## Established 1865 the monet LUCKNOW, TUESDAY JANUARY 21, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹3

MONEY 10 INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR NEEDS ₹15 LAKH CRORE ANNUAL OUTLAY TO ACHIEVE

www.dailypioneer.com

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

# JUSTICE FOR MURDERS MOST FOUL

## Life sentence for Sanjoy Roy Woman sentenced to death in Kerala

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

n what the parents of the victim called a "travesty of Justice," for which they held the Kolkata Police and Bureau Central (CBI) Investigation responsible, the Sealdah Sessions Court on Monday sentenced convict Sanjoy Roy to life imprisonment until death - and not death, as the prosecution and the public had wanted - for committing the rape and murder of a 31year-old postgraduate lady doctor from RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

Roy, a former civic volunteer who was working with the West Bengal Police at the time, was pronounced guilty of the RGKMCH rape and murder case on Saturday, with the quantum of punishment delivered by District and Sessions Judge Anirban Das

on Monday.

Judge Das stated that the crime did not fall under the "rarest of the rare" category, which is why he did not impose the death penalty on the convict. He also ordered the State Government to pay compensation of Rs 17 lakh to the parents who lost their daughter in the chilling crime "that shook the conscience of the country." Roy was found guilty on January 18, 2025, under sections 64, 66, and 103(1) of the BNS.

However, the mother of the victim, who broke down in tears immediately after the judgment was pronounced,



RG Kar Medical College and Hospital rape and murder case convict Sanjay Roy being take to the CBI office at CGO Complex, in Kolkata

rarest of rare case, as the rape and murder occurred inside the workplace, which is a second home, and that too by a civic police officer who is considered a protector of citizens." The family did not want money; they wanted iustice, she said.

She trailed off, saying, "Now we have understood that it is not enough to be the parents of a meritorious child... or enough to labor hard to see said, "We cannot discard the the child succeed... it is also and the body was dumped

order, but we think it is a very important to be powerful and influential so that you can get justice."

Her parents and other doctors immediately took out long processions throughout Kolkata and threatened another sit-in movement. They quoted forensic reports that found the presence of at least four different types of DNA inside the victim's body. They also cited reports suggesting that the crime had been committed elsewhere.

inside the seminar hall. The family will move the higher court to challenge the order. The victim's body was found in a semi-nude condition inside the seminar hall of the Chest Medicine Department of the hospital in the early hours of August 9, triggering

Even as the medical fraternity,

nationwide outrage.

civil society, and the general public erupted in anger, promising a prolonged movement in the days to come, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee - whose government primarily responsible by the victim's family for destroying evidence and hushing up the case - promptly laid the blame at the Centre's door, calling it a failure of the central agencies that had been handling the case to ensure a death sentence for the convict.

"I am very upset... my party

too is... we wanted the death sentence... All of us had demanded the death sentence, but the court has given a life term until death. The case was forcibly taken from us. Had it been with the Kolkata Police, we would have ensured that he was given a death sentence... We don't know how they conducted the investigation. In many similar cases that were probed by the State Police, the death penalty was ensured in a record time of 55 to 60 days recently... I am not satisfied with the proceedings," Minister said. the Chief

Continued on page 8

**KUMAR CHELLAPAN** ■ KOCHI

court in Kerala on Monday Asentenced a woman to death for the sensational murder of her boyfriend in 2022. The Neyyattinkara Additional District Sessions Court also sentenced her uncle, Nirmalakumaran Nair, the third accused in the case, to three years of imprisonment.

The 24-year-old convict, Greeshma, had sought leniency in sentencing by citing her academic achievements, lack of prior criminal history, and the fact that she is her parents' only daughter. In its 586-page verdict, the court observed that there was no need to consider the convict's age and other circumstances over the gravity of the crime committed, according to the prosecutor. The victim, Sharon Raj, was a BSc

Radiology student and a native of Parassala in Thiruvananthapuram district. The court also observed that the convict conspired to operate the crime in phases, she had a criminal background as she attempted to murder the youth earlier and tried to end her life after the arrest to divert the investigation, the prosecutor said.

The trial court found Greeshma guilty under Sections 364 (kidnapping or abducting to murder), 328 (causing hurt by poison), 302 (punishment for murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) of IPC.

Her uncle Nirmalakumaran Nair was also found guilty under Section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), while her mother was acquitted due to lack of evidence.

The prosecution charge was that Greeshma, who was in a relation with Raj for more than a year, wanted to get rid of him as her family had fixed her marriage with a soldier. Although she asked Raj to crime was executed brilliantly. "The told reporters."



Convict Greeshma being taken to a hospital for medical examination after being sentenced to death by a Kerala court for the murder of her boyfriend in 2022, in Thiruvananthapuram

back off, the latter did not heed to her demand. This made her to bump him off. Accordingly Greeshma invited Raj to her house and administered him with a concoction laced with a lethal herbicide on October 14, 2022. She was helped by her mother, Sindhu and uncle, Nirmalakumaran Nair in destroying the evidence. After consuming the concoction Raj fell ill and breathed his last on October 25, 2022 following multiorgan failure. The poison consumed by him had resulted in irreversible damage to his liver, kidney and lungs.

AM Basheer, a short story writer in addition to being the Additional Aessions Judge at Neyyattinkara, described the murder as a rarest of rare case and the

accused does nit deserve any leniency," said the judge while reading out the 580-pages long verdict. The case was investigated by the Crime Branch of Kerala Police and the charge sheet was submitted in 73 days.

The Kerala High Court has to ratify the verdict before the hangman gets ready with the noose. The verdict is based on circumstantial evidence and not on documentary evidence. Expressing satisfaction with the judgment, mother of the victim, Priya, told reporters that she was grateful to the court for issuing such an exemplary order. Special Public Prosecutor VS Vineeth Kumar, told reporters that the verdict was fully justified and the court observed that this case is falling under the rarest of rare category.

"The court noted that the convict was a brilliant criminal who meticulously planned the brutal murder," he said. He added that despite Greeshma's belief that she could not be held guilty, the scientific investigation conducted by the probe team ultimately led to her arrest. The court also rejected Greeshma's claim

that she had no criminal background stating that she had attempted to poison Sharon by mixing paracetamol tablets into fruit juice. However, that attempt failed when he refused to drink it, citing its bitter taste, on 22 August 2022, the court noted. The court also observed that the woman's actions sent a harmful message to society and violated the sanctity of love, Kumar added.

Welcoming the verdict, D Shilpa, the then Superintendent of Police, who oversaw the probe, said it was a victory for the joint efforts of the police investigation team.

"We faced several challenges in various phases of the probe but the joint efforts by the officers helped in solving the case," she



### Fire Breaks out near Kinnar akhara camp at **Maha Kumbh**

BISWAJEET BANERJEE MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

A fire broke out near the Kinnar Akhara camp in Sector 16 of the Maha Kumbh on Monday morning, triggering panic among devotees and camp residents. This is the second fire incident at the Kumbh in two days, raising concerns about fire safety measures at the massive religious gathering.



tent site, a day after a fire broke out at the Maha Kumbh Mela due to a cylinder blast, in Prayagraj

Witnesses reported seeing smoke rising from a nearby camp early in the morning, leading to a commotion as people rushed to contain the blaze. Quick action by pilgrims and residents prevented the fire from spreading, and fire department personnel, supported by several fire engines, arrived shortly afterward to extinguish the

Continued on page 8 | male students and senior citizens

### Uttarakhand to implement UCC on 26 Jan registration.



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

Uttarakhand is all set to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) on the occasion of Republic Day making it the first State in the country. Sources said a cabinet meeting led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday decided to start the process of enforcement of the UCC on January 26 as the cabinet also approved the rules under UCC as

how to move ahead in the historic step.

In fact last month the State government had announced that UCC would be implemented in January and with municipal elections scheduled for January 23 the results of which would be declared on January 25, sources said the government is prepared to announce UCC implementation on Republic Day. "The mandatory communiqué in this regard will be given the Union Home Ministry sooner," said a senior government source.

Set to become the first Indian state to roll out the UCC, its rules manual includes provisions for tatkal registration, door-to-door services in remote areas and a state-wide mock drill on Tuesday.

The list of services provided on the portal includes registration of marriage, divorce, and live-in registrations, termination of live-in relationships, intestate succession and declaration of legal heirs, testamentary successions, appeal in cases where application is statement from the state government read.

rejected, access to information, and complaint

After the meeting Dhami informed that preparations for implementing the UCC in the state are almost complete. "The training process for the UCC implementation is almost complete. During the cabinet meeting, we discussed implementing it as soon as possible. After reviewing everything, we will soon announce its implementation date," Dhami stated.

Responding to a question, the chief minister said that its implementation will bring a big change in the state. He added that his party had promised to bring UCC before the 2022 elections, and the process was initiated in the first cabinet meeting after assuming power. "We constituted an expert committee to draft the UCC, following which a bill was passed in the state assembly," he said.

The Governor and subsequently the President have given their assent to the bill, making it an Act. As Uttarakhand is set to become the first state in independent India to implement uniform laws for all its citizens, Dhami dismissed the Congress's allegations that UCC represents divisive politics, calling them baseless. "This is not any divisive politics. UCC has a uniform system and uniform law for all," CM said.

According to officials, online portals have been developed for citizens and officials, featuring Aadhaar-based verification, AI-based translation services in 22 Indian languages, and data integration across more than 13 departments/services (e.g., birth-death registrations, district/high courts, etc.).
"The government has set separate fees for expedited registration under the Tatkal service.

The registration and termination process for live-in relationships has also been simplified. Termination applications by one partner will require confirmation from the other partner. In testamentary succession, wills can be uploaded on the portal for online registration, modification, revalidation, or revival," a



Security personnel stand guard near the

### **Indian Army** jawan killed in J and K ops

MOHIT KANDHARI JAMMU

Tn an overnight anti-terrorist

This is the first incident of terrorist-related violence this year in which a soldier has sacrificed his life in the valley. Braving adverse weather conditions, the security forces have been maintaining a tight vigil along the Line of Control and the International Border amid reports of desperate infiltration bids by heavily armed terrorists from across the border in Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the entire security grid has been beefed up in the run-up to the Republic Day celebrations across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Continued on page 8

site of the encounter, at Gujjarpati area in Sonore Baramulla district of Jammu

Toperation, a soldier of the Indian Army laid down his life in the line of duty in the Gujjarpati area of Sopore in North Kashmir's Baramulla district on Monday.

and energy.

# TRUMP STRIKES BACK



President-elect Donald Trump takes the oath of office during the 60th Presidential Inauguration in the Rotunda of the US Capitol in Washington

**PTI** WASHINGTON

Donald J Trump was on Monday sworn in as the 47th president of the United States, marking his remarkable return to power for a second term four years after he left the American capital as a pariah. The 78-year-old Republican leader storms back to the White House with a strongman persona and a vision of an all-powerful presidency with a promise to aggressively reset US policies in a range of domains, including immigration, tariffs

Trump registered a spectacular victory over his Democratic

rival Kamala Harris in the November 5 presidential defying election, assassination attempts, two presidential impeachments and his criminal conviction. Four years back, Trump had left Washington as a pariah in the face of his unsuccessful attempt to overturn the 2020 presidential election to stay in office. His victory in the bitterly

fought election was widely acknowledged as the most momentous comeback in American political history. JD Vance was sworn in as the vice president ahead of Trump. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar attended the

inauguration ceremony as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special envoy.

The inauguration ceremony was held indoors under the Capitol Rotunda against the initially planned outdoor venue in view of frigid temperatures in the US capital

The ceremony was attended by Trump's wife Melania, his daughter Ivanka and her husband Jared Kushner, and billionaires Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos and Tim Cook.

On the first day in office, Trump is expected to sign a slew of executive orders, including kicking off a process to end birthright citizenship.

## expands freebies to free-for-all Capital

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

 $T^{he}$  BJP is set to broaden the ambit of freebies in the national Capital by including male students and senior citizens in the existing free bus ride scheme for women by the AAP led Delhi government ahead of the high-octane Delhi

assembly elections. The BJP will release the second part of the 'Sankalp Patra' (manifesto) for the upcoming state assembly polls on Tuesday in the presence of former union minister Anurag Thakur. It is expected the second part will have three to five poll promises including free bus rides to women,

and free 'clean drinking' water. There were speculations that the second part of the manifesto will also include 300 free units of electricity for households. However, party sources said that the BJP, which is vying to end its drought of not being in power in the national capital for more

than two decades, will wait for the ruling party to first announce its scheme regarding electricity bill and strategies accordingly if they want to increase the units. The AAP led Delhi government currently has a scheme that provides electricity free up to 200 units for households.

In a bid to counter the AAP's free bus ride for women, which proved



BJP MP Anurag Thakur with Delhi party President Virendra Sachdeva addresses a press conference, in New Delhi Photo: Ranjan Dimri

last assembly elections in Delhi, the BJP is set to extend this ride to senior citizens above the age of 40 and students without any age

to be an impactful scheme in the In one of its poll promises, AAP has also announced free bus rides for male school and college students, along with a 50 per cent concession on Metro fares for all students, if his party is voted back to power.

The BJP will also promise 20,000 litres of free 'clean drinking' water.
"We are promising clean drinking water unlike the AAP that gives dirty water to the people. Hence, this will be different from AAP's scheme which provides water that is not fit to drink," a party leader said. The BJP has already released the first part of its manifesto on January 17. The party promised a monthly aid of Rs 2,500 to women, and Rs 21,000 to pregnant women in its manifesto for the Delhi assembly elections. It made a total of six poll promises in the first part of the 'Sankalp Patra'. Addressing the media, Thakur had

assured the people of Delhi that no existing freebies will be discontinued. After the release of the first part, South Delhi BJP MP and Chairman of the Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that there is a lot of enthusiasm among the people about the BJP manifesto. He said that only the first part of the manifesto has been released.

Election Manifesto Committee

"The remaining two parts are also being finalized and they will be released soon. The women of Delhi are very happy about the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' released in the first part of the BJP's manifesto. BJP workers are taking these announcements to every house. Women are especially thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi," he said, adding that the women do not believe in the announcement made by AAP.

The second part of the manifesto will focus on schemes keeping women and youth in the focus



### DM inspects night shelters

Magistrate of Lucknow, Visakh G, inspected the 'rain baseras' (night shelters) located at Laxman Mela ground, Jiamau, and Parivartan Chowk late on Sunday night, in view of the prevailing cold weather condi-

He inspected the arrangements made at these night shelters and found that they were adequately cleaned. He said that no disorder would be tolerated in any night shelter, and the operators were instructed that it is their responsibility to bring the people who are still sleeping on the streets to the night shelters.

Also, all the zonal officers associated with the night shelters were instructed to ensure



### **NOTICE**

Vijay Shankar Mishra, residing at 810 ed the temporary night shelters KA/17 Kailashpuri, Kanpur Road, located at Laxman Mela hereby inform you that my father, Vijay ground and Parivartan Chowk. Shankar Mishra, son of Hari Narayar Mishra, had a home loan with Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited. My father passed away on 22-11-2020. I have fully repaid the loan taken in my father's name. The company has requested the return of the loan closure documents. If anyone has any objections, they can contact Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited.

### **OBITUARY**

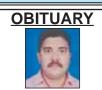


NAIB SUBEDAR SRINIVASA RAOGAL 15 JUN 1981 - 19 DEC 2024

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL ORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRAN STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMIL' TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF NAIL SUBEDAR SRINIVASA RAOGALI WHILE SERVING WITH 306 FIELD HOSPITAL

FROM: LT GEN SHIVINDER SINGH AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

### **OBITUARY**



HAVILDAR RAMESH KARUKOLA

ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICA CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRAN STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOSS OF HAVILDAR RAMESH KARUKOLA WHILE SERVING WITH 459 FIELD HOSPITAL

FROM: LT GEN SHIVINDER SINGH AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

### **OBITUARY**

NAIK SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH

CORPS SOLEMNLY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY TO BESTOW PEACE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL AND GRANT STRENGTH TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY TO BEAR THE GREAT LOS OF NAIK SANTOSH KUMAR SINGE WHILE SERVING WITH MH BAREILLY FROM: LT GEN SHIVINDER SINGH

CORPS

### NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client, Aditya Birla Finance Limited intend to grant loan on the property scheduled below by of equitable mortgage by deposit of title deeds out of which one Sale Deed dated 07.08.2012 executed by 1.Mohammad Rasid S/o Jaan Mohammad 2 Chand Khan 3 Anwar Mohammad 2. Chand Khan 3. Anwa Khan both S/o Mohammad. Ramjan ir favour of 1. Ajmeri 2. Javed both S/o Abdul Aziz vide Book No. 1, at Serial No. 2375 dated 07.08.2012 in the office of Sub Registrar Bhognipur Kanpur Dehat is lost and no traceable. All persons having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, lien or otherwise howsoever are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within a period of 7 days from the date of publication hereof, falling which, the claim of such person/s will be deemed to have been waived and/or

Schedule: Plot, Part of Arązi No 247Mi (Admeasuring Area- 209.50 Sq. Meter) situated at Gram Bhognipur, Tehsil-Bhognipur Distt-

Shiva Kant Dixit (Advocate) Chamber No. 112, 1st Floor Kan Chamber, 14/113, Civil Lines, Kanpur Mob.: 9415403399

Lucknow (PNS): The District that no person is sleeping on that no person is steeping on the road in their respective areas. "Arrangements should be made to bring the people sleeping on the road to the night shelters at night itself. For this, people should be shifted to the night shelters by zonal vehicles or e-rickshaws roaming from evening to night," said the DM.

Visakh said that if there is a shortage of blankets in the night shelters, the operators can obtain more blankets by contacting the concerned additional city magistrates.

At Jiamau, the caretaker of the night shelter said that at present, about 40 destitute people are staying there.
"Two blocks have been made

for the stay of people in the night shelter. Separate arrangements have been made for the stay of men and women," he added.

The district magistrate interacted with the people dependent on the night shelters, and they informed him that food was also being provided to them at night. He also inspect-



### सूचना

सूचित हो कि मैंने अपना नाम रामनरेश से बदलकर रामनरेश शिल्पकार रख लिया है भविष्य में मझे रामनरेश शिल्पकार के नाम से जाना व पहचाना जाए। रामनरेश शिल्पकार पुत्र भगौती प्रसाद निवासी 12/342 इंदिरानगर लखनऊ।

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from BHAVNEET CHHATWAL To BHAVNEET KAUR, Bhavneet Kaur W/o Sukhjit Singh R/o 117/H-1/453, Pandu Nagar Kanpur

### NOTICE

I Harshit Gupta have changed my son name Sawariya Gupta to Rajyash Gupta therefore in future he should be known & recognized by this name, Harshit Gupta S/o Hari prakash Gupta R/O 133/173 M. block Kidwai Nagar Kanpur.

### **NOTICE**

My Original Sale deed who has been lost if anyone finds it, please contact on this address. Smt Bhagwati Devi aged 85 Year W/o Late Siddheswar Shukla R/o House No. 29, Collectorganj Tahsil & Distt Unnao 209801

### NOTICE

I Diler Rustom Ji have changed my son name Shayan Diler Rustom Ji to Shayan Rustom Ji therefore in future he should be known & recognized by this name, Diler Rustom Ji S/o Parvej Fram Rustom ji R/O 21 M I G, Chandra Vihar kesa colony Nawabganj Kanpur

### NOTICE

My name in my bank account is D.S.Kushwaha S/o Ram Naresh. And in Aadhar Card & Pan Card Devendra Singh Kushwaha. Both are the same person. Devendra Singh Kushwaha S/o Ram Naresh Kushwaha village Tikra Pagumberpur Post Tilsahri Khurd Kanpur Nagar

### **NOTICE**

Brahm Prakash Mishra S/o Lavlesh Mishra, R/o Jagdishpur, Neorajpur, Sidhauli, Sitapur Uttar Pradesh-261302, have changed my name from Brahm Prakash Mishra to Aarav Mishra for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

have changed my name from Mradulata Sonkar to Mridulata Sonkar. whereas in all the educational records the name is Mridulata Sonkar.In Future, I will be known as Mridulata Sonkar W/O Shyam Lal R/O- 156, W-

### NOTICE

my name is wrongly recorded as Goda Devi. Correct name is 276009104035 M/O 18015758X Jalalpur Tehsil Gola District Lakhimpur

# **Boost manpower to accelerate projects: Yogi**

PNS GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has emphasised accelerating develop-ment projects by increasing manpower and ensuring accountability.

During a review meeting in Gorakhpur on Monday, the chief minister assessed the progress of projects of key departments, including Gorakhpur Development Authority, municipal corporation, Public Works Department, Irrigation Department, Jal Nigam and Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority.

He instructed officials to ensure timely and high-quality completion of all projects, with a nodal officer assigned to each for monitoring progress and weekly updates to the

district magistrate.
"Additionally, the district magistrate or a senior officer must review all projects every 15 days, while regular meetings should be held with public representatives to discuss progress and consider their suggestions," he said, reiterating the importance of public participation and directed officials to maintain regular communication with public representatives regarding ongoing development efforts. The chief minister also stressed the need for officials to address grievances of citizens with sensitivity and urgency. He instructed officials to promptly resolve complaints registered on the Integrated Grievances Redressal System (IGRS) and CM Helpline while ensuring feedback is collected from complainants to enhance accountability and public trust. During the meeting, Chief Minister Yogi highlighted Gorakhpur's growing appeal as a hub for entrepreneurs in recent years. He directed officials to engage with entrepreneurs promptly and proactively to resolve their issues.

Strengthening online mechanisms in GIDA to address entrepreneurs' concerns and ensuring they benefit from government schemes were emphasised. The chief minister also urged practical engagement with



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurating the new conference hall on the first floor of the Annexe building in Gorakhpur on Monday

bankers to increase the district's CD (credit-to-deposit) ratio from 58 per cent to 75 per cent.

Reviewing law and order, the chief minister reiterated the government's zero-tolerance policy against crime

action against the mafia must continue unabated. The chief minister also instructed officials to identify and take decisive action against cow smugglers. To enhance public safety, he directed increased police and foot patrolling while improving the response time of PRVs.

and criminals. He stressed that stric

On traffic management, Chief Minister Yogi emphasised ensuring that vehicles are parked only in designated areas, including tempos and autos, which should use specified stands. He instructed officials to prevent minors from operating autos or e-rickshaws and to organise street vendors within designated vending

Before the review meeting, the chief minister inaugurated the new conference hall on the first floor of the Annexe building in Gorakhpur. Many public representatives, senior officials of administration, police and various departments were present at the review meeting of the chief

# CM inaugurates Elephant Rescue Centre

hief Minister Yogi Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Monday, inaugurated the Elephant Rescue Centre at the Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Zoological Park and a Butterfly Park here.

The chief minister emphasised that even animals possess compassion. He said, "When treated with care and affection, animals naturally gravitate toward humans." He also unveiled a coffee table book and planted saplings at the park. He highlighted the importance

of adopting a sensitive approach towards nature, the environment, animals and birds to maintain ecological balance. "If we are environment-friendly, nature, in turn, will nurture us with a better environment," he remarked.

The chief minister noted that the zoological park, spanning 121 acres, houses over 350 species, including animals and birds.

Mystery shrouds

Lucknow (PNS): A youth died

under mysterious circum-

stances on Monday. He was

identified as 28-year-old Yashpal Mishra, son of Rajesh

Mishra. He lived alone in a

rented house in Vikrant Khand

under Vibhuti Khand police

Originally from Korba district

in Chhattisgarh, Yashpal had

been unwell for some time

and was cared for by his rela

tives, reportedly his neigh-

bours. According to the police,

Yashpal's condition suddenly

worsened late on Sunday night,

and he was rushed to RML

Hospital. However, he col-

lapsed on the way. The body has been sent for

post-mortem, and an investiga-

In a separate case, a youth allegedly ended his life by

jumping into the Gomti river

on Monday, police said here.

He was identified as 20-year-

old Kartik, a resident of

Madehganj. The body was recovered by divers near Pucca

Pul in Daliganj under the juris-diction of the Hasanganj Police

Station. Kartik was rushed to

Balrampur Hospital, where

doctors declared him dead.

The body has been sent for a

According to police, Kartik left his house early in the

morning. Boatmen and work-

ers on the riverbank raised an

alarm when they saw a young

One of them informed the

police about the incident at 10

am. A police team arrived at

the scene by 10:30 am, and

divers were deployed to search

for the body, which was retrieved by 11:30 am.

Evewitnesses stated that Kartik

drowned after being trapped in a whirlpool in the middle of the

river's upstream.

man caught in a whirlpool.

post-mortem examination.

tion is underway.

station.

youth's death

Yogi fed sugarcane, bananas, jaggery and grams to the park's elephants and rhinoceroses named Har and Gauri. Students Kritika and Vaishnav from the NPA Academy presented him with a portrait as a token of apprecia-

Regarding Uttar Pradesh's afforestation efforts, Chief Minister Yogi highlighted that more than 100 crore saplings have been planted over the past seven to eight years, significantly increasing the state's forest cover. He also talked about the upcoming Jatayu Conservation Centre in Campierganj and expressed a vision for a central horticulture and forestry university, recognising its importance for the state.

The chief minister stressed the need for the younger generation to understand the value of environmental preservation. He urged people to avoid practices harmful to the environment,

such as using single-use plastics. He advocated for proactive steps like planting ten trees annually and promoting rainwater harvesting to conserve water. He noted that safeguarding the environment would ensure a brighter future for current and coming generations.

Reflecting on the zoological park's impact, the chief minister shared that it has welcomed over 30 lakh visitors since its inauguration on March 27, 2021, including more than 10 lakh students. He highlighted its dual role in environmental conservation and public recreation.

Additionally, he commended Gorakhpur Rural MLA Vipin Singh for donating an elephant named Ganga Prasad to the Elephant Rescue Centre, describing it as a pioneering ges-

The chief minister also named several animals at the park. A male wolf brought from Bahraich was named Bhairay, and a female wolf was named Bhairavi. He recounted how the pair, part of a pack that had caused harm in Bahraich, was rescued and relocated to the park. A tiger from the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, rescued in September 2024, was named Kesari and released into its enclosure during the event. During this, Minister of State for

Forest and Environment (Independent Charge) Dr Arun Kumar Saxena, Minister of State KP Malik, MP Ravi Kishan, Mayor Dr Manglesh Shrivastava, District Panchayat Chairperson Sadhana Singh, MLA Shriram Chauhan, Vipin Singh, Fateh Bahadur Singh, Rajesh Tripathi, Vimlesh Paswan, Mahendra Pal Singh, Pradeep Shukla, Vice-Chairperson of Women's Commission Charu Chaudhary, Mahant Ravindra Das J Maharaj, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Department Sunil Chaudhary

### KMCLU, CBMR sign MoU

Lucknow (PNS): A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for academic and research collaboration has been signed between Khwaia Muinuddin Chishti Language University (KMCLU) and the Centre of Biomedical Research (CBMR).

