	(0.56)	(0.37)	(1.63)	(1.48)	(2.15)
- Diluted (Amount in Rs.)	(0.55)	(0.56)	(0.37)	(1.63)	(1.48)	(2.15)

1) The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 10 January 2025

Key Standalone Financial Information:						
Particulars	Quarter ended 31-Dec-24	Quarter ended 30-Sep-24	Quarter ended 31-Dec-23	Year to date 31-Dec-24	Year to date 31-Dec-23	Year ended 31-Mar-24
	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
Total Income	0.09	0.09	2.87	0.77	3.20	3.57
Profit/(Loss) before Tax	(10.69)	(10.69)	(8.05)	(32.60)	(29.01)	(43.37)
Net Profit/(Loss) after Tax	(10.69)	(10.69)	(8.05)	(32.60)	(29.01)	(43.37)

3) The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly/ Nine months Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Nine months Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://vaari.com/api/static/Investors/1736510327305Quarterly-Results Dec2024.pdf) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com)

Registered Office: 5th Floor, Plot No. 108, IT Park, Udyog Vihar, Phase-1 Gurugram, Haryana 122016	For and on behalf of the Board of Directors	The same can be accessed by scanning the QR code provided below	
Place : Gurugram	Kubeir Khera		-62°-502-
Date : 10 January 2025	Executive Director & CEO		ELB GACS

* Equinox India

Equinox India Developments Limited (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)

t of Unaudited Consolidated Financial Results for the guarter and nine

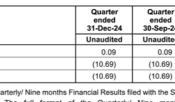
							(₹ in million
SI. No.		3 months ended	Preceding 3 months ended	Corresponding 3 months ended	Year to date figures for current period ended	Year to date figures for previous period ended	Previous year ended
		31 Dec.2024	30 Sept. 2024	31 Dec.2023	31 Dec.2024	31 Dec.2023	31 March 2024
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)
4	Total income from operations	3 096 1	2 874 1	1 118 5	10 004 1	4 292 1	4 687 5

the US, its single biggest donor, could reduce or stop providing aid. Without Western support, its fight against Russia's invabetween Russia and Ukraine **NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL** throu Divi: PALIKA KENDRA: NEW DELHI on r Univ For **EMPLOYMENT NOTICE**

Application are invited from retired Vice Principal/Principal/ Dy. Director (Academic/Educational) and Deputy Education Officer from Central Govt./State Govt./Municipal Bodies/NDMC/ Kendriya Vidyalaya for overall coordination of the academic activities of NDMC and Navyug Schools of Education Department in NDMC for the academic session 2025-2026. For detail of educational qualification, age limit, terms & conditions and other information, log on to NDMC website www.ndmc.gov.in

Applications complete in all respect in the prescribed format available on the NDMC website may be submitted to the Deputy Director (Education), Room No. 1009, 10th Floor, Palika Kendra, Sansad Marg, New Delhi in person or through e-mail jd.education@ndmc.gov.in latest by 20.01.2025

Applications received after closing date i.e. 20.01.2025 will not be considered.



FOR TENDER NO. N_11_HQ-IDS_2024-25 DATED: 09-01-2025

Tender Notice No. N 11 HQ 2024 -25. Name of work: Provision of Elephant Intrusion Detection Syster for detection of elephant movemen with tracking and Level crossing alerts to increase Safety and capacity enhancement over N.F. Railway in Rangiya Division. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 24-01-2025. For details of the corrigendur please visit www.ireps.gov.in General Manager (S&T), Maligao

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Manisha Rana is the owner as well as Proprietor of M/s Chetak Spices Industries is in process to avail the working capital from HDFC Bank against her DDA Built-up Flat Bearing No. 195, on Third Floor, area measuring 42.10 sq. mtrs, LIG Category, in Pocket-D Sector B-2, situated in the layout plan of Narela Residential Scheme, Narela, Delhi - 110040 purchased from Vijay Kumar, vide Sale deed dated 14/12/2018 (doc. No. 6325) whereas Vijay kumar acquired the said property by virtue Relinquishment Deed dated 11/12/2018 Doc no. 6227 All person/s having any claim against or in respect of

Il person/s having any claim against or in respect o le said Property, or any part thereof, by way o The said Property of any part meteor, by way or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 07 days from the date bereaf failing which the claim or claims; if any date hereof, failing which the claim or cla of such person or persons will be considered to have en waived and/or abando

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec-4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351

CONSTRUCTION OF SPURS FOR RIVER TRAINING AND OTHER PROTECTION WORK

E-Tender Notice No. SCL/ ENGG/08 of 2025 Dated: 08-01 2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Brief Description of Item: Construction of Spurs for River Training and other protection work in river Dhaleswari at Br. No. 133 between Jamira-Bhairabi section under ADEN/ Badarpur Ghat, Tender Value: ₹6,28,41,472.69/-, Earnest Money: ₹4,64,200/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs on 30-01-2025 & opening at 15.00 hrs. of 31-01-2025. The complete information of the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs on 30-01-2025 in the website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W) Lumding at Silchar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

	Extract of Unaudit	L2006PLC150229) ted Financial Results							
for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024 (₹ in Million									
SI. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 31 December 2024	Corresponding quarter ended 31 December 2023	Previous year ended 31 March 2024					
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)					
1	Total Income from Operations	49.4	34.7	210.5					
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the period								
	(before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(22.6)	(55.8)	(1,286.5)					
3	Net (Loss) / Profit for the period before Tax								
	(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(22.6)	(55.8)	(1,286.5)					
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the period after Tax,								
	(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(24.2)	(56.1)	(1,285.9)					
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising (Loss) / Profit for the period (after tax)								
_	and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(24.2)	(56.1)	(1,287.9)					
5	Paid up Equity Share Capital	100.0	100.0	100.0					
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	(6,858.1)	(5,649.7)	(6,755.8)					
3	Securities Premium Account			-					
9	Net Worth	(6,758.1)	(5,549.7)	(6,655.8)					
0	Paid up Debt Capital / Outstanding Debt	10,085.2	9,653.7	9,906.6					
1	Outstanding redemption preference share	()	-	-					
2	Debt Equity Ratio	(1.49)	(1.74)	(1.49)					
3	Earnings per Share (EPS) (Face value Per Share ₹10 each) - Basic (Amount in ₹) - Diluted (Amount in ₹)	(2.42) (2.42)	(5.61) (5.61)	(128.59) (128.59)					
4	Capital Redemption Reserve	-	-	-					
5	Debenture Redemption Reserve	3.	1.47	-					
6	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	141	14	-					
7	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	171		-					
8	Current ratio (In times)	0.43	0.49	0.45					
9	Total debts to total assets	1.96	1.76	1.81					
0	Long term debt to working capital (In times)	(#)	(10)	-					
1	Bad debt to account receivable ratio (In %)	243	-	-					
2	Current liability ratio (In times)	1.00	1.00	1.00					
3	Debtor turnover ratio (In times)	0.31	1.24	1.91					
4	Inventory turnover ratio (In times)	0.01	0.01	0.26					
5	Operating margin (In %)	(8.07)	(24.39)	(491.51)					
6	Net profit margin (In %)	(48.90)	(161.75)	(610.75)					

1 The above results have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors ('the Board') at its meeting held on 10 January 2025.

