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

ORDNANCE FACTORY BLAST, EIGHT KILLED



TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

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

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

evening. A press release issued by the explosives, National Disaster Response compounds.

Force (NDRF) earlier in the day stated that the incident took place at 10:30 am. "The incident resulted in a fire and subsequent building Initially, 13 collapse. individuals were reported trapped at the site. The NDRF immediately team was

deployed to the location and is working tirelessly to rescue those affected," the NDRF said. Ordnance Factory, The located in the Satpura

Mountain ranges in Jawahar Nagar taluka of Bhandara, manufactures single-base propellant, double-base propellant (ballistite), doublebase propellant (rocket), high and their

The explosion was so intense that its sound could be heard up to seven to ten kilometers away from the accident site. Objects from the exploded factory were flung several meters away, eyewitnesses

said.

explosion-hit

continued to billow out for several hours and could be seen from a distance of two to three kilometers away. Confirming the deaths and injuries in the incident, Union Minister and MP from Nagpur Nitin Gadkari described the explosion as "unfortunate". He was

MP enforces liquor ban in holy towns

GIRISH SHARMA ■ BHOPAL

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

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

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



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

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

significance, religious government seeks to align these regions with their sacred identity while curbing alcohol abuse. Yadav expressed hope that the decision would contribute to improving the overall quality of life in the state.

After the State Cabinet approved the ban of liquor in 17 religious places, the Excise department would start process of closing down the existing shops at these places. The announcement also drew attention to longstanding demands prohibition in Madhya Pradesh.

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

The previous Shivraj Singh Chouhan government had approved a new discouraging liquor consumption, ruling party of exploiting the but refrained from implementing situation for profit.

alcohol sales in areas with high total prohibition. Following the recent announcement by CM Mohan Yadav to ban liquor sales in 17 religious towns, Uma Bharti welcomed the move, describing it as a significant step toward achieving total prohibition in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh Congress Media incharge Mukesh Nayak has criticised the state government's decision to close liquor shops in 17 holy towns, alleging it could lead to illegal activities similar to those in Gujarat.
Speaking to The Pioneer, Nayak claimed that in Gujarat, BJP leaders are allegedly involved in a liquor business worth Rs 10,000 crore despite the prohibition policy. He expressed concerns that a parallel network for the illegal sale of liquor might emerge in the 17 designated religious towns in Madhya Pradesh. Nayak further alleged that the ban could pave the way for clandestine operations, making liquor easily accessible through home delivery. 'Currently, customers have to visit shops to buy liquor, but soon it might be delivered to their homes in these excise policy in 2023, aimed at areas," he remarked, accusing the

Kejriwal accuses BJP of bribing voters

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The political battle for the Delhi Assembly elections smoke from the factory is heating up with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) supremo Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accusing the Bharatiya Janata speaking at an event in

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of trying to sway voters by distributing gold chains, sarees, shoes, and cash while urging voters **Continued on page 8** to resist these attempts.

Dubbing BJP as 'Gali galoch and calling the individual who distribute money as a 'threat to the democracy', Kejriwal said, 'Vote for whoever you

want to, but the one who is trying to buy your vote and destroy this country, don't vote for him. The one

who is distributing jackets, blankets and cash to you is a traitor of the country. Take all the money from him but swear to



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

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

Continued on page 8





Waqf panel meet ends in protests

PNS NEW DELHI

Ten opposition members attending the Parliamentary neeting on the Waqf Amendment Bill were suspended for a day on Friday amid protests and accusations against Chairman Jagdambika Pal steamrolling through the proceedings.

While opposition members accused Pal of reducing the proceedings to a farce and alleged that he was acting on the government's directions, the chairman slammed their conduct aimed at disrupting the meeting. He accused Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee of hurling abuses at him and said he strove to bring the meeting to order, adjourning it twice but in vain.

BIP member Nishikant Dubey moved the motion for suspending the opposition members which was adopted by the committee, The suspended members are Banerjee and Nadeem-ul



head of Kashmir, with Maulana Rehmatullah of Bandipora waits to appear before the parliamentary panel on Waqf Amendment Bill

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

CBI uncovers ₹350 Crore crypto scam PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted search operations across seven locations after registering a case of a Rs 350 crore crypto-ponzi scam against seven individuals, officials said on Friday.

The accused were allegedly

running seven separate modules based in the cities of Delhi, Hazaribag, Bathinda, Ratlam, Valsad, Pudukkottai, and Chittorgarh, collecting money from gullible investors by promising returns from cryptocurrency investments, they said. "These ponzi schemes were being promoted through multiple social media groups. An analysis of bank account transactions and cryptocurrency wallets has revealed that the illegal proceeds from these schemes were being converted into cryptocurrencies to obscure origin," spokesperson said in a statement. It is alleged that the conducted accused transactions totaling over Rs 350 crore in these schemes,

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

the officials said.



During the searches, the CBI seized digital virtual assets totaling approximately USD 38,414 in the cryptocurrency wallets of the accused, which have been digitally secured for investigation.

"The searches resulted in the recovery of cash amounting to Rs 34.2 lakh (approx), along with significant digital evidence, including seven mobile phones, one laptop, one tablet, three hard disks, 10 pen drives, memory cards, SIM cards, ATM cards, debit cards, email accounts, and incriminating several documents," the statement said.

The agency registered the case under Indian Penal Code Section 120-B (criminal conspiracy), Section 420 (cheating), and Section 66D of

the Information Technology Act, 2000, as part of an ongoing investigation that predates the introduction of three new criminal laws last "It is alleged that the accused,

acting in criminal conspiracy, have been actively floating various ponzi and fraudulent schemes, promising high based returns cryptocurrency investments. They are also accused of promoting, promising, and disseminating false and deceptive information to entice investors into these unregulated deposit schemes, which operate without requisite approvals from regulatory authorities such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)," the statement said.

Continued on page 8

Prices for 1 litre Amul milk packs reduced by ₹1

PNS NEW DELHI

Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which markets dairy products under the Amul brand, has reduced milk prices by Rs 1 per litre across India. However, the reduction in prices is only for one-litre

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

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

In Delhi, the rate of Amul Gold milk has been reduced to Rs 67 from Rs 68 per litre while price of Amul Taaza will now be Rs 55 from Rs 56 per litre earlier. GCMMF's turnover increased 8 per cent to Rs 59,445 crore in the 2023-24 financial year.

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

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

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

Investigations revealed that in May 2021, the accused contacted the victims and took them to Nirman Bhawan, the headquarters of the Continued on page 8 | Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to gain



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

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

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

Jail in Assam turns into organic farming success story

It might appear to be just another normal prison at first glance, but as one steps inside the Barpeta District Jail complex in Assam, it is nothing less than an agricultural hub with vast fields of multiple crops. Located in lower Assam, the

fields in the jail compound are filled with mustard, along with trees laden with fruits and vegetables, a mini bee farm, and even rare crops like nutritious apple berries. Spread over 127 bighas (almost

42 acres), the Barpeta jail has a capacity to house 413 inmates 368 men and 45 women. It currently has 335 inmates, including 325 men and 10 women.

"I, along with the jailer, got ft legislation. transferred to this prison around a year ago. At that

time, only paddy farming was done. We decided to go for multi-cropping to utilise the land throughout the year," Barpeta District Jail Barpeta Superintendent Pranjal Kumar Sarma told PTI.

Thanks to the new initiatives, the jail generated a revenue of over Rs 1 lakh for the government during the April-December period last year by selling agricultural produce alone, he said.

"Apart from revenue generation, there was another reason for introducing yearlong agriculture activities. The inmates are always mentally stressed due to their jail terms and for staying away from home. We tried to reduce their stress level by engaging them in productive work. They laugh and share jokes with each other while working in the fields," Sarma said. purely organic and no chemical or fertiliser is used during farming. What makes

transformation even more special is that the prisoners are engaged in all agrarian activities within the premises, which keeps them engaged and helps them learn a new skill for the life after release from jail.

Jailer Nilotpal Kakati said multi-cropping started from April last year, after the authorities cleared the weeds from the unused barren lands and made them cultivable. "We could utilise only 35-40

bighas of land as there is shortage of manpower. Though we have over 300 inmates, we could engage only 20-25 of them serving rigorous imprisonment due to legal restrictions. The law does not



allow the rest to work in the fields," he said.

Kakati, however, said the jail authorities are planning to expand the farming area this year by engaging a few more people, thereby increasing the produce.

Asked about the marketing, he said, "So far, we have not marketed it outside Barpeta. Local vendors come and collect the vegetables from us.



vegetables last year, resulting in savings for us."
The jailer said that with

expansion of produce and introduction of some cash crops, the authorities will explore outside markets later this year.

Vegetables like lady finger, mustard, ginger, brinjal, cabbage, reddish and several

cruciferous ones, including perennial Indian favourites cauliflower and cabbages, are grown in the jail premises. Additionally, the compound houses a small fishery for inhouse consumption.

Another highlight is a small berry farm, housing around 200 trees producing several precious variants of the fruit -Apple Berry, Miss India and Thailand Berry. Kakati also claimed that berry

farming is the first of its kind in an Indian jail.

The jail authorities have recently started planting strawberries and varieties of flowers in an effort to uplift the mood of the inmates as well as employees.

"The multi-cropping farming was done as a pilot project this time. We wanted to check if the land is cultivable. As we got satisfactory results, we will try

way in the next fiscal," he said. Barpeta administration has taken note of the agricultural practices in the district jail and lauded the efforts of Sarma and Kakati. Barpeta Additional District Commissioner Jayanta Bora, who recently visited the facility, has stressed that being engaged with agriculture could inadvertently help the inmates step away from a life of crime and become honest citizens.

Apart from generating revenue for the government, agriculture in the jail will allow the prisoners to step out of their routine and motivate them to be more productive citizens," he said.

Initially established as a makeshift jail in Barpeta town, it was relocated to its present location, just two kilometers outside the town, in 1970.

allegedly duped in the name of securing a Mudra loan. According to reports, the man had applied for a Mudra loan



सूचना – मेरे शैक्षिक अभिलेख में मेरा नाम अनिता राय पत्नी विनोद तिवारी दर्ज है, जबिक मेरे आधारकार्ड संख्या 829046059714 में त्रुटिवश मेरा नाम अनीता तिवारी अंकित हो गया है। भविष्य में मुझे अनिता राय पत्नी विनोद तिवारी के नाम से जाना वह पहचाना जाए। अनिता राय पत्नी विनोद तिवारी, ग्राम- बड़सरी, पोस्ट-सहोडीह, जनपद- बलिया, उप्र

going for Photo copy near Super Market on 12.01.2025.

I have changed my name from Munni to Shama Khatoon for all future purposes, Shama Khatoon W/o Jibrail Khan R/o Gram Piprodar, District Banda Mo. 7376704591

1, Surendra Pratap Singh father of Sanjay Kumar Singh resident of Vill- Sihura Dara Shikoh, PO- Bachhana, Teh-Bilhaur, Dist-Kanpur Nagar, State- Uttar Pradesh have changed my name from SURENDRA PRATAP SINGH to SURENDRA SINGH vide Affidavit No 0705 date 23 Jan 2025 before Notary Bilhaur.

NOTICE

My wife's name is Vandana the Army records and Vandana Singh in the Aadhar card and educational records. Both names are of my wife. Now my wife should be recognized as Vandana Singh and should be recorded in the Army records. Army Number 4581167H Naik Bhoopendra Singh Chauhan 3 Mahar Regiment C/O 56 APO S/o Rudra Bhan Singh Village-Nagwan Block Bidhanu Tehsil Narwal District Kanpur Nagar Uttar Pradesh

Kanpur Nagar.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Bank of Baroda Fatehganj Ayodhya Branch intends to accept the under mentioned standing in the name of Mrs.Sushma Jaiswal W/o Rajan Jaiswal R/o H. No. 7/8/71 Begumganj, Makbara Ayodhya as a security for a loan/ credit facility requested by one of its customers.In case anyone has got any right/ title/ interest / claims over the undermentioned property, they are advised to approach the Bank within 10 days along with necessary proof to substantiate there claim. If no response is received within 10 days, it is presumed that the property is facts of any charge / claim/ encumbrance and Bank shall proceed with the mortgage. **Detail of Property:** 1-Sale Deed No. 9390 dated
30-08-2023 Bahi No. 1 Zild No. 10696 Page 23/48 2- Freehold deed No. 604 dated 26-02-2000 Bahi No. 1 Zild No. 1887 Pages 393/408 (Chain of title) Nazoo Freehold Gata No. 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 566, 567 Chak No. 14 H. No. 8/9/153, 8/7/7 area 2834.64 sqft. i.e. 263.44 sqmt. Mohalla Makbara Road, Tambaku Mandi, Begumgani Makbara Ayodhya East-Railway Station to Railway Crossing West-Godown Rajan Jaiswal North-Land of Alok Chandra & Land Rajan Jaiswal South-Rasta Hospital Branch Details Baroda Branch

Fatehganj, Ayodhya.

Avadhesh Chandra Srivastava Advocate Shed No. 25 Civil Court, Ayodhya Mob. No. 9554968231 Mob. No. 9415104244

emptied his entire savings in his bank account by asking for ID and OTP, which the unsuspecting victim shared with the fraudsters. The Ghazipur police



ID proof and bank details. He

bank account and provided

him with a bank account in the

name of Mudra Finance

Limited and some Sunil Kumar

The victim paid Rs 2,150 for

registration and then Rs 6,999

for insurance. After that, he

continued to be asked for

money in the name of various

tasks. In this way, the accused

took a total of Rs 65,148. When

the victim contacted them after

not receiving the loan amount

in his bank account, the fraud-

According to the Ghazipur police, an FIR has been regis-

tered based on the victim's

complaint, and the accused

are being traced with the help of the cyber cell.

A 13-year-old boy allegedly hanged himself to death in

Gudamba police station area on

Friday, police said here. A

spokesman said that about 2

pm, one Mansharam of

Barabanki informed police that

on Friday morning, his son Pankaj committed suicide by

hanging himself from a tree.

Acting on this information,

Sub-Inspector Santosh Kumar

Patel reached the scene and sent

the body for a postmortem.

Further probe is ongoing.