The idea is to promote academic and research excellence and establish close cooperation and functional coordination between the two institutions. This partnership focuses on enhancing the knowledge of teachers, researchers, and students, and providing opportunities for mutual collaboration. The agreement was signed by CBMR Director Prof Alok Dhawan and KMCLU Registrar Dr Mahesh Kumar. Prof Alok Dhawan underlined the importance of collaboration between different disciplines and called it a new direction for innovation and research.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Shiv Pyar
Smarak Shikshan & Prashikshan Sansthan, through

Manager Shri Shankar S/o Shri Vishram is the own

Smarak Shikshan & Prashikshan Sansthan, through Manager Shi Shankar, 5/0 Shir Vishram, is the owner of non-agricultural land measuring 0.300 Hectares out of Gata No. 161, situated at Waka Mauja Sarai Sahbai, Pargana Kurshi, Tehsil Tatehpur, Distt. Barabanki, U.P. (hereinafter referred to as "Said Property"), by virtue of Sale Deed registered as No. 7722, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 5461, Page No. 279-310, dated 30.11.2019, SR0-Fatehpur, Barabanki, Further, Shiv Payai Smarak Shikshan & Prashikshan Sansthan had mortgaged the Said Property with Unity Small Finance Bank Ltd., located at 102 Sky High, Park Road, Hazratganj, Lucknow, U.P. - 226001, to secure a loan/credit facility, and the charge of Unity Small Finance Bank on the Said Property continues to subsist. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her bijection within O'f days 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 aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 7-day period by contacting.

Ashwani Kumar, Advocate, Address: House No. 38, Adarsh Nagar, Takrohi, Lucknow, U.P. 226016, Mob. 1971333812 Famils humar/2abenesi@companyl.

Adarsh Nagar, Takrohi, Lucknow, U.P. 226016, Mob.

9971333512 Email: kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

PUBLICATION

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL** 

(Area of Jurisdiction-

Part of Uttar Pradesh)

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh)

PUBLICATION

OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICE 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow-

DRC NO. 222 OF 2018 Next Date:. Notice Under Rule 2 of Second Schedule To The Income Tax Act, 1961 Read With Section 29 of The Recovery Of Debt Due To Banks And Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

ICICI BANK LTD. V/S KUNWAR RAM SINGH

1. Mrs. Durgawati W/o Late Kunwar Ram Singh,Village Gungema U, Post Harimau, Distt-Amethi- 227405 ...Defendants

This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 44,22,510.97 (Rupees Forty Four Lac Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Ten and Ninety Seven Paise Only) to gether with pendentelite and future interest @12% per annum from the date of filling 30/06/2015 original application till full realization is made has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No. 222/2018 dated 02/06/2017 in Original Application No. 551/2015 passed against you by the D.R.T. Lucknow.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial

Institution Act, 1993. 3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or Before 30/01/2025. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 30/01/2025 at 10.30 A.M. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid

you will also be liable to pay the following Costs. Rs. 47,000/-Details of costs:-Application fee Rs.
Counsel fees & Clerkage Rs.

Counsertees & Clerkage Rs.

Publication charges Rs.

Miscellaneous Expenses Rs.

Clerical Charges Rs.

Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 13th day of December, 2024.

Recovery Officer -Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknov

PUBLICATION DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (Area of Jurisdiction-Part of Uttar Pradesh) 600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Lucknow - 226007

600/1, University Road, Near Hanuman Setu Mandir, Schedule to The Income Tax Act, 1961 Read With Section 29 of the Recovery of Debt Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 Lucknow - 226007 Notice Under Rule 2 of Second DRC NO. 608/2023 ICICI BANK LTD. Schedule to The Income Tax Act, 1961 Read with Section 29 of the

Private Limited & Others 1. R Sons Infraland Developers Private limited, Represented by its director- Ankur Srivastava and Ashish Srivastava, R/o Virat khand,

29,43,487.39/- (Rs. Twenty Nine Lac

the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of

3. You are hereby ordered to declare on Affidavit the particulars

Details of costs:-Counsel fees & Clerkage Publication charges Miscellaneous Expenses Clerical Charges Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 24th day of.

October, 2024.

Recovery of Debt Due To Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. DRC NO. 634/2023 ICICI BANK LTD. Vs R Sons Infraland Developers

Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226001. 2. Ankur Srivastava S/o Ravindra Nath Srivastava, R/o 3/17 Virat Khand Gomti Nagar, Lucknow- 226001.

...Defendants This is to notify that a sum of Rs

Forty Three Thousand, Four Hundred Eighty Seven and Thirty Nine Only) together with pendentelite and future interest @9.00% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing 30-08-2019 original application till full realization is made jointly 8 severally has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No 634/2023 dated 08.08.2022 ir Original Application No.1304/2019 passed against you by the D.R.T. Lucknow.
2. You are hereby directed to pay

Institution Act. 1993.

of asset on or Before 11/02/2025. 4. You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned on 11/02/2025 At 10.30 A.M. 5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay the following Costs.

Rs. 33.000/-Rs. NIL

Recovery Officer- I Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

Vs PAAVNI BUILDERS PVT. LTD. & OTHERS

Notice Under Rule 2 of Second

1. PAAVNI BUILDERS PVT. LTD. 1. PAANNI BOILDERS PVI. LID through its directors having its office at :- Das 1290, Sector D, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow- 226012, U.P. 2. MIDUTI INFRAESTATE & ALLIED SERVICES PVT. LTD. Through its directors

Noving its office at: DS 391, Sector-D, Kanpur Road, LDA Colony, Lucknow- 226012, U.P. 3. SUNIL KUMAR TRIPATHI R/o DS 391, Sector-D, Kanpur Road, LDA Colony, Lucknow-226012, U.P. ...Defendants This is to notify that a sum of Rs. 46,87,956/- (Rs. Forty Six Lac Eighty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred Fifty Six Only) together

with pendentelite and future interest @10% per annum with monthly rest from the date of filing 23-08-2022 original application till full realization is made jointly 8 severally has become due from you as per the Certificate bearing No. 608/2023 dated 21.11.2022 in Original Application No. 837/2022 passed against you by the D.R.T. 2. You are hereby directed to pay

the sum within 15 days of the receipt of this Notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institution Act, 1993. 3. You are hereby ordered to

declare on Affidavit the particulars of asset on or Before 17/07/2025. 4. You are hereby ordered to appea before the undersigned on 17/07/2025 at 10.30 A.M.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid you will also be liable to pay the following Costs.

Application fee Counsel fees & Clerkage Publication charges Rs. NIL Miscellaneous Expenses Clerical Charges
Given under my hand and seal at Lucknow this 28th day of October, 2024.

Recovery Officer- II Debts Recovery Tribunal, Lucknow

# **OBITUARY**

05 SEP 1983 - 30 NOV 2024 ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

AND ALL RANKS OF ARMY MEDICAL

2,Shyam Bihar, Barra Kanpur.

As per my son's military records, Godavari Aadhaar Number Lance Naik Ravendra Kumar Village Wazir Nagar Post Uttar Pradesh

## **New bridge from Mehdi Ghat to** Faizullahgani to ease traffic woes

SHARMILA KRISHNA

With a view to addressing traffic problems in the old city area, a new bridge has been proposed from Mehdi

Ghat to Faizullahganj. A UP State Bridge Corporation official, while giving the details, said that the proposed bridge would be constructed at the same point where the 'peepe wala pul' is operational currently. The new one is proposed to be a two-lane bridge, 303.38 metres in length, and will cost Rs 54 crore.

"The proposal is awaiting the sanctioning of funds by the state government for the construction of the bridge. Efforts are also being made in this direction for the fact that the 'peepe wala pul' still exists in the city, which is not right. A pucca pul (bridge) will go a long way in helping the daily commuters who need to move within the same area, such as people traversing between

or Divisional office Commissioner office," the official said.

Faizullahganj and the DM

The construction of the bridge would benefit a substantial population living in the old city, he added.

"The proposed bridge will benefit over 5 lakh people living in the area who are currently using the 'peepe wala pul. The problem with this bul' is that it cannot be used in the rainy season and is dismantled because of the rising levels of the river water. This temporary structure is constructed after the rains so that lighter vehicles such as twowheelers and pedestrians can easily pass over it. Cars cannot

move over this temporary bridge," he said. The official noted that once the new bridge is constructed, it will provide relief for a long time, as new bridges last longer. A resident of the old city said that if the bridge is constructed, it will go a long government.

of such a bridge started ten years ago, but things fizzled out. If constructed now, it will help ease the traffic congestion to a large extent," he said. from Malihabad, Kakori,

He added that people coming Dubagga, Musahebgani, and Muftiganj would use this bridge.

way in helping the residents. "The talks of the construction

'Currently, they are using the pucca pul, which is causing immense traffic snarls in that area. We have to commute daily, and this is the route of the pucca pul that we follow because the other bridge, which is operational, allows only the movement of twowheelers. Daily, we have to adjust to a lot of trouble," he

added. It may be noted that this will be an additional bridge to the dozens of flyovers and bridges which have been constructed to ease traffic in the city in recent years by the state

## Restrooms for medicos in KGMU depts

female toilets for the resident Dr Singh further mentioned

Lucknow (PNS): Restrooms for resident doctors have been established in 80 per cent of the departments at King George's Medical University (KGMU), spokesperson Dr Sudhir Singh said on Monday.

tion, we are fully committed

to the well-being of our doc-

tors, teachers, students, and

all employees. Based on the

demand and requirements of

resident students, male and

"Along with providing quality medical care and educa-

doctors are being ensured across all departments," he said. He added that, as part of this initiative, guidelines were issued to all departments.

"Permanent separate toilet facilities have been established in 92 per cent of departments. The remaining 8 per cent of departments and emergency workplaces have been provided with alternative arrangements, which will soon be made permanent," he explained.

percent of departments and workplaces. This information was also presented to Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak during his visit two days ago. By provid-

already transformed the lives of

thousands of children and

youth. Operated by the Women

and Child Development

Department, the scheme iden-

tified and supported 29,029

children in the financial year

that restrooms for resident

doctors have been set up in 80

ing high-quality education and healthcare, along with excellent workplace facilities, we are progressing towards the complete satisfaction of our patients," he concluded.

### A ray of hope for orphaned, needy children

Lucknow (PNS): The Uttar Pradesh Mukhyamantri Bal Seva Yojana-General ((MBSY-General)), launched by the Yogi Adityanath government in August 2021, has become a ray of hope for orphaned and underprivileged children.

This scheme extends assistance to children and adolescents who have lost their parents, one of their guardians, or caregivers due to reasons other than COVID-19. Guided by Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath's vision, the initia-

tive goes beyond financial aid.

focusing on the holistic devel-

opment of affected children

and youth. Under the MBSY, financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per month is provided to children below 18 years of age. This support has become a lifeline for lakhs of children struggling to sustain themselves after losing their parents. The scheme's benefits extend

beyond children under 18. Teenagers and youth aged 18 to 23 who have passed their Class 12 examination and aspire to pursue a graduate degree or diploma from government degree colleges, universities or technical institutes also receive assistance. This initiative not only promotes education but also helps shape a brighter future for the youth.

Special provisions are made for meritorious students who clear national and state-level competitive exams such as NEET, JEE and CLAT. These students are eligible for assistance under the scheme until they reach 23 years of age or complete their graduation or diploma from a recognised technical institute, whichever comes first. This comprehensive approach ensures that education and career aspirations remain accessible to those in need.

2024-25, reflecting its effectiveness and success at the grassroots level. This initiative has paved the way for orphaned children and youth to become self-reliant.

Beyond financial assistance, it empowers them to achieve significant life goals, enhancing their standard of living and The MBSY, spearheaded by the Yogi government, has instilling confidence and hope for a brighter future.

## Maha Kumbh to elevate Brand UP on global stage

The ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj, spanning nearly one and a half months, is set to elevate Brand UP globally, with top Indian com-panies investing Rs 30,000 crore in marketing, boosting the global stature of Uttar Pradesh and India.

The exposure will expand markets for Indian and local products, advancing the Make in India and Vocal for Local visions. Since 2018, the Yogi Adityanath-led government has driven this transformation with initiatives like the One District, One Product (ODOP) scheme, positioning Uttar Pradesh as a global brand. The scheme has successfully spotlighted unique products from each district, revitalising the lives of artisans and their families through branding and market expansion. Demands for products like Kala Namak rice of Siddharthnagar, terracotta art of Gorakhpur, banana-based items of Kushinagar and jaggery of Muzaffarnagar have surged significantly across domestic and international markets.

The resounding success of ODOP has inspired the government to enhance and expand the scheme, incorpoexpand the scheme, incorporating additional district-specific products and initiating further improvements in the upcoming phase. These sustained efforts underscore the Yogi government's commitment to making Uttar Pradesh a global symbol of diversity, craftsmanship and economic empowerment.

To reinforce the identity of Vocal for Local, the Yogi government has initiated the process of securing Geographical Indication (GI) tags for unique products from every district in Uttar Pradesh. Today, nearly all districts boast one or more GI-tagged prod- Department projecting a busiucts, with several others in the pipeline. As part of this initia-

### Khoya-Paya Kendra reunites loved ones with their families

**PTI** ■ MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

rhe Digital Mahakumbh The Digital Manakumon Khoya-Paya Kendra estab-lished by the Yogi Adityanath government at the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, has once again demonstrated its efficiency, reuniting two missing children with their families using stateof-the-art technology and through dedicated efforts in Sector 4.

The two children, 7-year-old Dharamjeet and 6-year-old Vikas Kumar, were found by the police in different areas and brought to the Khoya-Paya Kendra. Their pictures were displayed on digital plat-forms and TV screens to ensure that the information reached their families quickly. Upon receiving the information, the families arrived at the centre. After completing the identification process, the

a grand exhibition of ODOP items spread across 6,000 square metres. The exhibition showcases many GI-certified products, highlighting Uttar Pradesh's rich cultural and geo-

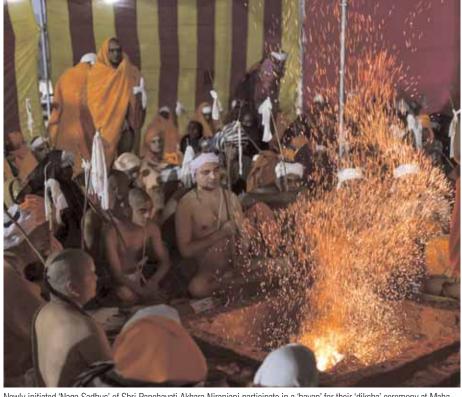
graphical heritage.
Visitors can explore a diverse array of items, from Kashi's iconic thandai, lal peda and Banarasi sarees to Gorakhpur's terracotta, Mirzapur's brass utensils, Pratapgarh's amla products, and more. These unique creations are attracting widespread attention and being purchased by those coming to Maha Kumh, with the MSME ness turnover of approximately Rs 35 crore during the tive, the Maha Kumbh features event. This focus on GI and

children were safely handed over to their mother in the

presence of the police.
The incident occurred on January 15. Both children were brought to the Lost and Found Centre from the Jhunsi area, and they identified themselves as residents of Chainpur. The Digital Mahakumbh Khoya-Paya Kendra serves as a prime example of the effi-cient administration under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's leadership and the use of modern technology for public welfare.

On Sunday, 10 Khoya-Paya Kendras were established throughout the fairgrounds, further enhancing the reach and efficiency of the initiative. This centre plays a crucial role in reuniting lost individuals, particularly children, with their families during the grand Maha Kumbh event.

ODOP products ensures that artisans and craftspersons, the backbone of these industries, directly benefit from increased sales and long-term demand sales and long-term demand for their goods. The initiative also boosts the branding of these products, fostering sus-tainable economic growth for stakeholders. The Maha Kumbh has also provided a platform for other states to showcase their vibrant diversity, heritage and cultural traditions. States like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Nagaland and Leh have made their mark with colourful displays in their respective pavilions, further enriching the event's cultural mosaic.



Newly initiated 'Naga Sadhus' of Shri Panchayati Akhara Niranjani participate in a 'havan' for their 'diksha' ceremony at Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj on Monday

## Swift action averted major fire

Mahakumbh Nagar (PNS): The fire safety preparations at Maha Kumbh were key in preventing a major incident when a fire broke out on Sunday, with timely measures averting a potential disaster.
Maha Kumbh Mela's Nodal

Chief Fire Officer Pramod Sharma confirmed that the fire, caused by an LPG cylinder during cooking, was swiftly controlled, thanks to the fire brigade's prompt response, with firt-tenders arriving within two minutes of being informed about the incident.

He added: "The fire rapidly engulfed straw huts, prompting the Fair Control Room to alert the Kotwali Jhusi fire station

and nearby units via RT sets. Recognising the severity, additional fire vehicles were dispatched. Despite three cylinder blasts during the operation to extinguish the fire, fire personnel bravely rescued 25-30 people and safeguarded 200-300 temporary pandals by spraying water."

A total of 45 fire brigade vehi-cles were deployed, and the fire was fully controlled after one and a half hours of relentless efforts. Remarkably, no lives were lost. The swift response of fire units, arriving within two minutes of the alert, was key in averting a major disaster.

The Yogi Adityanath government's proactive approach to

fire safety at the Maha Kumbh has been a key factor in preventing such accidents. The fair area, which attracts lakhs of kalpvasis and crores of devo-tees, has been equipped with an extensive fire safety infrastruc-ture. In total, 50 fire stations and 20 fire posts have been set up throughout the fairground. Additionally, 4,300 fire hydrants have been strategically deployed to handle any

emergency.

More than 351 fire fighting vehicles of various types and over 2,000 trained personnel have been stationed across the Maha Kumbh. Each akhara's tents have also been equipped with fire safety gear.

NOW, BOOK BONFIRE WOOD ONLINE

In a move to ensure the comfort of devotees attending Maha Kumbh 2025, the Yogi Adityanath government has launched an online system for

procuring bonfire wood. The Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation has made firewood depot locations accessible via Google. The move seeks to help pil-grims combat the cold during the event. Devotees, including those arriving from abroad, can easily



locate depots by searching 'Firewood Depot Prayagraj' online, streamlining the process and ensuring a hassle-free experience. DSM Prayagraj RK Chandna announced that 16 firewood depots have been set up across the Maha Kumbh area, with wood priced at Rs 600 per quintal. According to the Uttar Pradesh Forest Corporation, approximately 27,000 quintals of wood will be supplied during Maha Kumbh. Firewood will be transported from various depots across the state and sold at the prescribed rate of Rs 600 per quintal.

### PINK BUS FACILITATING BREAST CANCER DETECTION

The Math of Kerala at the Maha Kumbh is running a pink bus facilitating breast cancer detection in women, under the guidance of spiritual leader Maa Amritnanadamayi. Sant Brahmarishi Eknath, associated with Maa Amritanandamayi Math, said the bus with the mammography facility had been prepared at a cost of Rs 4 crore and it had all the equipment required for breast cancer screening. "Amma has also put a mobile mini hospital bus into service for this fair. This bus has an X-ray facility, pathology lab, minor operations and treatment facilities. This bus has been connected to the main hospital through satellite with the help of ISRO so that the specialised doctors of Faridabad can guide from there," he said.

### AKHARAS ASKED TO ADHERE TO BATHING TIME

With the second Amrit Snan of the Maha Kumbh on Mauni Amavasya next week expected to draw around 10 crore pilgrims, the 13 akharas participating in it have been asked to stick to their allotted bathing time in the Triveni Sangam here.

The Mauni Amavasya bathing ritual on January 29 is being considered special due to the belief that the auspicious planetary combinations on the day are occurring after 144 years.

In view of the significance of the bathing ritual on that day, the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad (ABAP), the body that governs the 13 akharas or Hindu monastic orders of the Vaishnava or Shaiva traditions, has appealed to all the 13 akharas to adhere to the prescribed bathing time allotted to them. "We have in fact requested each akhara to try and vacate the ghat five min-utes before their scheduled time," ABAP chief Mahant Ravindra Puri said. The appeal is significant as during the previous Amrit Snan on January 14, violation of time limit by at least one akhara had led to avoidable delays.

## **Power employees** up in arms against privatisation move

PNS LUCKNOW

The National Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and Engineers India Power Engineers (NCCOEEE) has announced Federation, All India Power nationwide protests against the privatisation of electricity in Uttar Pradesh and Chandigarh. In Uttar Pradesh, for the second consecutive week, power employees continued their protest by wearing black bands. The campaign of tying black bands will continue on Tuesday also. All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) chairman

Shailendra Dubey said that according to the decision of the NCCOEEE, power employees and engineers would protest in the capitals of all the provinces of the country on January 23 against the pre-bidding conference for privatisation in Uttar Pradesh and hold a press conference demanding cancellation of the privatisation process.

Similarly, on January 31, protests will be held at district and project headquarters in all the provinces of the country against

the plan for takeover of Chandigarh's electricity by a private company on February 1. The NCCOEEE includes All Diploma Engineers Federation All India Electricity Employees Federation of India, Electricity Employees Federation of India. Indian Electricity Employees Federation, All India Power

ers and engineers of Uttar Pradesh protested against privatisation by wearing black bands throughout the day. Protests were held in all the district/projects after lunch break or office The coordination committee

Power employees, contract work-

Men's Federation.

said that the pre-bidding conference for appointing a transaction consultant for the privatisation of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam should be cancéled immediately. It said the electricity workers would strongly protest against the pre-bidding conference across the state.

Registered Office Address: Unit No.601, 6th Floor Piramal Amiti Building, Piramal Agastya Corporate Park, Kamani Junction, Opp Fire Station, LBS Marg, Kurla (West), Mumbai- 400 070. CIN: L65910MH1984PLC032639, Webside:www.piramalfinance.com

Branch Address: Dhiraj Baug, Building "A" Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) – 400 602. **DEMAND NOTICE** 