2 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 52(8), read with 52(4) of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly/ Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://equinoxindia.com/sylvanus/) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).

For and on behalf of the Board of Directors Registered Office: Office No. 202, 2nd Floor, A-18, Rama House, Middle Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi- 110 001



Place : Mumbai

2 Net Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (before Tax, Minority (3,937.2) Interest and Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 268.5 337.9 (283.3)382.4 (926.8)3 Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period before Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 268.5 337.9 (283.3)382.4 (7,217.5) (10,227.9) 4 Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax and Minority Interest (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items) 223.9 242.7 (385.0)184.2 (7, 360.7)(10, 383.5)5 Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the year/period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)] 223.0 242.6 75.1 374.2 (6,035.6) (9,072.0) 6 Earnings per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) (13.61) Basic (Amount in ₹) 0.35 0.38 (0.71)0.29 (19.20)Diluted (Amount in ₹) 0.34 0.35 (0.71)0.25 (13.61)(19.20)7 Paid up Equity Share Capital 1,271.7 1,271.7 1,082.2 1,271.7 1,082.2 1,082.2 8 Other equity 26,571.8

Notes to the consolidated financial results

1. The above consolidated results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 10 January 2025. These financial results have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company

Equinox India Developments Limited (formerly Indiabulls Real Estate Limited)

Statement of Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2024

							(₹in million	
SI. No.	Particulars ended 3 mon ende 31 Dec.2024 30 Sept.	ended 3 month	-C - 11 - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C	Preceding 3 months ended	Corresponding 3 months ended	Year to date figures for current period ended	Year to date figures for previous period ended	Previous yea ended
		31 Dec.2024	30 Sept. 2024	31 Dec.2023	31 Dec.2024	31 Dec.2023	31 March 202	
		(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Unaudited)	(Audited)		
1	Total Income from Operations	51.4	74.7	83.8	212.8	278.5	802.1	
2	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(145.5)	(117.6)	(2.7)	(383.5)	(65.1)	31.1	
3	Net (Loss) /Profit for the year/period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(145.5)	(117.6)	(2.7)	(383.5)	(65.1)	(35,798.3)	
4	Net (Loss) / Profit for the year/period after Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	(152.6)	(110.4)	(3.1)	(384.0)	(66.0)	(35,802.3)	
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the year/period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(152.6)	(110.4)	457.0	(193.0)	1,259.3	(34,482.5)	
6	Earnings per Share (of ₹ 2/- each) -Basic (Amount in ₹) -Diluted (Amount in ₹)	(0.24)	(0.17)	(0.01)	(0.62) (0.62)	(0.12)	(66.17) (66.17)	
7	Paid-up equity share capital (face value of ₹ 2 per equity share)	1,271.7	1,271.7	1,082.2	1,271.7	1,082.2	1,082.2	
8	Other equity						31,839.9	

Notes to the standalone financial results::

Place : Mumbai

Date : 10 January 2025

1. The above results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and subsequently approved at the meeting of the Board of Directors held on 10 January 2025 These financial results have been subjected to limited review by the statutory auditors of the Company

2. The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly / Annual Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly / Annual Financial Results are available on the Company's website (https://equinoxindia.com) and on the website of BSE (https://www.bseindia.com) and NSE (https://www.nseindia.com).

Registered Office: Office No 01-1001, WeWork, Blue One Square, Udyog Vihar Phase 4 Rd, Gurugram, Haryana 122016 (CIN): L45101HR2006PLC095409

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For and on behalf of the Board of Directors

Sachin Shah **Executive Director**

Date : 10 January 2025

Rikesh Kirtikumar Lakhani Whole-time Director



money 10

India's economy projected to grow 6.6 per cent in 2025: UN

PTI UNITED NATIONS

The Indian economy is projected to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2025, primarily supported by robust private consumption and investment, according to a United Nations report. The report titled the UN World

Economic Situation and Prospects 2025 was released here on Wednesday. It also said that the near-term outlook for

South Asia is expected to remain robust, with growth projected at 5.7 per cent in 2025 and 6.0 per cent in 2026, "driven by strong performance in India as well as economic recovery in a few other economies", including Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Indian economy grew by 6.8 per cent in 2024 and is forecast to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2025. The Indian economy is projected to return to the 6.8

per cent growth in 2026. "The economy of India, the largest in the (South Asia) region, is forecast to expand by 6.6 per cent in 2025, primarily private supported by robust investment. and consumption Additionally, capital expenditure on infrastructure development is expected to have strong multiplier effects on growth in the coming years," the report said.

It added that strong export growth in services and certain goods categories,

particularly pharmaceuticals and electronics, will bolster economic activity for India. On the supply side, expansion in the manufacturing and services sectors will keep driving the economy throughout the forecast period. Meanwhile, favourable monsoon rains in 2024 have improved the summer-sowing areas for all major crops, boosting agricultural output expectations for 2025.

Investment growth has remained particularly strong in East Asia and South Asia, partly driven by domestic and foreign investments in new supply chains, particularly in India, Indonesia, and Vietnam, the report said.

In India, the public sector continues to play a pivotal role in funding large-scale infrastructure projects, physical and and social digital connectivity, infrastructure, including improvements in sanitation and water supply. Strong investment growth is expected to

continue through 2025. Consumer price inflation in India is forecast to decelerate from an estimated 4.8 per cent in 2024 to 4.3 per cent in 2025, staying within the 2-6 per cent medium-term target range set by the central bank. While decreasing energy prices have contributed to the ongoing decline, adverse weather conditions have kept prices of vegetables, cereals, and other staples elevated in 2024, resulting



in spikes in the country's headline inflation in June and September.