SUICIDE

sters stopped responding.

for the registration fee.

was then told by the miscreants that his loan had been approved. The victim was promised a subsidy of Rs 100,000, as he was one of the "luckiest customers". The miscreants took money from the victim in the name of registration. The accused told the victim to complete the registration before the loan amount was credited to his

NOTICE

That the I Usha Chaudhary W/o Ram Naresh Chaudhary R/o Indira Nagar Raebareli have purchased property Situated at Sahjada Kothi Raebareli through sale deed dated 04.08.1994 which noted & reg, at Book No. 01 Vol No. 1347 Pages 345/385 SI No. 2267 in SRO Sadar Raebareli said sale deed executed by Sunder Lal, Raj Kishor Both Sons of Srikrishan Lal, Janaki W/o Srikrishan Lal & Anand Babu Minor S/o Srikrishan Lal Said original sale deed dated 04.08.1994 has been missed while

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

I, suman Devi spouse of Lalit Narayan Singh resident of Vill.-Utrauli, Post- Utrauli, Tehsil-Zamania. Distt-Ghazipur (UP) Pin-232333 have changed my name from Suman Devi to Suman Singh vide affidavit no. 94AE 282776 dated 23/05/2025 before court compound

NOTICE

Festival, set to begin on

special mega e-auction for 1300+ residential properties across India on January 27.

Man duped in cyber fraud Lucknow (PNS): A man was online, and the cyber criminals emptied his entire savings in Dhankhar Calls for action against illegal refugees

 $V^{
m ice}$ President Jagdeep Dhankhar, addressing the 76th foundation day celebrations of Uttar Pradesh on Friday, raised concerns over the presence of illegal refugees in the country and called for immediate action to safeguard the nation's interests. He also urged the youth to take a stand against individuals and entities engaged in anti-national activities.

'There are crores of illegal refugees in India who pose serious challenges to our healthcare, education, and employment sectors," Dhankhar said. This is a matter of grave concern, as they are now seeking to influence electoral processes. Across the globe, developed nations are addressing such issues, and India, too, must act swiftly for its stability and dignity." He further stressed, "It is essential to confront and neu-

tralise those forces working to

weaken India and align with

anti-national elements. The

youth must exercise their

immense power to counter such threats effectively." Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's contribution to India's development, Dhankhar said, "Uttar Pradesh, once overshadowed economically, is now the second largest contributor to India's economy. I have no doubt that it will secure the top position in the near future, emerging as a state of entrepre-

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call of "vocal for local," he said, "The state is brimming with local business potential. I have witnessed its vibrant entrepreneurial spirit during my visits to Noida and other regions."

Dhankhar also called for reducing imports and enhancing domestic production. "It is painful to see India importing goods such as candles, furni-ture, carpets, and electronics,



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the UP Diwas celebration in Lucknow on Friday

which could be easily manufactured locally. Everv Indian must resolve to avoid foreign-made products when local alternatives are available. This will strengthen our foreign exchange reserves, create employment, and encourage entrepreneurship," he said.

Emphasising the importance of value addition, he added, "Exporting raw materials reflects our inability to add value to our products. Entrepreneurs and trade associations must commit to improving the value chain and curbing unnecessary imports." The vice president underscored the role of youths in realising the vision of a developed India. "Employment opportunities for the youth are increasing, but their focus needs to go beyond government

Transformative change requires an entrepreneurial mindset," he stated. Dhankhar urged citizens to uphold the national interest above all else. "No benefit or temptation should outweigh the national duty. We must resolve to prioritise Indian identity and self-reliance in every aspect of life. Uttar Pradesh is a shining example of

transformation and progress, inspiring the nation toward its goal of becoming a global powerhouse," he said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh would become a USD 1 trillion economy in the next four years and was moving towards becoming a zero-poverty state.

Highlighting the historical significance of Uttar Pradesh, Adityanath said, "This region was under Fort William (West Bengal) between 1775 and 1833. In 1834, it was separated from Bengal to form the Agra Presidency and renamed the North-Western Provinces in 1836. In 1902, it became the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, later called United Provinces in 1937. On January 24, 1950, it came to be known as Uttar Pradesh. Today, Uttar Pradesh symbolises unlimited potential.

The chief minister outlined the state's achievements since Uttar Pradesh Day was first celebrated in 2018 under the guidance of then-governor Ram Naik. He also noted the launch of various initiatives such as the One District One Product scheme, Vishwakarma Shram

The chief minister said, "In 2016-17, Uttar Pradesh's economy was Rs 12 lakh crore; today, it exceeds Rs 27 lakh crore. Within the next four years, Uttar Pradesh will become a USD 1 trillion economy, in line with the prime minister's vision.

He emphasised that all government programmes were being implemented without any discrimination, focusing on the development of every citizen, including rural and tribal communities.

Adityanath reiterated the state's commitment to achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of zero poverty "By next year's Uttar Pradesh Day, we aim to ensure every poor individual has a roof over their head, land rights, Ayushman cards, pensions, and other benefits."

He praised Uttar Pradesh's emergence as a leading tourism destination, emphasising its improved law and order, spiritual heritage, and development of expressways, airports, and metro network.

"This event not only provides an opportunity to take pride in our glorious past but also ignites dreams and aspirations for a brighter future," he said. As part of the programme, Adityanath launched the Chief Minister Youth Entrepreneur Development (CM Yuva) scheme e-portal, and loans along with sanction letters were distributed to 25,000 youth entrepreneurs for establishing their ventures.

Additionally, six individuals were honoured with the Uttar Pradesh Gaurav Samman. "Uttar Pradesh Day celebrates the state's prosperity and pride," he said. The CM Yuva scheme will help a lakh youngsters annually to become entrepreneurs, with interest-free loans of Rs 5 lakh in the first phase and Rs 10 lakh in the second phase, he said.

Top leaders extend wishes to people on UP Diwas

Lucknow (PNS): On the occasion of Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day, the country's top leaders conveyed wishes to the people of the state.

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and former Governor Ram Naik all took to social media to send their greetings to the people of Uttar Pradesh, wishing for the state's continued progress, prosperity, and hapoiness.

"My heartiest greetings to all the residents of Uttar Pradesh on this Foundation Day. This state plays an important role in the economic, social, political, and spiritual development of the country. I am confident that the state will continue on the path of overall development. I wish for the continued progress, happiness, and prosperity of the hardworking and talented peo-ple of Uttar Pradesh," Mumru said in her message.

"My best wishes to all my brothers and sisters in Uttar Pradesh on the foundation day of this holy land. This land has witnessed countless mythological and historical periods in Indian culture and is now engaged in creating new chapters of development. With the government's dedication to public welfare and the tireless hard work of its people, I am confident that Uttar Pradesh will continue to contribute immensely to the vision of a developed India," Modi stated.

BharatRohan Airborne Innovations Ltd. 301, Tower 4, DLF Corporate Greens, Sector 74A, Gurgaon-122004

PUBLIC NOTICE

roviding services on "Improved Agricultural Practices" for the rice cultivating subsistence farme n Uttar Pradesh. The project aims to reduce green gas emissions and methane emissions in paddy fields with improved water management practices of the Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) method instead of the continuous flooded irrigation. Additionally the project activity contributes to various SDG Benefits. BharatRohan Airborne Innovations. Ltd is undertaking the registration of the project activity under "Gold Standard Mechanism". In this regard, BharatRohan is conducting a stakeholders consultation meeting (Public Meeting) at BharatRohan Krishak Safalta Kendra Masauli Chauraha, Gonda-Bahraich road, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh on 26.02.2025 at 10:00 AM to take their views/suggestions on the program's social and environmental impacts. All the concerned are invited to attend the meeting. For any clarifications on the project activity, please contact the below representative. It should also be noted that people who would be unable to attend this neeting in-person can send their concerns to the below email ID at any time.

Name: Mr. Amandeep Panwa (Formerly known as BharatRohan Airborne Innovations Pyt.ltd.) Phone: +91-9205991783 E-mail: aman@bharatrohan.ir



CAN FIN HOMES LTD.

Can Fin Homes Ltd. a Housing Finance Company requires space of 800-1200 Sq ft in Ground /First/Second Floor in a good locality on lease for 5 to 10 years at the follow

SI. No.	Location	Contact Person & Designation	Contact No. Mob. & Landline
1.	Prayagraj,	Mr. Prem S. Gupta	Mob. 7625079220
	Uttar Pradesh	(Senior Manager)	Ph.: 0532-4013911

interested Premises Owners may send their offers in a closed envelope to Can Fin Homes Ltd. 43/10, Sardar Patel Marg, Civil Lines, Prayagraj-211001 as per our fo in our website: www.canfinhomes.com on or before 11.02.2025.

Premises should be ready for occupation with all facilities/ amenities. Offers from the brokers/intermediaries will not be entertained. Can Fin Homes Ltd. reserves the right to reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever. Canvassing in any orm will disqualify the offer. No brokerage will be paid.

Place : Prayagraj Date : 25.01.2025

IDFC FIRST

Teams deployed to capture tiger in Rehmankhera

PNS LUCKNOW

The Forest department on I Friday sent teams to Jugauli, 'Rasoolpur, and Bansighara villages upon receiving information about the presence of the tiger in hamlets these

Rehmankhera. Leading a 70-member team, DFO (Awadh) Sitanshu Pandey said that they were strategising in different ways to capture the tiger. "On Tuesday, the tiger killed a bait on a plank close to the pitfall that had been dug for it, and we are hoping it will come to eat the bait. For this, we have camouflaged the machan in a better manner," he

He mentioned that the tiger had not made any kills since and had not returned to the bait to eat. Pandey explained that there were five to six baits placed in the open, and they had strategically positioned the bait that the tiger killed near the pitfall.

"We want it to remain localised and not venture outside the area in which it has been moving, to avoid any human

killings. The tiger had been roaming hungry for five days when it made this kill," he said. He clarified that this is the procedure normally followed to

localise the tiger. "In 2012, when a similar incident occurred and a stray tiger ventured had Rehmankhera, 37 baits were used before the animal was captured. In the current situation, three baits have been killed so far," he added.

Pandey noted that after making a kill, the tiger typically returns two days later to eat it. The DFO emphasised that night monitoring was crucial to catch the animal early in the morning.

We cannot dart it at night, as that would be against NTCA guidelines because we fear that, after being tranquillised, the tiger may move towards the nullah or the railway track that runs close by. However, we carry out the night vigil because any change in the duties of the doctors during the shift change could disturb the animal. The doctor will have to remain on the machan from 10 pm until 7 am," he added.

LMC to launch third waste processing plant at Shivri

Lucknow (PNS): Lucknow Municipal Corporation will start its third fresh waste processing plant in February at Shivri. an officials said here After the start of the third plant, 2,100 metric tonnes of garbage will be disposed of daily at the Shivri plant, he said.

"Currently, two plants are disposing of waste at Shivri. "About 2,000 to 2,200 metric tonnes of garbage reaches the Shivri plant everyday. For its disposal, a plant with a 700-MT capacity was installed in November 2024. After this, another plant of the same capacity was started on January 10 this year. In this way, 1,400 MT of garbage is being disposed of daily. With the third plant, having a capacity of 700 MT, a total of 2,100 MT of garbage will be disposed of," the LMC official said.

He mentioned that the new plant will be started before February 15. Once it is started. 2,100 MT of garbage will be disposed of daily at the Shivri

LDA VC: Ensure launch of Mohaan Road project

PNS LUCKNOW

Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar on Friday issued directives to officials and engineers to ensure the prompt launch of the Mohaan Road Township project, emphasising that further delays should be avoided at all costs.

He expressed concerns that continued postponements could harm the project's plans. In a meeting held to discuss strategies for a swift launch, the LDA VC urged the team to complete all necessary formalities on time. He stressed that any delay would compromise the project's success. To facilitate the timely execution of the project, a three-member committee has been formed consisting of LDA Secretary Vivek Srivastava, Chief Engineer AK Singh, and a third member to be nominated by Divisional Commissioner Roshan Iacob.

The committee will begin its work next week and is tasked with coordinating with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) to address any potential objections that may hinder the project. The VC instructed the chief engineer to consider amending the ongoing layout plan to ensure compliance with regulatory standards, ensuring no governmental body, including RERA, raises issues that could delay the project further. Kumar mentioned that efforts would be made

to initiate the project after Holi, aiming to capitalise on financial benefits in the upcoming fiscal year. The first phase, which was delayed due to regulatory concerns, is now set for a re-launch in March with improved plans.

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

(erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792 Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031

Tel: +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate

ir lo.	Account No.	Type of Loan	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	104728148	HOME LOAN	28.12.2024	20,34,364.57/-

NAME OF BORROWERS AND CO-BORROWERS: 1. MR. PASI NEHRUBHAI ARVINDKUMAR

PROPERTY ADDRESS: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OFARAZI NO. 770/2, ADMEASURING AREA OUT OF 0.759 HEC., 1360.8 SQ FT. I.E. 126.50 SQ. MTR., I.E. 0.0126 HEC., SITUATED AT MAUZA HARIYAWAN TALUKA, CHUTHAR TEHSIL, DISTRICT BHADOHI, NEAR NATIONAL TIRAHA, BHADOHI, UTTAR PRADESH-221401, BOUNDED AS: EAST: LAND OF BACHELAL, WEST: GRAMIN ROAD, NORTH: LAND OF SEETA DEVI W/O GULAB CHAND, SOUTH: HOUSE OF REENA DEVI

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise. Sd/- Authorized Officer

Date: 25.01.2025

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

CITYBRIEFS

SANATKADA FESTIVAL FROM JANUARY 31 The Sanatkada Lucknow

January 31 at Safed Baradari, celebrates Awadhi culture with a vibrant mix of art, crafts, food, and culture. Organised by Madhavi Kukreja, the festival began in 2010 as a 'Crafts Bazaar' and has since evolved into a cultural extravaganza that attracts visitors from Lucknow and beyond. This year's theme, 'Lucknow ke Gali-Kooche', highlights the city's narrow streets and their historical significance. The festival aims to preserve local narratives and promote indigenous crafts, focusing on Lucknow's culture and its artisans. The team has studied 25 key alleys for their cultural importance, including those once home to figures like a helpline (8291220220) for Amrit Lal Nagar and Mir

MEGA E-AUCTION

Bank of India is organising a



The bank is offering its owned residential properties which are available in the best location and at the best price to home buyers. For more information and to participate in the e-auction, those interested are required to visit www.bankofindia.in and register themselves. There is also any assistance in the auction process.