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorised Officer of Piramal Capital & Housing Financial Massets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer has issued Demand Notices under Section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) Issued to them that are also given below. In connection with about the said Borrower(s) to pay to PCHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to PCHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date	Property address	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Loan Code	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA Date	Property address
(LC No. 06000002865 of Lucknow - MMM Marg Branch) Akhilesh Kumar Singh (Borrower) Sanju Singh (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 06000004756 of Lucknow - MMM	20-12-2024 /₹ 822511 /-(₹ Eight lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eleven Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Plot On Land Gata No 241 Vill Chaturbhujpur Pargana Dist Rae Bareli Rae Bareli Rae bareli Uttar Pradesh :- 229001 Plot No. 12, Part Of Gata No. 145, Gram- Mela	(LC No. BLSA0003049C of Basti Branch) Pushpa Devi (Borrower) Ramesh Chandra (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1103677.04 /-(₹ Eleven lakh Three Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven Only and Four Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Arazi No.327 Ka Min, Primary School, Situated Mauja - Madya, Tappa Dakhin Haveli, Pargana - Maghar Purab, Tehsil Khalilabad Basti Dist Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 272175
Marg Branch) Prema Devi (Borrower)	Three Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Maidan Tarinpur, Pargana Tehsil & District- Sitapur Sitapur Uttar Pradesh :- 261001 Plot No. 12, Part Of Gata No. 145, Gram- Mela	(LC No. BLSA00025363 of Bijnor Branch) Margub Kuraishi (Borrower) Ruksana (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 978006.72 /-(₹ Nine lakh Seventy Eight Thousand Six Only and Seventy Two Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Plot Situated at Village Fatehpur Nauabad Plot Situated AT Village Fatehpur Nauabad Near Makki Msjid, Bakhsiwala, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. 19300045122 of Lucknow - MMM Marg Branch) Prema Devi (Borrower)	One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Six Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Maidan Tarinpur, Pargana Tehsil & District- Sitapur Sitapur Uttar Pradesh :- 261001	(LC No. BLSA00023C25 of Noida Branch Branch) Deen Dayal (Borrower) SHANTI DEVI	20-12-2024 /₹ 522485.5 /-(₹ Five lakh Twenty Two Thousand Four Hundred Eighty	- 246701 Plot no. 35, Khasra no. 11/1, khoda colony, pargana loni, Near Gadde wali Masjid, tehsil &
(LC No. 12000002362 of Varanasi Branch) Jitendra Singh (Borrower) Rashmi Verma (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1438188 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Thirty Eight Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Arazi No.713, Mauza-gayasuddinpur Uparhar Pargana & Tehsil Sadar Allahabad Allahabad Uttar Pradesh :- 211011	(Co Borrower 1) (LC No. HLSA00074863 of Varanasi Branch) Amarieet Sonkar (Borrower) CHANDU	Five Only and Fifty Paise) NPA (04-12-2024) 20-12-2024 /₹ 1507358.7 /-(₹ Fifteen lakh Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Eight	Distrect Ghaziabad, U.P 201003  At. Part of Arazi no. 234 GA, Mauza- Kolaund, Pargana- Bhuili, Tehsil- Chunar, Distt- Mirzapur,
(LC No. 12000005111 of Varanasi Branch) Umme Salma (Borrower) Askari Raza (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 3488120 /-(₹ Thirty Four lakh Eighty Eight Thousand One Hundred Twenty Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	House No-d-59/381, Jai Prakash Nagar Ward- Dashaswamedh Near Shalimar Apratmaent Mohalla Shivpurwa Varanasi Uttar Pradesh - 221001	SONKÁR (Co Borrower 1) NÍRMALA DEVI (Co Borrower 2) (LC No. HLSA00074EFA of Rae Bareilly Branch	Only and Seventy Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Uttar Pradesh 231304  Gata number-1922, Gram- Rahi, Pargana-
(LC No. 19300041650 of Lucknow - MMM Marg Branch) Faijul Hasan (Borrower) Nazish Fatima (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1441837 /-(₹ Fourteen lakh Forty One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Seven Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	House No. 02 On Part Of Plot No 14, 15, 16 At Khasra No. 1026 & 1028, Gram- Sikrauri, Pargana & Tehsil - Lucknow Lucknow Uttar	) Parul . (Borrower) BRAJESH KUMAR (Co Borrower 1) (ILC No. HLSA0006EA4A of Noida - Sector 2	Seventy One Thousand Three Hundred Sixteen Only and Four Paise) NPA (04-12-2024) 20-12-2024 /₹ 852267.42 /-(₹ Eight lakh	Sadar, Raibareilly to Fursatganj road District- Raebareli Uttar Pradesh 229010  Kharsa No 3080 MI, Shahpur Bhameta,
(LC No. 19300044299 of Lucknow - MMM Marg Branch) Alok Kumar (Borrower) Rama Devi (Co Borrower 1) Rais Ahmad (Co	20-12-2024 /₹ 310568 /-(₹ Three lakh Ten Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Eight Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Pradesh: - 226020 Plot No-7b Part Of Khasra No.380 Minj Situate -vastu Paradise Semnapur Mohanlal Ganj Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh: - 226020	Branch) Devendra Kumar (Borrower) LALITA (Co Borrower 1) VIKAS SHARMA (Co Borrower 2)	Fifty Two Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Seven Only and Forty Two Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	paragna dasna, Near sarey homes gol chakker Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201002
Borrower 2) (LC No. 23400002433 of Agra Branch) Sanjay Singh (Borrower) Poonam (Co Borrower 1) Manveer Singh (Co Borrower 2)	20-12-2024 /₹ 2504718 /-(₹ Twenty Five lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Eighteen Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Plot No 5 on Khasra No.171 to 176 Mauja Gailana,Chnadra Nagar Colony, Agra Agra Agra Uttar Pradesh :- 282007	(LC No. BLSA0001CDD7 of Moradabad Branch) Rahat Ali (Borrower) SHABARA (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 492577.74 /-(₹ Four lakh Ninety Two Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Seven Only and Seventy Four Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Mohalla jama majid joya Amroha Jyotiba Phule Nagar Uttar Pradesh 244222
(LC No. 24000002599 of Kanpur Branch) Deel Chandra Gupta (Borrower) Babita Gupta (Co Borrower 1)		House No. 16/1522, Part Of Arazi No. 215 Ka, Saketpuri, Nehru Nagar, Shuklaganj, Deekshapuram, Unnao Up Unnao Uttar Pradesh :- 209801	(LC No. BLSA0001C6C6 of Azamgarh Branch) Krishna Kumar Yadav (Borrower) SANTOSH KUMAR (Co Borrower 1) ANITA DEVI (Co Borrower 2)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1992333.64 /-{₹ Nineteen lakh Ninety Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Only and Sixty Four Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Gata No. 368 Mauza-Kharuwaiya Pargana- Bidhar, Tehsil-Alapur, Near Hanuman Gadhi Temple District-Ambedkarnagar Uttar Pradesh 224181
(LC No. 24000004195 of Kanpur Branch) Deel Chandra Gupta (Borrower) Babita Gupta (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 293489 /-(₹ Two lakh Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Nine Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	House No. 16/1522, Part Of Arazi No. 215 Ka, Saketpuri, Nehru Nagar, Shuklaganj, Deekshapuram, Unnao Up Unnao Uttar	(LC No. BLSA0001C510 of Rae Bareilly Branch) Zainab Begum (Borrower) SYED MOHD ARIF (Co Borrower 1)	Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Twenty Three Only) NPA (04-12-2024)	House no 147/A, Araji No 2843, Narayandas Kuti, Vill Shanti Nagar, Near masjid, Fatehpur Uttar Pradesh 212601
(LC No. 25500001731 of Delhi - Pitampura Branch) Devendra Singh (Borrower) Pinki (Co Borrower 1) Rama Devi (Co Borrower 2)	20-12-2024 /₹ 749188 /-(₹ Seven lakh Forty Nine Thousand One Hundred Eighty Eight Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	Pradesh: - 209801 Plot No. F-81, Khasra No.254, New Anand Vihar, Village, sadullabad, Loni Ghaziabad, Ghaziabad.up Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh:	(LC No. HLSA0005ED97 of Amethi Branch) Mehraj Ahmad (Borrower) SADIKUL NISHA (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1204154.62 /-{₹ Twelve lakh Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty Four Only and Sixty Two Paise) NPA (03-11-2024)	Plot on gata no 223/845, Tehsil Musafirkhana Village palpur paragna jagdishpur Near palpur prathmik vidyalay Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh 227809
(LC No. 29300000249 of Moradabad Branch) Dinesh Kanojiya (Borrower) Vimla Kannojiya (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024/₹ 853473 /-(₹ Eight lakh Fifty Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Three Only) NPA (09-12-2024)	201102 Khasra No.79min, Plot No.36-37 Naipura Khadar Tehsil-sadar Near Shri Ram Mandir, Gajraula Jyotiba Phule Nagar Uttar Pradesh	(LC No. BLSA000160AS of Meerut Branch) Tauseef . (Borrower) SHAHJAHAN (Co Borrower 1) NAZMA BEGUM (Co Borrower 2) MOHD ASIF (Co Borrower 3)		Khasra no 3105, H no 263, Near shalimar garden ( Tanya Garden ) Meerut Uttar Pradesh 250001
(LC No. 06000007671 of Lucknow - MMM Marg Branch) Manish Rajput (Borrower) Shivpati (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 620648 /-(₹ Six lakh Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Forty Eight Only) NPA (04-12-2024)	:- 244223 Plot No. 68, Sector- F, Being Khasra No. 1558, Village- Bhaundari, Tehsil- Mohanlalganj Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020	(LC No. HLSA000568CB of Agra Branch) Anand Kumar (Borrower) SUNITA GUPTA (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1279801.78 /-{₹ Twelve lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred One Only and Seventy Eight Paise) NPA (03-10-2024)	Plot no. 29, Part of Khasra no. 125, Baba Khatu Shyam Nagar, (Nai Abadi), Near Saiyad Mauja Ukharra, Agra 282001
(LC No. 12000002050 of Varanasi Branch) Bal Krishna Singh (Borrower) Anita Singh (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 12000002757 of Varanasi Branch)	Two Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Three Only) NPA (04-12-2024)	Arazi No.276, Wake Mauza Devghat Pargaana & Tehsil Sadar Allahabad Allahabad Uttar Pradesh :- 211016 Gata No-420 Village Kishun Ka Purva Jaitupur	(LC No. BLSA00013F58 of Aligarh Branch) Manoj Kumar Varshney (Borrower) SUSHILA DEVI (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 3905830.86 /-(₹ Thirty Nine lakh Five Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Only and Eighty Six Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Nagar Nigam House No. 5/735 (6) and adjacent to House No. 5/734-A), Mohalla Gular Road, Near petrol pump, Aligarh Uttar Pradesh 202002
Shiv Shankar (Borrower) Manoj Kumari (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. 11900001298 of Noida - Sector 2	Two Thousand Forty Seven Only) NPA (04-12-2024)	Pargana & Tehsil Raebareli Rae bareli Uttar Pradesh :- 229001 Flat No S-1, Second Floor ( Lhs ) Plot No	(LC No. BLSA00012730 of Bareilly Branch) Nadeem Ahmad (Borrower) JAHRA FATIMA (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 2124969.66 /-(₹ Twenty One lakh Twenty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Nine Only and Sixty Six Paise) NPA	Shop Mohalla Tanda, Galli no 02, Meena Bazar Baheri, Near sadak wali masjid Bareilly Uittar Pradesh 243201
Branch) Pooja Sharma (Borrower) Nishant Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Kamla Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	Forty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight Only) NPA (08-08-2024)	281, Sector-1, Vasundhara Ghaziabad Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh :- 201012	(LC No. HLSA0004C2B0 of Roorkee Branch) Faizal Ahmat (Borrower) NAZMUNISHA (Co Borrower 1)	(04-12-2024) 20-12-2024 /₹ 3686072.68 /-(₹ Thirty Six lakh Eighty Six Thousand Seventy Two Only and Sixty Eight Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Khasra no 63, Khewat no 02, Mahal and old house 3/428/1 New No 3/514 khanalampura Saharanpur Uttar Pradesh 247001
(LC No. 13000002371 of Gurugram - MG Roat Branch) Adityam Polymers (Borrower) Aditya Vardhan (Co Borrower 1) Sangeeta Kumari (Co Borrower 2)	Hundred Fourteen Only) NPA (09-10-2022)	M_Machine_Name:-1) CNC Vertical Machining Centers 2) Milling Machine 3) EDm Machine Prima ZNC, Ap_Model_No:-1) Model -M4 2) V30Z,	(LC No. HLSA00042B1C of Delhi - Dwarka	20-12-2024 /₹ 1697891.36 /-(₹ Sixteen lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety One Only and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Flat no SF 04, Rear RHS on second floor, Plot 8, 9,10 Khasra no 1056 M U P Khata no 1050 Pragana dasana Near AK Mart Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201102
(LC No. 06000003757 of Lucknow - MMM Marg Branch) Vishal Distributors (Borrower) Neeraj Mahendru (Co Borrower 1) Soniya Mahendru (Co Borrower 2) Archana	20-12-2024 (₹ 27900409 /-(₹ Two Crore Seventy Nine lakh Four Hundred Nine Only) NPA (06-06-2018)	Flat At Second Floor Plot No. 6-b Way Road, Gokhle Marg Raja Ram Mohan Rai Lucknow Lucknow Uttar Pradesh :- 226020	(LC No. HLSA0003C3FB of Amethi Branch) Mo Gufran (Borrower) RAJIYA BEGAM (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1250878.68 /-(₹ Twelve lakh Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Eight Only and Sixty Eight Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Plot No A2, Khasra 121ka, 121 kha and 124 asaldpur, gauriganj Near distrci hospital Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh 227409
Mahendru (Co Borrower 3) (LC No. HLSA0005A4AC of Agra Branch) Saurabh Kumar (Borrower) Guddi Devi (Co Borrower 1)	lakh Forty Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Two Only and Sixty Six Paise) NPA	Khasra No.12, Nagar Nigam No.31/BH/P-12, Near SR Inter College, Mauja-Kehrai, Pargana Sadar, Tehsil and Distt. Agra 282001	(LC No. BLSA00003DC2 of Agra Branch) Kashan Khan (Borrower) Sanno Fatma (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /ਵ 1067371.3 /-(ਵ Ten lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy One Only and Thirty Paise) NPA [04-12-2024]	Rukanpur, Near Union Bank, Firozabad- 283135, Uttar Pradesh
(LC No. HLSA0005A4ACTU of Agra Branch) Saurabh Kumar (Borrower) Guddi Devi (Co Borrower 1)	(04-12-2024) 20-12-2024 /₹ 877271.68 /-(₹ Eight lakh Seventy Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy One Only and Sixty Eight Paise) NPA	Khasra No.12, Nagar Nigam No.31/BH/P-12, Near SR Inter College, Mauja-Kehrai, Pargana Sadar, Tehsil and Distt. Agra 282001	(LC No. HLSA0001D703 of Bareilly Branch) Buddhsen . (Borrower) Neeraj Kashyap (Co Borrower 1)	20-12-2024 /₹ 1094397.76 /-{₹ Ten lakh Ninety Four Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven Only and Seventy Six Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)	Part Of Khasra No.531, Jagruti Nagar, Kargalna, Near Bankhana Chouraha, Near Savitri Devi Inter College, Budavan Road, Bareilly-243021
	(04-12-2024)		(LC No. M0251032 of Agra Branch) Gajendar	20-12-2024 /₹ 583163.14 /-(₹ Five lakh	Part of Plot No.7, Khasra No.318, Bichpuri

### Muslim man converts to Hinduism to marry girlfriend of 10 years Basti (PTI): A 34-year-old but Saddam's family was not

Muslim man here converted to Hinduism to marry his girlfriend with whom he had an affair for the past 10 years, changing his name from Saddam to Shivshankar, police said on Monday.

Station House Officer of Kotwali police station Devendra Singh said that three days ago, the woman had lodged a report against Saddam and his family members in the police station for rape, forcing her to have an abortion, raping her on the pretext of marriage and threatening to kill her.

But on Sunday night, Saddam and the girl got married in a temple in the city market as per Hindu customs and Saddam changed his name to Shivshankar Soni.

According to the police, Saddam Hussain, a resident of Nagar Bazaar, was in a love affair with a woman (about 30 years old) from the same village for about

10 years. Since both of them belonged to different religions, marriage was not possible. The girl pressured him into marriage many times,

ready to accept her, he said. Troubled by this, the girl had given an application to the superintendent of police of Basti three days ago and accused the youth Saddam of rape, forcing an abortion and threatening to kill.

On the order of the SP, the police had registered a case against Saddam and his family in the city police station, Singh said.

But now both have married each other of their own free will, Singh said adding they took seven rounds in the temple and discussed spending their lives together.

Both told the police that they had taken this decision on their own. "We were in a love affair for the last ten years," they had said. "Both Saddam alias Shiv Shankar Soni and Anu Soni are adults and after marrying voluntarily in the temple, they came to the police station. Anu Soni gave a statement to end the case on the basis of compromise. As a result, investigation is being done to end the case," the SHO (LC No. M0157833 of Saharanpur Branch) 20-12-2024 /₹ 1603933.36 /-(₹ Sixteen lakh | Plot No.142, Khasra No.431, Situated at Dara Shivpuri Swad Barun Dar Abadi New Pranav Vihar Colony, Smart City Colony, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh Three Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Three Only and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)

247001 Plot No.142, Khasra No.431, Situated at Dar 20-12-2024 /₹ 899910.22 /-(₹ Eight lakh Ninety Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ten Only and Twenty Two Paise) NPA (04-12-2024) Tensii & District Service 247001 Gat No.38, Majra Gothani Bhootgarhi, Piswa Road Khurja, Near Shiv Mandir, Pargana & Tehsii Khurja, Distt. Bulandshahr Uttar Prade 20-12-2024 /₹ 1130681.36 /-(₹ Eleven lakh Thirty Thousand Six Hundred Eighty One Only and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (04-12-2024) Only and Thirty Six Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)

20-12-2024 /₹ 2026241.22 /-(₹ Twenty lakh | Twenty Six Thousand Two Hundred Forty One Only and Twenty Two Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)

20-12-2024 /₹ 2024821.72 /-(₹ Twenty lakh | Ison, Dist. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201102)

20-12-2024 /₹ 2024821.72 /-(₹ Twenty lakh | Ison, Dist. Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201102)

(LC No. HLSA00094361 of Ghaziabad Branch Nirdesh Kataria (Borrower) Harmukhi (Co (LC No. HLSA0008AD58 of Varanasi Branch) Mohd Khalik (Borrower) Soni Begam (Co 20-12-2024 /₹ 2024821.72 /-(₹ Twenty lakh Twenty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty One Only and Seventy Two Paise) (LC No. BLSA0002AD54 of Hapur Branch) Hasim . (Borrower) Umar Mohd (Co Borro 1) Nazreen (Co Borrower 2) Shayra (Co Borrower 3) 0-12-2024/ 0-12-2024/₹ 2189248.46 /-(₹ Twenty On ikh Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred orty Eight Only and Forty Six Paise) NPA 04-12-2024) (LC No. HLSA000851D1 of Lucknow - Gom

0-12-2024 /₹ 7002729.68 /-(₹ Seventy Part Of Plot No.A-98 A, 104 A, 105 A, Part Of Khasra No.2268, Dewa Bus Stop, Situated at Village Deva, Barabanki-225301, Uttar Pradesh lakh Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Nine Only and Sixty Eight Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)

LC No. M0251032 of Agra Branch) Gajendar Dhangar (Borrower) Shyam Vati (Co Borrowe LC No. HLSA0000517A of Saharanpur (LC No. M0138035 of Ghaziabad Branch) Saurabh Kumar (Borrower) Sumna Devi (Co Borrower 1) Govind Ram Thakur (Co

(LC No. M0094868 of Jhansi Branch) Siyarar Ahirbar (Borrower) Raghvendra Ahirwar (Co Borrower 1) Bhagvati Devi (Co Borrower 2) (LC No. M0150564 of Jhansi Branch) Vineesh (Borrower) Mamta (Co Borrower 1) (LC No. BLSA000101E2 of Moradabad Bran Samim Alam (Borrower) Akila Bano (Co Borrower 1)

(LC No. M0084904 of Kanpur Branch) Brijesh Kumar Goyal (Borrower) Raj Kumari LC No. BLSA0000403E of Aligarh Branch Vikram Singh Choudhary (Borro Sharma (Co Borrower 1)

undred Seventy Eight asaldpur, gauriganj Near distrci h ise) NPA (04-12-2024) Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh 227409 .3 /-{¶ Ten lakh Sixty H. No.699, Sikohabad W. Hundred Sausatu H. No.699, Sikohabad Ward No.13, Mohalla Rukanpur, Near Union Bank, Firozabad-192115, Litter Prodech 283135, Uttar Pradesh 7.76 /-(₹ Ten lakh Three Hundred Seventy Six Paise) Part Of Khasra No.531, Jagruti Nagar, Kargalna, Near Bankhana Chouraha, Near Savitri Devi Inter College, Budavan Road, Bareilly-243021 NPA (04-12-2024)
20-12-2024 /₹ 583163.14 /- (₹ Five lakh relighty Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty Three Only and Fourteen Paise) NPA (04-12-2024)
20-12-2024 /₹ 1909266.58 /- (₹ Nineteen Faise) NPA (04-12-2024) Part of Plot No.7, Khasra No.318, Bichpur Ajnaam Upendra Nagar, Near Adarsh Public School, Tehsil & Distt-Agra, Agra-282001, Uttar Pradesh Nagar Nigam No.CV/300, Plot No.18,19 & 20 Nagar Nigarri No. 1930, Piot No. 16,19 & 20 Part, Khasra Nos. 284 & 285, Dara Milikana Barun, Bala Ji Mandir, Pargana Tehsil And Distt. Saharanpur Dar Abadi Lateef Vihar Colony, Saharanpur-247001, Uttar Pradesh Khasra no.963, Village Makanpur, Sangam Vihar, Khora Colony, Gautam Buddha Nagar-201309, Uttar Pradesh

akh Nine Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Six Only and Fifty Eight Paise) NPA (04-12-2024 20-12-2024 /₹ 723709.32 /-(₹ Seven lakh Wenty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Nine Only and Thirty Two Paise) NPA 04-12-2024) ,0--12-2024/ 20-12-2024 /₹ 470269 /-(₹ Four lakh eventy Thousand Two Hundred Sixty Nine Only) NPA (04-12-2024)

Only) NPA (04-12-2024)
20-12-2024 /\* 663257 /- (\*\ Six lakh Sixty
Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Seven
Only) NPA (04-12-2024)
20-12-2024 /\* 1497865.28 /- (\*\ Fourteen
lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Eight Hundred
Sixty Five Only and Twenty Eight Paise) NPA
(04-12-2024)
20-12-2024 /\*\ 369576 /- (\*\ Three lakh Sixty
Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six
Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six Nine Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Six Only) NPA (04-12-2024)

Jianans-Z84UU1, Uttar Pradesh
Part Of Arazi No.687, Ward No.4, St. Lorence
School, Bhattagaon, Talpura, Jhansi-284001,
Uttar Pradesh.
Gata No.1045/2, Situated at Wakya MojaMainather, Fanha Goshala, Moradabad244001, Uttar Pradesh 20-12-2024 /₹ 2542664.08 /-(₹ Twenty Five lakh Forty Two Thousand Six Hundred Sixty our Only and Eight Paise) NPA (04-12-2024

Property on Part Of Arazi No.1388, Situated at Village Ahirwan, Raj Market, Kanpur Nagar-208008, Uttar Pradesh Flat No.89. At Fourth Floor Khet, Khasra No 258 1, Mauja Sarsaul Bahar Chungi, Near Agarwal Dhaba, Pargana And Tehsil Koil , District- Aligarh, Aligarh- 202002, Uttar

Aaraji No.427/1, New Mandi, Near Gov.

School, Mauja Digara Tehsil & Dist- Jhansi, Jhansi-284001, Uttar Pradesh

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to PCHFL as aforesaid, PCHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks of the said Borrowers as to the costs and consequences. The said Borrowers are prohibited under the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of PCHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act. Sd/- (Authorised Officer) Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited

Date: 21-01-2025 Place: Uttar Pradesh

(LC No. M0157833TU of Saharanpur Branc

Nagar Branch) Virendra Kumar (Borrower) Subha Devi (Co Borrower 1)

# **BJP** making efforts to implement UCC: Maurya

Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi made every possible effort to honour the legacy of Dr Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. "In 1990, the BJP-supported government honoured Dr Ambedkar with the prestigious Bharat Ratna, recognising his unique role in shaping the legal and social structure of India", he said while addressing a press conference organised under the 'Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan' at the BJP office in Gulab Bagh here on Monday.
"Under the leadership of Atal

Bihari Vajpayee, a picture of Dr Ambedkar was put up in the Central Hall of Parliament on April 12, 1990, which shows his importance in Indian democracy", Maurya said, adding that the BJP under the leadership of PM Modi has constantly worked to honour the contribution of Dr Ambedkar and ensure that his legacy is preserved for future generations. "Five major places associated with the life of Dr Ambedkar were identified and developed as Panchtirtha, which include Dr Ambedkar's birthplace Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), edu-cation land (London), Deekshabhoomi (Nagpur), Mahaparinirvana Bhoomi (Delhi) and Chaitanya Bhoomi (Mumbai) where his 'samadhi' has been built", he said

Maurya said the Congress ignored Dr Ambedkar even when he was alive but the BJP made every possible effort to inscribe his name in the pages



Deputy CM KP Maurya addressing a press conference in Varanasi on Monday.

of history. "On September 30, 2015, the Modi government released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Dr Ambedkar's life and work, which ensured that his legacy was preserved across the country. Every step taken by the BJP to honour the memory of Dr Ambedkar is a sign of its deep commitment to his vision of justice, equality and inclusive society", he said.

He further said, "His ideology continues to inspire the BJP's policies even today, which seek to empower every Indian, especially the marginalised communities. Dr Ambedkar dreamt of an India that values justice, equality and unity. The BJP is building the future of the nation based on this dream. In 2015, the BJP government led by PM Modi took the historic decision to celebrate November

26 as Constitution Day to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly of India". The deputy CM said five historic amendments led by PM Modi promoted social and gender justice. "These include constitutional status to the OBC Commission, reservation for economically weaker sections and 33 per cent reservation for women in legislatures. These reforms were a historic step towards a more inclusive India", he said, adding that the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir in 2019 was a historic step. "It restored the property rights of women in Jammu and Kashmir and ensured reservation benefits to tribal communities and eventually the region was aligned with the constitutional values of India", Maurya said. Maurya

said the BIP is making efforts to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which was promoted by Dr Ambedkar. "The UCC ensures equality and uniformity in personal law for all communities. It will provide a uniform legal framework for matters such as marriage, divorce, succession and adoption by eliminating religion-based laws. This is in sync with the goal enunciated under Article 44 of the Constitution, which provides for a uniform legal framework for all citizens, as well as promote secularism and gender justice", he said. He further said that the BJP introduced the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 which provides citizenship to minorities facing persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and

from the Dalit and tribal com-munities", he said, adding that the Modi government has brought about a historic reform in the legal framework of India by replacing the colonial era Indian Penal Code with the Indian Judicial Code. "By abolishing 160-year-old colonial laws, an important step has been taken towards freeing the Indian legal system from colonialism through the Indian Judicial Code as well as the Indian Civil Protection Code and the Indian Evidence Act", he said.

Maurya said the BJP Government passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, criminalising the practice of triple talaq. "This Act aligns personal laws with the constitutional principles of gender justice, equality and fairness. This bold reform reflects the BJP Government's unwavering commitment to empower women and uphold the fundamental values of the Indian Constitution", he said. The Deputy CM said 106 amendments have been made in the Indian Constitution so far, of which 75 were made during the Congress rule which shows that Congress repeatedly changed the Constitution for political gain. "Congress repeatedly used Article 356 to dismiss opposition-ruled state governments and impose central rule. Under this, President's rule was imposed 88 times, which weakened the autonomy of the states. Indira Gandhi delayed the implementation of the Mandal Commission report, which delayed OBC reservation, he said.

# on Kumbh Studies

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Uttar Pradesh Rajarshi Tandon Open University (UPRTOU) has launched a six-month certificate programme on Kumbh Studies to make people aware of the importance and grandeur of Maha Kumbh. Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Professor Satyakam on Monday informed the Governor and Chancellor Anandiben Patel in Mahakumbh Nagar about starting admission in the new certificate programme related to Kumbh Studies and presented study material related to it.

Governor Anandiben Patel appreciated this effort of the university and directed to run a campaign to inform more and more people about this programme.

The V-C said under the guidance of Governor this course was prepared by the Scholar Writer's Board in just one and a half months and as soon as the study material was ready, this programme was launched in January 2025 which will benefit crores of devotees coming to the Maha Kumbh area. The university has made the related study material online. People across the country can take advantage of this six-month certificate course. This course started on Maha Kumbh will help in knowing the spiritual heritage of India in depth. Professor Satyakam said that the objective of this course is to make the new generation aware about the importance of Kumbh.

## Certificate programme | DM inspects CHC



New DM Jitendra Pratap Singh inspecting records of Shivrajpur CHC on Monday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

New District Magistrate Jitendra Pratap Singh conducted a surprise inspection of Community Health Centre (CHC), Shivrajpur, on Monday and directed to stop salary of three doctors found absent from Outpatient Department (OPD) after marking their presence in the attendance register. As soon as he reached the CHC, panic prevailed among the staff. He started collecting every information related to the operation of community health centre and issued necessary instructions.

The district magistrate first visited the OPD where against four doctors, only one was found running it. He found three doctors and many staff nurses absent from the centre with their signatures in the attendance register.

The district magistrate immediately ordered to stop their salary and directed to initiate departmental action against

them. He said under the directives of the state administration action will be taken against the guilty on the lines of 'No Work, No Pay'. He later met the patients who had come to the centre for treatment and inquired whether they found the doctors present on duty or nor and whether they were getting the pre-scribed medicines or not.