It said that several developing economies, including China, India, and Mexico, have maintained robust investment growth, while African nations have faced limited public investment due to high debt servicing burdens, and Western Asia has experienced low investment growth amid subdued oil revenues.

Global economic growth is forecast at 2.8

per cent in 2025 and 2.9 per cent in 2026, largely unchanged from the rate of 2.8 per cent recorded in 2023 and estimated for 2024.

The positive but moderately slower growth projected for the two largest economies- China and the United States of America-will likely be complemented by mild recovery in the European Union, Japan, and the United Kingdom and strong performance in several large developing economies,

notably India and Indonesia, it said. China is facing the prospect of gradual economic moderation, with growth estimated at 4.9 per cent in 2024 and projected at 4.8 per cent in 2025. Public sector investments and strong export performance are partly offset by subdued consumption growth and lingering weakness in the property sector.

The Chinese authorities have stepped up policy support to lift property markets, government debt address local challenges, and boost domestic demand; the impacts of relevant initiatives are expected to be manifested over time, it said.

The shrinking population and rising trade and technology tensions, if unaddressed, could threaten the country's medium-term growth prospects, it said.

Among developing countries, robust momentum in India and modest growth acceleration in Africa, Western Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean will offset a slight moderation of growth in China.

The report noted that weaker external demand, persistent debt challenges, and social unrest and political turmoil in some economies may undermine the outlook for the South Asian region.

"However, risks to the outlook are tilted to the downside owing to the possible escalation of geopolitical tensions,

Fund raising from capital markets to jump 21

per cent to ₹14.27 lakh Crore in FY25: Buch

deceleration in external demand ongoing debt challenges, and social unrest. In addition, as the region is highly vulnerable to the impact of climate hazards, extreme weather events pose a significant risk," it said.

It said that the labour market situation in developing countries remains challenging, with significant variations in the outlook driven by differing economic conditions and policy responses. Some economies have exhibited resilience, it said adding that employment indicators in India have remained robust.

In India, employment indicators have remained strong throughout 2024, with labour force participation near record highs, the report said, citing the Reserve Bank of India data.

Urban unemployment stood at 6.6 per cent during this period-virtually unchanged from the rate of 6.7 per cent recorded in 2023. Although there has been progress in female labour market participation in the country, substantial

gender gaps remain. Climate-related shocks have battered South Asia in 2024. During the first half of the year, several of the region's countries-including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka-experienced heatwaves, droughts, and irregular rainfall patterns, which led to reduced crop yields and elevated food prices.

India's industrial production growth hits six-month high of 5.2 per cent in November: Government data

PTI NEW DELHI

 $I_{(\text{IIP})}^{\text{ndia's industrial production}}$ growth accelerated to a six-month high of 5.2 per cent year-on-year in November 2024, riding on the increased festive demand and

pick up in manufacturing sector, according to the official data released on Friday. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) recorded a growth of 2.5 per cent in November 2023, according to a statement by the Ministry of

Statistics & Programme Implementation. The previous high growth rate at 6.3 per cent was showed

recorded in May 2024. It grew by 4.9 per cent in June and 5 per cent in July 2024. The IIP growth was flat in

August before picking up at 3.1 per cent in September and 3.7 per cent in October 2024.



cent in November from 1.3 The growth in the factory per cent a year ago. output, measured in terms of the IIP, in April-November Power generation growth 2024 grew by 4.1 per cent slowed to 4.4 per cent from against 6.5 per cent in the 5.8 per cent a year ago. use-based

year-ago period, the data per As classification, the capital As per the data, the mining goods segment growth output growth decelerated to accelerated to 9 per cent in 1.9 per cent in November November 2024 against a contraction of 1.1 per cent in from 7 per cent expansion in the year-ago month. the year-ago period. The manufacturing sector's

Showing festive demand, consumer durable (or white) growth accelerated to 5.8 per

goods production grew by 13.1 per cent during the reporting month against a contraction of 4.8 per cent in November 2023.

In November 2024, consumer non-durables output growth remained almost flat at 0.6 per cent compared to a contraction of 3.4 per cent in November 2023.

According to the data, infrastructure/construction goods reported a growth of 10 per cent in November 2024, up from a 1.5 per cent expansion in the year-ago period.

The data also showed that the output of primary goods logged a 2.7 per cent growth in November 2024 against 8.4 per cent a year earlier.

The expansion in the intermediate goods segment was 5 per cent in the month under review, higher than 3.4 per cent a year ago.

PTI MUMBAI

Overall fundraising from capital markets, including through equity and debt instruments, is estimated to jump by nearly 21 per cent to Rs 14.27 lakh crore in FY25 from the Rs 11.8 lakh crore in FY24, Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch said on Friday.

Buch said in the past nine months of the current fiscal, entities have mobilised Rs 3.3 lakh crore in equity and Rs 7.3 lakh crore from the debt markets, with the overall mop-up reaching Rs 10.7 lakh crore.

"If we project for the next quarter (Q4), we will probably end somewhere like over Rs 14 lakh crore raised for the year in terms of capital, both equity and debt," Buch said addressing a NISM-organised conference here.

A presentation made by Buch pegged the FY25 estimate at Rs 14.27 lakh crore. Buch said money raised by real estate

investments trusts, infrastructure investment trusts and municipal bonds has a very small contribution to the



overall capital raising at around Rs 10,000 crore in the first nine months of FY25, but added that she sees the activity growing over the next decade to even exceed the money raised from equity and debt markets.

The capital markets regulator is working towards expediting the time taken for clearing issuances, Buch said, committing to reduce the time taken for clearing small and medium enterprises (SME) board proposals.

She said Sebi is taking up to 3 months for such SME issuances, while the banks are giving in-principle approvals in 15 minutes, and added that it will like to use more of tech tools to advance the issuances.

Buch said a lot of attention is paid to IPOs and Sebi is "flooded" with new applications on the same, but added that other avenues including preferential issuances, institutional placements and rights issues are also important and may

with a system for expediting rights issuances, and hoped that the industry adopts the same.

clearing mutual funds' new offers much faster, the Sebi chairperson said systematic investment plans (SIP) with a minimum amount of Rs 250 will be launched shortly

She appreciated the resource mobilisation done by domestic institutional investors over the last few years, and added that this money has helped in times of volatilities which may see a pull-out by foreign portfolio investors.