Mou Signed Indian Bank and Samarthya

Milk Producer Company Limited signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU)

Under this agreement, Indian Bank will provide agricultural loan (Kisan Credit Card) up to Rs 2 lakh without any collateral through digital medium to more than 85,000 women farmer members associated with Samarthya Dairy. The MoU was signed in the presence of Chief General Manager (Lucknow) of Indian Bank, Sudhir Kumar Gupta, Lucknow Zonal Manager Pranesh Kumar and Chief Executive Officer of Samarthya Milk Producer Company Limited, Dr Prashant

Two arrested for looting mobile phones

Lucknow (PNS): The Hazratganj police on Friday, arrested two individuals, Mohammed Ehtesham and Salman Qureshi, for looting five mobile phones in a day across Lucknow, officials said here. The duo was reportedly committing these robberies to fulfill their desires.

युनियन बैंक

According to police, Ehtesham and Qureshi had been living in rented accommodations under the guise of hawkers. They had recently purchased a new scooty, which they used to carry out mobile thefts. The stolen phones and the scooty were seized from their boss, and legal action is being taken against them. The police were tipped off by an informer, leading to the arrest of the two accused, who were residing in a rented house in Chowk. The duo had robbed a young man near Priyanka . Apartment in Hazratganj on January 2, followed by another mobile theft from a woman near the overbridge on Baikunth Dham Road.

Union Bank Regional Office : 117/H/-1/240, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur

Head Office: 239, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point Mumb POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties) Branch : Kidwai Nagar

[Rule-8(1)] Kanpur
Whereas The undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of account to repay the amount mentioned in

the notice being of dues with contractual rate of interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him u/s. 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for an

Amount and Interest thereon. We also wish to draw kind attention of all concerned towards section 13(8) of the Act in respect of tim

available to redeem the secured assets. Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property

and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date Borrower: Shri Ram Asre S/o Shri Surajeen and Smt. Indra Kumari W/o Shri Ram Asre, Both R/o House No. 53, Village Kaitha, Ghatampur, Kanpur Nagar and also at Plot No. 1B-718, Awas Vikas Scheme No. 2, Hanspuram, Naubasta, Kanpur Nagar.

Demand Notice Date: 07-09-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 23.01.2025 Property: House No. 1B-718, Sector 1-B, Awas Vikas Scheme No. 2, Hanspuram, Kanpur Nagar Owner of Property: Smt. Indra Kumari W/o Shri Ram Asre, Area: 183 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North Plot No. 1B-717, South: Plot No. 1B-719, East: Plot No. 1B-750, West: 12 Mtr. Road. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 6,09,079.06+Intt.+Others Charges

Ramesh Kamar Verma, Both R/o: Mini LIG 333, Barra-5, Barra, Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor: Shr Kuldeep Verma S/o Shri Ramesh Kumar Verma, R/o: Mini LIG 333, Barra-5, Barra, Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date: 07-10-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 23.01.2025 Property: House No.333, Mini LIG, Barra-5, Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property: Smt. Nirmala Verma W/o Shri Ramesh Kamar Verma, Area: 30.42 Sq. Mtr., Bounded -North: House No. 334, South: House No. 332, East: 6 Mtr. Wide Road, West: House No. 328

Borrower: Shri Aryan Verma S/o Shri Ramesh Kumar Verma and Smt. Nirmala Verma W/o Shri

O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 10,19,982.78+Intt.+Others Charges Date: 24-01-2025 Place: Kanpur Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

Extensive preps underway for Mauni Amavasya Amrit Snan

10 cr devotees expected

PNS MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

 $T^{\text{he Mela administration is}}_{\text{leaving no stone unturned}}$ to ensure the safe and seamless movement of devotees during the Mauni Amavasya Amrit Snan in Maha Kumbh 2025 on January 29. With an anticipated crowd of 10 crore devotees, comprehensive measures are being implemented to efficiently manage traffic and crowds at the sector level.

Officials have been instructed to ensure that devotees return from the same sector or zone in which they arrive. Under no circumstances will devotees be permitted to move to Sangam Nose or other zones. All additional district magistrate, additional superintendents of police, circle officers, sub-divisional magistrates and sector magistrates have been directed to supervise arrangements within their respective jurisdictions to maintain order.

As the most important festival of Maha Kumbh, Mauni Amavasya is the focal point of the event's arrangements. This year, with the Yogi Adityanath government's efforts to make Maha Kumbh more grand and divine, a record number of devotees are expected to gath-

er in Prayagraj.
To prioritise the convenience of devotees, instructions have been issued to minimise movement between zones, particularly at Sangam Nose, from January 27 to 29. A 12-kilometre-long ghat has been constructed for easy access and bathing. Devotees are being encouraged to bathe at the ghat closest to their entry point and return from there without moving to other zones. Evacuation teams will be deployed to prevent overcrowding at the ghats, with safe evacuation of devotees being a top priority for the administra-

To ensure effective crowd control, key resources such as



ropes, loud hailers, whistles, flying squads and watch tower teams will be deployed to ensure 100 per cent control on hard barriers and barricades. Emphasis will be placed on the presence of central forces and seamless coordination at these locations. Temporary holding areas, parking facilities, and overnight stay arrangements will be established at institutions, if necessary, to further manage the crowd.

The infrastructure at the ghats is being reinforced to accommodate the large number of devotees. Provisions include river barricading, water police, watch towers, improved lighting, clear signage, toilets, changing rooms, and comprehensive cleanliness measures. The administration is also ensuring the availability of essential materials like straw, sacks and casa for additional support.

To manage the massive influx of pilgrims, the Prayagraj Railway Division has devised a special plan. An additional holding area has been set up outside the railway station at Khusro Bagh to facilitate crowd management. The Railway Protection Force and the civil police have collaborated to ensure smooth mob channelisation, enhancing safety and convenience for the devotees. This facility can accommodate over 1 lakh people at a

In addition to the Khusro Bagh holding area, the RPF and civil police have devised a special plan for crowd management on Mauni Amavasya. Devotees returning from the fair will be redirected to the Khusro Bagh holding area before entering the station premises. From there, passengers will be guid-ed to colour-coded shelters at the railway station based on their destination.

These shelters are designed to organise travelers effectively, ensuring they board the correct trains using colour-coded tickets. This system aims to prevent confusion and stampedes, a l l o w i n g devotees to safely reach their

DEVOTEES FLOCK TO DWADASH MADHAV PARIKRAMA GALLERY

In addition to the sacred dip in the Triveni Sangam, the cir-cumambulation of the twelve temples, known as the Dwadash Madhay Parikrama. holds immense significance in the Maha Kumbh journey.

To explore the significance of this sacred tradition, a growing number of devotees are visiting the Dwadash Madhav Parikrama Gallery, curated by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), at the Namami Gange Exhibition Hall in Sector 1, Kali Sadak.

This gallery offers an immersive experience, featuring detailed information, visuals and replicas of rare 10th- and 11th-century idols of Lord Vishnu, including a unique statue of Vishnu in a rare yoga posture.

According to mythology, the fruits of kalpavas near Prayagraj's Sangam and the sanctity of bathing in the realised only after completing the Dwadash Madhav

committee members and other knowledgeable contributors.

display. The Dwadash Madhav temples – Shri Veni Madhav, Shri Adi Madhav, Shri Manohar Madhav, Shri Bindu Madhav,

Triveni Sangam are fully

Parikrama. INTACH has also published a research-based booklet with insights from priests, temple

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

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

Sadhus to air their 'Mann Ki Baat'

Inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popular 'Mann Ki Baat' initiative, a special programme 'Sadhuon Ke Mann Ki Baat', will be organised at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj.

This unique event will provide a platform for saints and sages to share their thoughts on key aspects of Sanatan Dharma and the grand initiatives undertaken by the Yogi Adityanath government for the Maha Kumbh.

The Maha Kumbh, held on the sacred banks of the Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, has become a hub for spiritual discussions on devotion, liberation and higher knowledge. To enrich this spiritual dialogue, the 'mann ki baat' programme will be hosted for the first time on January 25 from 2 pm to 5 pm at Hari Dham Sanatan Seva Trust in Sector 20 of the Mahakumbh Nagar.

The event will feature prominent saints from all akharas, including Sanyasi, Bairagi, and



Newly-initiated 'Naga Sadhus' of 'Shri Panchayati Akhara Mahanirvani' arrive to perform rituals at Sangam in Prayagraj on Friday

Udasin sects. Notable participants include Acharya . Mahamandaleshwar Swami Balakanand Giri of Taponidhi Shri Panchavati Akhara Anand. Mahant Ravindra Puri (president of the All India Akhara Parishad), Acharva Mahamandaleshwar Swami Arun Giri of Shri Panch Dashnam Akhara, Maha

Mandaleshwar Kankeshwari Devi, Shri Mahant Madhavdas of Shri Panch Digambar Ani

Akhara, Shani Dham Peethadheeshwar Mandaleshwar Paramhans Danti Maharaj, and Maha Mandaleshwar Computer Baba of Shri Digambar Akhara, among others. Swami Prakashanand, the pro-gramme's spokesperson, highlighted that the saints will discuss critical issues such as the ban on cow slaughter and the planning and execution of the divine and grand Maha Kumbh.

Mamta Kulkarni renounces worldly life

Mahakumbh Nagar (PTI): Actor Mamta Kulkarni on Friday renounced the worldly life at the Maha Kumbh and will be consecrated as a Hindu nun under the Kinnar Akhara, seers said. Kulkarni, 52, took 'sanyas' under the Kinnar Akhara by performing her own 'Pind Daan' and will be consecrated as 'mahamandaleshwar', they said.

The Kinnar Akhara was established by eunuchs and it functions under the Juna Akhara. While an akhara is a Hindu religious order, Pind Daan is a ritual performed to pay homage to the departed ancestors. Kulkarni took a dip in the tors. Kulkarin took a — holy waters of the Sangam.

Vinnar Akhara's

Mahamandaleshwar Kaushalya Nand Giri alias Tina Maa told



PTI that Kulkarni performed her own Pind Daan on the banks of River Ganga on Friday and she will be later consecrated as a mahamandaleshwar. Kinnar Akhara's Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Laxmi Narayan Tripathi will impart 'deeksha' (initiation) to Kulkarni. She said Kulkarni has

been associated with Juna Akhara for the last two years and she came in contact with Kinnar Akhara for the past two-three months. Kulkarni has acted in several Bollywood and South Indian films, some of which were hits. She was seen less on screen for the last

Yogi: SP opposes leaders like | Centre lauds UP's Kanya Janmotsav initiative Ambedkar, supports mafia

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, launched a scathing ttack on the Samaiwadi Party accusing it of opposing leaders such as Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar while supporting mafia elements. "They mourn mafia members and even recite 'marsiva' for them. The devotees of Moeed Khan must not succeed. It is time to ensure the victory of nationalists from Milkipur," he said.

Samajwadi Party leader Moeed Khan and his employee were arrested in connection with the rape of a minor girl from Dalit community in Avodhya last year. Bypoll to the Milkipur assembly constituency in Ayodhya district will be held on February 5.

Addressing a rally in support of Bharatiya Janata Party candidate Chandrabhanu Paswan, Yogi Adityanath said, "SP leaders' act shock one when their true colours are exposed. Moeed Khan, who disrespected a Dalit daughter, is celebrated as a hero by the Samajwadi Party. This behaviour reflects the ŚP's real character."

The SP MP from Ayodhya openly supports Khan and even takes pride in being associated with him, he alleged, referring to Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad.

"Those who glorify someone like Moeed Khan pose a threat to the safety of our daughters. They should not be allowed to succeed," he added.

Highlighting the BJP's stand for justice, Yogi Adityanath mentioned an incident in Bhadrasa. where a nagar panchayat chairman had unlawfully occupied Dalit land. "We made it clear that such actions would not be tolerated. In Uttar Pradesh. iustice will prevail for the poor and the Dalits, not for the mafia or criminals," he added.

The chief minister said his entire cabinet had the privilege of taking a dip at the Triveni Sangam on Wednesday, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to serve millions of devotees arriving from around the world.

"In just 10 days, 10 crore devotees have taken a dip at Triveni. We expect more than 45 crore devotees to visit the Maha Kumbh," he said.

The chief minister also high-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during a public meeting ahead of the by-election for the Milkipur assembly seat, in Ayodhya on Friday

lighted the Maha Kumbh's inclusive nature that enabled people from all backgrounds to come together without discrimination.

The message of the Maha Kumbh is clear – only through unity can our nation remain strong. However, casteism and dynastic politics remain the biggest obstacles to unity and development," he said. Yogi Adityanath slammed caste

and family-based politics and said these were promoted by those who cared only for their families and ignored the uplift of the marginalised, the Dalits and the backward communi-

Referring to the teachings of Socialist leader Dr Ram Manohar Lohia, he said, Those chasing wealth and legacy are not true socialists. Today's so-called socialists are obsessed with property." He accused the SP of using its

flag to shield criminals instead of standing up for the poor and the oppressed. "Their sympathies have never been with the weak and the marginalized," he said.

Yogi also slammed SP president and former chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav, for spreading false propaganda about the Maha Kumbh and

playing with India's faith. "On January 22, 2024, when Lord Ram's idol was installed in Ayodhya, the SP opposed it. This is the same party whose hands are stained with the blood of karsevaks. They stained the Saryu river with the blood of those who fought for

the Ram Janmabhoomi," he

said. Yogi Adityanath highlighted several initiatives of his govern-ment that were opposed by the SP, including naming the Ayodhya airport after Valmiki, developments at significant religious sites and the beautification of historical landmarks. 'When we named three Provincial Armed Constabulary women battal-

ions after Veerangana Uda Devi, Jhalkari Bai and Avanti Bai, the SP opposed that as well. It even dismantled 54 companies of PAC formed to deal with rioters," he added. Yogi Adityanath pointed out

how the SP had renamed the medical college in Kannauj that was named after Ambedkar and added that his government restored the name. Highlighting the progress made under his government, he said the agricultural university in Kumarganj was named after Acharya Narendra Dev and its development was visible to all. Harringtongani should also be named after Swami Vamdev and Vishnu Nagar, he added. The chief minister emphasised that while the SP followed "a mindset of slavery", his government and supporters were rooted in faith. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for placing Ayodhya on the global map. "If it were up to the SP, it would have erased your name from Ayodhya. It tried hard to maintain the structures of slavery but we said these would be removed," he

PNS LUCKNOW

 $T^{\text{he Kanya Janmotsav initia-}}_{\text{tive, launched as part of the}}$ 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh, has emerged

as a national example. Through this initiative, the Women and Child Development Department of Uttar Pradesh has celebrated the births of 35,489 girls by organising 3,822 programmes across the state. This remarkable achievement has earned praise from the Central government, which has recognised it as a model for other states to emulate.