SUICIDE: A young couple allegedly committed suicide by consuming poisonous substance in Patarsa village under Panki police station area here. Kin rushed to the spot and got them admitted to LLR (Hallet) Hospital where they suc-cumbed during treatment. Police and forensic team carried out a probe in the matter. They had a love marriage five years ago against the wishes of their family members Police sent the bodies of the deceased for post-mortem examination and started a probe to ascertain the

## Problems of people heard on Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam on Monday heard the problems and complaints of the people present at the Pindra tehsil headquarters on the occasion of Sampoorna Samadhan Diwas and directed the officials concerned to resolve them on time. The DM instructed the officials that the complaints should be disposed of with quality within the stipulated time period in every case. He warned that negligence at any level will not them, five cases were resolved be tolerated in resolving public grievances. Sampoorna

Cell (WBSC) to celebrate National Youth Day-2025 were

organised for students in col-

laboration with the University

Sports Board at the Amphitheatre Grounds. The

primary objective of this event

was to foster teamwork, disci-

pline and physical fitness among students while promot-

ing Swami Vivekananda's ideals



District Magistrate S Rajalingam listening to grievances of people in Pindra tehsil, Varanasi, on Monday.

ments were received. Out of officers to settle the cases related to land dispute related Diwas, a total of 91 complaints by conducting on-site inspection and verification by a

Recreational games organised

student-centric programme held by the Wellbeing Services al and engaging games: slow cycling, marble spoon race,

**Varanasi (PNS):** Recreational of strength and unity. The accompanied by Prof Nishat games as part of the five-day event featured five recreation- Afroz, Associate Dean of

relay race, sack race and 100-metre race. A total of 238 stu-

dents registered themselves at

the venue to participate in the

games. A total of 61 winners

were awarded prizes in their

respective male and female

Prof Anupam Kumar Nema,

Dean of Students, graced the occasion as the chief guest,

and games categories.

joint team of police and revenue department. He said that on the spot. He directed the there should be no laxity in resolving public problems. Officers ould take public problems seriously, otherwise, be ready for action, he added.

Development). One of the gold

medallists shared her excite-

ment, "This is my first sports

medal and I feel so happy to have won a gold medal."

Another participant remarked, "I really enjoyed today's event

and would love to have more

opportunities like this to play

and spend quality time with friends." The event was a

(Student

### Woman, two kids die under mysterious circumstances

Afghanistan. "Most of the ben-eficiaries under this Act are

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

woman and her two chil-

Adren died under mysterious circumstances while sleeping in their house in Katra locality under Bangermau Kotwali police area of Unnao on Sunday night. They were allegedly suffocated to death due to the deadly carbon monoxide fumes of a coal 'angithi' (stove) lying in the room. The CO along with Kotwali in charge and forensic team rushed to the spot and carried out investigation. Alok Singh is presently posted in Ladakh as a subedar in the Army. On Monday morning, he called his wife, Rachna Singh alias Nishu (35). On getting no response he informed other family members living in Munnikheda village of Fatehpur 84 police station area. His younger brother Pankaj reached the Katra house around 10 am and entered it through the neighbour's roof. On breaking open the doors he found Nishu, her son Vaibhav (7) and daughter Vaishnavi (4) dead. Kotwali in charge Rajesh Pathak said prima facie it appeared that all the three died of suffocation after inhaling the deadly carbon monoxide fumes from a coal stove kept in the room.

## Rajnath to address 'Samvidhan Gaurav **Abhiyan' meeting in Kashi on Jan 23**

The district and city units of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will jointly organise a grand public meeting under 'Samvidhan Gaurav Abhiyan' at Kisan Inter College, Mirza Murad, Raja Talab on January 23 at 2 pm. Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will address this public meeting as the chief guest. In this programme, workers from all the eight assembly constituencies of Varanasi district and city, along with people from Scheduled Castes and Tribes, will participate in large num-

Patel at a meeting organised in the BJP office located in Gulab Bagh here on Sunday reviewed the preparations for the public meeting. In it guidelines were given to the



Regional BJP chief Dilip Patel addressing a party meeting in Varanasi on Sunday.

main party office-bearers to ensure the arrangements and participation of the programme. Patel said that guidenes were issued regarding the preparations for the public meeting. Workers of all assembly constituencies were

can be ensured in the program. In this meeting, Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal. MLAs Dr Neelkanth Tiwari and Saurabh Srivastava, Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, district BJP president and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, city chief Vidyasagar Rai,

regional spokesman Navratan Rathi, Ashok Jatav, Naveen Kapoor, Praveen Singh Gautam, Sanjay Sonkar, Jagdish Tripathi, Surendra Patel, Ashok Patel, JP Dubey, Alok Srivastava, Madhukar Chitransh, Ashok Yadav, Sadhana Vedanti, Geeta Shastri and presidents of all the mandals were present.

# BJP scared of Akhilesh's popularity, claims SP leader PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI ty of national SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and the faith of the Akhilesh Yadav and SP have Temple (KVT). After the

Former national president of Samajwadi Yuvjan Sabha (SYS) Vikas Yadav said Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has been defeated by Samajwadi Party's strategy of Pichda Dalit Alpsankhyak (PDA). "The BJP and its leaders are scared of the populari-

deprived and exploited class of the society in him", he said in a release.

On his two-day visit to Kashi, Vikas Yadav was welcomed by party workers led by former SP city president Vishnu Sharma. Vikas Yadav said the people of PDA have been exploited for

raised their voice against the atrocities. "The BJP has only deprived this class of its rights", deprived this class of its rights, he said, expressing hope that in 2027, the people of Uttar Pradesh will vote for a change and PDA will definitely win.

Later, Vikas Yadav offered

Programme to raise awareness about

prayers at Kashi Vishwanath Temple (KVT). After the demise of late Bhagwati Upadhyay, mother of great scholar Chandramauli Upadhyay, as per the instruc-tions of SP president he along with the party workers visited her residence in Robit visited her residence in Rohit Nagar Colony (Naria) and expressed condolences.

## resounding success. Metro train models at pavilion stall captivate visitors PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR Sunil Barthwal, who wel- Motijheel) in a record time of

The Uttar Pradesh Metro Corporation Corporation (UPMRC) participated in the Urban Mobility and Infrastructure Show (UMIS) 2025, a segment of Bharat Mobility Expo, taking place from January 19 to 22 in Greater Noida.

UPMRC has set up an UPMRC has set up

engaging pavilion stall at the expo centre to showcase its innovative solutions and advancements in metro rail infrastructure. Secretary fr Ministry of Commerce

and Industry, Government of India, Sunil Barthwal, visited the UPMRC stall and commended the rapid execution of all three

UPMRC's commit-infrastructure

urban mobility through efficient and timely project delivery. The metro train models of Lucknow Metro, Kanpur Metro and Agra Metro placed at the pavilion stall were the centre of attraction and visitors were seen taking selfies with them. The session was

comed all the delegates and metro corporations and highlighted the importance of better mobility solutions in

cities across the country. Speaking on the occasion, MD UPMRC Sushil Kumar



metro projects in Uttar Pradesh. His UPMRC's stall at the Urban Mobility and Infrastructure Show 2025 appreciation highlights showcasing its innovative solutions and advancements in metro rail

ment to enhancing We are making rapid progress on the balance sections of the Kanpur and Agra Metro corridors and very soon, the people here will benefit from metro services across the entire route. UPMRC successfully launched passenger services on the 9-km-long inaugurated by Secretary priority corridor (IIT to

just two years and 1.5 months. Recently, for the first time, a test run of the metro train was conducted in the underground section from Motijheel to Kanpur Central, with plans to commence passenger services shortly. The completion of tunnel work for the pri-

Students

ority section of the Agra Metro in just 11 months is a remarkable achievement for UPMRC in 2024. Not only are we setting records by completing these projects ahead of schedule, but the people of the city are also benefiting from worldclass facilities through

The UMIS serves as a vital platform for stakeholders

to discuss innovative prac-tices and strategies aimed at improving urban trans-portation across India. UPMRC's participation reinforces its dedication to advancing urban mobility solutions and contributing to the nation's infrastructure development.

metro.

## IFFCO Phulpur unit gets award



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE PRAYAGRAJ

The IFFCO Ghiyanagar Phulpur unit received the Greentech Corporate Communication and Public Relations Award 2024 from the Greentech Foundation on Monday. This award was given for excellent performance under social responsibility in mass communication. Senior Executive Director Sanjay Kudesia said this award is the result of the social work done by the PR section last year. While congratulating Public Relations Officer (PRO) Swayam Prakash, he said last year the Public Relations Section organised camps for farmers with the help of CORDET at various places for Namo Kisan, Drone Didi distribution, awareness of nano fertiliser and drone training and seminars on World Earth Day.

COLLOQUIUM ON B U S I N E S S INFORMATICS: The second Colloquium on Business Informatics Indo-German workshop on Explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) and Federated Learning will be organised by Indian Institute of Information Technology, Allahabad, from January 21.

## creating clean, safe environment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

With the aim of creating awareness about the efforts to be made for a clean and safe environment, the organisation, "Just for Environment," conducted a programme at a Government Primary School in Geeta Nagar here on Monday. During it the office-bearers of the organisation through posters and other study material educated the students about small efforts to be made to reduce wastage of water, electricity and other natural resources. 'We are now facing the challenges of climate change resulting in unpredictable rainfalls, rise in temperature, decrease in crop productivity and growing health issues and hence it is the duty of all of us to conserve our natural resources and reduce carbon emissions", said Prof Narendra Mohan, patron of the organisa-

"You have to make a beginning in this direction from today itself, otherwise it will be too late", said Anita Agrawal, president. "The problem is of our carelessness and attitude, otherwise we all know the importance of safe water and air", she said and called upon the students to plant trees and protect them. During the programme,



The members of 'Just For Environment' distributed woollen socks and caps among students of a primary school in Geeta Nagar on Monday.

woollen socks and caps were also distributed to the students as a welfare activity of the organisation. Its office-bearers, especially Dr Jahar Singh, Kavya, Anushka and Ankit, took an active part in various activities conducted by the organisation.

MAN ENDS LIFE: Following differences with wife, a man allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself with his licensed revolver in Jawahar Nagar under Konch Kotwali police area of Jalaun late on Sunday night. On getting information about the matter police rushed to the spot and sent the body for an autopsy after inves-

tigation. The deceased identified as Akash, a contractor and a BJP leader, shot himself around 2.30 am following

a family discord. On hearing the sound of gunshot, his father Awadhesh and mother Mamta woke up and raised an alarm on seeing their son lying in a pool of blood. The locals rushed to the spot and took him to the community health centre (CHC) where he was declared dead by the doctors. Circle Officer (CO) Dr Devendra Pachauri along with Kotwali in charge Arun Rai, Sagar outpost in charge Avaneesh Patel and force rushed to the spot and sent the body for an autopsy after investigation. It is reported that Akash's wife was

living at her parents' house for the past two months due to differences. After an argument with her over phone late on Sunday night, Akash shot himself. The CO said the matter is being probed.



# Rahul writes to Nadda, Atishi on plight of AlIMS patients

PNS NEW DELHI

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi has written to Union Health Minister J P Nadda and Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, flagging the plight of hundreds of patients and their family members huddled on the footpath and subway outside AIIMS here and sought concrete steps to resolve this "humanitarian cri-

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also urged the central government to take concrete steps to strengthen the public healthcare system in the public he the upcoming budget and increase the necessary resources for it.

In a post in Hindi on X, Rahul said, "I have written letters to the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Union Health Minister to provide better facilities to the patients and their families coming to Delhi AIIMS from all over the country."

ing cold these people are forced to sleep in the subway under the metro station, where there is no provision of drinking water or a toilet. There are heaps of garbage lying around. The arrival of such a large number of patients to Delhi AIIMS also shows that people are not getting affordable and good quality health facilities where they live," Rahul said. "I hope that taking cognizance of my letter, the Chief Minister of Delhi and the Union Health Minister will take immediate steps to resolve this humanitarian crisis," he said.

In his letter to Nadda, Gandhi said he wants to bring to his attention "the distressing situation" outside AllMS, Delhi and went on to add that during his recent visit to the area he was saddened to see hundreds of patients and their family members huddled on the footpath and in the subway in the bitter winter cold, with



them without drinking water or sanitation facilities.

'Many of these patients travel from across the country, spend their life savings, and wait for months on end for medical care at India's premier medical institution. I am sure you will agree that no one should face such hardship, especially while already bat-tling serious medical conditions," he said.

While AllMS Delhi delivers excellent and affordable care, the condition of patients and their families shows that health-care is still out of reach for crores of Indians, he said in his letter dated January 18. 'As public representatives, we must all work together to address these issues. I urge you to take immediate and timely steps to address the situation at AIIMS Delhi. The government of India should work with the AIIMS leadership, the Government of Delhi and

only thin blankets to protect charitable organizations to provide heating, bedding, water, and shelter to patients and expand permanent facilities for accommodation," Gandhi said in his letter to

In addition, reducing the long

wait times would help reduce patients' uncertainty, he said.
"Crucially, the larger systemic issue is that AIIMS Delhi is overburdened because crores of people do not have access to affordable and high-quality healthcare where they live. I urge you, as Health Minister, to recognise and address this systemic issue," Rahul said. As a first step, the new AllMS facilities across the country should be operationalised at

the earliest, he said. "I hope the Government will use the upcoming Budget to review its overall approach, and substantially increase its

humanitarian issue. You have my full support in any endeavour to reduce the suffering of countless patients and their families," the Congress leader

In his letter to Atishi, Rahul urged the Delhi government to take immediate and timely steps this winter. "More permanent solutions to accommodate patients by building and expanding permanent facilities should also be explored, in partnership with AIIMS and the Government of India, as well as charitable organisations," he said.

The Congress leader on Thursday had met several patients and their families camping on the roads, foot-paths and subways around the AIIMS and enquired about their problems and grievances. He had accused the Centre and the Delhi government of investment in public health-care. I request your prompt towards them.

### NCC cadets should contribute to PM's Viksit Bharat dream: Rajnath

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an excadet of the National Cadet Corps(NCC), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday exhorted cadets to contribute to the Prime Minister's dream of making India a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047.

Addressing a gathering of cadets and officers during his visit to the ongoing Republic Day NCC camp at Delhi cantonment, he also said he sees an image of India in NCC

A total of 2,361 NCC cadets from across the country are taking part in the month-long camp, which began on December 30, and will culminate with the Prime Minister's rally on January 27. The annual event is also witnessing the participation of 917 girl cadets, the largest contingent so far. Appreciating the unity and discipline shown by cadets at the NCC camp, the defence minister said, "India has many bodies but one soul, many branches but one root, many rays but one light".

In his address, Rajnath Singh also recalled that before foraying into politics, he himself was a student, a cadet of NCC, and

a physics teacher". The energy and enthusiasm of the cadets reflect that India has and will have a bright future. NCC ingrains in youth leadership quality and discipline, he

The defence minister also spoke of the 'Viksit Bharat' vision of the government and the role the cadets can play in realising the ambitious vision that seeks to make India a developed nation by the time it completes 100 years since its Independence in 1947.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, himself an ex-cadet of the NCC, has given the vision

of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. So, its current cadets have a responsibility to contribute to his 'Viksit Bharat' dream," he

However, Rajnath Singh emphasised that 'Viksit Bharat' does not mean merely physical development on land, but a holistic growth of entire soci-

Praising the NCC's role in inculcating discipline and leadership qualities among cadets when they are young, the defence minister said there is a "spark within" the cadets that forges a way of life for them in such a way that irrespective of the profession they will choose later, they will all contribute to nation-building.

Rajnath Singh also recalled his visit to Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai, a place, he said, also reminds one of the deadly 26/11 terror attacks in that city in 2008.

He also mentioned the last words spoken by Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan before he laid down his life while battling the terrorists in the attack. was his (Maj Unnikrishnan's) leadership quality (shown during the combat)," the defence minister told the cadets, exhorting them to become leaders in life. Rajnath Singh also exhorted them to "think big" and never get disheartened in life, nor have a narrow-minded thinking. "A person becomes significant in life not by virtue of the big posts one holds, but by the human qualities they have," he said.

"There is a need to move forward by breaking free from shackles of thoughts," he said, and urged people to never harbour conceit.

Earlier, he was accorded a welcome by a group of cadets drawn from all three wings of the NCC and later also reviewed a guard of honour given by them at the venue.

The defence minister also handed Raksha Mantri Padak and Commendation Cards to several NCC cadets, chosen for their exemplary performance and devotion to duty, at an investiture ceremony held during his visit. Rajnat Singh also visited the 'Flag Area' and interacted with a few cadets. On Saturday, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth visited the NCC camp and lauded cadets as "ambassadors" of 'Viksit Bharat' while urging them to continue working tirelessly towards the vision of making India a developed country by 2047.

## Top court stays proceedings in defamation case against Rahul

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed trial court proceedings against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case filed against him for alleged defamatory remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Naveen Jha, a BJP worker, had filed the case against Gandhi in 2019 for his alleged remarks against Shah.

During one of his public speeches in Chaibasa before the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Gandhi had allegedly referred

to Shah as a "murderer". A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the Jharkhand government and the BJP leader while seeking their response on Gandhi's appeal. "Issue notice. Till further

orders, further proceedings in the trial shall remain stayed," the bench said. Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, said there are several judgments which say that only the aggrieved person



can file a criminal defamation

He submitted that the defamation complaint cannot be filed by a proxy third

Senior advocate Mahesh Jethmalani appeared for Jha. Gandhi has challenged the Jharkhand High Court order, which rejected his petition to quash proceedings against him in a trial court in connection with the complaint.

The Congress leader had contested the decision of a magisterial court in Ranchi, which instructed him to personally appear before the court to undergo trial. Later, Gandhi moved the high court, which issued a stay order on any further actions in the lower court against him. After recording the state-

ments of the complainant and witnesses, the magistrate had found merit in the case against Gandhi and directed him to appear before the trial court on February 4, 2023. Later, the HC, while issuing

a stay on the notice issued by the magistrate, ordered that "no coercive steps" be taken

## Lakhimpur Kheri case: SC seeks report from UP Police on Ashish Mishra 'influencing' witnesses

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI** 

 $T^{\text{he Supreme Court on}}_{\text{Monday sought a report from UP Police after allega-}}$ tions, accusing Ashish Mishra of influencing witnesses in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case, surfaced. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh directed the Lakhimpur Kheri superintendent of police (SP) to file the report in the court.

"In our considered view the veracity, genuineness and reliability of such material can only be gone into by the police administration. The police administration may submit a report in support or against the allegation made in the application seeking cancellation of bail," the bench said. Mishra, son of former Union Minister Ajay Mishra, denied the allegations in his affidavit, and said every time the matter was listed, such averments were made for the cancellation the material brought before it.



of his bail granted by the top court.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for complainants, claimed he had an audio recording of an attempt made to influence crucial witnesses in the case. He also alleged Mishra attended a public meeting in violation of bail conditions. Seeking the can-cellation of Mishra's bail, Bhushan said the court may ascertain the authenticity of

Senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for Mishra, opposed Bhushan's submission, saying his client was being targeted unnecessarily. He said his client was in Lok Sabha secretariat in Delhi on the day of the alleged public meeting. The bench asked Bhushan and Dave to submit their material to Ruchira Goel, UP Government's Standing Counsel, for handing it over to the Lakhimpur Kheri SP. Bhushan said the inquiry

should be carried out by some senior officers and not the SP as he may come under the influence. The bench said the SP was fairly a senior IPS officer and the court should trust the officers.

The hearing was posted after four weeks. On November 27, last year, the top court directed Mishra to respond to the allegations that witnesses of the case were being threatened. The apex court granted bail to Mishra on July 22 last year and restricted his movement to Delhi or Lucknow.

On October 3, 2021, eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri district during a protest by farmers against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by a sports utility vehicle. A driver and two BJP workers were then allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in the vio-

## Road safety: SC asks States, UTs to file report on compliance of Motor Vehicle Act

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

In a significant order, the Supreme Court on Monday directed 23 states and seven union territories to file compliance reports indicating implementation of the Motor Vehicle law's recent provisions besides rules on electronic monitoring and road safety measures. A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan noted five states and a UT, namely, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Delhi, had filed their compliance

reports. The top court on September 2, 2024 passed directions on the implementation of Section 136A of the Motor Vehicles Act read with Rule 167A of the Motor Vehicles Rules which allow authorities to electronically monitor speeding vehicles.

The bench has now asked the remaining 23 states and seven UTs to file their compliance reports which will be shared with



the Supreme Court committee on road safety. The apex court panel, in turn, would look into all aspects and provide its inputs which could be considered by the Centre in framing the standard operating procedure on electronic monitoring and enforcement of road safety measures, the bench said. Senior advocate Gaurav

Agrawal, assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, informed the bench that six states had filed their reports and the necessary directions may be passed with

regard to them.

The bench said it would consider the aspect on March 25 and its panel on road safety, in the meantime, could seek assistance of the six states while deliberating upon the reports.

Section 136A, introduced in 2021 in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, aims to deploy advanced technologies such as speed cameras, closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras, speed guns, body-worn cameras, and automatic number plate recognition systems to ensure better traffic management and enforcement of traffic laws.

It also emphasises electronic monitoring on national highways, state highways, and urban roads in cities with a population exceeding one million.

Rule 167A of the Motor Vehicles Rules deal with the implementation and other regulatory aspects of road safety measures. Under the rule, the state governments have to ensure installation of electronic enforcement devices at high-risk and highdensity corridors on national and state highways, and at critical junctions at least in major cities with more than a million population and also including 132 cities as specified in the rules.

'Section 136A of the Motor Vehicles Act is an innovative provision with the potential to transform road safety enforcement by leveraging technology. Proper implementation will ensure road discipline and allow for the efficient prosecution of violators," the bench had

## Yasin Malik trial: SC asks J and K HC to ensure proper VC facilities in Jammu court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the registrar general of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court to ensure proper video-conferencing facilities at a Jammu special court hearing two cases against jailed JKLF chief Yasin Malik and others. A bench comprising Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan further directed the Delhi High Court registrar general to ensure proper video-conferencing facilities in Tihar jail where Malik is lodged in a separate

terror financing case. Both High Court registrars reports on February 18 by the system," it added.

bench, which posted the hearing on the CBI plea on February 21. "We have perused the observations made by the (special) judge (of the Jammu court). At two places, he has recorded that the video-conference system in his court was not functioning properly," the court said.

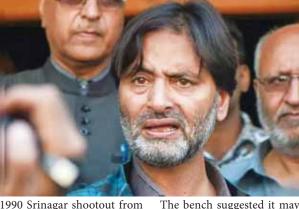
The bench therefore directed the registrar general of Jammu and Kashmir High Court to look into what was "stated by the learned judge" and "take immediate steps for installing a proper system" to conduct the hearing through video-

conferencing. The system should be such that there can be effective were directed to file the status cross examination by using the

The top court asked the registrar general to "do the needful" and submit a report by February 18 before it after deputing an expert to examine the newly-installed VC system in Jammu court.

We also direct the registrar in-charge of IT (information technology) of the Delhi High Court to visit the jail at Tihar to see whether (VC) facilities are good enough to enable the first respondent (Yasin Malik) to cross examine witnesses in the trial," it said.

The bench was hearing a plea of the CBI seeking the trans-fer of the cases' trials in the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former union minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, and the



1990 Srinagar shootout from Jammu to New Delhi.

At the outset, the bench was informed except Malik, all other accused were out on bail

The bench suggested it may transfer the trials to Tihar Jail by setting up a special court and other accused may appear through the VC facilities.

The suggestion was opposed

by the counsel of the other

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the CBI, said it appeared all the accused were working in tandem to delay the trial.

An accused's counsel, however, said, "What is the harm in having the trial there at Jammu court and have Yasin Malik appear through the VC? It will be difficult travelling all

the way to Delhi." He said the offences alleged were old and the accused, who were in their 60s and 70s suffered from age-related ail-

Mehta said while Malik refused to engage a lawyer, others opposed the transfer of The accused said they were old, but they should have been careful enough in younger days while committing the offences, he said.

The top court on December 18, last year, gave six accused two weeks to respond to the CBI's plea to transfer the trial of the cases.

The plea is over the two cases -- killing of four Indian Air Force personnel on January 25, 1990 in Srinagar and Rubaiya's abduction on December 8, 1989.

Malik, chief of the banned organisation JKLF, is facing trial in both cases.

The top court was hearing a CBI plea against the September 20, 2022 order of a Jammu trial court directing

Malik, serving a life term in Tihar jail, to be produced before it physically to crossexamine prosecution witnesses in the abduction case. The CBI said Malik was a

threat to national security and couldn't be allowed to be taken outside the Tihar jail premises. Rubaiya, who was freed five days after her abduction when the then BJP-backed V P Singh government at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange, now lives in Tamil Nadu. She is a prosecution witness for the CBI, which took over the case in early 1990s.

Malik has been lodged in

Tihar jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in May 2023 in a terror-fundwww.dailypioneer.com

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

-PAPER WITH PASSION-----

## A giant leap in space

ISRO'S space docking underscores the nation's technical prowess and sets the stage for future space explorations

■ ndia's space programme, spearheaded by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has achieved yet another landmark with its first successful space docking experiment. This milestone represents a pivotal moment in the nation's space exploration journey, further cementing ISRO's reputation as a key player in global space technology. Space docking is the process of two spacecraft connecting in orbit, enabling the transfer of crew, equipment, or fuel. It is a critical technology for advanced space missions, including the construction of space stations, in-orbit servicing and interplanetary travel. The ability to dock spacecraft is a benchmark for spacefaring nations, signifying their capability to perform complex operations in space. ISRO's docking experiment involved two small, indigenously developed spacecraft launched into orbit. The mission demonstrated autonomous manoeuvering, where the spacecraft approached each other, aligned precisely, and successfully docked while orbiting Earth at high speeds.



The operation required intricate planning and the development of cutting-edge technologies such as precision navigation, control systems, and robotic mech-

This docking experiment lays the groundwork for India's ambition to develop its own modular space station, a project slated for the next decade. Space docking technology is critical for future missions to the Moon and Mars. It facilitates the assembly of larger spacecraft in orbit and supports refueling and crew transfer, essential for long-duration missions. Mastery of docking technology positions India as a potential partner for international projects, such as the Lunar

Gateway or other collaborative space station endeavours. The success underscores ISRO's ability to innovate and develop sophisticated technologies domestically, reducing reliance on external support. Executing a docking manoeuver is no small feat. ISRO had to address multiple challenges, including developing highly accurate navigation and control systems capable of autonomous decision-making. Ensuring synchronisation of two spacecraft traveling at speeds exceeding 28,000 km/h. ISRO's successful space docking marks a critical step forward in India's space aspirations. It aligns with the organisation's vision to expand its presence in low Earth orbit and beyond. The achievement also inspires confidence in India's space capabilities as the nation eyes ambitious goals such as the Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, lunar exploration, and interplanetary ventures. The international space community has lauded ISRO's accomplishment, recognising it as a significant technical breakthrough. It reaffirms India's position as a rising space power, capable of undertaking challenging and high-stakes missions. As the nation continues to push the boundaries of what's possible, this milestone serves as a foundation for even greater achievements in the years to come. With every new stride, India moves closer to its dream of being a leader in the final frontier.