Snag in system: Government extends Sensex, Nifty extend losses for third consecutive session monthly GST return, payment deadline PTI MUMBAI

PTI NEW DELHI

The government on Friday

that it has sent an "incident report" to the Central Board of

$E_{\text{Sensex and Nifty nursed}}^{\text{quity benchmark indices}}$



jumped nearly 6 per cent after valuations. the IT services company "Consolidation may persist in reported an 11.95 per cent the near term, yet investors jump in the December are closely watching the US non-farm payroll

go unnoticed. She added that the regulator has come up

Pointing out that the regulator has been

L extended the deadline for filing monthly GST sales return form GSTR-1 and GST payment by 2 days after taxpayers reported technical glitches in the GSTN system.

As per a notification by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), the last date for filing GSTR-1 for December is January 13, while that for taxpayers opting for quarterly payment under the QRMP scheme for the October-December period will be January 15.

Normally, the last date for filing GSTR-1 for monthly return filers is January 11, while for quarterly taxpayers it



is January 13. The deadline for GST payment by filing GSTR-3B for December has been extended to January 22, from the existing date of January 20. For taxpayers who pay GST quarterly, the due date has been extended to January 24 and January 26, depending on the state-wise registration of

the business. Earlier in the day, GST Network said in a post on X

(CBIC) on the technical glitches in the system and requested an extension of the filing date of GST sales return or GSTR-1. 'GST portal is currently

experiencing technical issues and is under maintenance. We expect the portal to be operational by 12:00 noon. CBIC is being sent an incident report to consider extension in filing date," GST Tech, the official handle of GSTN, said in a post on X. The GST Network has been

facing technical glitches since Thursday as taxpayers were unable to generate summary of GSTR-1 and file the return.

consecutive session on Friday, in lockstep with a weak trend in global equities as concerns over economic growth and a slowdown in quarterly earnings sapped investors' risk appetite.

Surging crude oil prices and a strengthening dollar index also contributed to the weak trend in equities.

In a volatile trade, the 30share BSE benchmark Sensex declined 241.30 points or 0.31 per cent to settle at 77,378.91. During the day, the benchmark gyrated 820.15 points between the day's high of 77,919.70 and a low of 77,099.55.

The NSE Nifty dropped 95 points or 0.40 per cent to 23,431.50

From the 30-share blue-chip pack, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, UltraTech Cement, Sun

Pharma, Axis Bank, State Bank of India, Tata Steel, Power Grid, Adani Ports and Kotak Mahindra Bank were among the major laggards. Tata Consultancy Services

net profit to Rs 12 380 crore.

Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Infosys and Bajaj Finserv were the other big gainers. Institutional Foreign Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 7,170.87 crore on Thursday, according

to exchange data. "Domestic market sentiment remained subdued due to rising crude oil prices, driven by supply concerns, and a strengthening dollar index. Despite the IT sector's resilience following positive early Q3 results, broader indices bled due to uncertainties surrounding Trump policies and high

INBRIEF

for further guidance," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled lower.

European markets were trading lower. US markets were closed on Thursday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude jumped 2.02 per cent to USD 78.47 a barrel.

In the previous session, the 30-share BSE benchmark dropped 528.28 points or 0.68 per cent to sink below the 78,000 level at 77,620.21. The Nifty slumped 162.45 points or 0.69 per cent to 23,526.50.

Redevelopment of **Exclusive** La-Mandre Villa Community PNS 📕 NEW DELHI

 $\mathbf{Y}_{ ext{latest}}^{ ext{ugen Infra unveils its}}$ venture-the redevelopment of La-Mandre, an elite villa community near Mandrem Beach, North Goa Spanning 8000 square meters, the project features

13 exquisitely designed villas, offering luxurious living amidst serene landscapes. Located just minutes from Goa's iconic beaches, these RERA-approved villas boast spacious plots ranging from 215 to 590 square meters, with nearly 50 per cent open space. Residents will enjoy access to the world-class Golf Course at Yugen Golf City near Mopa Airport. Amit Mamgain, Director of

Yugen Infra, remarked, "La-Mandre blends opulence with nature, creating a lifestyle of privacy and connectivity in Goa's lush landscapes."

SpiceJet to fly 10 grounded Gold rises ₹250 to ₹80,550 per 10 gm; silver trades flat

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Gold prices rose Rs 250 to Rs 80,550 per 10 grams in the national capital on Friday as rupee hit record low amid consistent buying from retailers and stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. The precious metal ended the

previous session at Rs 80,300 per 10 grams.

However, silver traded flat at Rs 93,000 per kg on Friday. The price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity continuing to shine bright for the fourth straight session by appreciating Rs 250 to Rs 80,150 per 10 grams. It had finished at Rs 79,900 per 10 grams on Thursday. Traders said the rise in gold

prices at local market is also propelled by robust overseas demand.

Meanwhile, the rupee declined 14 paise and touched the crucial 86-mark for the first time against the US dollar on Friday as it failed to resist pressure from a stronger



American currency and huge

outflow of foreign funds. On a weekly basis, gold prices surged Rs 1,550, or 2 per cent, to Rs 80,550 per 10 grams, while silver shot up 2.5 per cent to Rs 93,000 per kg. On the MCX, gold contracts for February delivery climbed Rs 388, or 0.5 per cent, to Rs 78,492 per 10 grams in the

futures trade on Friday. Silver contracts for March delivery bounced Rs 506, or 0.55 per cent, to Rs 92,217 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).

Comex gold futures increased USD 16.10 per ounce, or 0.6 per cent, to USD 2,706.90 per ounce in the overseas market. "Gold extended rally on

Friday on the back of safe-haven demand due to uncertainty around future US monetary policy under President-elect Donald Saumil Gandhi, Trump," Analyst Senior of HDFC Commodities at Securities, said. According to Augmont's Head

of Research Renisha Chainani, gold continued its winning streak due to safe-haven demand sparked by worries about Donald Trump's proposed policies, while the UK faced a Budget crisis. The Federal Ŏpen Market

(FOMC) Committee's members hinted that more (rate) easing would be appropriate if the data came in as anticipated.

"Market participants will be looking for the upcoming US non-farm payrolls and UoM Consumer Sentiment data for additional economic cues,' Chainani said.