During a programme held at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi, marking the 10th anniversary of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' scheme, the Central government lauded Uttar Pradesh's efforts as a benchmark of excellence and urged other states to replicate this ini-

The primary objective of the 'Beti Bachao, Éeti Padhao' (BBBP) campaign in Uttar Pradesh is to transform societal attitudes and mindsets in order to end gender bias and promote equality.
Far from being a one-time

event, this initiative represents an ongoing process of social

change aimed at fostering collective responsibility and cultural transformation. By celebrating the birth of girls, the programme actively challenges gender bias and promotes inclusiveness and equality. Under the leadership of Chief

initiative has successfully dispelled misconceptions about girls and inspired a positive shift in societal perspectives. It has created an environment that not only celebrates the birth of girls but also advances gender equality in all aspects of

Chief Minister Yogi has ensured active involvement of

families and communities through the Kanya Janmotsav initiative. The programme encouraged social participation to integrate the value of the girl child into societal norms and everyday behaviours, ensuring that gender Minister Yogi Adityanath, this equality becomes a deeply and lasting cultural practice.

> Fathers, brothers, community leaders and public representatives were actively engaged to challenge patriarchal mindsets and promote collective accountability for gender equality.

Additionally, efforts from the Women Child and

Development, Education, Panchayati Raj departments and local administration were effectively coordinated to maximise the programme's impact and reach. Regular activities are conducted at the district, block and village levels on the first and third Monday of every month to consistently promote the message of gender equality. This repetition helps normalise the concept and reinforces the value of the girl child. Health workers, teachers, government officials and community members play an active role in ensuring consistent and impactful messaging.

Akhilesh defends Kejriwal, hits out at Adityanath

Lucknow (PNS): Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav came in for a spirited defence of Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attacked the AAP leader over pollution in the river Yamuna. Taking a dig at Yogi Adityanath, Akhilesh Yadav questioned whether the Uttar Pradesh chief minister would dare to take a sip of water from the Yamuna river in Mathura.

"Before challenging others, people should dare sip water from the Yamuna, which flows through Mathura in their state," the SP chief said in a post on X in Hindi. "Those who challenge others should do 'aachman' with Yamuna's water flowing through Mathura in their state, he added in a post without naming Chief Minister Yogi.

Yadav's sharp reaction comes after Chief Minister Yogi, while campaigning for the Bharatiya Janata Party in Delhi ahead of the assembly polls, said that the former chief minister Kejriwal had sinned by turning Yamuna into a "dirty drain".

Yogi Adityanath, whose ministers took a dip in the Sangam during Maha Kumbh on Wednesday, questioned whether Kejriwal and his ministers could take a bath in the Yamuna like his cabinet. "He should answer if he has moral courage," Yogi

Addressing an election rally in Delhi's Kirari on Thursday, Ýogi Adityanath further alleged that the devotees and saints of Mathura-Vrindavan were suffering due to the dirty Yamuna water coming from Delhi into Interestingly, Akhilesh Yadav's SP and Arvind Kejriwal's AAP

are integral constituents of the INDIA bloc that was announced earlier before the parliamentary elections in 2024. Referring to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's jibe that Waqf Board is "land mafia board", the SP chief retorted that "BIP is the biggest land mafia and ruling party leaders are forcibly occupying land across the state with

impunity". He alleged that the land of poor farmers is being acquired at throwaway prices and sold to the ruling party leaders. He alleged that farmers in Ayodhya and other parts of the state are being exploited.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region: 118/330, 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012

Possession Notice Branch : Kachehari Chauraha, Jhansi Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of power conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13

 of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount &

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date

Borrower: Shri Narendra Singh Yadav S/o Shri Mahesh Prasad Yadav, R/o: 39 Mau Dehat, Mauranipur Jhansi and also at House No. 3/4, Jhansi Road, Mau Dehat, Mauranipur, Jhansi and Shri Mahesh Prasac Yadav S/o Shri Asha Ram Yadav, R/o : 39 Mau Dehat, Mauranipur, Jhansi. Guarantor : Shri Rajesh Kuma Yadav S/o Late Nepal Singh Yadav, R/o : House No. 154, Village-Bagroni, Post-Ratosa, Tehsil Mauranipur Distt. Jhansi. Demand Notice Date: 19-10-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 23.01.2025

Property: One Residential House Built at Part of Arazi No. 39 Mi at Mauza Mau Dehat (Mau Bahar) Mauranipur, Distt. Jhansi in the name of Shri Narendra Singh Yadav S/o Shri Mahesh Prasad Yadav, Area 1980 Sq. Ft., **Bounded : North :** Plot of Shri Ashok Yadav, **South :** 14 Ft. Road, **East :** Plot of Rajesh Kuma Yadav. West: Plot of Seller.

Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice w.e.f. 13-10-2024: Rs. 8,04,197.74 + Intt. +Others Charges Total Dues Amount as on Dated 23-01-2025 w.e.f. 19-01-2025 : Rs. 8,25,615.56 + Intt. +Others Charges

Date: 23-01-2025 Place : Jhansi

Zonal Office: "Star House" बैंक ऑफ़ इंडिया Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010, Bank of India Ph.: 0522-2721512

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of India, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security interest, Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read the Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, had issued a Demand Notice, calling borrower to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of same. The borrower having failed to repay the amount notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 on the dates mentioned hereunder. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property/ies and any dealings with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Bank of India for mentioned amount and interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions

Name & Address of the Borrower & Guarantor **Branch: Sitapur Road**

Borrower: M/s Ayush Furnishing

(Proprietor- Mrs. Subhadra Devi W/o Mr. Hardwari Lal) and Mr.

Hardwari Lal S/o Mr. Guru Prasad (Guarantor)

of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Description of Immovable property mortgaged / Owner of the property

Amount o/s as mentioned in the Notice u/s 13(2) Date of Demand

₹ 14.96.761.24

interest & other charges

POSSESSION

All the Part and Parcel of the property consisting of Shop no. LGF-04 (A) (Lower Ground Floor) Mukul Trade Centre constructed on Plot no. 1, Sector-5, Janki Puram Mortgagor by: Mrs. Subhadra Devi W/o Mr. Hardwari Lal, Area -20.90 Sq.mtrs. Boundaries of property as mentioned above: East: Shop No. 4B then passage

Possession Notice dt. 20.01.2025

Date: 25.01.2025, Place: Lucknow

Demand Notice dt. 12.11.2024

West: Passage, North: Shop No. 3, South: Shop No. 5A Authorised Officer, Bank of India

Law & order has strengthened in UP: Khanna | Minister praises BLW's innovations &

INAUGURATES UP DAY AT NAMO GHAT

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister and minister in charge of the district Suresh Khanna inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Day-2025 by lighting a lamp at exhibition organised by various departments. On the occasion, Khanna presented cheques of ₹5 lakh each to the beneficiaries under CM Yuva Abhiyan — Vivek Chaurasia, Pooja Tiwari, Usha Devi, Anand Kumar Gupta, Akash Kumar Pandey and Sonam Keshari. Khanna honoured various eminent personalities of Kashi, Padma Shri Pandit Rajeshwar Acharya, Sarod player Anshuman Maharaj, Pandit Ravi Shankar Mishra (dance), Saroj Verma (light music), Dinanath Yadav (folk singing) and Lalit Upadhyay, Shikha Yadav, Prashanti Singh, Sonali Kannaujiya and Ankit Yadav who did excellent work in the field of sports. Various cultural



Namo Ghat here on Friday. He observed and appreciated the Namo Ghat in Varanasi on Friday.

programmes were presented by the artistes. Addressing the people, the minister said that under the Chief Minister Yuva Udyam Vikas Yojana, loans were provided to 1,200 people in Varanasi during the day. He said that since 2018, Uttar Pradesh Foundation Day is being celebrated with great pomp. He expressed his respect to the eminent personalities of various fields who have given recognition to UP. Talking about the ancient and historical importance of the grand Maha Kumbh being organ-ised in Prayagraj, he said that it is the centre of knowledge and energy. Highlighting the achievements of

the government, he said the law

and order of the state has been strengthened and strict action has been ensured against the criminals. After the PM came to power, there has been a qualitative change in the development of the country and state. He said till now four crore houses have been given to the poor of the country by the present central govern-ment. "There has been extensive employment generation in the country and the state, due to which young unemployed are getting employment. On a large scale, street vendors are being given loans under PM Swanidhi Yojana for self-employment without guarantee", he said. Khanna said along with raising the stan-dard of living of the people, the

government has done excellent work in various fields. He said the goal of the government is to provide basic facilities to the person sitting at the last rung and bring them into the mainstream. He said that people are getting the benefit of One Country One Ration Card Scheme. "UP is a great state in every way. Today India is being known as the economic superpower of the world. Every day some new accomplishment is being achieved in the name of the country and the state. We are moving towards selfreliance in every way", he said, adding that the cooperation and participation of common people is necessary in the development of the country and the state. He congratulated all the people on Uttar Pradesh Day. On the occasion, Khanna also inaugurated the Kashi Sansad Tourist Guide Competition by pressing the button. The vice-president, gover-nor and chief minister's pro-gramme on the occasion of UP Day in Lucknow was also telecast live here. Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, MLC Dharmendra Singh, District Magistrate S Rajalingam, Additional Commissioner of Police S Chinnappa, CDO Himanshu Nagpal, regional cultural officer, basic shiksha adhikari etc were present.

contribution to Atmanirbhar Bharat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Union Minister of State (MoS) for Railways and Jal Shakti V Somanna visited the Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) on Friday and appreciated its innovations, locomotive production capabilities and significant global contribution in realising the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat. On reaching BLW, Somanna was warmly welcomed by General Manager (GM) Naresh Pal Singh. During the workshop tour, the minister inspected the New Loco Frame Shop, Loco Assembly Shop, Traction Assembly Shop, Truck Machine Shop, and Loco Test Shop. He examined the electric locomotive and experienced its technical features by sit-

ting in the driver's cab. After the workshop visit, he planted a sapling in the administrative building premises, promoting the message of a green environment. Subsequently, in a meeting held at the Hall of Fame in the Administrative Building here the GM welcomed the union minister with a sapling, and Principal Chief Electrical Engineer (PCEE) Sushil Kumar Srivastava presented detailed information through power point presentation, high-lighting BLW's historic achievements, technical expertise and future plans. At the end the GM presented a memento to the minister. In his address, Somanna said, "BLW's production system is a remarkable example of modern technol-



Union Minister V Somanna inspecting BLW workshop in Varanasi on Friday.

ogy and high quality. BLW stands as a kev pillar of the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission. The dedication and hard work of the officers and employees here are bringing global recognition to India." He appreciated BLW's successful export of locomotives to 11 countries, including Mozambique, Sudan, and Malaysia, describing it as a significant step towards the 'Make in India - Make for the World' initiative. On the occasion, the BLW Employees' Council, led by Joint Secretary Shrikant Yaday, and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Association, led by president Sanjay Anand, submitted memorandums to the minister. Chief guest Somanna listened to the concerns of the

employee representatives and assured them of all possible efforts to resolve their issues. The BLW GM stated, "BLW is the leading locomotive production unit of Indian Railways, having manufactured over 10,500 locomotives to date, elevating Indian Railways to new heights of excellence." He described the minister's inspirational visit as a source of renewed energy for BLW. The event was graced by the presence of principal heads of different departments and senior officials. The programme was conducted and concluded with a vote of thanks by Chief Mechanical Engineer (Production & Marketing)

CMO flags off rally on Nat'l Girl Child Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

public awareness rally was

A taken out from on National Girl Child Day on Friday which was flagged off by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary.

During it important messages on female foeticide, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, gender equality, Pre-Conception and Prenatal Diagnostic Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act and Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act were given. This year's theme is Empowering girls for a bright future. The CMO said the day is being celebrated on January 24 every year since 2008 with the aim of spreading awareness about the declining sex ratio of girls and removing the inequalities being faced by them in society. He said that at present, daughters are achieving new



CMO Dr Sandeep Chaudhary flagging off a rally on National Girl Child Day in Varanasi on Friday.

success in various fields of the country like health, sports, education, industry, digital mission and space. He said there should not be any kind of discrimination between son and daughter in the society. "Society should also be aware of the rights of daughters, only then we can take them towards

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER

11.02.2025

RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE

"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge NCB No. 21 of 2024-25

:- Bridge works

future", Dr Chaudhary stated. Deputy Chief Medical Officer and Nodal Officer of the programme Dr YB Pathak said that on the day, mainly PCP-NDT Act, 1994 and MTP Amendment Act, 2021 were discussed in detail. He said the purpose of celebrating this day is to eliminate the inequality towards girls through publicity, give proper respect and importance to every girl in the society. On the occasion, seminars and rallies were organised at every community and primary health centre, including the district headquarters.

District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Dr AK Maurya, Deputy CMOs Dr HC Maurya and Dr Pivush Rai, DHEIO Hariyansh Yadav, Dr Nikuni Verma, Dr Saurabh Pratap Singh along with other officers, doctors and health workers of the Health a safe, better and welfare department were present.

Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore

S/d- Er.Tapan Ku. Behera Chief Construction Enginee R.W. Circle, Balasore.

Financial Bid

Will be mated late

Technical Bid

Maha Kumbh: NER enhances security at stns shelter centres, water booths, (GRP), fair administration

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

 $T^{\text{he North Eastern Railway}}_{\text{(NER) has installed drones}}$ and 240 CCTVs at Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi stations for security purposes during the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in

Prayagraj.
Besides arrangements are being made for UTS counters, Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (AVTMs) etc to manage the crowd of devotees visiting Sangam on Mauni Amavasya. Adequate arrangements are being made for foot over bridges (FOBs), waiting rooms, seating arrangements, water booths, lighting, cleanliness etc.

Rapid Action Teams (RATs) have been formed at Prayagraj

Rambag and Jhusi stations. They are multi-disciplinary teams comprising employees of Railway Protection Force (RPF), Medical, Commercial, Mechanical, Electrical and Signal and Telecom departments. The teams will respond swiftly on information of any untoward incident in the station area. Besides, a team will carry out immediate relief and rescue operations using the resources available nearby.