School students perform during Kokborok Day celebrations, in Agartala

# Mahakumbh: Spiritual fervour

## meets economic revival



NAND GOPAL GUPTA

This edition of Mahakumbh is not only the world's largest religious congregation but also a showcase of Uttar Pradesh's evolving economic prowess and cultural magnificence

ver 3 crore devotees, both national and international, taking a holy dip on the debut day of Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, has just validated what we have been saying for the past several months. In terms of scale and grandeur, this edition of Mahakumbh would not only be the largest religious congregation on the planet. But it would also remain unmatched for a very long time. We estimate that it will eventually have around 400 million visitors (more than double the previous edition). But won't be surprised if the actual number exceeds our expectations, by a modest margin. Elaborate arrangements would be an under-

A more apt term would be epicscale preparations. Yes, this is what went into this grand event which we would like to be remembered forever. The UP government had sanctioned more than 540 projects to create worldclass amenities at an estimated expenditure in the vicinity of Rs 7,000 crore. You go to the site and you will notice a sprawling new city (covering 4,000 hectares) has been set up which has over 1.5 lakh tents and all basic amenities including advanced medical centres and distinct pockets for busi-

There is hardly any name (big or small) in the consumer-facing business that you will find missing in action at the holy site serving the devotees with their offerings. On a cumulative basis, we are expecting a generation of economic activities worth Rs 2 lakh crore or over \$24 billion which is simply staggering.
The security architecture created

for this mega event is powered by artificial intelligence (AI), which is an added feature. Our objective has been simple. We wanted to create a site that would be the best possible amalgamation of religious fervour of the highest order and modern amenities of the best class. And from the initial response of the visitors, we seem to have succeeded to a large extent. It would be no exaggeration to say that we have spared no effort in ensuring that this grand religious event assumes an unmatchable character. This was



CREATE A SITE devotees from other national-THAT WOULD ities and religions too) expectof Uttar Pradesh. From being BEST CLASS

quite evident at the site for kitty, four international and which we have left no stone unturned. That millions of visitors should carry the impression of a modern and thriving economy is indeed an

We have been working quite hard in reviving the state's economy since 2017 trying to put it in the leader's club ( among states) in the country. There has been a slew of policy and regulatory interven-tions which have delivered positive results. We are the third largest economy (statewise) which has an impressive share of over 8 per cent in the national GDP. The annual growth of the state's economy in the last seven-eight years has been to the tune of 11 per cent, among the highest in the country. Despite being a landlocked state, we have a share of around 5 per cent in the national exports which has facilitated our defining Marketing Development Assistance scheme.

new business opportunities (for the next five years) emerging from a far superior infrastructural base. We today have the largest rail network in the country, 38 per cent expressways' share of the national

EDITO

**Indian women win Kho kho World Cup** 

nine domestic airports. Further, seven new airports are under construction including the world-class Jewar Airport which will be unveiled soon. To energise grassroots economies, one of our major initiatives has been: the onedistrict-one-product scheme. Launched in 2018, this scheme seeks to identify the specific USP product of 75 districts and help the local stakeholders take that business to the next level with all-round support (training to marketing) from government agencies. Since the inception of the scheme, we have supported over 1,33,472 artisans across the state. The efforts to give a decisive rejig to the state economy have considerably paid off, propelling us to commit to further pushing our growth momentum and becoming a \$1 trillion economy in the notso-distant future. This is the core objective of our economic salvation route, which we This year, we will be announc- have been pursuing for quite ing a new export policy that some time. And I am quite will take into consideration the confident that the visitors to Mahakumbh this time, will also have a sufficient glimpse

> (The writer is Minister for Industrial Development & Export Promotion, Uttar Pradesh; views are personal)



ed to arrive at the holy site and BE THE BEST experience the magnificence of Bharat's religious strength, the POSSIBLE show has to also offer them a AMALGAMATION glimpse of the world's ancient society being in a serious OF RELIGIOUS The event has to intrinsically **FERVOUR** validate our subtle claim of OF THE HIGHEST global leadership in several spheres. There is one more ORDER AND critical message that we wish to emanate from Mahakumbh MODERN this time. And that pertains to AMENITIES OF THE the growing economic prowess

# **GOVERNOR VS STATE GOVERNMENT**

in the disparaging 'Bimaru'

state club till the recent decade,

the turnaround in the state's

economic fortune would be

resurgent mode.

Madam — The dispute between the Tamil Nadu government and Governor Dr RN Ravi over vice-chancellor appointments has reached the Supreme Court. On January 17, 2025, a bench led by Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan intervened, stating that the matter would be resolved by the next hearing unless the parties reached an agreement. The Tamil Nadu Government has filed writ petitions accusing the Governor of delays and non-compliance with constitutional duties. The court has scheduled the next hearing for next Wednesday, signalling its readiness to resolve the deadlock. This conflict echoes previous legal cases on gubernatorial

powers in university appointments. In The Chancellor, University of Kerala vs Governor of Kerala (2017), the Supreme Court affirmed that while the Governor holds discretionary powers in such appointments, consultation with the state government is crucial. Similarly, the 2019 West Bengal VC appointment case emphasised state autonomy in these matters, reinforcing the need for cooperation between the state and the governor. External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, in his Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture, highlighted the importance of constitutional morality and the role of advisors in governance. His remarks, though not directly related to the Tamil Nadu case, underscore the significance of upholding constitutional norms. The Supreme Court's involvement could clarify the limits of gubernatorial power, setting a precedent for future state-governor conflicts. This case tests the balance between state autonomy and the governor's constitutional duties, with far-reaching implications for governance.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

### **STRICTER RULES FOR MIGRANTS**

Madam —Many Indians move to Gulf countries to earn money within a short period. They live there for a few years, earn a substantial income and manage to survive under tough conditions. Even if the



**♦** he Indian women's team claimed the title of the first Kho Kho World Cup 2025 with their exceptional skills, invincible strategy, and incredible agility. On Sunday evening at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, India secured their victory by defeating Nepal with a massive margin of 78-40 in a historic match.

pensation in these countries is far higher han what they would earn in India. For instance, Saudi Arabia alone is home to approximately 2.5 million Indians as of 2024, most of whom belong to the lower economic strata. The situation is similar in other Gulf countries. However, this scenario may soon change. To regulate the influx of people from India, Saudi Arabia has now imposed restrictions on its work visa policies. These stricter regulations will come into effect from Makar Sankranti, January 14, 2025.

Applicants for work visas in Saudi Arabia will now have to undergo a pre-verification process for their educational and professional qualifications. Those with insufficient qualifications may face rejection from obtaining a work visa. Other Gulf countries, such as the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman and Kuwait, also employ millions of Indians. Like Saudi Arabia, these nations are also likely to implement measures to control the number of Indian workers entering their ter-

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

Dressed in blue ierseys, the Indian players dominated the game right from the start. Captain Priyanka Ingale delivered an extraordinary performance, scoring several crucial touch points, which helped the team maintain a consistent lead. Under her leadership, the team built a 34-point advantage and eliminated every possibility of a dream run for Nepal. This victory stands as a living testa-

ment to Indian women's power and their growing influence in the world of sports. This historic achievement has not only brought glory to the nation but also inspired women athletes across the country. It symbolises the triumph of teamwork, determination, and relentless effort.

R K Jain | Barwani

### **FIRE BROKE OUT AT MAHAKUMBH**

Madam — A fire broke out in the Maha Kumbh area in Prayagraj, leading to the burning of several tents. Two cylinders exploded in Sector 19 of the Maha Kumbh Mela, causing a massive fire in the camps. Firefighters are trying to douse the blaze. Although the police and administration team reached the spot, and the fire had been doused. But the issue has raised several questions on the safety of the devotees that have come from far areas to visit the spiritual atmosphere of the holy confluence

and take a dip at the Triveni Sangam. The government and administration express sorrow over the incident and pray for the safety of all devotees. It is the government's responsibility to ensure security, control the fire, and prevent such incidents in the future. Instead of paying deep consideration for the advertisement, authorities should develop focus on the safety and security of the lives of devotees.

> Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Dimple Wadhawan | Kanpur Nagar

### children's elocution competition From innovative tech-based ideas to timeless acts of kindness, the young participants presented thoughtful solutions that left me inspired about what truly makes us happy ast week, I had the priv-

Sparking smile: Lessons from a

ilege of being on the panel of judges for an

elocution competition for students, with the topic 'The Perfect Solution to Make People Smile More.' It was an intriguing subject-one very close to my heart-because I am the kind of person who smiles a lot. A lot more than people sometimes care to respond to or reciprocate. On the street, in the metro, in the building gallery, during my walk-almost anyone I can get eye contact with, whether stranger or friend, gets a smile. It is the most inexpensive gift I can offer, regardless of whether it is valued or not. It's a heart-felt gesture that could be the very thing someone needs to make their day. The children who participated came up with some remarkable ideas-everything from making a smile a commodity that fetches monetary rewards or other tangible benefits to evoking emotional points that deeply resonated with the empathy in me. Given that the contest was called "Pitch Perfect," the students brought forth many

innovative concepts to make

people smile, many of which



It was fascinating to imagine how new-age devices could inspire smiles, but I couldn't help wondering-do we really need tools and gadgets to smile? Can't we simply find natural reasons for it? Can't we create genuine moments that make people's eyes crinkle at the corners authentical-

Às I waited for those ideas to unfold, I felt a gentle discomfort with the implicit belief that nothing happens these days without gadgets. But then came a few gems that emphasised the importance of compassion, empathy, and kindness as part of our daily lives-powerful ingredients for sparking smiles. This is what I want the younger generation to embody-an attitude that encourages them to be better people each day, spreading kindness, rather than relying solely on innovations.

I was deeply moved by what some of the children shared. When I asked one young participant what act of kindness he had done that day to make someone smile or brighten their day, his answer was simple yet profound: "I told my mother how yummy the breakfast was, and it made her very happy." My takeaway from the expe-

rience was this: the new generation is competitive, full of energy to beat the odds and rise to the top in life. But it is also brimming with humaneness and rationality, qualities nurtured by the guidance of teachers, parents, and mentors. As they navigate the pressures of becoming super achievers, they still understand that the roots of happiness and peace lie in kindness and compassion. As is my habit, I often ask my students if they enjoy going to school and, if so, why. The answer I invariably hear is they like

school not because of what

they learn in class, but

because of their friends. This

sometimes makes me ques-

tion my belief that schools

smiles through simple acts of and universities should be temples of learning-platforms for young minds to ignite and

> Their answer also makes me wonder if there's more to be desired in how we mould our students. Have we focused too much on academic excellence at the cost of soul-nurturing education? Perhaps we need to spend less time teaching children skills to thrive in a competitive world and more time preparing them to be compassionate, kind-hearted individuals who bring joy to those around

> This competition, with all its innovation and spirited energy, reminded me that the most profound solutions to making people smile often lie in the simplest of acts: a word of appreciation, a compliment, a smile shared. As we look toward a future

> increasingly driven by technology, let's not lose sight of what makes us truly human. It's the little things that have the power to make the world a little brighter.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and children's writing coach. She has published six books. Views are personal) work is as labourers, the monetary com-

www.dailypioneerloneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneerl@TheDailyPioneerlinstagram.com/dailypioneer/

### **FIRST COLUMN** THE TRANSFORMATIVE **ROLE OF EDUCATORS**

Educators serve as mentors and guide, empowering students to become responsible citizens



SAKSHI **SETHI** 

ducation is not merely the transfer of knowledge. It is the shaping of minds, the fostering of growth and even more the cultivation of potential. As educators, the role extends far beyond delivering lectures or grading assignments. It encompasses mentoring, inspiring and empowering individuals to become critical thinkers and responsible citizens. Reflecting on our roles allows us to embrace our responsibilities more consciously and adapt to the evolving needs of learners and society. In contemporary education, the role of the educator has shifted from being the sole source of knowledge to a facilitator of learn-

This transition underscores the importance of guiding students to explore, question, and construct their understanding. It is about creating an environment where students feel safe to express their thoughts, make mistakes and grow from them. The role of an educator becomes especially significant when working with board students. When talking about them, the educator's primary responsibility is to ensure a strong understanding of the curriculum, including breaking down complex concepts, identifying and addressing knowledge gaps and providing effective study

Beyond teaching content, educators must help students develop time management and exam techniques to perform confidently under pressure. The role demands subject expertise and a keen awareness of the examination format and trends. Today, the modern educational landscape for board students includes challenges such as increasing competition, societal expectations, and the rapid integration of technology in learning. Educators need to stay adaptable, leveraging digital tools



to make learning engaging and accessible by recognising diverse learning styles employing strategies to meet those needs, and ensuring that every student feels included and valued. Additionally, acknowledging the diverse learning needs of students and personalising instruction whenever possible is also crucial for ensuring their success. There is no denying that students are at a critical juncture in their academic journey, preparing for examinations that often determine their future educational and career paths. Reflecting on our roles as educators in this context reveals the need for a balanced approach that combines academic rigour, emotional support, and life-skill development.

One of the most vital roles of an educator is to be a lifelong learner. Education is a dynamic field, and staying updated with pedagogical advancements, cultural shifts, and technological innovations is essential. This commitment to personal growth will not only enhance teaching effectiveness but will also model the value of continuous learning for students. Teaching values such as critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability prepare students for challenges beyond the examination hall. It is essential to emphasise that education is about equipping them with skills for life, not just marks on a report card. Reflecting on our roles as educators highlights the immense responsibility and opportunity, we have in shaping young lives. It requires academic expertise, emotional intelligence, and unwavering dedication. By nurturing not just the intellect but also the spirit of our students, we as educators can guide them toward success in their exams and, more importantly, in life. By embracing our multifaceted roles with passion and purpose, we can create transformative experiences for our students and leave an enduring legacy of knowledge and wisdom.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

# How skill-based degrees are redefining India's future

By aligning with industry needs and empowering individuals with practical expertise, the nation is paving the way for a more inclusive and dynamic workforce



ndia's education system is undergoing a quiet revolution. As the global job market evolves, the emphasis on traditional degrees gives way to skill-focused education tailored to the demands of a dynamic economy. A prime example is the introduction of degree courses in salons, spas, beauty parlours, and other vocational domains. These courses sig-nify a paradigm shift in how we perceive education, employment, and entrepreneurship in 'Viksit Bharat.' This development addresses critical challenges. It aligns with the growing aspirations of India's youth, caters to burgeoning private sector industries, and equips individuals with skills for self-employment, entrepreneurship and opportunities abroad.

Growing Demand for Vocational

The global wellness industry, valued at over \$4 trillion, continues to expand, with India emerging as a key player.
The beauty and wellness sector alone is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 18 per cent over the next five years. The personal grooming industry demands nearly 1.3 million professionals annually, significantly surpassing the 3-4 lakh jobs the software industry adds yearly. This boom has created immense demand for skilled professionals, from hairstylists and spa therapists to salon managers and beauty wellness consultants. Recognising this, regulatory bodies like the UGC and AICTE have integrated skills courses into the education system. Indian universities now collaborate with training institutes to offer structured programmes like the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Beauty and Wellness. These programmes cover skincare, makeup artistry and salon

Other universities offer diplomas and degree programmes in wellness and hospitality sectors, designed with industry leaders. Globally, institutions such as the London College of Beauty Therapy (UK) and the Australian Academy of Beauty Dermal and Laser offer worldclass programmes. These courses adhere to international standards, providing globally recognised certifications that enhance employability abroad.

### Parity Between B Voc and BSc

An essential aspect of this transformation is recognising the equivalence of Bachelor of Vocation (B Voc) and Bachelor of Science (BSc) degrees. While BSc focuses on academic learning, B Voc emphasises hands-on, industry-relevant training. Recent policy reforms place these degrees on par, ensuring vocational education is no longer seen as secondary but as an equally credible academic pathway. This parity allows B Voc graduates to access the same opportunities as BSc graduates in employment, higher education, or competitive exams. It underscores the value of skills and practical expertise in driving economic growth. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and National Credit

BEAUTY

SECTOR

ALONE IS

PROJECTED

COMPOUND

CENT OVER

FIVE YEARS

THE NEXT

**GROWTH RATE** 

(CAGR) OF 18 PER

ANNUAL

WELLNESS

Framework Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) further strengthens this integration. RPL allows individu-TO GROW als to earn formal recognition for previous informal training or work experiences.

When aligned with the National Credit Framework, credits earned in schools, vocational training institutions, or universities become seamlessly transferable across sectors. This fosters flexibility in education, empowering individuals to personalise their learning journeys and reduce redundancy. By integrating RPL with skillbased programmes, India's education system becomes more inclusive and adaptable. Employment Entrepreneurship Opportunities Skill-based degree programs unlock diverse career

1. Private Sector Jobs: Luxury wellness brands, fitness chains, and beauty franchises seek trained professionals. Graduates can secure jobs in high-end spas, salons, and wellness centres with lucrative salaries and career

2. Self-Employment and

empower entrepreneurial individuals to establish businesses. Graduates can run boutique salons or offer personalised wellness services, catering to niche markets. 3. Government Jobs: Recognising

vocational degrees has expanded opportunities in government roles. Graduates are eligible for positions in wellness centres and initiatives under schemes like Skill India and PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana).

4. Global Opportunities: Programmes often include internationally recognised certifications, enhancing employability abroad. For instance, graduates from LCBT in the UK find opportunities in European markets, while Australian academy-trained professionals thrive in Asia-Pacific regions.

Breaking Stigmas Around Vocational Careers

Vocational careers have long been viewed as secondary options. Introducing structured degree programs challenges these stereotypes. Formal education in salons, spas, and beauty parlours combines technical skills, business acumen, and industry exposure, positioning these professions as aspirational. This shift is especially empower-

ing for women, who form a significant portion of the workforce in these fields and now gain access to recognised qualifications that enhance professional credibility. **Challenges in Implementation** India's higher education system,

often criticised for being theoryheavy, struggles to improve practical skill sets. Initiatives like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and platforms like SWAYAM aim to modernise education, but challenges remain:

**Q**uality Assurance: Maintaining high standards and industry relevance requires collaboration with established industry players.

2. Awareness: Many students and parents remain unaware of these

opportunities, favouring traditional careers. Awareness campaigns are crucial.

3. Infrastructure and Faculty: Vocational education requires specialised infrastructure and trained faculty. Institutions must invest in state-of-the-art facilities and continuous professional development for educators.

Recognition **Accreditation:** Further integration into academia and government recruitment processes will enhance vocational degrees' credibility.

Vision for the Future

Skill-based degree programmes signify societal reform, recognising youth aspirations and aligning education with market realities. By formalising careers through structured courses, India creates a skilled and confident workforce. These reforms reflect a commitment to inclusivity, providing

pathways for diverse socio-economic backgrounds to pursue rewarding careers. India is on the brink of an educa-

tional revolution. Skill-based degrees in fields like salons, spas, and beauty parlours redefine education. These programmes bridge the gap between aspiration and opportunity, equipping students with skills to thrive globally. As these initiatives gain momentum, scaling them, ensuring quality, and destigmatising vocational careers are imperative. With parity between B Voc and BSc degrees and the integration of RPL into the National Credit Framework, India's education system is transforming into a flexible and robust framework. These changes will meet today's demands and shape a prosperous future for the nation.

(The writer is co-founder and MD of Orane International, a training partner of the National Skill Development Corporation(NSDC) and a network Member of India International Skills Centres, an initiative of GoI. The views expressed are personal)

## Balancing rights and order: Innovations in protest management

Protests are the lifeblood of democracy. For law enforcement, it must carefully balance between public safety and democratic freedoms

housands of people gather, holding banners and chanting slogans, their voices echoing through the streets. For law enforcement, these aren't merely demonstrations but skill, strategy, and restraint tests. Managing protests today demands more than enforcing law and order; it requires innovation, preparation, and

Reflecting on this evolving role, a senior officer once remarked, "Our goal isn't to silence dissent but to ensure it unfolds safely for everyone involved. Effective protest management is about enabling expression while maintaining peace." This philosophy increasingly shapes how law enforcement approaches public demonstrations globally



and in India.

**Dialogue Policing:** Dialogue policing, extensivey practised in Sweden and Norway, prioritises proactive communication between police and protest organisers. Liaison officers meet organisers before demonstrations to discuss routes, safety measures, and mutual expectations. This approach fosters trust and de-escalates tensions before they arise. Indian police have applied similar strategies during political rallies and cultural events, engaging community leaders to ensure peaceful outcomes.

Leveraging Technology: Technology is transforming

protest management globally. În countries like Singapore and South Korea, drones with high-resolution cameras monitor crowd density and movement, while artificial intelligence (AI) tools analyse data to predict potential flashpoints. This enables law enforcement to allocate resources proactively and prevent crises. Indian olice are increasingly adopting these tools. Drones were deployed during the farmers' protests and other large-scale events, offering real-time monitoring of crowd dynamics.

Social media monitoring cells track misinformation and narratives, enabling swift corrective measures. Law enforcement enhances its situational awareness and credibility by integrating technology with traditional methods. Non-Lethal Methods:

Germany sets a global benchmark for using non-lethal tools like water cannons, sound devices, and barricades to manage large gatherings. Officers trained in crowd psychology focus on isolating disruptive elements while respecting the rights of peaceful protestors. In India, nonlethal methods have been employed during sensitive protests, such as barricading roads to control crowds or using water cannons to dis-

perse tense gatherings. The



focus remains on proportionality—ensuring responses are measured, harm is minimised, and democratic freedoms are respected.

### Transparency

Accountability Transparency is crucial for public trust. In New Zealand, body-worn cameras document police actions during protests, ensuring accountability and protecting officers from false accusations. Oversight bodies review

footage to ensure compliance with established protocols. In India, body-worn cameras have been introduced in several states, particularly during sensitive operations.

### Multi-agency coordination for Large Protests

Managing large-scale demonstrations often requires multiagency collaboration. In the United States, unified command centres integrate local police, state law enforcement, and federal agencies for cohesive responses. These centres streamline resource sharing and operational alignment, which is critical for complex India's law enforcement regularly employs similar coordination during significant events, such as farmers' protests, political rallies, and national festivals. Central para-

military forces often supplement state police, ensuring adequate workforce and resources. Clear protocols and seamless coordination are the backbone of these efforts. Comprehensive Training:

### Training is a cornerstone of effective protest management. Canadian police emphasise de-escalation, cultural sensitivity, and conflict resolution,

with officers undergoing practical simulations to prepare for high-pressure scenarios. In India, the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has introduced advanced modules covering non-lethal tools, technology integration, and crowd psy-

### chology. Ethical Policing:

Ethical considerations are central to managing protests.

Globally, technologies like drones and AI are governed by protocols that protect privacy and civil liberties. Similarly, the principle of proportionalityusing the minimum force necessary—guides actions to ensure demonstrators' rights are respected. In India, police increasingly emphasise ethical practices. Engaging community leaders, addressing grievances, and prioritising dialogue reflect a commitment to balancing public safety with democratic freedoms. The shift towards a restrained, people-centric approach underscores the evolving role of law enforcement in a modern democracy.

(The writer is Director General of Police and Head of the Haryana State Narcotics Bureau; views are personal)

## NCLT orders liquidation of Go First | SG raises halal-certification



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on Monday ordered the liquidation of Go First, the budget carrier that stopped flying nearly two years ago amid financial woes.

In May 2023, the airline filed for a voluntary insolvency resolution process.

The tribunal, in a 15-page order, said it is ordering the liquidation of the corporate debtor Go Airlines (India)

On Monday, the NCLT said the Committee of Creditors (CoC) in the legislative scheme is empowered to take the decision to liquidate the corporate debtor, at any time after its constitution and before confirmation of the

resolution plan.
"It is well settled that the decision taken by the CoC for liquidation in commercial wisdom of the CoC should

not be interfered with by the Adjudicating Adjudicating Authority. Further, the resolution for liquidation of the corporate debtor was approved by the CoC with 100 per cent voting. Therefore, this Adjudicating Authority sees no merit in interfering interfering with the commercial wisdom of the

CoC," it noted. The order comes a little over two months after the Supreme Court, on November 7, 2024, ordered the liquidation of the once-storied airline Jet Airways, which had stopped flying in April 2019.

Go Air, which was rebranded as Go First, flew for more than 17 years before suspending operations on May 3, 2023.

Dinkar Tiruvannadapuram Venkatasubramanian been appointed as the liquidator.

The liquidator has been asked to follow up and continue to investigate the financial

affairs of the corporate debtor. "The liquidator shall also follow up the pending applications for their disposal during the process of liquidation, including the initiation of steps for recovery of dues of the corporate debtor as per law," according to the order

to the order. Further, the liquidator should submit a preliminary report to the tribunal within 75 days the date from commencement of liquidation.

During the insolvency resolution process, there were at least two bidders in the fray -- Busy Bee Airways, along with SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh, and Sharjah-based aviation entity Sky One. Travel portal EaseMyTrip's

Co-Founder Nishant Pitti was the majority shareholder in Busy Bee Airways.

In between, aviation regulator DGCA deregistered the 54 aircraft of Go First.

Solicitor general of India Tushar Mehta on Monday raised in the Supreme Court the issue of halal certification of non-meat products such as iron bars and cement, asking

why should non-believers be made to pay higher cost for halal-certified products.

The law officer made the

with products cement and iron bars used are to be halal certified," Mehta submitted before a bench of Justices B R Gavai and

lakh crore.

The counsel appearing for the petitioners said the Centre's policy says it was a matter of

# of non-meat products in SC

petitioners counsel said.

The top law officer referred to

non-believers, who did not consume halal-certified

products, and asked why they

submissions before the apex court which was hearing the pleas challenging a notification prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale and distribution of food halal certification within UP, except for items produced for export.
"So far as halal meat is concerned, nobody can have any objection. But your lordships would be shocked, as I was shocked, that even

Augustine George Masih. He said the halal-certifying agencies were charging and the total amount collected in the process might be a few

'Even 'atta' (wheat flour) and 'besan' (gram flour) has to be halal-certified. How can 'besan' be halal or non-halal?" asked Mehta.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar is

representing Prime Minister

Narendra Modi as his Special Envoy at the inaugural

function of the United States

Trump in Washington DC on Monday. He is carrying a

Donald

**NEW DELHI** 

President-elect

"All this is voluntary. Nobody

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE** ■ NEW is forcing anyone," the The affidavit said the ministry was primarily concerned with the promotion and regulation of international and domestic trade, industrial growth, and export promotion in India. It said the ministry had no

should be made to pay a higher price only because some people wanted halal-certified products.