Silver comex futures in the Asian market hours shot up 0.6 per cent to USD 31.20 per ounce.

aircraft by mid-April PTI MUMBAI

Domestic carrier SpiceJet Friday announced plans to bring back into operations 10 of its grounded aircraft, including four Boeing B737 Max, by mid-April. The airline said it has added 10 planes to its fleet since

October 2024 -- three grounded aircraft that were brought back into service and seven inducted on lease.

for the restoration of its grounded MAX fleet. ŠpiceJet has 28 aircraft, of the

total 62 in the fleet, in operations, comprising 20 B737, six De Havilland Canada DHC-8 Dash 8 and two Airbus A320, as on January 10 as per flight tracking website planespotter.Com. The remaining 34 aircraft -- 16 B737s and 18 De Havilland

Canada DHC-8 Dash 8 -- are on the ground due to various reasons, as per the website. The return of 10 grounded MAX aircraft, SpiceJet said.



three aircraft back into operations will help the airline significantly increase its current fleet of 28 aircraft, even as some of these planes are redelivered to lessors during the same period, SpiceJet said.

Over the past three months, SpiceJet said its network expansion strategy has resulted in the addition of more than 60 new flights, further enhancing connectivity and service options for its passengers. This pact with StandardAero Inc followed successful partnerships with CFM International, Inc, the OEM for LEAP-1B engines, and a key lessor, paving the way for the un-grounding and return

to service of three Boeing 737

RAJASTHAN'S GROWTH ENGINE: HINDUSTAN ZINC DRIVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT India's largest and only integrated zinc, lead and silver producer, Hindustan Zinc (NSE: HINDZINC) completes 59 years of operations. Incorporated in 1966 as a public sector undertaking, Hindustan Zinc

Limited has grown leaps and bounds since then providing zinc sufficiency to the country and the world at large. As a fully integrated producer, Hindustan Zinc operates underground zinclead mines, smelters, and captive power plants in Rajasthan

POFESSOR VANDANA BHALLA OF GNDU HONOURED BY INDIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

AMRITSAR: Prof. Vandana Bhalla from the Department of Chemistry of the Guru Nanak Dev University, has been honoured with the prestigious fellowship of the Indian Academy of Sciences (IAS), Bangalore. This recognition places her among the



leading scientists in the country and marks a historic achievement for GNDU, as she becomes only the third individual from the university to receive this distinction in the past 55 years.

PROF KARAMJEET SINGH CELEBRATES LOHRI WITH GURU NANAK DEV UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

AMRITSAR: The joyous festival of Lohri was celebrated with great enthusiasm and fervor at Guru Nanak Dev University campus in front Administration Block. Vice Chancellor Prof. Karamjeet Singh joined the non-teaching employees of the university to mark this auspicious occasion.



The move comes close on the heels of SpiceJet signing a pact with US-based engine MRO StandardAero Inc last month www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

the pioneer

ROOTS AND REFLECTIONS

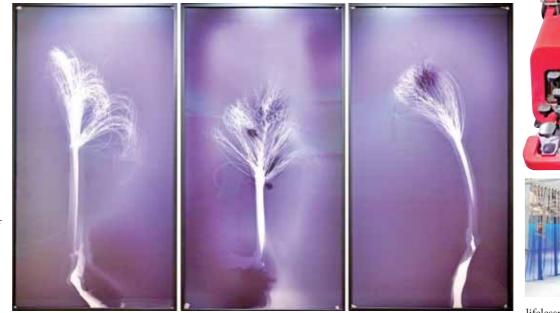
At KNMA's *The Elemental You*, artists explored Earth's essence through works reflecting nature's intricate narratives and connections, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

"To see a world in a grain of sand, and a heaven in a wildflower..."

hese words by *William Blake* come alive as you enter *The Elemental You*, an exhibition at the *Kiran Nadar Museum of Art*. Curated by *Akansha Rastogi*, it brings together the works of *Simryn Gill*, *Neha Choksi* and *Hajra Waheed*, each exploring the element of "Earth" with a vision that is both timeless and urgent. The experience engages your senses on multiple levels. *Neha Choksi's Porous Earth* series draws attention to limestone cast in kiln-glass, revealing stories of geological change and human fragility. Her work highlights the delicate interplay between the permanence of Earth's materials and the fleeting nature of human life.

Simryn Gill shifts focus to *Port Dickson*, an industrial port town in Malaysia. Her long-term photographic documentation captures moments of transformation and decay, inviting viewers to reflect

on what persists and what fades with time. There is a quiet, poignant beauty in her images that speaks of history and memory. Hajra Waheed's



interpretation of the night sky leads you to consider boundaries, both physical and emotional. Her drawings evoke the vastness of Kashmir's starlit skies, working together with personal and collective narratives. It's as though the heavens hold untold stories, offering a sense of both wonder and loss.

The exhibition is unhurried, encouraging visitors to take their time with each piece. The pathways, "To Think Like a Mountain," "Survival as Revival," and "Clearing", are designed to deepen understanding of the intricate relationship between humans and the natural world.

collaborative project, *The Working Space*, extends the exploration further. Artists like *Vijai M a i a* Patchineelam and Ranjana Dave connect themes of grounding and immersion, using tools, landscapes, and micro-stories to reveal the subtle interactions between people and their environments. The Artists' Roundtable becomes a dynamic space where materials and ideas evolve, creating a dialogue that is both intimate and thought-provoking.

The exhibition does not shy away from hard truths. It juxtaposes beauty with unsettling realities, showing the scars left by mines alongside the resilience of

resilience of mangroves or

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lifelessness of dead snakes beside the enduring strength of mountains. This contrast challenges visitors to confront the environmental challenges of today while appreciating the artistry that brings these narratives to life.

ART & CULTURE

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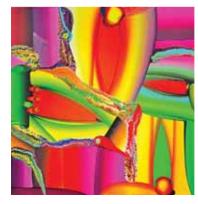
The simplicity of the presentation allows the works to speak for themselves. The museum provides a space for these artists to explore their deep engagement with the natural world, leaving visitors with a sense of introspection and a renewed connection to the Earth. *The Elemental You* offers a thoughtful exploration of how we relate to our environment. It reminds us of the fragility of our planet and the enduring beauty found in its details. As you leave the exhibition, the reflections it inspires remain, offering a quiet yet powerful reminder of our place within the larger story of the Earth.