According to Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of Varancei Divisional (NRP)

Varanasi Division (NÉR) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, at Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi stations, the station premises, platforms, FOBs, temporary tents, toilets, 12 passenger passenger reservation centres, ticket countres etc are being cleaned 24 hours a day

in three shifts.
"From the security point of view, RPF personnel are making passengers aware through mics at station premises, pas-senger shelters, FOBs and platforms at Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi. RATs have been deployed at Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi stations, which are providing assis-tance to the elderly, sick, dis-abled, women and children as per the need. To ensure safe transport of passengers to their destination, RPF is maintaining constant coordination with local police, Government Railway Police

and railway administration, he said, adding that the RPFs/RPSFs members deployed at Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi stations have been equipped with communication resources like VHF sets, walkie-talkies, mobiles, PA systems etc for proper man-agement of security and

maintaining coordination. The Environment and Housekeeping Management wing (EnHM) Mechanical department has installed more than 500 dustbins of three colours at all public places of Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi stations and platforms are being washed from time to time with jet machines

cleanined with walk-behind sweeping machines.

"For safeguarding the health of passengers, anti-larvae spraying is being conducted by the EnHM wing at all public places of Prayagraj Rambag and Jhusi stations during all three shifts and fogging is being done every second day to eliminate mosquitoes", he said.

Apart from this, for the convenience of passengers, platform managers have been deployed who will constantly monitor the activities taking place on the platforms, claimed Public Relations Officer (PRO), Varanasi Division (NER) Ashok

'Make proper arrangements for Kashi Tamil Sangamam'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

A meeting was convened regarding the preparations for Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS) 3.0 under the chairmanship of Union Additional Secretary (Education) Sunil Kumar Barnwal, in which District Magistrate Rajalingam informed him about preparations made during the earlier convened KTS 1 and 2 and various events. Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP) S Chinnappa gave information about the security arrangements during

the entire event.

The secretary asked to make proper arrangements for the safety of guests, medical facilities besides hygiene during the entire event. This time, the KTS is going to be organised from February 15 to 24 in which a total of six groups, including five regular and one student group, will participate. After participating in the academic and cultural programmes organised by various groups at Namo Ghat, they will go to Prayagraj where they will participate in the Maha



Varanasi on Friday.

Kumbh at Sangam, take bath and visit Akshayvat, Hanuman temple and other major places. After Prayagraj, the team of guests will go to Ayodhya where they will visit Ram Mandir, Kanak Bhavan besides ghats and then return to Varanasi. Later, from here they will depart for Tamil Nadu.

The KTS is being organised by the Union Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Ministries of Culture, Textiles, Railways, Tourism, Food Processing,

Information and Broadcasting etc and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The objective of this programme is to provide an opportunity to scholars, students, philosophers, businessmen, artistes and people from other fields from both the regions to come together, share their knowledge, culture and best practices and learn from each other's experience. It also aims to make the youth aware and experience cultural unity. This effort is in line with the

National Education Policy

implementing agencies for and Tamil Nadu etc. this programme.

has decided to bring about 1,000 delegates from Tamil Nadu under five categories/groups: Students, teachers and writers; Farmers and artisans (Vishwakarma Categories): Professionals and small entrepreneurs: Women (SHGs, Mudra Loan beneficiaries, DBHPS Promoters); and Start-ups, Innovation, Edu-Tech, Research.

This year, an additional group of around 200 students of Tamil origin studying in various central universities will be part of the event to bring alive the bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu. Youth participation will be encouraged across all categories this year. The duration of the visit will be eight days (four days for visit, four days on site). During KTS 3.0, an exhibition and seminars, workshops, book releases etc will be organ-

underground stations, come

(NEP) 2020's emphasis on ised in Kashi on various aspects of Rishi (sage) Agastyaar and Indian knowledge systems his contribution to the world of of Rishi (sage) Agastyaar and his contribution to the world of with modern systems of knowledge. IIT Madras and BHU Varanasi are the two health, philosophy, science, The objective of KTS is to

rediscover reaffirm and cele brate the age-old relationship between Tamil Nadu and Kashi - the two most important and ancient centers of learning in the country. Chief Development Officer

Himanshu Nagpal, Additional District Magistrate (City) Alok Verma, ADM Kumar (Finance/Revenue) Vandita Srivastava, (Administration) Vipin Kumar, ADM (Protocol) and central and local officials of various departments were present in the meeting and officials from Ayodhya, Prayagraj and Mela area joined virtually.

MEÉTING: A meeting of the District Level Scheduled Castes and Tribes Monitoring Committee and Maintenance Follow-up Committee of Parents and Senior Citizens was held with all members under the chairmanship of District Magistrate S Rajalingam.

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

12.02.2025

5.00 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

NIT no. 591/2025

DATED: 23.01.2025

Notice Inviting Tender

Online Item Rate bids are invited from registered contractors/firms of repute for Sewerage Project of Pithampur town under AMRUT 2.0 NIT No: 2025_UAD_397964_1 date: 23.01.2025 Probable amount Rs. 16504.05 Lacs, EMD Rs. 8252024/- Cost of bid document Rs. 50000/- Last date and time of submission of bid: 24.02.2025 & time: 17:30 Hrs. All other details are published on website www.mptender.gov.in further information or clarification (if any) shall be published on website only, and not in

President Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur

CMO Nagar Palika Parishad Pithampur

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ

୍ଦ୍ର ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର (ଗ୍ରାନ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକ ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୭୬୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଚାମ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR (At/Po-Ambapua, Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. Online Tender/27-2024-25/BPI 12 (Twelve) 15 (Fifteen) & 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Mont Online Tender / 27-2024-25/BPR as pro

Availability of te 17.02.2025 03.02.2025 at 10.00 A.M Online Tender/27-2024-25/BPR

in the eligible criteria of the DTCN will also liable for rejection of his tender.

OIPR-25071/11/0045/2425

'Gomati' TBM achieves first tunnel breakthrough Kakadeo and Double Pulia

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR ¬he 'Gomati' Tunnel Boring

■ Machine (TBM) achieved its first tunnel breakthrough on the 'up-line' under the underground section of Corridor-2 (CSA to Barra-8) of Kanpur Metro Rail Project. With this, the construction of the first tunnel of Corridor-2, about 620 metres long, has been completed. Managing Director of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) Sushil Kumar and senior officials were present on the occasion. The tunnelling work started on October 15 from Rawatpur Metro station by the 'Gomati' TBM. The machine reached the retrieval shaft near the under-construction Corridor-2 depot ramp on Thursday, moving in the direction of Company Bagh Square. When the cutter head of the 'Gomati' TBM entered the retrieval shaft cutting the earth, it was greet-

ed with applause. With this breakthrough, the 'Gomati' TBM has completed the first phase of its under-



retrieval shaft. The TBM machine will now be retrieved from the retrieval shaft and lowered back to the launching shaft at Rawatpur underground station. From here, this machine will be re-launched in the direction of Kakadeo, where this machine will construct a tunnel up to the Double Pulia ramp passing through Kakadeo and Double Pulia station. Tunnel construc-

tion will also be started on the

'down-line' of Corridor-2 in the

coming days. Under the 8.60 km

long Corridor-2 (CSA to Barra-

8), about 4.10 km long underground and about 4.50 km long elevated section is being constructed. Three stations in the underground section of Corridor-2 will be Rawatpur, Kakadeo and Double Pulia. The number of stations in the elevated section of this corridor will be five, namely Agriculture University, Vijayanagar Chauraha, Shastri Chowk, Vijayanagar Barra-7 and Barra-8. The train going from CSA in the direction of Barra-8 will enter the underground tunnel from the under-construction Corridor-2 depot ramp located near the Agricultural University and after crossing Rawatpur,

over the ground at the elevated section and reach Barra-8 via Vijaynagar Chauraha, Shastri Chowk and Barra-7. Rawatpur station will be an important station connecting Corridors 1 and 2, for which the construction of its underground part is going on near the existing elevated station. Congratulating the Kanpur Metro team Managing Director, Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRC) Sushil Kumar, said, "Today the 'Gomati' TBM machine has achieved the first tunnel breakthrough in the tunnel construction of Corridor-2, which is a huge achievement for us. The machine working under the Earth Pressure Balance system has constructed the underground tunnel with complete safety, without affecting the traffic moving on the road. The day is not far when people on both sides of the railway line will be able to enjoy seamless traffic due to the opening of the new convenient route of Metro Corridor-2". The managing director also inspected the under-construction stations of Kanpur Metro after the tunnel breakthrough and took stock of the progress of the project. AWARDED: Dr Nandini Rastogi has been conferred the Best IMA President Award by the IMA Headquarters for her exceptional performance, hard work and dedication. Another national award for IMACGP was received by assistant director Dr Vikas Shukla and assistant secretary Dr Vikas Mishra, honorary secretary, IMA Kanpur, for successfully organising the scientific programmes during IMACGP 2024.

"PARIKSHA CHARCHA:" The Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT Kanpur organised the 8th edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha" to celebrate Parakram Diwas, featuring an engaging quiz competition. The theme of the competition was "Bharat Hain Hum." The chief guest, Anees Upadhyay (Nominated Chairman, Kendriya Vidyalaya IIT Kanpur), was welcomed by Principal, Ravish Chandra

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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



of UP Special Range Security

The special investigation team shall, inter alia, look into the issues (i) whether the quantum of compensation paid to the land owners was higher than they are entitled to in terms of the judgments passed by the courts from time to time; (ii) if so, who were the officers/officials responsible for such exorbitant payment; (iii) whether there was any collusion or connivance between the beneficiaries and officers/officials of NOIDA; and (iv) whether the overall functioning of NOIDA lacks transparency, fairness and commitment to the cause of public interest," it said on January 23. Directing the SIT to file its report in a sealed cover within two months, the bench said the team was free to look into any other allied issue during the investigation. The bench however protected the beneficiaries, farmers and landowners, who were paid the extra compensation from

without its permission. It observed on September 14 2023, when the matter was heard, it was learnt that the FIR in the case was not a solitary instance of alleged excess payment of compensation to the land owners but there were numerous instances of such payments, prima facie, for

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

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

Defence Ministry unveils new system to boost reconnaissance capabilities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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



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

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

SANJAY has been indigenously and jointly developed by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) creating a conducive ecosystem towards achieving 'Aatmanirbharta' as a follow up to the Indian Army's 'Year of

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

CEC Rajiv Kumar slams social media platforms

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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



forms, which have been instrumental in providing a critical space for free expression, especially to voices not heard, not be clouded by the shadows of fake, unverified

and misleading narratives, disruptive by design," he

The CEC was of the view that it is in the interest of social media platforms that fake clutter is detected and blocked before it is too late. "Do not help forces disrupting democracies and thereby freedom of speech, which is the basic tenet of intermediaries as well," he cautioned He said election management bodies must devise and adopt a framework to manage these challenges. As technologies evolve, Kumar noted, artificial intel-

ligence (AI) will play a critical role. AI can help poll bodies refine voter rolls, detect irregularities, and manage polling logistics more effectively, he said. "It can help in optimising resource allocation and fostering greater efficiency. However, these advancements come with challenges that demand vigilance, particularly as we strive to balance innovation with inclusivity, facts with fake," he

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

category. The report which aims to evolve an understanding of the fiscal health of states in the country has listed Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka under 'front-runners' category.

Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Rajasthan and Haryana were classified as performers.

As per report, released by Chairman of 16th Finance Commission Panagariya, Odisha excelled in fiscal health with the highest overall index score of 67.8. Referring to top five achiever

states, the Aayog said these

non-tax revenue, are revenue surplus and have low interest payments, which is up to 7 per cent of revenue receipts. Analysing the performance of front runners, the government

states have higher capital out-

lay of up to 4 per cent of GSDP, effective mobilization of

think tank said these states reported high total developmental expenditure up to 73 per cent, witnessed consistent growth in own tax revenue, had balanced fiscal management and improved debt sustainability with debt-to-GSDP ratio of 24 per cent.

The report noted that, the aspirational (Kerala, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Punjab) states are struggling to meet the fiscal and revenue deficit targets, have low revenue mobilization, witnessing a growing debt burden with debt sustainability a concern in these

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

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

PM Modi pledges support for girl child empowerment

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his message on National Girl Child Day said on Friday that India is proud of the accomplishments of its girls across all fields. He also said his government is equally resolute in ensuring no discrimination happens against the girl child.

In a social media post, Modi said, "Today, on National Girl Child Day, we reiterate our commitment to keep empowering the girl child and ensure a wide range of opportunities for her.

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

Their feats continue to inspire us all, the prime minister added. Modi said his government

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

collective commitment to empowerment. In a series of social media posts, the minister emphasised the importance of creating an environment that would allow every girl child to thrive and fulfil her dreams.

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

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

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

Defence Secretary flags off school band competition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

head of the 76th ARepublic Day celebrations, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kimar Singh on Friday said the National School Band Competition is being held here to evoke a

feeling of oneness and foster

a sense of pride and patrio-

tism among children towards

the country. Singh was addressing a gathering at the front lawns of the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium where the top 16 school bands selected from across the country are

battling it out in the grand

The National School Band Competition 2024-25 is being jointly organised by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Education.

The defence secretary addressed students partici-pating as members of contesting teams and others at the venue.

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



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

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

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

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

"The aim behind conducting the National School Band Competition is to evoke a feeling of oneness, of esprit

pride among children towards their schools and the country, thus rejuvenat-ing and rekindling the spirit of contributional values, patriotism and unity, and motivate them to walk the path of becoming patriotic and useful citizens of the country," he said.

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

January 26, as special guests, the defence ministry earlier

The first performance by a pipe band of girl students from PM SHRI KGBV Patamda, East Singhbum, Jharkhand was an instant winner, as they delighted the audience with their swinging moves and lilting tunes. A pipe band of boys followed

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

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

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

PM Narendra Modi congratulates Ireland's re-elected PM Micheál Martin

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

"Congratulations @MichealMartinTD on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Ireland," Modi said in a social media post.