The petitioners' counsel said it was a matter of choice. The bench was informed that the Centre had filed an

affidavit in the matter. The top court granted four weeks to the petitioners to file a rejoinder and said the matter would be heard in the week commencing March 24. The November 18, 2023 notification was issued by the office of the commissioner, Food Safety and Drug Administration, Pradesh, under the provision of the Food Safety and

In its counter affidavit filed in products," it said. the top court, the Centre said the grievance of the petitioner related to the November 18, 2023 notification issued by the Food Safety and Drug Administration of Uttar Pradesh, which fell entirely under the jurisdiction and

Standards Act, 2006.

authority of the state. It said the Centre's Ministry of Commerce and Industry had no role or authority over such state-level regulations or notifications and an FIR was registered against one of the petitioners at Lucknow in a case related to Halal

letter from the Prime Minister

for President-elect Donald

They also said it has been the

general practice to send

Špecial Envoys of the Prime

Minister to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Heads of State and

Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh attended the swearing-

Trump, sources said here.

Government.

direct or indirect role in the enforcement, regulation or administration of laws relating to food safety, drug administration or any other matter raised in the petition. "With an objective to streamline the halal streamline

certification process of meat and meat products as halal from India, Department of Commerce and APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) Development Authority) which is a regulatory body for export of meat, agricultural and processed food products requested QCI to develop a national scheme for certification halal of

The affidavit said the Quality Council of India (QCI) developed the scheme titled "India Conformity assessment Scheme (i-CAS)-Halal" in accordance with international standards.

The apex court had in 2024 sought responses from the UP government and others on separate pleas challenging the notification prohibiting the manufacturing, storage, sale and distribution of food products with halal certification within Uttar Pradesh, except for items produced for export.

in ceremony of the president of Nigeria in May 2023 while

then Minister of Earth

Sciences Kiren Rijiju attended

the swearing-in ceremony of

Maldivian president in November 2023, the sources

Road Transport Minister

Nitin Gadkari attended the

swearing-in ceremony of the Iranian president in July last

said citing past precedents.

### Reliance Power appoints Neeraj Parakh as CEO

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $\begin{array}{cccc} R^{eliance\ Power\ on\ Monday} \\ R^{said} & it\ has\ appointed \\ Neeraj & Parakh & as & Chief \end{array}$ Executive Officer.

His appointment is effective from Monday for a period of three years, Reliance Power said in an exchange filing. Parakh's appointment as the company's Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is subject to the approval of members, it said. He is not related to any of the directors of the company.

Parakh joined the Reliance Group in June 2004 as an additional manager in the Central Technical Services team Reliance (Reliance Infrastructure Infra).

From his initial focus on planning, project monitoring, technical services, and project execution, he advanced to operations and maintenance roles in both Reliance Power and Reliance Infra.

"His expertise extends to navigating regulatory requirements and tax matters, enabling the Reliance Group to maintain compliance across multiple domains while ensuring smooth project the operations,"

year and MoS for external

affairs Pabitra Margherita

attended the oath taking

ceremony of president of

Indonesia and president of Mexico in October 2024, the

sources said. In June 2022, the

then MoS for external affairs

Raj Kumar Ranjan Singh

attended the swearing-in

ceremony of the president of Philippines, they added.

company said.

## near Kinnar akhara camp at **Maha Kumbh**

From page 1

Although no injuries or significant property damage were reported, the incident has highlighted the need for stricter safety protocols. official from the Mela administration confirmed that the cause of the fire is still being investigated.

This comes just a day after a major fire in Sector 19 at the Geeta Press Gorakhpur camp caused extensive damage. Following Sunday's incident, the administration had already declared a fire safety alert across the Kumbh area. "We are now conducting rigorous checks of fire extinguishing equipment in all camps to ensure such events are avoided," a senior official stated.

Residents near the Kinnar Akhara described the panic caused by the fire. "Smoke was suddenly visible, and people quickly gathered to help control the situation. Thankfully, the fire was contained before it caused serious harm," said Ramesh Tiwari, a pilgrim staying

The fire broke out close to the Samajwadi Party's camp, further adding to the urgency of the response. With two fires in quick succession, safety measures at the Maha Kumbh are now under scrutiny, as officials work to reassure millions of visitors.

## Fire Breaks out **Delhi warms up as AQI** crisis continues

STAFF REPORTER

Delhi experienced another warm day, with bright sunshine pushing the maximum temperature to an unprecedented 24.5 degrees the second consecutive day the when temperature settled five notches above the normal. This unseasonal warmth, coupled with minimal mist in the morning, made the city feel more like a summer day. However, by evening, the mercury dipped, bringing relief to residents.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) attributed the unusual warmth to a change in wind patterns caused by a western disturbance. The IMD has predicted rain due to the Western Disturbance on Wednesday and Thursday in the national capital region. According to the IMD, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 11.4 degrees Celsius, 3.8 notches above normal, and a thin layer of fog enveloped parts of the city on Monday morning. The minimum temperature in Palam recorded 10. 4 degree Celsius; Lodhi Road 11.2 degree Celsiusand Ridge 11 degree Celsius. On January 19, the city recorded a maximum

temperature at 26.1 degrees

vears.The

temperature recorded on that day by the observatory at Safdarjung -- Delhi's primary weather station -- was seven notches higher than normal, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).Data showed that the Celsius on Monday. This is last time Delhi recorded a higher Ianuary maximum maximum temperature was on January 21, 2019, at 28.7 degrees Celsius.

second disturbance is expected to influence the region from January 22, likely bringing isolated light rain in the city on the same day, the IMD said in its forecast, adding that it would raise the maximum temperature further. IND said severe winter in the Capital was all but over, with consecutive western disturbances not allowing a sustained dip in the temperature. The lowest temperature maximum recorded so far this season is 4.5°C, on December 12, 2024. The lowest maximum was 14.6°C, recorded on December 27, 2024.

"No significant change in minimum temperatures likely over Central India during next 24 hours and gradual rise by 2- 4°C during subsequent four days," the IMD said.

For Tuesday, the weather office has predicted partly skies.The cloudv predominant surface wind is Celsius, marking the expected to blow from the warmest January day in six northwest, with speeds lower expected to blow from the maximum than 6 kilometres per hour

during the morning. Smog and shallow fog is likely to form in most areas during the early morning, with moderate fog in isolated places. The wind speed will gradually increase, reaching 10-12 kilometres per hour from the northwest during the afternoon. It will fall to less than 6 kilometres per hour during the evening and the night.

The resolution process did

not take off, and now, the

tribunal has ordered the

The cash-starved airline reported a loss in the range of

Rs 1,800 crore, including an

Rs 800 crore notional loss due

to accounting standards in the financial year ended March

It started domestic operations

in 2005-06 with the first flight

from Mumbai to Ahmedabad,

operations, Go First had

placed two orders for 72 A320

neo planes each with Airbus, one in 2011-12 and another in

On May 13, 2021, when the coronavirus pandemic headwinds were blowing

strong, the airline announced

rebranding itself as 'Go First'

with a focus on an ultra-low-

cost business model.

and

launched

operations.

2016-17.

then in 2018-19,

international

commencing

liquidation of the airline.

Meanwhile, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded in the 'very poor' category of 314 at 4 pm, category of 314 at 4 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Many areas of Delhi recorded an AQI above the 350 mark. These include Anand Vihar (407), Ashok Vihar (366), Bawana (362) Dwarka Sector 8 Jahangirpuri (373), Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium (375), Mundka (389), Narela (357), Nehru Nagar (397), Okhla Phase-2 Nagar (397), Okhla Phase-2 (370), Patparganj (393), RK Puram (380), Rohini (370), Sirifort (371), Vivek Vihar (390) and Wazirpur (381) among others. In the NCR region, the AQI on Monday morning in Noida remained at 242, in Gurugram at 282, in Greater Noida at 228, and 226 in Ghaziabad.

The IMD said the weather is set to change midweek as two western disturbances bring light rain to Delhi-NCR, Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh, and North Rajasthan on Wednesday and

MHA probes 17 deaths in Rajouri

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Ahigh-level inter-ministerial team headed by a Director rank officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), deputed by Home Minister Amit Shah, Monday visited Badhaal village in Rajouri to ascertain the cause of death of 17 members of three families under mysterious circumstances since December 7, 2024. The central team headed by Director GK Garg arrived in Rajouri on Sunday and held a détailed discussion with the district health and police authorities to gather the latest inputs. A team from the National

Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), is also camping in the border district for the last few days to unravel the mystery behind the sudden deaths of villagers. So far 17 villagers have lost their lives in the area. According to officials of the health department patients complained of fever, pain, nausea, and loss of consciousness before dying within days of their admission

to hospitals. According to official sources the team, accompanied by dozens of senior officers from various departmentsmet members of the bereaved families.

Amitabh Sells Mumbai duplex for ₹83 Crore

Jaishankar carries Modi's letter to Trump's inauguration

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

In a mega real-estate deal, veteran Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan has sold his spacious duplex luxury apartment at Oshiwara in north Mumbai for Rs 83 crore to a couple of Mumbai-based buyers.

As' per the property documents registration reviewed by proptech platform squareyards.com on the website of Inspector General of Registration (IGR), the transaction was registered on January 17,

Big-B had purchased this property in April 2021 at Rs 31 crore and has now sold it for Rs 83 crore in a deal that reflects a marked 168 per cent increase in value. In essence, the 82-year-old mega star has made a cool profit of Rs 52 crore in less than four years from the asset.

Amitabh has sold his duplex apartment measuring 5,704 sq ft (529.94 sq mtrs) of built up area and a carpet area of 5,185.62 sq. ft (481.75 sq. mtrs) -- to businessmen Vijay Thakur and Kamal Thakur, both residents of nearby Andheri for Rs. 83 crore.

The apartment also features a spacious terrace measuring purchased the property, had in November 2021 rented out



4,800 sq. ft (445.93 sq mtrs) and includes six mechanized car parking spaces. The transaction incurred a stamp duty payment of Rs. 4.98 crore and registration charges of Rs. 30,000.

The property is located in The Atlantis, a residential project by Crystal Group at Oshiwara, spread across 1.55 acres, offering 4, 5, and 6 BHK apartments.

A bustling northern suburb of Mumbai, Oshiwara is known for its vibrant lifestyle and strategic location near the Lokhandwala Complex. Interestingly enough, less

than six months after he

actress Kriti Sanon for a rent of Rs 10 lakh per month (Rs. 1.20 crore per annum) and a security deposit of Rs 60 lakh, as per the IGR lease documents reviewed by Square Yards. Hailed as Shahenshah of

Bollywood, Amitabh has acted in more than 200 films in a five-decade-long career and is considered one most successful actors in the history of Indian Cinema, he enioved After superstardom between 1975 and 19888. However, he witnessed a downhill in his career between 1989 and 1999, a period which saw the failed business venture Amitabh Bachchan Corporation Limited which he launched in 1996.

The Big-B staged a comeback after 2000. The most popular television show "Kaun Banega Crorepati" brought him fortune and made him a household name in the country.

A recipient of several National Awards, Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and others, Amitbh is celebrated for his towering presence in Bollywood, legendary acting skills and a leading television

### Life sentence for Sanjoy Roy **Army man killed in Sopore operation** From page 1 crimes. However, the CBI Minister and Home Minister the vaginal swab of the victim failed to submit the Sollowing allegations that the Colorette Police In the Colorette Police In the Colorette Police In the State, the political correct temperature... who

had promptly transferred the case to the CBI, which how the crime scene had been

tampered with. After taking up the case, the CBI arrested the then Principal of RGKMCH, Sandip Ghosh, and the officer in charge of the local Tala Police Station on charges of destroying evidence. Ghosh was also arrested for running a multi-crore racket, which included smuggling medical Interestingly, as Mamata waste and other various Banerjee is both the Health

Calcutta Police, led by then Police Commissioner Vineet officer managed to obtain bail. and both Ghosh and the Goyal, was engaged in a cover- Junior doctors and other up, the Calcutta High Court medical staff of the college complain that Abhaya, the victim, had to pay with her life expressed its displeasure at because she had protested against what was happening the inside Incidentally, Ghosh is known for his close ties to top political circles in the State, which is why he evaded action despite repeated complaints being sent to the Health Ministry and even to the Police authorities about his alleged corrupt acts.

her government responsible for a number of scams plaguing the medical campus. While the parents of the victim directly blamed the Chief Minister and her government for a "miscarriage of justice," calling it an "institutional hospital. murder," Opposition BJP MP Samik Bhattacharya said, "The Chief Minister is blaming the CBI, but the police had destroyed the case well before it was handed over to the CBI... They will have to answer why the crime scene was allowed to be disturbed by so many outsiders... why the adjoining walls were demolished... why

sent Sanjoy Roy to that room... and why the CFSL reports were not properly evaluated."

Congress leader Adhir Chowdhury, on the other hand, said, "The common people of Bengal are disappointed... The people will never believe this

government again."
The Left also lambasted the State Government and the CBI, with State CPI(M) Secretary Md Salim saying, "Like the Sharada, Narada, and teachers' job scams, this is another instance of how the Centre and the State work in close cooperation."

From page 1 Both venues for the Republic

Day functions in Srinagar and Jammu have been fortified with additional deployments and round-the-clock vigil. According to a spokesman for the Indian Army, a joint cordon and search operation was launched by the security forces in the Gujjarpati area of Sopore upon receiving specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists in the area late on Sunday evening. Confirming the same, the Srinagar-based Chinar Corps, in a post on X, said, "On 19 succumbed to the injuries."

Jan 25, based on specific Indian Army jawan Swr

intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists, a Joint Cordon & Search Operation was launched by the Indian Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police at Gujjarpatti, Baramulla." Sopore, "Suspicious activity was observed by

vigilant troops, and on being challenged, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. Our troops effectively retaliated. In the ensuing firefight during the day, one soldier suffered critical injuries and was evacuated for necessary medical care, where he

Pangala Kartheek laid down his life in the line of duty. Meanwhile, MA Sports Stadium, the venue for the main function in Jammu, has been declared out of bounds for the general public as part of the mandatory security protocol. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha will preside over the Řepublic Day function, with Chief Minister Omar Abdullah as the chief guest.

Similarly, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and Cabinet Ministers Javid Ahmad Dar, Sakina Itto, Satish Sharma, and Javed Rana will take the salute at

Srinagar, functions Baramulla, Kathua, and districts, respectively, as per an order issued by the General Administration Department. In the remaining 14 districts,

respective Development Council (DDC) chairpersons will take the salute at the main functions held at the district headquarters.

The security forces have intensified checking of vehicles and pedestrians across several parts of the Jammu region, particularly in

# Hamas returns 3 Israeli hostages, Israel frees 90 prisoners

**AP** RAMALLAH

A fter 15 months of collective grief and anxiety, three Israeli hostages left Hamas captivity and returned to Israel, and dozens of Palestinian prisoners walked free from Israeli jail, leaving both Israelis and Palestinians torn between celebration and trepidation as the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took hold Sunday.

The skies above Gaza and Israel were silent for the first time in over a year, and Palestinians began returning to what was left of the homes they fled across the war-ravaged enclave, started to check on relatives left behind and, in many cases, to bury their dead. After months of tight Israeli restrictions, more than 600 trucks carrying humanitarian aid rolled into the devastated ter-

The ceasefire that went into effect Sunday morning stirred modest hopes for ending the Israel-Hamas war.

But in Israel, the joy of seeing freed hostages Emily Damari, Romi Gonen, and Doron Steinbrecher reunited with their families was tempered by major questions over the fate of the nearly 100 others abducted in Hamas' Oct 7, 2023, attack, still in captivity in Gaza. Damari Gonen



Israelis celebrate the release of three hostages who had been held captive by Hamas in Gaza as they gather in Tel Aviv, Israel, on Sunday

Steinbrecher were the first tain. The agreement's subseamong 33 Israeli hostages who are meant to be released in the coming six weeks in a deal that includes a pause in fighting, the release of nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners and increased fuel and aid deliveries for Gaza. What happens after the deal's

first phase of 42 days is uncer-

quent stages call for more releases of hostages and prisoners and a permanent end to the

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was pressured by the outgoing Biden administration and incoming Trump administra-tion to secure a deal before the

president-elect's inauguration ambulance. Footage showed them thronged by thousands of jostling Palestinians, including Monday in Washington, has said he received assurances from Trump that Israel could continue fighting Hamas if Hamas gunmen wearing green headbands, as militants handed them over to the Red Cross necessary. On Sunday, many Israelis stayed glued to TV screens all on a packed street in Gaza City. "An entire nation embraces afternoon to glimpse the you," Netanyahu said.

women being released through

the windows of the Red Cross

National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, 'a far-right lawmaker who resigned on Sunday from Netanyahu's governing coalition over the ceasefire, said the nation was "happy and excited" for their release. In videos released by the Israeli government, the women were seen weeping and hugging their family members. Damari raised her bandaged hand in triumph.

The military said she lost two fingers in the Hamas-led militant attack on Oct. 7, 2023, that killed over 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and resulted in the abduction of some 250 others. Applause erupted among the thousands who gathered to watch the poignant scenes on large screens at Hostages Square, the Tel Aviv plaza where families and supporters of hostages have been protest-ing weekly to demand a ceasefire deal.

It took another seven hours for such scenes to unfold in the occupied West Bank, where the mood was initially subdued as the Israeli military warned that public celebrations for the released prisoners would be punished.

But scuffles with Israeli security forces and hours of waiting did little to deter the crowds that flooded the streets around 1 a.m., as large white buses carrying 90 Palestinian detainees
— all women or teens — exited the gates of Ofer prison, near the West Bank city of stones and promoting violence on social media to more seri-Ramallah.

Drivers revved their engines in celebration. Fireworks erupted. Several men climbed on top of the bus and hoisted three Hamas flags. "God is greater!" the crowds shouted.

Many of those released expressed elation tinged with grief for the devastation wrought by the war in Gaza. A "double feeling" is how the most prominent detainee freed, Khalida Jarrar, 62, described it. Jarrar is a leading member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a secular leftist faction that was involved in attacks against Israel in the 1970s but later scaled back militant activities. Since her arrest in late 2023, she was held under indefinitely renewable administrative detention — a widely criticized practice that Israel uses against Palestinians.

'There's this double feeling we're living in, on the one hand, this feeling of freedom, that we thank everyone for, and on the other hand, this pain, of losing so many Palestinian martyrs," she told The Associated Press.

All of those being released had been detained for what Israel called offenses related to its security, from throwing

ous accusations such as attempted murder.

The next release of hostages and prisoners is due Saturday. In just over two weeks, talks are to begin on the far more challenging second phase of the ceasefire agreement. In Gaza, there was palpable relief at the prospect of six weeks without fighting and Israeli bombardment that so far has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which says women and children make up more than half the fatalities but does not distinguish between civilians and fighters.

The skies above the besieged territory were free of Israeli warplanes for the first day since a weeklong ceasefire in November 2023 that freed over 100 hostages, offering Palestinians a chance to take stock of the devastation.

"This ceasefire was a joy mixed with pain," Rami Nofal, said a displaced man from Gaza City, explaining that his son was killed by Israeli bombardment. Masked Hamas militants appeared at some celebrations, triumphant as crowds chanted slogans in support of them.
The Hamas-run police

reemerged from months of

## Let America own 50% of TikTok: Trump

**PTI** WASHINGTON

TikTok is back in the US after President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday praised it and said let the government own 50 per cent of the popular short video sharing platform.

TikTok went dark in the US on

AP WASHINGTON

Saturday night because of a legislation, but it was back within less than 24 hours after Trump vowed to issue an executive order on his first day in office to delay the enforcement of the law. The short-video app is used by 170 million Americans.

"As of today, TikTok is back. You know, I did a little TikTok thing. We have a guy, TikTok Jack. He's a young kid, like 21 years old. We hired this guy and I went on TikTok. We went on TikTok as Republicans never won the youth vote. They won a lot of votes, but they never won the youth vote. But we won the youth vote by 36 points. So I like TikTok," Trump told his support-

ers at a victory rally here. 'Who in this audience goes with TikTok? Many? Frankly, we Vice President Kamala Harris have no choice. We have to save in last year's general election lot of jobs. We don't want to give our business to China. We don't want to give our business to other people," Trump added. Stating that the solution to the TikTok issue is a joint venture, Trump said, "They did that a long time ago when they had a different president. They didn't know that I was going to be the president. So I said, very simply, a joint venture. If you don't approve, they're out of business. They're worth nothing. If you do approve, they're worth like a trillion dollars."

"So, I said, I'll approve, but let the United States own 50 per cent of TikTok. I'm approving on behalf of the nation. So, they'll have a partner, the United States, and they'll have a lot of bidders, and we will do what we call a joint venture deal," the Presidentelect said.

"We're not putting up any money. All we're doing is giving them the approval, without which they have nothing," Trump said, adding, "Whether you like TikTok or not, we're going to make a lot of money."

## Trump vows to act at historic speed to fix 'every single crisis facing US'

On the eve of his inauguration, President-elect Donald Trump promised his supporters and countrymen that he will act at historic speed to fix every single crisis facing the United States. "Starting tomorrow, I will act with historic speed and strength and fix every single crisis facing our country. We have to do it," Trump told his supporters at the Capitol One Arena, which was full to its capacity of 20,000 for a "Make America Great" victory celebration, with a large number of people waiting outside in chilling cold.

Trump, 78, made a stunning comeback when he defeated to become only the second person in US history to be sworn in as the president after a gap of four years.

Trump, who will replace Joe Biden as the 47th president of the United States on Monday, arrived at the US Capitol on Saturday.

On a jam-packed day full of Trump engagements, addressed thousands of his supporters at what he called a 'victory rally'.

"Before even taking office, vou are already seeing results that nobody expected to see. Everyone is calling it the Trump effect. It's you. You're the effect," Trump said. "Since the election, the stock

market has surged, while small business optimism has soared a record 41 points to a 39-year high. Bitcoin has shattered one record after another. Major investment company DMACC Properties has announced that it will invest between USD 20 billion and USD 40 billion in the



Elon Musk, left, and President-elect Donald Trump embrace as they look at Musk's son X vÜ A-Xii, at a rally ahead of the 60th Presidential Inauguration, Sunday, in

"SoftBank, another great company, has pledged between USD 100 billion and USD 200 billion. These are all investments that are only being made because of the fact that we won the election," he added.

Referring to meeting Apple CEO Tim Cook on Sunday, Trump said, "He said they're going to make a massive investment in the US because of our big election victory." Giving an insight into his Day 1 plans, he told the cheering crowd, "Our incoming administration has achieved all of this in the Middle East in less than three months

without me being the presi-

We've already achieved more than what they've (Joe Biden administration) done in four

Just imagine all the good things we will accomplish together with four more years in the White House. We are going to do a lot of things. You're going to see something tomorrow. You're going to see executive orders that are going to make you extremely happy."

Elaborating further, Trump said, "We have to set our country on the proper course. By the time the sun sets tomorrow, the invasion of our borders will come to a halt, and all the illegal border trespassers will, in some form or another, be on their way back home. Think of it. Millions and millions of people came into our country through open borders. No checks, no vetting, no anything. And a lot of those people are murderers."

Trump also said the border security measures he will outline in his inaugural address on Monday will be the most "aggressive, sweeping efforts to restore our borders the world has ever seen". "We had the best, safest border in the history of our country," he said.

Appearing briefly on the stage, Tesla owner Elon Musk, who has been made in-charge of the newly-created Department of Government Efficiency, said they are looking forward to making a lot of changes.

This victory is the beginning. What matters going forward is to actually make significant changes, cement those changes, and set the foundation for America to be strong for centuries, forever... And make America great again," Musk said.

## Biden pardons Fauci, Milley to guard against potential 'revenge' by Trump

**AP W**ASHINGTON

President Joe Biden on Monday pardoned Dr Anthony Fauci, retired Gen Mark Milley and members of the House committee that investigated the Jan 6 attack on investigated the Jan 6 attack on the Capitol, using the extraor-dinary powers of his office in his final hours to guard against potential "revenge" by the incoming Trump administra-tion. The decision by Biden comes after Donald Trump warned of an enemies list filled with those who have crossed him politically or sought to hold him accountable for his attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss and his role in the storming of the US Capitol on Ian 6, 2021.

Trump has selected Cabinet nominees who backed his election lies and who have pledged to punish those involved in efforts to investigate him.

"The issuance of these pardons should not be mistaken as an acknowledgment that any indi-vidual engaged in any wrongdoing, nor should acceptance be misconstrued as an admission of guilt for any offence," Biden said in a statement. "Our nation owes these public servants a debt of gratitude for their tireless commitment to our country." The pardons,

announced with just hours left in his presidency, have been the subject of heated debate for months at the highest levels of the White House. It's customary for a president to grant clemency at the end of his term, but those acts of mercy are usually offered to Americans who have been convicted of crimes.

Biden has used the power in the broadest and most untested way possible: to pardon those who have not even been investigated yet. The decision lays the groundwork for an even more expansive use of pardons by Trump and future presidents. While the Supreme Court last

vear ruled that the president enjoys broad immunity from prosecution for what could be considered official acts, the president's aides and allies enjoy no such shield.

future presidents could use the promise of a blanket pardon to encourage allies to take actions they might otherwise resist for fear of running afoul of the law.

Trump, who takes office at noon, has promised to, in his first moments as president, pardon many of those involved in the violent and bloody Jan 6, 2021, attack, which injured

roughly 140 law enforcement officers. It's unclear whether those pardoned by Biden would need to apply for the clemency or even accept the offer at all. Any acceptance could be seen as a tacit admission of guilt or wrongdoing, validating years of attacks by Trump and his supporters, even though those who have been pardoned have not been formally accused of any crimes.

"These are exceptional circumstances, and I cannot in good conscience do nothing," Biden said, adding that "Even when individuals have done nothing wrong — and in fact have done the right thing and will ultimately be exonerated, the mere fact of being investigated or prosecuted can irreparably damage reputations and finances." Fauci was director of the

National Institute of Allergy There are fears that Trump or and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health for nearly 40 years, including during Trump's term in office and later served as Biden's chief medical adviser until his retirement in 2022. He helped coordinate the nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and raised Trump's ire when he resisted the Trump's untested public health

## **'UK-US relationship will** flourish under Trump'

**London (PTI):** British Prime cooperation and enduring part-Minister Keir Starmer has spoken of the relationship shared by the UK and the US as a "uniquely close bond" which would continue to flourish as Donald Trump is set to be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States of America in Washington DC on Monday. Extending "warmest congratulations" on behalf of the British government, Starmer sought to focus on Trump's historical ties with the UK – a reference to his familial connection through his Scotland-born mother.