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR



rt has a unique ability to reach deep within us, stirring Lemotions, provoking thought and creating a connection with the world around us. In the Echoes of Elegance exhibition, this dynamic is brought to life through a collection of works that challenge, engage and captivate. Curated by Shekhar Jhamb, the exhibition brings together a range of India's leading artists, each offering their own unique voice through various mediums. It is a show that not only highlights the diversity of the Indian art scene but also delves into the deeper connections between art, culture and identity.

One of the standout pieces in the exhibition is *Trust Feat*, an acrylic on canvas. The piece draws the viewer in with its vibrant colours and intricate patterns, evoking a sense of complexity





AYEKS UF MEANING

Echoes of Elegance presents a unique exploration of India's vibrant art scene through its diverse creators, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

that mirrors human relationships. It's a work that encourages reflection, inviting the viewer to interpret its layers of meaning. Similarly, *Keep ones end up*, another acrylic on canvas, uses bold strokes and vivid hues to explore themes of balance and stability in an ever-changing world. The fluidity of the painting offers a sense of movement, making it feel as if the artwork is alive. *Parody II*, a striking fiberglass piece, challenges the viewer's perception with its playful yet thought-provoking

a commentary on modern life. The use of fiberglass in this piece gives it a dynamic quality, blurring the line between reality and illusion. It's a work that not only entertains but also e encourages a deeper contemplation of society and its contradictions.

Alongside these, the exhibition showcases a range of works by renowned artists such as Bose Krishnamachari, Dileep Sharma, Farhad Hussain, George Martin, Jyothiraj Moyampilly and Mukesh

Sharma. Each of their pieces brings forth unique perspectives on culture, identity and contemporary issues. Whether it's through abstract expressionism, surreal imagery or figurative forms, the diversity of styles on display ensures that there is something for everyone to connect with.

The exhibition invites viewers to move beyond admiring art from a distance, encouraging them to understand the creative process and engage with the ideas behind each piece.

Echoes of Elegance is a journey into the heart of Indian contemporary art. It's an opportunity to witness the talent, vision and passion of some of the country's finest artists, offering a deeper understanding of the dynamic and ever-evolving art scene.

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR



Art as a Language of Love



By TEAM VIVA

The 10th edition of Vividh Mat: Perspectives, presented by Devyani Jaipuria in collaboration with ASAVARI, focused on the theme Shringara: Rang Anurang. This edition explored Shringara, a concept that embodies love, beauty and the depth of the human experience.

The event began with an engaging discussion led by Padmashri Shovana Narayan, SNA awardee and Ambassador Dr Suresh Goel, former DG of ICCR. The panel also included Jatin Das, the renowned artist and sculptor, celebrated poet Sudeep Sen and actor-director Sohaila Kapur. Together, they shared their insights into Shringara, highlighting it as more than just an aesthetic concept, but an essential part of life.

Jatin Das explained that Shringara is not only about visual beauty but is also the very pulse of life. He described it as a delicate balance between form and emotion, where art touches the soul. Sudeep Sen further elaborated by describing Shringara as "the poetry of the senses," a celebration that speaks directly to the heart, connecting art, love and life. He emphasised how Shringara invites us to reflect on the deepest layers of the human soul.

Sohaila Kapur added to the discussion by describing *Shringara* as a means of capturing the essence of beauty through performance. She noted that it is the emotional core of art, brought to life through movement, offering an experience that connects the audience directly to the emotions conveyed. The conversation highlighted how *Shringara* is not only a visual or emotional experience but also a spiritual one, bridging cultural and philosophical perspectives.

Shovana Narayan, deeply connected to classical Indian dance, shared her personal view of *Shringara*, describing it as a language that speaks directly to the heart. For her, the evening was a celebration of beauty; it was the culmination of





years of dedication, creating a space where everyone could to the rhythm of life.

The event concluded with a *Baithaki Bhaav* dance performance by *Madhura Phatak*. The classical dance embodied *Shringara* beautifully, giving the audience an immersive experience.

Vividh Mat: Perspectives combined intellectual discussion and artistic expression, highlighting how art connects us to humanity, bridging cultures and emotions.

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR

sports 12



India pacer Varun Aaron retires from 'representative cricket'

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

ndia pacer Varun Aaron, who was once regarded as the L country's fastest bowler before injuries hampered his promising career, announced retirement from "representative cricket" on Friday after his home state Jharkhand's campaign ended in the ongoing Vijay Hazare Trophy. The 35-year-old Aaron made the announcement on social media after Jharkhand failed to go beyond the preliminary stage of the marquee domestic one-day event. After a dazzling start, Aaron struggled with erratic form, which was made worse by injury breakdowns, and he had not represented India since 2015. "For the past 20 years, I have lived, breathed, and thrived on the rush of bowling fast. Today, with immense gratitude, I officially announce my retirement from representative cricket," Aaron posted on his

Instagram account At just 21, Aaron burst onto the scene during the 2010-11 Vijay Hazare Trophy, showcasing his raw pace and making a mark with a blistering 153kph delivery against Gujarat in the final.

His ability to consistently bowl at speeds exceeding 150kph quickly caught the attention of the Indian cricketing fraternity and he soon made his international debut in an ODI against England in Mumbai in 2011.

This was followed by a Test debut at the same venue against the West Indies, again in 2011.

However, the relentless demands of bowling at high speed took a significant toll on his body. He played nine ODIs and as many Tests, taking 29 wickets across the two formats for India.

Over the course of his career, he endured as many as eight back stress fractures and three foot fractures, which severely hampered his progress



Injuries had forced him to give up

red-ball cricket last year. 'Over the years, I've had to push both my physical and mental limits to recover from numerous career-threatening injuries, having to come back time and again, this was only possible thanks to the relentless dedication of the physios, trainers, and coaches at the National Cricket Academy. "I'd also like to thank the BCCI, JSCA (Jharkhand State Cricket Association), Red Bull, SG

Association) , Red Bull, SG Cricket, and MRF Tyres for their invaluable support during critical junctures in my career.

As I bid farewell to a pursuit that has consumed me completely, I now look forward to savouring the smaller joys in life while staying deeply connected to the game that has given me

everything. "Fast Bowling has been my first love, and though I step off the field, it will always be a part of

who I am," he added.

Among his memorable moments in the game, he had grabbed headlines by breaking Stuart Broad's nose with a bouncer during a Test match in 2014. Broad had tried to pull the delivery but the ball took the edge and sneaked inside the grill of his helmet to hit him on the nose.