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

India condemns disruption of 'Emergency' screenings in UK

PIONEER NEWS SERVICEAGENCIES NEW DELHI/LONDON

 $T^{\text{aking strong exception to}}_{\text{pro-Khalistani extremists}}$ who stormed movie theatres across UK and disrupted screening of film 'Emergency,' India on Friday said these elements should be held accountable. New Delhi also hoped the UK government would take appropriate action

and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut ed. playing the role of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, focuses on 21 months of Emergency from 1975 to 1977. The film ran into controversy over allega-Sikh community. "We've also selectively, and those Insight UK posted a video on Birmingham, Slough, Staines on it. It covers the period



seen several reports on how the film 'Emergency', which against the culprits. was being screened in several halls, was being obstructwas being screened in sever-

We consistently raise con-cerns with the UK govern-ment regarding incidents of violent protests and intimidation by anti-India limits. Freedom of speech and tions that it misrepresents the expression cannot be applied

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

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

This strong reaction came after pro-Khalistani protesters organised protests against Ranaut's 'Emergency', disrupting the film's screening at some cinemas in the UK during its opening weekend. Community organisation its social media platform, showing protesters interrupting a screening of the film, directed by Ranaut, at a cinema in Harrow in northwest London.

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

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

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

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

'The film is very controversial, and I am not commenting on its quality or content, but I defend the right of my constituents and other members' constituents to be able to view it and make a decision

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

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

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

rupt viewings," he added.

side cinemas, but not to dis-

Gurugram police arrest five criminals after encounter

STAFF REPORTER

Acrime branch team of the Gurugram police have arrested five dreaded criminals after an encounter from Golf Course Extension Road on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday, police said. The accused was present in the city to commit theft, police said on

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

Road. After some time, an auto rickshaw without a number plate was seen coming towards the police check point. When the police team signalled the CNG auto rickshaw driver to stop the auto-rickshaw, the auto-rickshaw driver tried to escape by increasing the speed of the auto-rickshaw and hitting the barricade and police vehicle. "Five persons got down from the auto-rickshaw and started firing at the police team and running towards the forest. During this, One bullet hit the bulletproof jacket of the incharge of crime branch sector-39, and one bullet hit the window of the police car," Inspector Vishwa Gaurav, In-Charge of Crime Branch Sector-39, said.

Village Ghata to Faridabad

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Rekindling historic ties

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

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

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

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

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



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

The complex terrain of relationships



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

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

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

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

The life story end of the spectrum to an often do with life skills. Solving incoherent hurtling down the this situation, which afflicts slope of not only a difference of opinion but also a difference in personalities. The analysis can go and yet difficult. It is easy to only so far because then logic gives way to preferences and pas-

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

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

The important thing is to realise that research requires insights and the adoption of a structured methodology, even in commonsensical situations. It is this aspect of research that can lead to a better quality of life, which can be termed as enabling research and it has to many interpersonal relationships, is simultaneously easy control if one can limit one's communication and how

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

much one talks more wisely,

passion subsides, irritations sort itself out and the choice of words and pitch of the voice can be better controlled. One only has to look around to notice how talking less is such an asset in keeping relationships positive. Interpersonal relationships apart, work relationships, also get affected and the impression of losing an argument, even in workspaces, is a personal defeat. This, by itself, is a self-defeating proposition. It is selfdefeating because even if one wins the argument due to positional power or manipulative skills, the scars of a lost argument leave long-lasting damage to relationships. One can indeed often lose a battle to win the war. As indicated earlier, this applies to work situations as much as to real-life, non-work Gentleness and soft words go far, especially when gentleness is received not as a proposition of the weaker person, but as a characteristic and indicator of mutual respect.

The best solution to many conflicts is when both come out as winners, and no one is

growling, smitten by the dangerous feeling of having 'lost one's face'. Be that as it may, it is necessary to reduce differences, not to personalities, but to find the best way forward. This best way forward must focus on protecting everyone's ego and be in the interest of the larger good. Much will depend on the personality elements of the players in the situation and indeed the time available to sort it out. Many times, a shortage of time necessitates two decisions that are suboptimal and more to 'get along with a job' than 'finding the best option'. Using tentative words and a hypothesis open to correction and improvement may be the best recipe for conflict resolution. In such situations, the personalities do not win or

dled in a far-sighted way. Examples can be many, and one has to see what the issue at stake is how people perceive the result of the outcome and how they interpret it. In all cases, if there is a loser in an argument, it is best to make him feel that he has not 'lost' situations. and that no personalities are involved. This can be a useful approach to handling institutional issues because every resolution of a conflict should be for the institutional good.

lose; it is the cause that is han-

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



THE LIFE

STORY MOVES

FROM ONE END OF THE SPECTRUM TO AN OFTEN **INCOHERENT** HURTLING DOWN THE SLOPE OF NOT ONLY A DIFFERENCE OF ALSO A DIFFERENCE IN PERSONALITIES

E EDITOR

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

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

LIQUOR BAN AT RELIGIOUS SITES Madam-CM of Madhya Pradesh Mohan Yadav has formally announced in Narsinghpur district that a liquor ban

UNESCO honours Mahakumbh



o foster the honour and delight of every Indian, the 45-day-long Mahakumbh Festival was listed in the UNESCO list as

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

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

itivity and spiritualism in India. From Naga Sadhus to Aghoris to all the other pilgrims, Kumbh is an auspicious celebration of Hindu devotees to enchant spirituality for developing godly connection, inner peace, and spir-

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

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

Jang Bahadur Singh | jamshedpur

SCAMMERS TARGET JOB SEEKERS

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

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

job boards and websites to search for job

Khushi Uchenia | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Cooperative commodities exchange: A global vision for farmer empowerment

enhancing trust and account-

Societies to Apex-level organ-

isations) approach, leveraging

India's extensive network of

over 95,000 PACS. These

societies will act as the foun-

dational nodes, aggregating

produce from farmers at the

village level. The commodities

will then be funnelled

through district and state-

level federations, culminating

he agricultural sector is

ly in India, where nearly 60

per cent of the population

depends on farming for their

livelihood. Yet, smallholder

farmers often remain at the

mercy of intermediaries, fluc-

tuating market prices and

unequal access to global mar-

To address these challenges

and promote equity, sustain-

ability and growth, a bold ini-

tiative is proposed: the estab-

lishment of a Global Farmer-

Commodities Exchange

(GFCCE). This platform,

rooted in the cooperative

model, aims to empower

farmers by ensuring fair pric-

ing, direct market access, and

sustainable practices. This

ambitious project resonates

with the global agenda of the

Economic Forum to foster

inclusive economic growth

Empowering Farmers

APEX Integration at the heart

of this initiative lies technol-

ogy—a powerful enabler that

can bridge the gap between

farmers and markets. The

social

Through Technology

Cooperative

Cooperation

equity.

Centric

World

the backbone of many

economies, particular-



and manage exports. To address storage issues, a network of modern warehouses will be constructed and integrated with blockchain systems. These warehouses, equipped with real-time inventory tracking, tempera-ture controls and pest man-GFCCE will leverage the Government of India's support to develop a robust and agement systems, will be accessible digital platform

tion, which will oversee oper-

ations, ensure fair pricing

strategically located across integrated with blockchain key agricultural regions. technology to ensure transparency and reduce pilferage in the supply chain. Blockchain will create a tam-Blockchain connectivity across warehouses will enable seamless tracking of stored produce, ensuring reduced wastage and pilferage. Farmers will also receive per-proof record of transactions, from production to storage and distribution, warehouse receipts, which can be used as collateral for The project will adopt a PACS-to-APEX (Primary Agricultural Cooperative

loans, providing them with immediate financial support. This interconnected system will not only provide farmers with better access to markets but also ensure that the supply chain is efficient, transparent and secure. It will serve as the backbone for procurement planning and play a vital role in stabilising food prices. Impact on Food Inflation The GFCCE's blockchainenabled supply chain and

warehouse network will rev-

By reducing post-harvest losses and pilferage, the initiative will improve the efficiency of the Public Distribution System (PDS), preventing artificial shortages that often lead to price spikes. Additionally, the transparent pricing mechanism of the exchange will curb hoarding and speculation. This system will also facilitate targeted interventions during periods of surplus or deficit. For instance, in the case of bumper harvests, surplus stocks can be stored efficiently and exported strategically to global markets, preventing a price crash domes-

ning and control food infla-

tion. With real-time data on

production, storage, and dis-

tribution, government agen-

cies will have accurate insights

into commodity availability

This data-driven approach

will enable timely procure-

ment decisions, ensuring that

food stocks are adequately

replenished and distributed.

and demand patterns.

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

TRUMP'S HYPOCRISY EXPOSED

Madam — The ultimatum from Trump

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

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marketing of alcohol?

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FIRST COLUMN

SEEKING TRUE SHELTER IN THE DIVINE

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



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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

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

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



AS THE CHILLING FLIP SIDE OF GLOBAL WARMING, THE COLD MONTHS WILL CONTINUE INCREASINGLY MARROW-FREEZING, SINCE, WITH DONALD TRUMP TAKING OVER AS THE UNITED STATES'

PRESIDENT, THE CHANCES DECELERATION IN THE PACE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, DIMINISHED

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

All of these, at a certain elevated level, power the wheels of history. These also affect inter-personal relations, causing friction and hostility arising from anger and discontent, or cordiality and warmth caused by harmony. The sum total of the interaction among these factors determines sions between collective bodies like class and caste, and stress caused by individual actions like crime, which is often caused by alienation resulting from marginalisation, poverty and anonymity in impersonal societies. A crime can be a perverse act of self-assertion, a sub-conscious statement like, "I kill, therefore I exist"—a variant of Rene Descartes much-quoted assertion, "Cogito ergo sum (literally,

"I think, therefore, I am"). Another form of self-assertion can be participation—to say nothing of playing a leading role—in a mass movement. Eric Hoffer writes in The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements, "There is in us a tendency to locate the shaping forces of our existence outside ourselves. Success and failure are unavoidably related in our minds with the state of things around us. SIGNIFICANTLY Hence it is that people with a sense of fulfilment think it a good

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

Attempts to reform the world invariably lead to struggles with TO BE the quality of a community's status quoists. Besides, social social existence in terms of tenincrease following rising ocean levels, caused by global warming, submerging coastal areas. Inward migration of people from these regions would trigger clashes over land and resources in the interior areas. The same factors will also be in operation in other areas to which people may escape from regions made uninhabitable by temperatures rising too high to support life.

One can, of course, argue that people would be kind to global warming refugees, realising that they may have to leave their homes someday for the same reason. But then, kindness is not what a person encounters frequently in life; it is the same with gratitude, the lack of which weighed heavily on the Bard of Avon. "Ingratitude," he lamented in King Lear, "thou marble-hearted fiend..." He bewailed in As You Like It, "Blow, blow, thou winter wind, / Thou art not so unkind/As man's ingratitude."

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

On the other hand, as Anton Chekhov put it, "People don't notice whether it's winter or summer when they're happy." This brings us back to our starting point—northern India's butt-freezing, breath-choking winter. Can one be happy in its midst? The answer will be in the affirmative, as the news of a progeny scaling new heights at work or being gifted with a baby, will warm the cockles of one's heart. This, however, is most likely to be a passing phase, overwhelmed, sooner than later, by the many worries and sadnesses that quotidian existence brings and that, again, are ephemeral.

The more relevant question will be whether one can survive northern India's winter and for how long. The transition to the hereafter caused by pollution stalks one silently but lethally. The final truth in life is mortal-

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

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

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

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

defined in the 22nd session of the UN Tourism General Assembly in 2017, is an activity where a visitor's primary motivation is to learn, discover, experience, and engage with the tangible and intangible cultural attractions and products of a destination. These motivations shape the agendas of both the visitor and the tour guide at cultural heritage destinations, bridging the gap between the historical and the contemporary.

The Evolution of Cultural Heritage and Tourism

Cultural heritage has undergone a significant shift in perception, moving from an archaeological focus to the concept of "living heritage" and its reuse. Similarly, tourism has evolved from being largely

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

For these benefits to be fully realised, collaboration among stakeholders is essential. They must work collectively to offer authentic and meaningful experiences that resonate with travelers while preserving the



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Economic and Cultural **Benefits of Heritage Tourism** Cultural heritage tourism creates opportunities for income generation and employment. This is achieved by maintaining and showcasing heritage structures, sites, and products. Preservation and man-

agement efforts, such as cata-

loging and storytelling, directly benefit from tourism revenue. Simultaneously, the broader economic ecosystem, including hospitality, transportation, and entertainment, flourishes through increased visitor engagement.

However, cultural heritage is far more than a revenue-generating commodity. It serves as a repository of customs, values, and artifacts, connecting communities to their past and reinforcing their identities. Tourism, when responsibly managed, can amplify the significance of heritage sites by fostering research, introducing new narratives, and raising awareness. Reinvestment of economic returns into preservation ensures the longevity and authenticity of cultural

Challenges of Cultural Heritage Tourism

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

Sustainable and Responsible

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

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

Top leaders campaign ahead of Delhi Assembly polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

With Delhi assembly elections nearing, leaders from all three political parties-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Congress and Aam Aaml Party (AAP) - held multiple rallies, roadshows and public meetings across the national

Addressing a public meeting in support of BJP candidate Parvesh Verma from the New Delhi Assembly seat, Former Union Minister and BJP MP Anurag Thakur on Friday launched a scathing attack on the ruling AAP, calling it a "mahila virodhi" (anti-women) party. Thakur accused the AAP government of neglecting women's welfare.

"They promised to give Rs 1,000 to women but failed to deliver. The AAP-DA government also summoned Swati Maliwal to the chief minister's residence and got her assaulted. They also ignored the plight of ASHA workers by not fulfilling the promise to increase their salaries," Thakur said.

He further criticised the AAP government, saying, "Atishi is the Chief Minister of Delhi, but their anti-women stance is evident as her face is missing from posters and illegal activities when it hoardings. "On the other comes to Rohingya Muslims



hand, Prime Narendra Modi has launched transformative schemes such as 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' from Haryana, leading to significant positive changes." In another public meeting, Thakur took a dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of 'doubledating,' and questioned why the Congress remains "silent" on issues like AAP's alleged corruption and support for settlements, said, adding this clearly shows that Kejriwal and Gandhi are doubledating. Uttarakhand Chief

participated in a public meeting organized support of BJP candidate from Nagar Patel assem b l y constituency, Raaj Kumar Anand at Ramjas Maidan in

Patel Nagar. "Recently elections were also held in Haryana where a lot of people from Uttarakhand stay. I

participated in several public rallies in Haryana as well, and people there helped the BJP form the government for the third consecutive time. I also went to Maharashtra where people helped BJP win again, people neiped BJP win again, and a double-engine government was formed. Therefore, I urge you all to help lotus (BJP's symbol) bloom in Delhi," he said, while addressing a large

gathering.
"People of Delhi are ready for a change this time. Whatever

schemes we make or whatever we promise in our manifesto, is our vision statement and we make it after properly analysing all aspects. Congress and AAP just make false promises. We will implement all those schemes that are not currently functional in Delhi," Dhami asserted. Meanwhile, speaking at a poll rally in Najafgarh, AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal said, "Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath came to Delhi yesterday, and asked people to vote for BJP. I want to ask him - for how hours is electricity available in Uttar Pradesh? In Lucknow and Noida, you can see eight and nine hours of power cuts, respectively. I want to ask you - how can we vote for you?" Kejriwal also held two more public meetings in Uttam Nagar and Dwarka. Congress leader Sachin Pilot also addressed a public gathering in Madipur.
"When Congress was in power in Delhi, development happened. Many used to compare the development of

their cities to Delhi and say

Delhi is more developed. Both the parties (AAP and BJP) have wasted their time in

blaming each other. Neither

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has made a general diary (GD) entry against two individuals, including one who claimed to be the son of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, for misbehaving with officers and riding a motorcycle with a

riding a motorcycle with a modified silencer. The

modified silencer. The incident occurred during a security patrol in Okhla ahead of Republic Day. The individuals were fined approximately Rs 20,000 for violating multiple sections of the Motor Vehicle Act.