He stressed that the second Trump presidency would see both nations tackle "global challenges" together as they work towards growth on both sides of the Atlantic.

"For centuries, the relationship between our two nations has been one of collaboration,

nership. It is a uniquely close bond. Together, we have defended the world from tyranny and worked towards our mutual security and prosperity," said Starmer in a statement released by 10 Downing Street in London.

"With President Trump's longstanding affection and historical ties to the United Kingdom, I know that depth of friendship will continue. The United Kingdom and the United States will work together to ensure the success of both our countries and deliver for people on both sides of the Atlantic," he said. Referring to his meeting with Trump back in September 2024, before Trump was elected to office in November, Starmer asserted that they have an agreement about the need to "deepen and invest in the transatlantic relationship".

### British Sikh groups disrupt some screenings of 'Emergency' in UK London (PTI): British Sikh

groups have organised protests against Kangana Ranaut's 'Emergency', disrupting the film's screening at some cinemas in the UK during its opening weekend. The Sikh Press Association (PA) group stated on social media that the film is seen as "anti-Sikh" and the protests have resulted in cancelled screenings in Birmingham

Wolverhampton, in the West Midlands region of England. Community organisation Insight UK posted a video on its X platform showing protesters interrupting a screening of the film, directed by Ranaut who also essays the role of former prime minister Indira Gandĥi, at a cinema in Harrow. north-west London.

"Pro-Khalistan extremists storm Harrow cinema and

attempt to stop the screening of 'Emergency," states Insight UK. Earlier, Sikh PA had released a statement to register the group's protest against the movie which covers the period of Emergency in India dating back to the 1970s. "UK Sikhs are protesting at cinemas (sic) across the UK regarding today's release of the film Emergency, a biopic of former India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi considered anti-Sikh propaganda," the group stated on X in time for the film's release on Friday.

"The film stars and was created by Kangana Ranaut, a notorious actress/politician in India, who pushes bigoted rhetoric about the minority Sikh-Puniabi community. Indira Gandhi was the PM initiated #SikhGenocide before her assassination," the Sikh PA statement adds.

Meanwhile, Ranaut took to social media herself with a video expressing her gratitude and also voicing her disap-pointment regarding the film's reception in Punjab and among some Sikhs abroad. Speaking in Hindi, Ranaut said: "On behalf of Zee Studio, Manikarnika Film, and all the members of Ease My Trip, I would like to thank you all from the bottom of my heart. You all gave so much love and respect to our film. We don't even have words to express our gratitude. "But, I still have some pain in my heart. Punjab. In the industry, it was said that my films perform the best in Punjab. And today is a day when my film is not even allowed to be released in

### Teen pleads guilty to murder of three schoolgirls at UK dance class

London (PTI): An 18-year-old knife attacker accused of killing three schoolgirls at a Taylor Swift themed dance class in Southport, north-west England, last July pleaded guilty to all charges at the start of his trial at Liverpool Crown Court on Monday. Axel Rudakubana, born in the Welsh capital of Cardiff to a family of Rwandan heritage based in Lancashire in northwest England, was charged with 16 offences including the murder of Alice da Silva Aguiar, 9, Bebe King, 6, and Elsie Dot

Stancombe, 7.
He was also charged with the attempted murder of 10 other people including eight children. as well as the production of ricin and possession of an Al Qaeda training manual. In a surprise move in court on Monday, Rudakubana reversed his previous not guilty pleas at the start of the teenager's murder trial expected to last from four to six weeks.

"You will understand it is inevitable the sentence to be imposed upon you will mean a life sentence," said Justice Julian Goose as he scheduled a sentencing hearing for Thursday. According to court reports, the accused wearing a face mask showed no emotion as the charges were read out to him. The attack, which took place during a summer holiday dance class for children at the Hart Centre in Southport, sent shock waves up and down the country.

### **Houthis to limit their** attacks in Red Sea Dubai (AP): Yemen's Houthi

rebels have signaled they now will limit their attacks in the Red Sea corridor to only Israeli-affiliated ships, just as a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip entered its second day Monday.

The Houthis' announcement, made in an email sent to shippers and others on Sunday, likely won't be enough to encourage global firms to reenter the route that's crucial for cargo and energy shipments moving between Asia and Europe. Their attacks have halved traffic through the region, cutting deeply into revenues for Egypt, which runs the Suez Canal linking the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

The ceasefire is considered fragile," said Jakob P. Larsen, the head of maritime security for BIMCO, the largest international association repre-

senting shipowners. "It is assessed that even minor deviations from the ceasefire agreements could lead to hostilities, which would subsequently prompt the Houthis to again direct threats against a broader range of internation-

al shipping."
The Houthis separately planned a military statement on Monday, likely about the decision.

The Houthis made the announcement through their Humanitarian Operations Coordination Center, saying it was "stopping sanctions" on the other vessels it has previ-

ously targeted since November 2023. For Israeli ships, those "sanctions ... will be stopped upon the full implementation of all phases" of the ceasefire, it added. However, the center left open resuming attacks against both the United States and the United Kingdom, which have launched airstrikes targeting the rebels over their seaborne assaults.

"In the event of any aggression ... the sanctions will be reinstated against the aggressor state," the center said. "You will be promptly informed of such measures should they be implemented." The Houthis have targeted

over 100 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip started in October 2023, after Hamas' surprise attack on Israel that killed 1,200 people and saw 250 others taken hostage. Israel's military offensive in Gaza has killed over 46,000 Palestinians, according to local health officials who do not distinguish between civilians and combatants but say women and children make up more than half the fatalities.

The Iranian-backed Houthis have seized one vessel and sunk two in a campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by separate US- and Europeanled coalitions in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets. which have also included Western military vessels.

## **Infrastructure sector needs ₹15 Lakh Crore annual** Voltas, Lumax among 18 firms outlay to achieve Viksit Bharat target: Mandaviya

provide social security to

He noted that these gig workers who would be part of new

sunrise sectors need social security under the government

Mandaviya noted that the social

security coverage was 24 per

Now, he said, it is 48 per cent which excludes food security

and if we add food security to

this, then the social security

cent a decade ago, in 2014.

workers in these new sectors.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday the government's infrastructure investment budget should be Rs 15 lakh crore per annum, against Rs 11.5 lakh crore at present, for the next 25 years to achieve 'Viksit Bharat @2047' and social security for all.

This assumes significance in view of India's 100 years of independence in 2047 and the government's goal of 'Viksit Bharat@2047'.

Addressing the inaugural of ISSA-ESIC International Seminar 'Formalization & Social Security Coverage for Workers in the Informal Sector Challenges & Innovation', Mandaviya stated that the investment infrastructure budget was Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2012 and this budget was Rs 2.4 lakh crore in 2014 under the Modi-led Narendra government.

"In 2024, the budget has been pegged at Rs 11.5 lakh crore. The minister is of the view that the government would have to



We have to take it to Rs 15 lakh crore. When the government will invest Rs 15 lakh crore on infrastructure for the next 25 years, only then India will become a developed country (by 2047)," he said.

He pointed out that the Indian economy is rapidly expanding, increasing the people's purchasing power and creating new jobs in the new sector.

coverage in the country is 68 per cent, which is a big achievement. India has 1.4 billion population

and under these circumstances. the government has done unmatched work in providing social security in the last decade, he noted.

Social security means health, pension, livelihood and food security. Today 600 million population have health security in India who get free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh, he explained. India has brought 800 million people under the food security ambit. Every citizen gets 5 kg of foodgrains free of cost, he noted.

He said that informal workers are getting benefits from all these schemes in the country. In the last 10 years of the Modi government, 250 million people have come above the poverty line, mainly because of getting social security, he pointed out.

Today 630 million people are in the workforce in India and the female ratio in the workforce

participation has increased from 22 per cent a decade ago to 44 per cent at present, he noted.

India is emerging as a big market with FDI flowing and ease of doing business ranking has improved to 63 rank from 140 a decade ago, he noted. The number of startups has increased here. Indian

companies are going to become global companies, he stated. Stressing that Social security should be available to all workers, he stated that about 2000 years ago, Chanakya talked about it saying that an ideal government or economy is the one which makes provisions and ensures that the lowest strata of society or people living below the poverty line, live life with dignity.

"Now we see those people as formal or informal sector workers or government employees. Those people who are self-employed also come under the definition of workers and should get social security..."

# selected in PLI scheme in third round

As many as 18 companies, including Voltas, MIRC Electronics, Lumax and UNO Minda, with a committed investment of Rs 2,299 crore, have been selected to avail benefits under the productionlinked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods sector, an official said on Monday.

In October last year, 38 companies had filed applications with proposed investments of Rs 4,121 crore under the scheme in the third round. "In the third round of the

online application window of the PLI scheme, a total of 38 applications were received. reviewing After applications, the government has provisionally selected 18 new companies. These companies include 10 manufacturers of components of air conditioners and eight manufacturers of LED Lights, with committed investment of Rs 2,299 crore," the commerce and industry ministry said. In addition, it said, six existing



PLI beneficiaries have been provisionally selected to upgrade to higher investment categories, committing an additional investment of Rs 1,217 crore.

It added that for air conditioners, companies will be manufacturing components like compressors, copper tubes, and heat exchangers among others. Similarly, for LED lights, LED chip packaging, drivers, engines, light management systems and metallised films for capacitors will be manufactured in India. "Altogether, 84 companies under the PLI Scheme for White Goods are set to bring investments of Rs 10,478 crore, resulting in production worth Rs 1,72,663 crore," it According to the ministry, Voltas Components has committed to invest Rs 256.73 manufacture crore to compressors. With Rs 51.5 crore investment, MIRC Electronics has proposed to make AC products like motors and heat exchangers.

The other applicants which are provisionally selected in the third round of PLI scheme for Air Conditioners included Jupiter Aluminium Industries with a committed investment of Rs 618 crore, Ram Ratna Wires (Rs 253 crore), SMEL Steel Structural (Rs 541.29 crore), and Next Generation Manufacturers (Rs 121.35 crore).

Similarly in the LED lights category, Lumax Industries has committed Rs 60 crore investment to make LED drivers. Uno Minda would invest Rs 19.82 crore.

Out of 38 applications received during the third round, 11 are being referred to the Committee of Experts (CoE) for examination and its

### Settlement with borrowers only after exhausting all options, RBI to ARCs



**PTI** MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Monday asked Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to go for settlement with borrowers only after exhausting all possible ways to recover dues.

The central bank has revised the 'Master Direction -Reserve Bank of India (Asset Reconstruction Companies) Directions, 2024 dated April

Every ARC should frame a board-approved policy for the settlement of dues payable by the borrowers.

The policy should, inter alia, aspects like a cut-off date for one-time settlement borrower. permissible eligibility, sacrifice for various categories procedures to be followed in of exposures while arriving at cases where the settlement of the settlement amount and the methodology for arriving borrower with an aggregate at the realisable value of the value of more than Rs one

guidelines on settlement of dues of borrowers by ARCs.
"Settlement with the borrower shall be done only after all possible ways to recover the dues have been examined and settlement is considered as the best option available," it said.

Further, the settlement amount should preferably be paid in a lump sum.
Where the settlement does

not envisage payment of the entire amount agreed upon in one instalment, the proposals should be in line with and supported by an acceptable business plan (where applicable), projected projected earnings and cash flows of the

The guidelines accounts pertaining to a security, said the revised crore or less.

### Sensex rallies 454 points, Nifty ends above 23,300 on gains in banking shares, firm global trends

**PTI** MUMBAI

schemes.

Benchmark Sensex spurted by 454 points and Nifty closed above 23,300 on Monday following gains in banking, financial and power stocks amid firm global trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 454.11 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 77,073.44 as its 17 components advanced and 13 declined. Intra-day, it surged 699.61 points or 0.91 per cent to 77,318.94. The NSE Nifty climbed 141.55

points or 0.61 per cent to 23,344.75 with 29 of its constituents ending higher. Among Sensex shares, Kotak Mahindra Bank jumped over 9 per cent after the firm posted a 10 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,701 crore, aided by the performance of capital

markets-linked arms. Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, State Bank of India, Power Grid, HDFC Bank, Tech Mahindra and Asian Paints were the other gainers. However, Zomato fell the most by 3.14 per cent after food delivery platform reported Mahindra Services. Mahindra, Maruti and Tata cent). laggards. "A strong positive



sentiment from Asian markets bolstered domestic markets, starting the week on a healthy note. Further, a robust initial set of earnings from the banking and financial sectors triggered a broad-based rally, driven by the likelihood of improved earnings in the near future.

"However, uncertainties surrounding Trump's policies continue to linger, with investors eagerly waiting for more clarity," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said. The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 0.82 per cent and midcap index climbed 0.66 per cent. Among BSE sectoral indices, telecommunication surged the most by 2.18 per weaker-than-expected followed by bankex (2.03 per financial results for the cent), power (1.39 per cent), financial results for the cent), power (1.39 per cent), December quarter. Adani financial services (1.24 per Ports, Tata Consultancy cent), utilities (1.17 per cent) and capital goods (0.96 per cent). BSE consumer Motors were also among the discretionary, auto and FMCG were the laggards.

As many as 2,503 stocks advanced while 1,557 declined and 168 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Global markets also advanced ahead of the inauguration of Donald President-elect

Trump announced that he had a 'very good' telephone call with Chinese President Xi Jinping and that the outcome was positive. Analysts said that it indicates that initially Trump would go slow on tariffs and would prefer to

negotiate. In Asian markets, Tokyo, Shanghai and Hong Kong settled in the positive territory while Seoul ended lower. Markets in Europe were trading higher, US markets ended in the green on Friday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.36 per cent to USD 80.50 a barrel. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,318.06 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

### Rupee further rises five paise to close at 86.55 against US Dollar

PTI MUMBAI

The rupee appreciated five paise to close at 86.55 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as an overnight decline in crude oil prices and the US dollar index supported sentiments.

Besides, a positive trend in domestic equities also helped the local currency, Forex traders said the rupee is

likely to trade within a volatile range of 86.20-86.80 ahead of key events in the global and domestic economic landscape. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened on a strong note at 86.48 against the greenback. During the day, the local unit touched an intraday high of 86.46 and a low of 86.57.

(provisional), a rise of five paise against the US dollar. In the previous session on Friday, the rupee settled at 86.60. According

It finally closed at 86.55

to Anuj - Research Choudhary Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, the rupee strengthened against the greenback on the weak tone in the US Dollar index and positive domestic markets. Overnight decline in crude oil prices also supported the

"We expect the rupee to remain weak on underlying strength in the US Dollar and importer demand for Dollars. However, any further correction in crude oil prices and extended gains in the domestic markets may

support the rupee at lower levels," Choudhary said. The US markets will remain

closed due to the Martin Luther King Junior Day holiday. USD/INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of

86.40 to 86.75. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six

currencies, was trading down 0.17 per cent to 109.16. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 0.50 per cent to USD 80.39 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex rose 454.11 points, or 0.59 per cent, to settle at 77,073.44 points, while the Nifty rose 141.55 points, or 0.61 per cent, to 23,344.75 points.

## Engineers to protest privatisation of discoms

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Lakhs of power engineers of Cha will hold a nationwide entity. agitation on Thursday against the government's attempt to privatise two discoms in Uttar Pradesh, a statement said.

Members of Coordination Committee of Electricity Employees and government's move to hand over the power department

The protest will be held in Vitran the state/ UT capitals on (DVVNL), January 23 the state. January 23, the statement by All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF), a part of NCCOEEE said.

NCCOEEE has demanded cancellation of pre-bidding Engineers (NCCOEEE) will conference for appointing a also protest against the transaction consultant for

privatization of UP's Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran of Chandigarh to a private on tity.

Nigam Ltd (PVVNL) and Dakshinanchal Vidyut Shailendra Chairman Dubey said. "On what basis will the assets worth billions of rupees of UP discoms PVVNL and DVVNL will be

handed over to private

houses through their

privatisation?"

## Agriculture ministry launches first-ever national edible oil consumption survey



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Union agriculture per ministry has launched its const Oilseeds (NMEO-Oilseeds), a senior government official

The 45-day questionnairebased survey, which began on January 9, will continue until February 23. The initiative comes as India - the world's consumer and importer of edible oils - lacks recent data on consumption patterns.

the consumption pattern and choice of edible oils, which will help in policy desire." will help in policy decisions," the official told PTI. Industry reports indicate that

per capita annual consumption of edible oil has I ministry has launched its first-ever survey to assess edible oil consumption patterns in India, aiming to consumption or equote oil has risen to over 20 kg in India, significantly exceeding the recommended limits of 12 kg. effectively implement the new by the Indian Council of Mission on Edible Oils- Medical Research (ICMR) and 13 kg by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

> increase from 2.9 kg in 1950-60, driven by factors such as rising incomes, urbanisation,

and changing dietary habits. The comprehensive survey focuses on household cooking oil preferences and includes questions about demographic details, domicile, and

deep-frying frequency, seasonal usage patterns, and factors influencing selection, including health benefits and considerations.

The questionnaire also assesses public awareness about health risks like trans fats, attitudes toward oil reuse, and concerns about oils in packaged foods.

This marks a substantial Additionally, it examines increase from 2.9 kg in 1950- consumer behaviour related to advertisements, labelpractices,

willingness to pay premium prices for healthier oil options. Survey results will help determine priority oilseeds under the NMEO-Oilseeds programme, scheduled to launch in the upcoming kharif (summer) season starting July. The mission, with a financial outlay of Rs 10,103 crore over seven years, aims to increase domestic oilseed production from 39 million tonnes in

Currently, India imports 55-60 per cent of its edible oil requirements from countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Argentina, Brazil, Russia, and Ukraine. In the 2023-24 oil marketing year, India's edible oil imports reached approximately 15.96

2022-23 to 69.7 million tonnes

by 2030-31.

million tonnes.

## Hindenburg says not under investigation by US SEC

PTI ■ TORONTO/NEW DELHI

US short-seller Hindenburg Research has said it is not under investigation by the US SEC as it rubbished alleged links of its founder to a hedge fund for preparing reports targeting companies.

"Hindenburg is not under investigation by the SEC, to our knowledge, and any suggestion to the contrary is false," the firm said after a Canadian portal cited documents filed before a court in Ontario to allege that its founder Nate Anderson was under cloud for alleged links with hedge funds.

Citing a cache of documents filed at the Ontario Superior Court of Justice in a complex defamation lawsuit, the Market



Frauds portal said the head of Canada's Anson hedge fund, Moez Kassam admitted his firm has shared research "with a wide variety of sources" including Hindenburg's Nate Anderson.

Hindenburg colluded with Anson while preparing a report.

The preparation of bearish reports without disclosure of

Paytm Q3 consolidated loss narrows to ₹208.5 Crore

participation can be charged as securities fraud by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Hindenburg said the report "is largely based on an anonymous Tongan blog that is rife with factual errors, wild theorizing, and demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of US law" and

that it was "irresponsible" to "syndicate such rumours". While short sellers borrow security, sell it on the open market, and expect to repurchase it for less money after their damning report against the company brings stock down, involvement of hedge funds raises eyebrows as they could also place parallel bets, putting more downward

pressure on stock prices.

international markets.

"We have developed a portfolio of innovative

hardware, software and

in similar

expansion

## Kotak Mahindra bank shares surge post earning report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

 $S_{\text{Bank on Monday jumped}}^{\text{hares of Kotak Mahindra}}$ more than nine per cent after the firm posted a 10 per cent growth in its consolidated net profit at Rs 4,701 crore, aided by the performance of capital markets-linked arms.

The stock surged 9.15 per cent to settle at Rs 1,919.60 apiece on the BSE. During the day, it zoomed 9.68 per cent to Rs 1,929.

On the NSE, it soared 9.06 per cent to Rs 1,918 per share. The stock was the biggest gainer among the BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty firms.

The company's market valuation rallied Rs 31,999.66 crore to Rs 3,81,649.82 crore. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 454.11 points or 0.59 per cent to settle at 77,073.44. The NSE Nifty climbed 141.55 points or 0.61 per cent to

23,344.75. The firm announced the earnings on Saturday. On a standalone basis, the

private sector lender's net profit for the October-December period rose by 10 per cent. The capital market arms -

Kotak Securities and Kotak Mahindra Capital - delivered a 59 per cent growth in its profit at a combined Rs 542

## Central Bank of India Q3 profit jumps 33 per cent to ₹959 Crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

State-owned Central Bank of India posted a 33 per cent increase in its profit at Rs 959 crore in the third quarter ended December

profit of Rs 718 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Total income increased to Rs bank also rose to Rs 8,509 9,739 crore during the crore during the quarter quarter under review against compared to Rs 7,809 crore



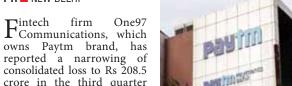
The bank had earned a net Bank of India said in a regulatory filing.

The interest income of the Rs 9,139 crore in the same in the same period a year period last year, the Central ago.

Operating profit of the bank improved to Rs 1,963 crore as against Rs 1,931 crore in December 2023.

On the asset quality side, the gross bank's Performing Assets (NPAs) declined to 3.86 per cent of the total loans at the end of December 2024 from 4.50

per cent a year ago. Net NPAs or bad loans also came down to 0.59 per cent from 1.27 per cent at the end of the third quarter of the previous fiscal.



crore in the third quarter ended December 31, 2024 mainly on account of reduction in expenses across the board, mainly on payment processing charges and employee costs. The company had posted a loss of Rs 221.7 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said. The revenue from operations



of Paytm declined by 35.8 per cent to Rs 1,827.8 crore during the reported quarter, from Rs 2,850.5 crore in the December 2024 quarter driven by dip in revenue from payments and financial services (34 per cent), payment services (40 per

cent) and marketing services model has the potential for (48 per cent). The revenue was, however, up 10 per cent on a quarter-onquarter basis showing a sign of recovery in the company's business.

The company is also looking for international expansion. It has set-up three overseas step-down subsidiaries of Paytm Cloud Technologies in the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and

Singapore. 'We believe that our technology-led merchant payments and financial services distribution business

services stack in India, which can be deployed and monetised internationally. We

are exploring various approaches, including organic expansion/local licenses, strategic investment and partnerships," the filing said.
During the quarter, Paytm's gross merchandise value (GMV) reached record high to touch the Rs five lakh-crore

## Praggnanandhaa defeats Harikrishna; Gukesh, Erigaisi draw in second round of Tata Steel Chess

PTI WIJK AAN ZEE

ndian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa defeated

Tragglatiandina deleated compatriot P Harikrishna, while Arjun Erigaisi settled for a draw in the second round of 87th Tata Steel Chess Tournament

here.
This was after world champion D Gukesh played out a draw with Russianturned-Slovenian Vladimir Fedoseev while Leon Luke Mendonca lost another game, this time to Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan. The 19-year-Old Praggnanandhaa's win over Harikrishna was a master-class on defence and counterattack. Playing white for the

class on defence and counter-attack. Playing white for the second time in as many days, Harikrishna could not find his magical touch even though he performed slightly better in the middle game. The younger Indian took him to the ropes and eventually

the endgame, which should have been drawn. and was never in any Harikrishna faltered when it problem against Fedoseev,

was necessary to put up resistance Praggnanandhaa made the most of it to emerge victorious.

Erigaisi pressed hard against local hero Anish Giri, who was almost winning against Gukesh in the opening round.

middle game.

It was an innocuous London system that Caruana started with and then capitalised on an unforced error to win a pawn which proved decisive. Earlier, after a tension filled game against Giri, Gukesh relaxed with his black pieces



who is perceived as a strong opponent at all levels. With black, Gukesh was

but the Indian equalised without much trouble

looking only optically worse leading to an endgame with rook and four pawns apiece where the draw was a just

result. For Mendonca it was a bad day in office as he chose to

play the French defense and faced some new ideas by the Uzbek, who has been constantly working to get positions in which he can out-calculate his opponents. The early middle game saw both players castling on opposite flank and it was Mendonca's king that came in to scrutiny soon. Abdusattorov is a fierce attacker and he pounced on

attacker and he pounced on his chance to score his first victory. This was the first

game to end in the day. In the challengers' section, R Vaishali was forced to split the point with 14-year-old Chinese sensation Miaoyi Lu after an intense battle with white piaces. white pieces.

white pieces.
Divya Deshmukh also opened her account in this section drawing with top seed Nguyen Thai van Dam of Czech Republic. After her first-round loss, this was an easy comeback for Divya, who is having her second who is having her second stint here. Results round 2:

Masters: Vladimir Fedoseev

(Slo, 1) drew with D Gukesh (Ind, 1.5); Erigaise Arjun (Ind, 1.5); Erigaise Arjun (Ind, 0.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 0.5); P Harikrishna (Ind, 1) lost to R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 1.5); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5) beat Leon Luke Mendonca (Ind, 0); Vincent Keymer (Ger, 1.5) drew with Max Warmerdam (Ned, 1); Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 1.5) beat Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 0.5); Alexey Sarana (Srb, 1) drew with Wei Yi (Chn, 1).

**Challengers:** Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 0.5) drew with Nguyen Thai van Dam with Nguyen Thai van Dam (Cze, 1.5); R Vaishali (Ind, 1.5) drew with Miaoyi Lu (Chn, 1.5); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 1.5) drew with Nodirbek Kazybek (Kaz, 0.5); Benjamin Bok (Ned, 1.5) beat Ediz Gurel (Tur, 1); Arthur Pijpers (Ned, 0.5) drew with Aydin Sulemanli (Aze, 1); Svane Frederik (Ger, 1.5) beat Oro Faustino (Arg, 0); Irina Bulmaga (Rom, 0) lost to Erwin L'Ami (Ned, 1.5).

## Satwik-Chirag eye first title of season, Lakshya Sen aims to bounce back

PTI ■ JAKARTA

Star Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be eying its maiden title of the year while Lakshya Sen will look to put Lakshya Sen will look to put behind a disappointing start to the season when the Indonesia Masters Super 500 tournament gets underway here on Tuesday. The world No 9 duo of Satwik

and Chirag has been in a fine form, reaching semifinals of the last two tournaments — Malaysia Open Super 1000 and India Open Super 750 — over the last as many weeks and will be keen to cross the final hurdle.

final hurdle.

Satwik-Chirag had lost each of the two semifinals in straight sets and their aim would be to go the distance in the upcoming tournament.