Despite not making the Indian team since 2015, Aaron continued to bowl in domestic cricket. He picked 141 wickets at an average of 26.47 and an economy rate of 5.44 in 88 List A matches. He also snared 93 wickets at an economy rate of 8.53 in the 95 T20s he played.

Aaron also played nine seasons of the IPL between 2011 and 2022, turning out for with Delhi Daredevils, Kings XI Punjab, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, Royal Challengers Bangalore and Gujarat Titans. In his final season, he won the

title with Gujarat Titans in 2022.

ICC chairman Jay Shah to be

felicitated by BCCI at its SGM

People have opinion but I'm comfortable in my own skin: Steve Smith

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added.

hurts

While

skin.

environment) around the

team has been good for a long

time. I get on well with

everyone inside. People are

entitled to their opinion. They

can say what they want," he

'Missing 10,000 Test runs

claimed the Border-Gavaskar

Trophy after four attempts,

defeating India 1-3 in the five-

match series recently, Smith missed the 10,000 Test-run

He said while it was a "cool

win" in the series, missing a

personal landmark by just one

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PTI SYDNEY

ustralia skipper for the Sri ALankan Test series, Steve Smith is not getting unduly bothered by people's opinion over his role in the episode, 'sandpapergate' saying they are entitled to their views while he continues to be "comfortable" in his own world.

Smith, who was the Australia skipper when the balltampering scandal broke out in the 2018 Cape Town Test against South Africa, will lead a 16-member squad to the sub-continent for the two-Test series beginning January 29 after regular skipper Pat Cummins was rested

"It was a cool summer to be a Borderthe following part of... And particularly Tavaska The charismatic top-order batter, opener David Warner and Cameron Bancroft were found guilty of ball-tampering in 2018 and banned for varying periods. Smith also served a two-year leadership ban for his role in the scandal. He has since led Australia on four occasions in Tests -versus England in Adelaide (2021), against the West Indies in Perth (2022) and two away Tests versus India in 2023.While Cricket Australia deems the matter as closed, some sections still feel that Smith should not be allowed to lead the country's team. "I mean, everyone's entitled to their opinion," Smith told Sydney Morning Herald. "They can say whatever they like. I'm pretty comfortable in

Travis Head could open in Sri Lanka Tests, says chief selector George Bailey

PTI SYDNEY

Australian big-hitter Travis Head against Sri Lanka where "quick learner" Sam Konstas is also likely to get more opportunities to showcase his audacious skills, chairman of selectors George Bailey has said.

Head, who wreaked havoc with the bat during the recently-concluded Border-Gavaskar series against India in the middle order, has been tested in the opener's role in the sub-continent.

He had come in for an injured David Warner during the 2023 tour of India and scored 223 runs at 55.75 in five innings at the top of the order.

"Trav's an option (to open). We've got a number of options and there's been a few preliminary discussions around where that may land, and that may depend on the makeup of that first XI," Bailey told cricket.Com.Au.

"I think (head coach) Andrew (McDonald,) and (stand-in captain) Steve (Smith) will settle on that in due course, once we hit Sri Lanka," he added. Australia announced a 16-member squad on Thursday with several fresh faces added to the group that played India in the fifth and final Test at Sydney last

PTI AUCKLAND

Cael Monfils became the

his 35th ATP final

week. Australia won the marquee series

Smith is leading the squad as regular captain Pat Cummins is on leave for the birth of his couple's second child.

With 19-year-old Konstas turning heads with his refreshing style of batting during the Border-Gavaskar Tests, Bailey said the youngster's ability to read match situations quickly would help him excel in Sri Lanka, his maiden international tour.

"What we have seen is he's (Konstas) a quick learner. (He) absorbs a lot of information," Bailey said.

"So (we're) expecting him to get to get a lot out of it. I know from his spin play in Australia, and the opportunities he's (had) in different parts of the world, we think he's got a game that's well suited, and a technique that can stand up. "But that's one of the exciting things about this tour – we will learn a bit more about his game in different conditions to what he's just faced in Australia," he added

added.

Bailey feels that Nathan McSweeney, who is there in the Sri Lanka-bound squad, handled his exclusion from the last two BGT Tests quite well and he wil remain in the scheme of things despite the unimpressive show as an opener.

The debutant had a trial by fire against Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, failing to put up a decent score in the first three games. "We still view (McSweeney) as a great Test prospect, and a long-term Test prospect.

"I think at times when someone is left out of a team or squad, there's a view that they fall out of favour, or down the pecking order, but that wasn't the case with Nathan," said Bailey.

"I think it shows the character ... And the sort of person he is, the way he responded and spoke so well about (being dropped) publicly pretty soon after it happened."

PTI MUMBAI

Newly-elected International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman Jay Shah will be felicitated by the BCCI's state units on the sidelines of the Special General Meeting, scheduled

here on Sunday. Shah, a former BCCI secretary, became the youngest ICC chairman after he was elected unopposed in August last year and took over the prestigious post on December 1. He replaced Greg Barclay who decided not to seek a third term.

Shah was the BCCI secretary since October 2019 and chairman of the Asian Cricket Council since January 2021. Shah will, however, not be a part of the SGM as he is no longer an office-bearer of the BCCL.

The cricket administrator has been at the forefront of expanding the game's imprint globally and recently met top officials of the 2032 Brisbane

organising Olympics

committee to discuss the sport's inclusion in the Summer Games.

Cricket will make a return to the Olympics after 128 years when it is played in the 2028 Los Angeles Games. The sport is not yet confirmed for the 2032 edition in Brisbane. Australian newspaper, The Age, recently reported that Shah will meet meet Cricket Australia chair Mike Baird and his England counterpart Richard Thompson later this month to discuss the finer points of a two-tier Test system to facilitate more series between the big three

Real Madrid walks into Spanish Super Gael Monfils reaches Cup final with a 3-0 win over Mallorca

PTI JEDDAH

Vinícius Júnior during the game. rcelona awaits Madrid in Sunday's final. Madrid lost Aurélien Tchouaméni, a midfielder playing as a central defender, in the 54th after he took a hard knock to the head during a collision with a Mallorca player. Youth player Raúl Asencio replaced him. Madrid was competing as last season's Spanish league champion, while Mallorca was invited as the runner-up in the Copa del Rev. by Brahim Díaz into his net.

nations.



from Perth (defeat). Just as a collective, it was a really cool win. Our bowlers were unbelievable. Scotty Boland, the way he came in, was exceptional. He's unbelievable at the moment," said Smith. Smith was left stranded at Ivo Karlovic holds the ATP Tour record, having won through to final in Pune, India 9,999 runs in the fifth Test at Sydney after being dismissed in 2019 at the age of 39 years, 311 days. Monfils edges Stan by Prasidh Krishna in both innings.