According to the police, two

individuals were seen riding a motorcycle recklessly with a

modified silencer, causing excessive noise and following

an irregular path. Upon police

the Centre nor government cared Delhi," he stated.



Colonel Apurva Bhatnagar Receives VSM on Army Day

The Training Regiment Commander of Military Regiment at Training Madgaon, Colonel Apurva Bhatnagar was awarded the prestigious VSM (Vishisht Seva Medal) on the occasion of Army Day parade on January 15 for his exceptional service as Electronic Warfare

son fined by Delhi Police

claimed to be the son of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan,

implying that the police were

targeting him because of his

The Delhi Police reported that both individuals refused to

present their driving licenses or identification documents,

stating it was unnecessary. One of them contacted Amanatullah Khan, who then

spoke with the Station House

Officer (SHO). However, the individuals left without

providing their personal details. Subsequently, the

police filed a case, issued a challan, and seized their

motorcycle under various

legal provisions.
The police stated, "During a

routine patrol, two individuals

father's political position.

Man claiming to be AAP MLA's

Advisor to the Indian Army at

Col Bhatnagar who is a distinguished officer of the Indian Army Corps of Signals presently, has had a remarkable career by his exceptional leadership and strategic brilliance and commanded the Electronic Warfare Battalion initially at the Pakistan border in

coming from the wrong side

and making loud noises with the modified silencer. The

motorcycle was being ridden in a zigzag manner. The police apprehended them, and one individual claimed to be the

son of AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan. He

misbehaved with the officers,

accusing them of targeting

him because of his father's

"When the police requested their driving licenses and IDs, they refused. One of the

Amanatullah Khan and had him speak to the SHO. Later, the individuals left without

disclosing their names or addresses. The ASI brought

their motorcycle to the police

were spotted riding a bullet station. A case has been addresses," the GD registered motorcycle. They were registered, and a challan has by the police states.

called

position."

individuals

Rajasthan and later at the China and Pakistan border in Ladakh.

According to a Press note, in Ladakh, Col Bhatnagar drew upon his experience during the Galwan standoff to plan and deploy Electronic Warfare detachments that revealed critical data of the enemy that is secret and

been issued. The motorcycle

has been impounded under several legal provisions," they

According to the diary report, the two men were riding the

making loud noises with the modified silencer. When

confronted by the police, one of them claimed to be the son

of AAP MLA Amanatullah

Khan and accused the officers

of targeting him because of his father. They also refused

to present their driving

licenses and identification, as

noted in the GD entry. "One

of them even called Amanatullah Khan, who

spoke to the SHO. Despite this, they left without disclosing their names and

erratically,

added.

motorcycle

Delhi seizes liquor worth ₹50 Lakh ahead of polls

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW

The Delhi government's excise department has seized nearly 20,000 bottles of illicit liquor worth Rs 50 lakh over the past fortnight, since the Model Code of Conduct

(MCC) for the Assembly polls came into force.
The total value of the seizures, including 15,376 liters of illicit alcohol (both Indian-made foreign liquor or IMFL and country liquor) and 32 vehicles, stands at around Rs 1.5 crore, according to an official from the excise department.

So far, 52 cases have been so far, 52 cases have been registered in connection with the seized illicit liquor. The liquor seized by the excise department after the imposition of the MCC accounts for about 25 percent of the total seizures, including those by the Delhi

Police, the official said.

Teams of the Excise
Intelligence Bureau (EIB) have been working tirelessly to gather intelligence on liquor smuggled, mostly from neighboring Haryana, and to apprehend the offenders, said a senior excise department officer.

Voting for the 70-member Delhi Assembly is scheduled for February 5. The counting of votes will take place on February 8, and the excise department has declared both days as "dry days" in the city. The MCC came into effect with the announcement of the poll dates on January 7.

The EIB teams intercepted

two vehicles from Burari and Mahipalpur on Thursday night, seizing a total of 5,000 bottles containing 3,600 liters of smuggled liquor worth Rs 12 lakh, the officer said. In the first operation, an excise team chased a truck carrying 3,036 liquor bottles for 14 km after it entered Delhi through GT Karnal Road and intercepted it in Burari, north Delhi, the officials

A total of 253 cases of liquor (for sale in Haryana only) were seized from the truck, they added. In another operation, a mini-truck was intercepted in Mahipalpur, and 151 cases with 1,812 bottles containing 1,317 liters of liquor were seized, the

Delhi HC rejects special sitting for CAG reports

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday criticized the AAP government for an "inordinate and a state of the state of t delay" in tabling the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports in the state assembly but declined to order a special sitting of the Delhi Assembly, calling it "impractical" just days before elections.

In a 31-page judgment, Justice Sachin Datta emphasized that tabling the audit reports was a mandatory constitutional

once the Legislative Assembly is constituted and summoned after the upcoming elections, the Delhi government must take the necessary steps to table the CAG reports as soon as possible. "It is quite evident that there has been an inordinate delay on the part of the respondents/Government of NCT of Delhi in taking requisite steps to lay the CAG reports before the Legislative Assembly," the court said.

requirement and directed that Legislative Assembly is about to expire, and elections for to expire, and elections for electing the next Legislative Assembly are just a few days away. In such a situation, it would be impracticable to hold a special sitting of the assembly. This is also due to the fact that once the CAG reports are tabled in the House they must be examined. House, they must be examined and scrutinized by the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), as stipulated under Rule 192 of the Rules of Procedure. Given "...It has been pointed out that the term of the current that the Legislative Assembly is nearing the end of its current term, the examination and scrutiny by the PAC will now take place only after the newly elected assembly

Kharbanda, Gaurav Malik,

and Ankit Jain-under various

Information Technology Act.

"The accused were involved in

targeted elderly citizens in the

US and Canada," the CBI said.

last year against late Amit Bhardwaj and his brother Ajay

Bhardwaj and his broader 13/47 Bhardwaj for running an alleged Ponzi scheme involving bitcoins worth up to

Rs 6,600 crore in 2017. The Enforcement Directorate

(ED) had earlier taken up the

investigation into the money

laundering angle after the police in Maharashtra and

Delhi filed first information

reports (FIRs) against Variable

Tech Pvt Ltd and individuals

Bhardwaj,

Bhardwaj, Vivek Bhardwaj, Simpy Bhardwaj, and Mahender Bhardwaj-all

members of the same family.

The FIRs also named several

multi-level marketing agents who were alleged to have

(worth Rs 6,600 crore in 2017)

from the public, with the "false promise" of a 10 percent

Amit

Mahender

The CBI had also filed a case

the IPC and the

CBI uncovers ₹350 Crore crypto scam

The probe has uncovered multiple bank accounts and Virtual Digital Asset (VDA) wallets with cryptocurrency running a fraudulent call including center in Delhi and Noida that exchanges, including CoinDCX, WazirX, Zebpay, and BitBns, held by the accused.

"Over two years, these accounts and wallets witnessed transactions exceeding Rs 350 crore. The were allegedly victims defrauded by the accused under various pretenses, such as online loans, online lucky orders, UPI frauds, and internet banking scams," the

CBI said. Last year, the CBI uncovered a cyber-enabled fraud syndicate originating in Delhi-NCR, which allegedly defrauded foreign nationals from the US, Canada, and other countries to the tune of Rs 260 crore through a fake call center.

The syndicate, led by accused Tushar Kharbanda, a Noida resident, employed advanced techniques to commit collected a massive amount of cybercrime and launder money in the form of bitcoins money by converting bitcoin into ÚS dollars and vice versa. The agency filed a chargesheet three accused- monthly return in bitcoins.

(pursuant to the upcoming elections) is reconvened," the order read. The court noted "inordinate delay" by the AAP government in tabling the

Prices for 1 litre Amul milk packs reduced by ₹1

From page 1

CAG reports.

GCMMF is the world's largest farmer-owned cooperative having 36 lakh farmers across 18,600 villages of Gujarat and its 18 member unions procure 300 lakh litres

of milk per day. It also ranks 8th among the top 20 dairy companies in the world in terms of milk processing, as per the International Farm Farm Comparison Network

(IFCN). Besides the domestic market, GCMMF is exporting dairy products to about 50 countries.

Last year, GCMMF entered the US market with the launch of four variants of fresh milk to cater to the Indian diaspora and Asian population.

Congress demands details on Maharashtra Davos deals

them

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

eeking to puncture the Seuphoria surrounding the record investments worth Rs 15.75 lakh crore received by Maharashtra at the 54th World Economic Forum (WEF) meet in Davos, the Opposition Congress on Friday called for details about the agreements signed and demanded that the BJP-led MahaYuti government release a white paper on the investments and jobs generated from previous Davos visits.

A day after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis proudly announced that the state had signed 54 MoUs with investments worth Rs 15.75 lakh crore in Davos, State Congress President Nana Patole said: significant

investments in the state are welcome, the public has a right to know the specifics of these agreements and the reality behind them."

"Similar grand announcements have been made in the past as well. It is in this context that the MahaYuti government should release a white paper on the investments and jobs generated from previous deals made during Davos visits," Patole added.

Speaking to the media, Patole explained that out of the 61 agreements signed in Davos, 10 involved foreign groups, while the remaining 51 were based in India, with 43 of them coming from Mumbai and Pune.

"Among these, a Rs 1,500crore deal was signed between CIDCO and BookMyShow, despite the latter facing a

Building collapse scare grips Kolkata **SAUGAR SENGUPTA** ■ KOLKATA

The proverbial "joy" is T steadily fading away from the faces of lower and middleclass families living in and around the City of Joy as reports of tilting low-budget high-rises continue to trickle in from Kolkata and beyond. This, even as the political powers that be indulge in a blame game. On Thursday, more reports emerged of inadequately built "dignified slums" (read: mushrooming leaning high-rises)

precariously over adjacent structures, this time in the Tangra and Topsia areas of Kolkata. This led the political opposition to blame the multi-billion builder-TMCpolice nexus for the anomaly. Even as the Building Department of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) issued notices to the occupants of the tilting buildings to vacate their

apartments, the owners found Does the government have no themselves in a fix. "Where do we go? We have invested everything... now we are paying loan installments, and the KMC is asking us to vacate the house... so where do we go?" said Ratna, an occupant of a high-rise in Tangra in east-central

Kolkata. Another resident of Tangra said, "We will die in this building but will not move out... what was the KMC doing? Who gave the completion certificate to the building? We purchased the building from the promoter... but how could he manage a sanctioned plan in a worldclass city like Kolkata? If they drive me out, then I will commit suicide."

A resident of Baghajatin lamented, "I have invested my whole life's earnings to purchase this small flat, and

Kejriwal accuses

responsibility? Why has no one been arrested till now when reports of tilting houses are coming from so many places?"

Residents at Ward number 75 in Kidderpore said they were living in fear. "We have also purchased a new property... if this building too tilts, where shall we go?

Indeed, palpable panic gripped Kolkata as multistoried buildings continued to tilt. Located on Christopher Road in Ward 58, one of the two buildings that tilted on Wednesday has at least two illegally constructed floors, locals said, blaming the builder and the local municipal councilor, who could not be contacted.

Building senior Department requesting anonymity, said, "The cut money goes from now they are asking me to go down to the top... even away... where will we go? beyond the Mayor level... we

Ordnance factory blast, eight killed

From page 1

"A sad incident has occurred. At the ordnance factory in Bhandara, an explosion took place, causing the death of eight people and injuring seven others. This is the early with the program," he said.

on the micro-blogging site "X": "Deeply saddened to know about the blast at the Ordnance Factory Bhandara, Maharashtra. My condolences to the bereaved families. Praying for the speedy recovery of the injured. The rescue teams are deployed at the site. All efforts

affected."

Giving details of the incident, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis - who is away at the 54th World Economic Forum (WEF) report. I ask everyone to stand meet in Davos - wrote on "X" for a minute to honor them, earlier in the day: "There is and then we will continue news of an incident where 13-14 workers are trapped due to Expressing his grief over the casualties in the ordnance explosion at the ordnance factory blast, Union Defence factory in Bhandara. Five Minister Rajnath Singh wrote workers have been safely rescued. The Bhandara Collector and SP are at the site, ensuring immediate rescue measures and all required support. SDRF and Nagpur Municipal Corporation teams are deployed for the rescue

are being made to provide also coordinating with assistance to those who are multiple teams. Medical assistance teams are ready too. As per the info received till now, one worker unfortunately lost his life. My condolences to his family. We stand with the family in this tough time. I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Fadnavis added.

Bhandara District Collector Dr Sanjay Kolte and Superintendent of Police Noorul Hasan are camping at the site.

Teams from Bhandara and Nagpur, along with specialized teams from NDRF and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), are carrying out the rescue and relief operations. The NDRF personnel are utilising operation." specialised equipment to protested and A Raja also "District administration is carry out the rescue operation. wrote a letter requesting to

Waqf panel meet ends in protests

From page 1

Committee began on a us," Banerjee said. He said the stormy note with the agenda of Friday's meeting opposition members as changed late night on accusing the chairman of steamrolling through the proceedings and changing the members close to midnight.

"The chairman is treating opposition members as the agenda of the meeting at will. The 10 opposition members were suspended as protests and unruly scenes continued at the meeting of the Committee, which had re-convened after a brief adjournment.