They will open their campaign with a round of 32 clash against Chinese Taipei's Chen Zhi-Ray and Yu Chieh

The 23-year-old Sen, who had finished fourth in last year's Paris Olympics has lost twice in the first round over the last two weeks, will be determined to put his best foot forward in the round of 32 clash.

Priyanshu Rajawat will also begin his campaign at the same stage, taking on Japan's

The challenge, however, would be greater for India's singles players Sen and PV Sindhu when they take the

court here. The 23-year-old Sen, who had

Kodai Naraoka However, two other Indians will face off in the men's singles qualification round as Kidambi Srikanth, who did not feature in India Open, will look to get the better of Kiran George.

George.
In women's singles round of 32, Sindhu will open her campaign against Chinese Taipei's Sung Shuo Yun, Aakarshi Kashyap will face Japan's world No 19 Nozomi Okuhara and Anupama Upadhyaya will take on local

player Gregoria Mariska lost

open and the two-time Olympic medallist Indian star will be keen to make amends. In women's singles qualification, Isharani Baruah will face compatriot Rakshitha Ramraj while Tanya Hemanth will clash against Chinese Taipei's Tung

Ciou-Tong.
Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini
Ponnappa will begin their
women's doubles campaign in
round of 32 against Thailand's Ornnicha Jongsathapornparn and Sukitta Suwachai.

Tanisha will team up with Dhruv Kapila for their mixed doubles' round of 32 game against Indonesia's Adnan Maulana and Indah Cahya Sari Jamil.

In the same round, Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Gadde will face off against England's Gregory Mairs and Jenny

## Skater Shruti Kotwal hopes to qualify for Winter Olympics through AWG

**PTI** ■ NEW DELHI

Tndian skater Shruti Kotwal has set her sights on the Asian Winter Games (AWG) in Harbin, China, next month as a platform to qualify for the 2026 Winter Olympics to be held in Italy. Kotwal, who is training in the United States, will be leading the country's 41-member

the country's 41-member athlete contingent in the AWG to be held from February 7 to 14.

Kotwal said the AWG will be a big opportunity for her to test herself against the best skaters in the world.

"I'm focusing on the 500m

"I'm focusing on the 500m and 1000m events for Olympic qualification. The timing requirements are incredibly challenging - sub-40 seconds for the 500m and under 1:20 for the 1000m. My Indian national record is 41.97 seconds and I need to skate under 40 seconds to qualify," Kotwal told SAI Media. This will be Kotwal's



second appearance in the AWG after 2017, when the Asian meet was held in

Asian meet was neid in Japan.

"Countries like South Korea, Japan, and China consistently produce strong skaters who are technically and physically exceptional. I've faced some of these competitors in previous events and understand their extrangular It's a tough field." strengths. It's a tough field," said the 33-year-old from Pune. Several Indian speed skaters are training in Korea

for AWG and contestants from at least 24 nations are expected to take part in the continental event.

Kotwal said the Khelo India Winter Games have been an ideal platform for skaters aspiring to make a mark at the international level.

"Khelo India Winter Games brings everybody together. It really helps to promote the sport. We didn't have that when we started and I think the skaters now are very

### Singapore signs **Anup Sridhar** as additional singles coach



**PTI** SINGAPORE

Tndia's Asian Championships bronze-winning former shuttler Anup Sridhar was on Monday roped in as a singles coach by the Singapore Association Badminton (SBA).

However, South Korean Kim Ji-hyun will continue to be the head coach for SBA's men's and women's teams.

"We do not have a start date as it is dependent on the work visa approval, and we certainly want Anup to join us as soon as possible," Prof David Tan, SBA's Vice President (Business Development

Communications), told PTI.
"All I can say is that it is not a other terms are confidential," he added.

Tan also refuted media reports that the 41-year-old Sridhar, who has three international titles and a Commonwealth Games mixed team bronze to his credit, was going to be the men's singles head coach.

"SBA is indeed appointing Anup Sridhar to this role as Singles Coach, but this is not as men's singles head coach as erroneously mentioned by the media in Índia, as well as by the commentator during the live telecast of quarterfinals match between Loh Kean Yew and Viktor Axelsen in the India Open,"

Tan said. SBA had advertised for the position of an additional singles coach. The required qualifications included a minimum of five years' singles.

**PTI** ■ GQEBERHA

Sunrisers Eastern Cape defeated Durban Super Giants by six wickets to enter the playoffs of the SA20 here. After three consecutive defeats, the defending champions have certainly turned the corner and seemed to have peaked form, that has seen them win back-to-back SA20 championships in the last two seasons.

Last season's leading wicket-taker Marco Jansen (2/23) led the comeback by delivering a special new-ball performance for the Sunrisers Eastern Cape on Sunday night.

Jansen was well supported by Englishmen -- pacer Richard Gleeson (2/19) and left-arm spinner Liam Dawson (2/11) along with Ottneil Baartman (2/30) as they restricted the visitors to 115/8.

Sunrisers Eastern Cape then chased down the target with six wickets in hand with as many as 28 balls remaining.



Asked to bowl, Jansen knocked over Durban Super Giants opener Brandon King with the second ball of the innings which sent a nearcapacity St George's Park crowd into raptures.

'Glad to have it on a string. Going well at the moment. It's not easy to bowl in the powerplay, for me it's all about taking wickets and everything just falls in place," Jansen said.
"I try to bowl in the channel consistently. We have the best crowd in the country, appreciate them coming out." Durban Super Giants innings was held together by New

Zealand international Kane Williamson (44 off 45 balls), but received precious little support until last-man Naveen-ul-Haq struck 30 not off just 15 balls.

Sunrisers Eastern Cape's reply was led by opener David Bedingham's rapid 39 at the top of the order before Jordan Hermann maintained the momentum with 23 in the middle-order.

But it was left to captain Aiden Markram to provide the finishing touches as Sunrisers chased the bonus point with the skipper finishing unbeaten on 31 off just 20 balls.

## Sunrisers Eastern Cape beat Durban | Iga Swiatek's drug-case ruling will not be Super Giants by six wickets in SA20 appealed by World Anti-Doping Agency

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

 $I_{ ext{suspension}}^{ ext{ga}}$  Swiatek's one-month suspension for failing a drug test will not be appealed by the World Anti-Doping Agency because her explanation "is plausible," WADA announced

on Monday. WADA released its decision just minutes after Swiatek, a five-time Grand Slam champion and former No. 1ranked women's tennis player, sealed a 6-0 6-1 victory against Eva Lys to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals.

Unlike the Swiatek case, WADA did appeal the exoneration of current men's No. 1 Jannik Sinner and a hearing is scheduled to be heard at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland, in April.

Sinner was not suspended because the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) determined he was not negligent for two positive tests



for an anabolic steroid in March. The resolution of Swiatek's case was made public by the ITIA in late November. She already had been sidelined provisionally, missing three tournaments in October, and finished her ban during the

sports offseason.
"WADA sought advice from external legal counsel, who considered that the athlete's contamination explanation was well evidenced, that the ITIA decision was compliant with the World Anti-Doping Code, and that there was no

reasonable basis to appeal it to the CAS," Monday's statement from WADA said.

Swiatek accepted a one-month

suspension after testing positive for the banned substance trimetazidine, a heart medication known as TMZ. Swiatek failed an out-ofcompetition drug test in August, and the ITIA accepted her explanation that the result was unintentional, and caused by the contamination of the non-prescription medication melatonin that she was taking for issues with jet lag and sleeping. The ITIA said it determined her level of fault was "at the lowest end of the range for no significant fault or negligence." That "scenario," WADA said

on Monday, "is plausible and that there would be no scientific grounds to challenge On the eve of the Australian

Open, Swiatek described the initial period she was sidelined, which she chalked up at the time to personal reasons, as "pretty chaotic" and said, "For sure, it wasn't easy; it was probably, like, the worst time in my life." "It got pretty awkward. Like, we chose for the first tournament to say personal reasons' because we honestly thought the suspension is going to be lifted soon," Swiatek said in Melbourne. "From the beginning it was obvious that something was contaminated because the level of this substance in my urine

was so low that it had to be

### experience within a national badminton team structure with a primary focus on Sridhar was captain of the Indian Thomas cup team in 2006 and 2008.

## Novak Djokovic is ready to concentrate on his quarterfinal showdown with Carlos Alcaraz

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

Australian Open's local broadcaster and its employee who insulted him on the air and so, according to tournament organisers, the 24-time Grand Slam champion is ready to concentrate on his quarterfinal showdown with Carlos Alcaraz. "Novak acknowledges the apology has been given in public as requested," read a statement issued Monday by Tennis Australia, "and is now moving on and focusing on his next match." That, perhaps, will draw a curtain

After winning at Rod Laver 19.
Arena on Sunday evening to set Djokovic added that he would

up the contest against No. 3 Alcaraz, Djokovic declined to do Novak Djokovic got the mea the customary post-match on culpas he wanted from the court TV interview, but didn't court TV interview, but didn't immediately say why, eliciting some jeering from spectators. Only later that night, at his news conference, did Djokovic explain that he was taking a stand to protest comments made by Tony Jones on Channel 9 on Friday. Djokovic, a 37-year-old from Serbia, did not name Jones, but said a "famous sports journalist who works for broadcaster Channel 9 ... Made a

made insulting and offensive comments toward me." the bizarre off-court Jones called Djokovic overrated distraction as Djokovic pursues and a has-been and made what what would be an 11th championship at Melbourne Park seemed to be a reference to when the player was deported from and a record 25th major trophy Australia in 2022 because he was not vaccinated against COVID-

mockery of Serbian fans and also



continue to avoid speaking to the network without an apology from

Those finally arrived on Monday. Nine Network said in a statement it apologised "for any offense

caused from comments made" while live on air. "No harm was intended towards

Novak or his fans," the statement anything. I genuinely feel for continued. "We look forward to those fans." further showcasing his Australian Open campaign at Melbourne

contamination.

During an appearance on a TV show Monday, Jones said he intended his words as "banter" and apologized to Djokovic "if he felt that I disrespected him." "I considered it to be humor,

which is consistent with most things I do," Jones said. "Having said that, I was made aware ... That the Djokovic camp was not happy at all with those comments. I immediately contacted the Djokovic camp and issued an apology to them. And as I stand here now, I stand by that apology to Novak."

Jones also offered words to Serbians.

"I do feel as though I've let down the Serbian fans," he said. "I'm not just saying this to try and with "wriggle out of trouble or emoji.

Serbia's ambassador to Australia, Rade Stefanovic, even got involved Monday, telling the

Sydney Morning Herald newspaper that Jones' comments

were "clearly unprofessional," including a "most concerning" reference to what happened three years ago when Djokovic was kicked out of the country ahead of the tournament amid the pandemic. Before Jones and his employer offered their apologies, Djokovic posted a message on social media reiterating why he declined to speak. That drew a reply from billionaire X owner Elon Musk, who said, "It's way better just to

talk to the public directly than go through the negativity filter of legacy media." Djokovic replied to Musk's tweet with "Indeed" and a raised-hands

## Mbappé puts on a show again with two goals as Real Madrid beats Las Palmas

with Kylian Mbappé putting on a show again, Real Madrid returned to the top of the Spanish league.

Mbappé continued his scoring streak with a brace as Madrid routed 10-man Las Palmas 4-1 on Sunday, prompting a big ovation at Santiago Bernabeu stadium for the France star who has struggled at times in his first season with the Spanish powerhouse.

"It's always a dream to get a standing ovation at this stadium," Mbappé said.

"I'm really happy, I've adapted to the team and I can play the way I want to. Everyone enjoys the team's game. All the Real Madrid players are leaders because it's the best team in the world. We have to be united because we have to win a lot of things. You always have to win at Real Madrid." Mbappé now has scored four goals in his last four matches with Madrid.

Brahim Díaz and Rodrygo also scored for Madrid as it overtook Atletico Madrid to begin the second half of the league season. Madrid is two points ahead of city rival Atletico, which on Saturday saw its record 15-game winning streak end in a 1-0 loss to Leganes. Madrid opened a seven-point lead over third-placed Barcelona, which drew 1-1 at Getafe on Saturday.
"It was an important match for us," Mbappé said.
"We know what happened

"We knew what happened yesterday with Atletico's defeat and Barcelona's draw and we wanted to get the win. We started badly because we conceded an early goal, but the team's reaction was outstanding. We looked for space and played fast and with

It was the second straight victory for Madrid after an embarrassing 5-2 loss to Barcelona in the Spanish Super Cup final in Saudi Arabia on Jan. 12.

After Rodrygo was fouled,



Mbappé converted an 18th-minute penalty kick on Sunday after the visitors had taken the lead through Fábio Silva one minute into the match at the

minute into the match at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium.
Díaz put Madrid ahead in the 33rd and Mbappé added his second goal in the 36th after an assist by Rodrygo.
Rodrygo scored his third goal in three matches in the 57th.

Mbappé thought he had scored a hat trick near the end of the first half but his goal was disallowed for offside. He also hit the woodwork in first-half stoppage

Jude Bellingham had a goal disallowed after video review in the second half.

"Mbappé's great form is helping us a lot," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

"Our work today was very good.
We managed to get the right balance to handle the good moments and the difficult ones." Las Palmas, sitting in 14th place first league win since November.

and enduring a three-game losing streak across all competitions, had Benito Ramírez sent off for a high kick in the 64th. He initially was shown a yellow card but video review determined he deserved a red card.

Defender David Alaba made his return to action after a long knee-injury layoff in the 77th. He hadn't played since December

2023. Madrid was without forward Vinícius Júnior because of a suspension.

President Pérez

As the only candidate, Florentino Pérez was reelected Madrid president on Sunday, securing his control of the club until 2029. Other results

Earlier Sunday, fourth-place Athletic Bilbao won 2-1 at 13thplace Celta Vigo, while ninth-place Rayo Vallecano drew 1-1 at 10th-place Osasuna. Valencia moved out of last place by beating Real Sociedad 1-0 at home for its



### Elina Svitolina rallies to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals for third time

**PTI** ■ MELBOURNE

Elina Svitolina was 4-1 down before she went on a roll and took 11 of the next 12 games in a 6-4 6-1 victory over Veronika Kudermetova on Monday to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals for the third time.

The 30-year-old Ukrainian is into the last eight at a Grand Slam for the 12th time and will next play No. 19 Madison Kevs, who had a 6-3 1-6 6-3 win over Elena Rybakina, the 2022 Wimbledon champion and 2023 Australian Open

runner-up. Kevs has twice reached the semifinals in Australia, in 2015 and 2022, and entered the season's first major with a title 
It wasn't just power and pace in Adelaide earlier this month. Svitolina is back in the quarterfinals in Australia for

the first time since 2019. "Feels like a lifetime ago," Svitolina said.

Since then, she has married French player Gael Monfils in 2021 and the pair had a daughter, Skai, in 2022.

"Many things happened and I'm really pleased with the performance throughout the tournament. Really enjoying this win today."

After dropping two early service games to Kudermetova, she said her only goal "was just trying to fight."
"It's the only thing I can do

when things are not going your way, put your head down and get back to work," she said. "Really happy I could come (back) into the match and then win in straight sets."

In a message written on a TV camera lens after the match, the No. 28-seeded Svitolina wrote "The Spirit of Ukraine" and drew a heart shape.

Svitolina, the No. 28 seed wore a red dress, red shoes and a red cap for the match. People in the crowd waved the yellow and blue Ukraine flag.

Kudermetova took a medical timeout for on-court treatment on her abdomen after falling behind 5-4 the

first set. She left the court for treatment after losing the first set. Kudermetova saved a breakpoint and held for 1-1 in the second set, following up a

line with a loud roar. That was the end of her celebrating.

forehand winner down the

from Svitolina that was difference between the pair. After bringing Kudermetova to the net with a drop shot and then lobbing over her to start the next game, Svitolina punched the air.

There was no handshake at the net with Kudermeotva, a 27year-old from Russia, but no animosity, either.

Svitolina's husband, Monfils, was playing later Monday against No. 21 seed Ben Shelton on Margaret Court Arena. The 38-year-old Frenchman reached the fourth round with an upset over fourth-seeded Taylor Fritz, the US Open runner-up last year. Other quarterfinalists will be decided when defending champion Iannik Sinner and No. 13 seed Holger Rune meet in an afternoon match and five-time major winner Iga Swiatek takes on Eva Lys, the lucky loser from qualifying, in

## Rishabh Pant named captain of Lucknow Super Giants for upcoming IPL 2025

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Dynamic keeper-batter Rishabh Pant was on Monday named the captain of Lucknow Super Giants for the upcoming IPL and he vowed to give his "200 percent" to win the team's maiden title.

Pant was picked at the mega auction for an IPL record Rs 27 crore by the franchise owner Sanjiv Goenka.

"I will give my 200 percent.
That's my commitment to you.
I will try whatever is there in my power to repay the faith. I am really excited and looking forward to new beginning and new energy. And have a blast out there with lot of fun," Pant told mediapersons after being unveiled as the new skipper. "We start with new hope and aspirations. And most importantly, new confidence. I

wanted to introduce you all to our new captain Rishabh Pant," Goenka said. This is Pant's second stint as a



leader in the IPL. At his former franchise Delhi Capitals, the captaincy became a point of contention, leading the 27-year-old Pant to opt out of DC's retention plans after unsuccessful negotiations. Pant beat Nicholas Pooran to

secure the top job after Rahul didn't feature in the list of LSG's retained players. LSG had retained Pooran, Mayank Ravi Bishnoi, and Ayush Badoni before the

Right after the auction, Goenka made a cryptic remark that the franchise wanted to keep players who put the team first ahead of their personal goals and milestones, which was construed as a dig at Rahul who often struggled to score at a brisk pace.

Asked about his new team going the distance in the IPL, Pant sounded optimistic.

"Definitely happy with the team. We have a mix of youth and experienced players. We

have not been where we wanted to be... That's the journey how we can take this franchise to newer heights. Despite DC's interest in keeping him, they were not fully committed to him leading the side, prompting Pant to reenter the auction.

At the auction, they pipped Sunrisers Hyderabad, LSG to get Pant for Rs 20.75 crore, eventually they had to raise their price to Rs 27 crore to outbid Delhi Capitals' right-tomatch card.

"I know it's a new beginning for me, new franchise, new owner. The ideology of captaining the side doesnt change. We will add a lot of things which we will discuss with the management and will see how we would take this forward in a better way." Speaking about his captaincy mantra, "I've learnt from a lot of captains, seniors. You don't only learn from captains, a lot of senior players



**PTI** ■ MUMBAI

Tndia captain Rohit Sharma I will show up in a Ranji Trophy match for the first time in almost a decade after he and rising star Yashasvi Jaiswal were named in Mumbai's squad for their fixture against Jammu and Kashmir, starting January 23 at MCA-BKC Ground here. The team will continue to be led by the seasoned Ajinkya Rahane, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) said

on Monday. Rohit had confirmed his participation for the next round of the Ranji Trophy match on Saturday during a press conference India's squads for

while announcing the squad

limited-overs series against England and the Champions Trophy next month. When asked if he would play

in the next domestic game for his state team, Rohit replied, "I will".

Of late there have been questions over Rohit's form in the longest format after his forgettable outing in his last eight Tests, including against New Zealand at home and against Australia Down Under.

The India skipper had showed up for a training session for Mumbai on January 15 as it became clear after the team's disastrous tour of Australia that the BCCI has made it mandatory for the players to feature in domestic circuit.

Soon after, Jaiswal too joined the Mumbai camp which trained at the BKC ground as he had a few batting sessions

The BCCI recently made it mandatory for all contracted India players to participate in domestic cricket except when there are fitness issues.

with his domestic team.

Rohit had cited a busy schedule with the national team among reasons for not playing domestic cricket. (In) the last 6-7 years, I can

at least tell about what has happened with me since I've started playing Test cricket regularly, which is from 2019, you hardly have any time (in hand)," he told media

"And then, when you play so much international cricket through the year, you need some time off as well as a to cricketer just to refresh, get for your mind right, just to be ready for the upcoming season."

"But we have addressed it now and nobody takes it for granted or anything like that. It is just based on looking at how one has gone through the season, how much rest he needs.

"Based on all of that, we decide what is going to happen with certain players. Now it's been made mandatory that if there is time, you have to play domestic cricket," he said. Mumbai squad: Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Rohit Sharma, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ayush Mhatre, Shreyas Iyer, Siddhesh Lad, Shivam Dube, Hardik Tamore (wk), Akash Anand (wk), Tanush Kotian, Shams Mulani, Himanshu Shardul Thakur, Awasthi, Sylvester Dsouza, Royston Dias, Karsh

## Yes, transition phase is coming but I don't need to prove anything to anyone: Axar Patel

contender to take veteran Ravindra A Jadeja's place permanently at some point, spin-bowling all-rounder Axar Patel is aware of the possibilities that may arise during India's big Test transition but he doesn't feel the need to prove "anything to anyone" to make his case. Axar, who turned 31 on Monday, has been Jadeja's under-study for the past decade with same skill-sets but with a bit of less finesse than his fellow senior Guiarati. In his 11-vear-international career, Axar

has taken 184 wickets across three formats and 55 of them have come in 14 Tests, two of which were in Bangladesh when Jadeja was unfit.

Talk about Indian cricket's transition and whether he stands to gain, India's T20 vice-captain's offered a matter of fact response.

"Yes, a transition phase is coming, and ultimately, it's the selectors' and captain's call. I don't feel the need to prove anything to anyone," Axar gave an uncomplicated answer.

"My approach is to focus on fulfilling the role assigned to me and continuously improving myself. If I perform well, my



place in the team will take care of itself automatically." In his mind, he is an all-format player

and that belief is unshakeable. "I just keep telling myself that I have played all three formats be it Tests, ODIs, or T20s. My focus is on doing well whenever I get an opportunity, rather than feeling the need to prove anything to anyone, whether I'm picked or not.

"I don't take the pressure of thinking that I deserve a spot. It is always about the team combination and whether there is any room for me."

He wasn't disappointed when he didn't make the cut for Border-Gavaskar

Trophy as it was not meant to be. Instead, he concentrated on a T20I series in Africa where he played all the games. "When it comes to selection or the Australia series, I think more about where I can get opportunities rather than

whether I deserve a place. "It's all part of a cricketer's journey -only 15 players can be in the squad and you can't take your place for granted. I don't think in those terms."

There has been a lot of chatter about communication between the Gautam Gambhir-led support staff and the players during the series Down Under. When asked about it, Axar carefully sidestepped the issue but did say that in a fast-paced format like T20, it is more about specific strategic inputs and roles. In that regard, he felt that "communication is pretty clear".

"I was not with the team for last two and half months so I do not have much idea what was going on in Australia. But it's the same support staff, we just have the inputs that is required from bowling coach and the batting coach.
"T20 is a fast-paced format, so it's about

making correct decisions, so we discuss that only. What role do I have to play."

### which each lost all six games. favor — by winning at home against 24th-place Dinamo Tuesday games Liverpool hosts Lille and midwinter break until March. Zagreb. Sixth-place Inter Milan goes to Sparta Prague, and Bayern Barcelona is at 15th-place Benfica. Atletico Madrid in 11th place can rise above

just one point more. Aston Villa, the 1982 European Cup winner, can qualify for the round of 16 with a win at 16th-place Monaco.

visiting Bayer Leverkusen, which is in fourth place with

Stuttgart, in 26th place, is favored to win at Slovan and move to 10 points, which would put pressure on PSG and Man City.

16 entry — and do Man City a

Munich, in a surprising 10th place with 12 points, travels to Feyenoord which is 18th with 10 points. Brest goes to Schalke's stadium

in neutral Germany to face Shakhtar Donetsk, which has four points and likely must win to stay in contention. Why is the Champions League

for soccer left few options. Historically, European club Then February was occupied in 2001 by the Champions League when a new format with a second group stage started. February stayed on the calendar when the round of 16 started in 2004, and for the next two decades. So when UEFA decided in 2022 on this eight-game

league phase, January was needed even though some leagues in Nordic countries do not start until March, and others are still on midwinter breaks. Austrian champion Sturm Graz, which plays at Atalanta

### Champions League makes January debut with high-stakes clash of PSG and Manchester City competitions

**PTI** ■ GENEVA

 $T_{\text{games}}^{\text{he first Champions League}}$ January include one with possible shocking consequences in an unpredictable debut season for the 36-team format.

Paris Saint-Germain vs Manchester City on Wednesday is a clash of superon wealthy state-backed teams currently a barely believable 25th and 22nd in the standings.

If the 2020 beaten finalist and 2023 champion play to a draw at Parc des Princes, both could start the 18-game final round on January 29 outside the top-24 places that qualify for the

traditional groups — now with eight games instead of six, different eight facing opponents, and two in January is unknown territory even for UEFA, whose preseason prediction that eight points should ensure advancing likely will fall short.

However, few imagined what would play out in the first six rounds. Man City and PSG have

struggled, Real Madrid has lost half its games in 20th place despite adding Kylian Mbappé to a title-winning team, and lowest-ranked debutant Brest has cruised to four wins and seventh in the standings, just ahead of Lille.

knockout stage. The new impossible to list these eight certain to finish in the top 24. format that replaced the clubs as being in the top eight Liverpool is the only team to

positions," Giorgio Marchetti, the UEFA deputy general secretary, told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

There is a lot of new fresh air." "I think the format has an impact," Marchetti said, pointing to comments by Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi that it is more difficult to prepare for eight different opponents instead of three. "It is more of a challenge." Which positions are teams

playing for? The top eight in the standings on January 29 advance directly to the round of 16 that starts in March. They will likely include current leader Liverpool and second-place Barcelona which "It would have been are the only two teams already



win all six games. Teams placed from ninth to 24th go into the new knockout playoffs round. Nos. 9-16 will be seeded in the draw on January 31 and will play the second leg at home. Teams

placing 17 to 24 host the first

Nos. 25-36 in the standings are eliminated and do not transfer to the Europa League. Already out are Leipzig, Slovan Bratislava and Young Boys

Wednesday games Real Madrid hosts struggling

Salzburg, and third-place Arsenal can secure its round of

playing in January? For the money, mostly. The most influential clubs wanted a bigger and more lucrative Champions League and got two extra midweek matches for all. The congested calendar

on Tuesday, has not played a domestic game since December 7 and will not resume until February 1. Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any

damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements. Printed and Published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at The Indian Express Pvt Ltd., C-26 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304006, 2304416. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Corporate Office:- 201-205, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500.