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Wawrinka who was aged 38 years and 124 days when he "One run... It hurt a little bit at reached the final at Umag, the time. It would have been Croatia in 2023. nice to have ticked that off in front of all my friends and Karlovic also reached the final at Den Bosch in 2017 aged 38

family here at my home ground, but hopefully, I can years, 110 days while Roger Federer (Basel in 2019 aged 38 knock it off first thing in Galle (Sri Lanka, first Test). vears and 80 days) and Rafael Nadal (the 2024 Swedish Open "I probably let it wander (in at 38 years and 48 days) also

mv mind) too much throughout the game. It's a cool milestone to tick off," he added.



Auckland to reach his 35th ATP Tour final. When he beat Jan-Lennard Struff to reach the quarterfinals, he became the oldest player in the professional era to reach the last eight in Auckland.

He became the oldest-ever semifinalist in Auckland when he beat Facundo Diaz Acosta 6-3, 6-1 to reach his 73rd ATP Tour semifinal. Only Novak Djokovic has played more. Monfils will face Zizou Bergs

of Belgium in Saturday's final. "Everybody knows I'm a warrior on the court, I don't give up easy," Monfils said after his semifinal.

Bellingham again to lead Real Madrid into the Spanish Super Cup final with a 3-0 win over Mallorca in Saudi Arabia on Thursday.

The England midfielder, who led Madrid in scoring last season, started this campaign slowly but has netted seven goals in his last eight Spanish league games.

He notched another goal in 63rd minute of the Super Cup semifinal when he finally broke down a tough Mallorca that until his goal had imposed its defensive style on the star-studded Madrid.

Bellingham blasted in the third shot in a row by Madrid after Rodrygo initially hit the post and goalkeeper Dominik Greif blocked a follow-up by Kylian Mbappé. Bellingham collected the



third

rebound and slotted his shot from just outside the six-yard box under the on-rushing Greif and past three defenders who were trying to protect the goalmouth.

whistle before calm was Madrid tacked on two goals restored. It started when late in stoppage time. Mallorca's Martin Valjent Bellingham slapped the back of the neck of Mallorca scored an own goal when he defender Pablo Maffeo, who inadvertently turned a pass had had an intense duel with

Former Madrid striker Karim Benzema, who now plays in Rodrygo then took Madrid's the Saudi Arabian league, was The match ended with a in attendance.

short scuffle after the final The minor trophy has

become a major cash maker for the federation and competing clubs since the federation struck a deal in 2019 to hold it in the Middle Eastern kingdom.

Pratika, Tejal smash fifties as India beat Ireland by six wickets in 1st women's ODI

PTI 📕 RAJKOT

 $P_{\rm maturity}^{\rm ratika}$ Rawal showcased beyond her experience, while Tejal Hasabnis capped a memorable comeback, posting a fifty each, as India outplayed an inexperienced Ireland by six wickets to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match women's ODI series here on Fridav.

Rawal anchored the modest run chase of 239 after stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana's brisk 41, smashing 10 fours and one six for a career-best 89 (96 balls).

Hasabnis, who last played an ODI against New Zealand in October 2024, struck her first fifty after her comeback, remaining unbeaten on 53 off 46 balls with the help of nine boundaries.

Rawal and Hasabnis put together a match-winning

India winning the match with 93 balls to spare.

Carrying forward her dominant form from the West Indies series, Mandhana gave the team a fantastic start with a blistering 29ball 41, studded with six fours and a six. In the process, she became the second Indian and 15th overall to surpass 4,000 ODI runs.

Mandhana unsettled the Irish bowlers with her attacking strokeplay on both sides of the wicket. Her aggression was stalled

are in the top five.

Frenchman Monfils has been

breaking records steadily in

particularly evident against seamer Dempsey in the eighth over, when she stepped out to hammer a boundary, followed by a six and another four.

Her rookie opening partner Rawal, who debuted in the preceding West Indies series, provided 116-run excellent support.

partnership from 84 balls with The duo shared their third fiftyplus opening stand in four matches, keeping the scoreboard ticking with ease.

However, Ireland managed a breakthrough right at the end of powerplay when Mandhana mistimed a slog sweep to mid-on, falling nine runs short of her fifty. Harleen Deol (20) and Jemimah Rodrigues (9) looked in good touch initially, but clever bowling by left-arm spinner Aimee Maguire (3/57 from 8 overs) India's momentum

temporarily. The 18-year-old Maguire lured Jemimah into stepping out too far, resulting in a stumping when the batter was at least a foot outside her crease.

This phase saw India lose three Mandhana's explosive start



ensured the team stayed well on extras

The inexperience of Ireland came wickets for 46 runs, but to fore as they failed to seize the bowled successive no balls with

Laura Delany was the weakest link

in their bowling unit and she momentum, leaking 21 runs in two waist-high full tosses in the

24th over when Hasabnis cashed in on the opportunity to hit backto-back fours from the two freebies. Earlier, butter-fingered India let Ireland off the hook with their pathetic fielding as visiting skipper Gaby Lewis carved out a classy 92 to lift her team to a respectable 238 for 7.

Opting to bat, Ireland were in deep trouble at 56 for four in the 14th over, but Lewis and Leah Paul (59 off 73 balls) added 117 runs for the fifth wicket to steer their team to safety

Lewis scored her runs in 129 balls, lacing the knock with 15 boundaries.

Aided by at least three clear dropped catches and a few misfields, the duo of Lewis and Paul went about their job in a calculated manner and brought a

Ireland innings while putting together the team's first-ever century partnership against India. Medium pacer Titas Sadhu effected the first breakthrough for India when she induced an outside edge from Sarah Forbes (9) after the batter tried to play away from her body, and Deepti Sharma did the rest in the slip cordon.

Making their first visit to the country, Ireland were reduced to 34 for two thanks to a terrible mixup that led to the run out of Una Raymond-Hoey (5), who attempted an inexplicable single despite hitting the ball straight to Jemimah Rodrigues at cover.

Orla Prendergast (9) was next to go as she was stumped by Ghosh off the bowling of leg-spinner Priya Mishra (2/56), leaving the visitors in a spot of bother at 56 for semblance of stability to the three in the 14th over.

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