"After our meeting on January 21, the chairman informed the members that the next meeting will be held January 24-25. on Opposition members protested and A Raja also

The meeting of the chairman did not listen to

opposition members as domestic helps and ordering them around," Banerjee said, and alleged that the proceedings were being rushed through with an eye on the Delhi assembly elections.

The Trinamool Congress leader said Pal received several phone calls as the meeting was in progress and alleged that he was taking orders from the government in conduct of proceedings.

schedule the meeting after However, BJP member January 30 or 31. But the Aparajita Sarangi claimed the conduct of opposition members was "disgusting" as they were continuously creating ruckus during the meeting and using unparliamentary language against Pal.

Official sources said the

committee will be adopting its final report on January 29. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was referred to the Parliamentary Ioint Committee (JPC) on August 8, 2024 following its introduction in the Lok Sabha by Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. The bill aims to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, to address issues and challenges in Waqf properties.

BJP of bribing voter From page 1

"The struggle that Babasaheb did for you, and fought with the rest of the people to get you the vote, doesn't let that vote be sold in a sari or a blanket for 1100 rupees," the AAP Convenor added.

"If our votes can be purchased, then our democracy will end. There will only be the rule of the wealthy. Vote for anyone but not for those distributing money," he said.

Hitting out at the BJP, Kejriwal said, "The money that is being distributed is not from the government's money. It is regulating and managing being distributed by a few election results will Waqf properties. being distributed by a few election results will politicians of 'Gali Galoch declared on February 8.

Party'. Where did they get this money from? This is their corruption money, which they have looted the country in the wrong way and earned it. All the money that they are distributing, all the goods that they are distributing, take it all but do not vote for them." As AAP battles to retain its

stronghold for a third consecutive term, the BJP is aiming for a comeback after 25 years. Kejriwal also addressed concerns about voter intimidation, assuring the public that their votes remain confidential. Voting for the elections is slated to be held on February 5 and the election results will be

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

PTI/ AP WASHINGTON/ MOSCOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

KREMLIN SCOFFS AT TRUMP'S CLAIM

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

Speaking by video from the White House to the annual World

Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Trump said on Thursday that the OPEC+ alliance of oil exporting countries shares responsibility for the nearly three-year conflict in Ukraine because it has kept oil prices too high. "If the price came down, the Russia-Ukraine war would end immediately," Trump said. Energy sales form a large part of Russia's earnings.

Asked about Trump's comments, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov affirmed Moscow's view that the Ukrainian conflict was triggered by the West's refusal to take into account Russian security

"The conflict doesn't depend on oil prices," Peskov said in a conference call with reporters. "The conflict is ongoing because of the threat to Russia's national security, the threat to Russians living on those territories and the refusal by the Americans and the Europeans to listen to Russia's security concerns. It's not linked to oil prices." He said Russian President Vladimir

Putin remains ready for contacts with Trump.

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

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

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

Peskov said that the Kremlin was closely following Trump's state-ments and noted that he imposed a slew of sanctions during his first

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

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

UK to convince US Prez Trump not to impose trade tariffs

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

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

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

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

The US President told global executives at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos this week that they

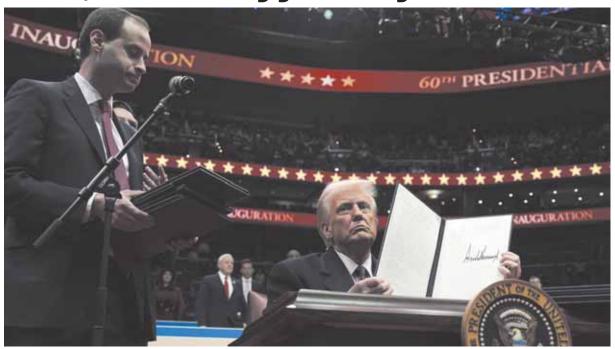
could either produce their goods in the US or face wide-spread tariffs worth hundreds of billions or even trillions of dollars.

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

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

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

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



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

Donald Trump signs executive order to declassify JFK assassination files

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

Asserting that the victims' families and the American people deserve to know the

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

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

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

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

Japan's leader says he's preparing for tough negotiations with US President

Tokyo (AP): Japanese
Prime Minister Shigeru
Ishiba, struggling to stabilise his minority government, said Friday he will seek to maintain regional security and prepare for tough negotiations with US President Donald
Trump to win his commit.

November and is arranging a trip to Washington in the coming weeks. With a minority government following a significant election loss in October due to voter anger over his party's financial scandals, US President Donald Trump to win his commitment to maintain a strong American presence in the Asia-Pacific.

Ishiba has been seeking to

in power at least until the next major elections this summer.

With the balance of power in the region mak- ballistic missiles as it meet with Trump since his election victory in must further deepen missile programs.

Japan-US cooperation and ensure the US commitensure the US commitment to the region to prevent any power vacuum from destabilizing it," Ishiba said in a policy speech to parliament.

Japan's concern about a US retreat from the region comes as China's military is becoming increasingly assertive and North Korea has repeatedly test-fired

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

US Prez targets California water policy

tiple occasions pledged to release the JFK files, specifically stating in June 2024 that he would do so "early on".
"When I return to the White House, I will

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

Israelis await next four hostages' names in ceasefire deal

AP TEL AVIV

 $R^{ ext{elatives}}$ of hostages still being held by militants in Gaza called on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Friday to ensure all remaining captives are freed, while also appealing to US President Donald Trump to continue pressing for their release.

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

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

The first three Israeli hostages were freed in exchange for 90 Palestinian prisoners on Sunday, the first day of the ceasefire that has halted the 15month war that has devastated Gaza. More than 47,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and wide swaths of the territory have been destroyed. According to the deal, on Friday Hamas is to announce the names of the next four hostages to be released on Saturday, after which Israel

will also release a list of which Palestinian prisoners will be freed.

The hostages were among about 250 men, women and children captured by militants who burst across the border into Israel on Oct 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people in an attack that sparked the war in Gaza. About 100 were released during a brief ceasefire in November that year, while the bodies of around three dozen hostages have been recovered in Gaza and eight hostages have been rescued by the army. "I call from here to the Prime Minister and negotiating team — you're doing excellent work — do whatever is necessary to bring everyone back, to the last hostage," Samerano said. "We ask you to ensure phase two of the deal is agreed upon before finishing the current phrase.

We cannot continue living in uncertainty. All hostages must return, and none of them has time left."

The 33 to be released in the first phase will include women,

children, sick people and those over 50 — almost all civilians, though the deal also commits Hamas to freeing all living female soldiers in Phase 1. Hamas will release living hostages first, but could release some bodies if they don't have enough living hostages in this category. Male soldiers are not expected to be released in the first phase. "This week we were moved to watch images of mothers embracing their daughters, but our hearts break thinking that my son Nimrod and other men remain behind, and each day they're there poses a real danger to their lives," said Vicky Cohen, whose son Nimrod Cohen is among the hostages.

'The worry that the deal won't be fully implemented gnaws at us all. All senior officials openly say that stopping the deal means a death sentence for those left behind." Under the terms of the deal, Palestinians in Gaza will have more freedom of movement from the north to the south of the

Washington (AP): As President Donald Trump prepares to tour wildfire damage in California, he's zeroing in on one of his frequent targets for criticism: State water policy. Since the fires broke out Jan 7, Trump has used social media

and interviews to accuse the state of sending too much water to the Pacific Ocean instead of south toward Los Angeles and highlighted how some hydrants ran dry in the early hours of the firefight in Pacific Palisades.

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

Here's a look at the facts behind Trump's comments and what power the president has to influence California water: In general, most of the state's

as he prepares to tour LA fire damage water is in the north, while most of its people are in the drier south.

Los Angeles, the nation's second largest city, depends on drawing water from elsewhere. Meanwhile the relatively dry Central Valley is home to fer-tile land where much of the nation's fruits and vegetables are grown. Two complex systems of dams

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

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

half its water from local supplies such as groundwater,

according to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a regional water wholesaler. Metropolitan provides the rest of the water from state supplies and the federally managed Colorado River

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

Federal officials guide how much is routed to the delta to protect threatened species and how much goes to Central Valley Project users, mostly farms. That project does not supply water to Los Angeles. State officials are expected to follow the same environmental

guidelines, said Caitlin Peterson, a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California's Water Policy Centre. Federal and state officials typ-

ically coordinate how they operate those systems. The delta connects inland

waterways to the Pacific, and

keeping a certain amount of water flowing through helps support fish populations and the waterway itself. But Trump and others say the

state lets too much water go to the ocean rather than cities and farms. His prior administration allowed more water to be directed to the Central Valley and out of the delta. Environmental groups opposed that, saying it would harm endangered species.

Gov Gavin Newsom filed a lawsuit saying the rules would drive endangered fish populations to extinction. There were concerns about the tiny delta smelt, which is seen as an indicator of the waterway's health, as well as and chinook salmon and steelhead trout, which return annually from the Pacific to spawn in freshwater rivers. Then-President Joe Biden's administration issued its own rules in December that environmental groups said provided modest improvements over those of the first Trump administration.

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

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

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

for a screening of the film 'Emergency' in the Harrow

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

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

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

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

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

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

immigrant criminals Washington (PTI): The US has

arrested 538 illegal immigrant criminals, including a suspected terrorist, and several illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors, the White House has

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

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

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

Government approves ₹500 Crore capital infusion in IFCI

financial omestic institution IFCI on Friday said the government has approved ₹500 crore capital infusion in the company through the preferential issue of shares. The Department of Financial Services has conveyed sanction of the President of India to release funds of ₹500 crore to IFCI Ltd towards subscription to the share capital during FY 2024-25, the state-owned entity said in a regulatory

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



Industrial Finance

financial

Corporation of India was set

up by the government on July 1, 1948, as the first

The Finance Ministry, in

November 2024, in principle

approved the 'Consolidation

of IFCI Group', which entails

the merger/amalgamation of

institution in the country.

development

as may be required. With the infusion, government's holding in the company is expected to further increase from the existing 71.72 per cent as of September 2024.

The capital infusion plan for IFCI was approved through the passage of the first Supplementary Demand for Grants for 2024-25 in the

Holding Corporation of India Limited and other group companies.

As per the proposal, StockHolding Corporation of India Ltd, IFCI Factors Ltd, IFCI Infrastructure Development Ltd and IIDL Realtors Ltd will merge with IFCI Ltd. StockHolding Further,

Services Ltd, IFCI Financial Ltd, Services Commodities Ltd and IFIN
Credit Ltd will be merged into a single entity, which will be a direct subsidiary of the consolidated listed entity. Additionally, StockHolding Document ' Management Services Ltd, StockHolding Securities IFSC Ltd, IFIN Securities Finance Ltd, IFCI Venture Capital Funds Ltd and MPCON Ltd shall be direct subsidiaries of the consolidated listed entity that is IFCI.

FM Sitharaman takes part in customary halwa ceremony

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m Sitharaman}$ on Friday participated in a traditional 'halwa' ceremony, marking the final stage for the preparation of Union Budget 2025-26 to be unveiled on February 1 in the Lok Sabha. The ceremony is a customary ritual in which traditional dessert 'halwa' is prepared and served to officials and staff members of the finance ministry who are involved in the preparation of the budget. It is organised in the basement of North Block, which houses the ministry in the national capital and is attended by the finance minister and other high-

ranking officials.

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

the officials concerned. Sitharaman is going to present Budget 2025-26, the

eighth straight budget in a row, on the backdrop of GDP growth moderating to 6.4 per cent in the financial year as against 8.2 per cent recorded in the previous fiscal.

Like the previous four full Union Budgets and one Interim, the full Union Budget 2025-26 will also be delivered in paperless form. All the Union Budget documents, including the Annual Financial Statement

(commonly known Budget), Demand for Grants (DG), Finance Bill etc. As prescribed prescribed by the Constitution, will be available on the 'Union Budget Mobile App' for hassle-free access to Budget.

Besides Sitharaman, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary and other senior officials, including Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth and other senior officials were present



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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Friday said it has said it has penalised Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Bank of India, and Canara Bank for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.

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

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

Also, a penalty of Rs 1 lakh has been imposed on Datson Exports, West Bengal for

In each case, the RBI said penalties were based on

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

and CEO Naveen Chandra Jha said that as India advances toward financial inclusivity and universal healthcare, the upcoming Budget is expected to further strengthen the healthinsurance sector.

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

Bajaj Allianz Life MD and CEO Tarun Chugh said India's wider uptake of insurance, he economic growth presents added. immense opportunities for the insurance sector to enhance budgetary support for incentives like the reduction

"Aligning tax deduction of life insurance annuity products with the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and addressing the issue of tax on principal component on annuity products can evolve retirement needs effectively," he added.

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

the new tax regime.

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



to the non-life insurance industry remained the same at 1 per cent during 2023-24. Subrata Mondal, MD and CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance said the Union

Budget provides an essential opportunity for government to implement reforms that can address challenges and the broader industry encourage insurance adoption of products.

One key expectation is the enhancement of tax incentives for policyholders to promote Another priority is increasing

backed insurance governmen schemes, such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Ayushman Bharat, he added. 'They would significantly improve access to insurance for underserved populations, particularly in rural and economically weaker regions," Mondal said.

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

Financial stability is a cornerstone of a secure future. One of our hopes for the upcoming budget is to see penetration in 2023-24 was 3.7 per cent compared to 4 per cent in 2022-23.

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

The penetration with respect upcoming budget is to see support for pension and annuity plans, which are key financial instruments for the retirement planning needed to create that stability, he added. "Tax support for pension plans offered by life insurers on par with the National

Pension Scheme will provide both greater choice and allow diversification of assets into multiple pension plans," he

> Bansal also urged the government to consider removing GST on premiums for annuity plans to support pensioners and make annuities more affordable and accessible. Universal Sompo General Insurance Managing Director and CEO Sharad Mathur opined that strengthening the insurance sector is essential for driving financial resilience, economic stability, and inclusive growth. With targeted reforms and of GST on Health insurance we can unlock the true potential ensuring wider coverage, encouraging innovation, and building a secure future for every individual and business,

Mathur said.
Srikanth Kandikonda, Chief
Officer, Financial Officer, ManipalCigna Health Insurance, said that given the rising healthcare costs and the need for higher sum insured cover, the government should reduce the tax burden by increasing the limits under Section 80D of income tax for premiums paid for health insurance to Rs 50,000 for all and Rs 1 lakh for senior citizens.

"This is crucial for achieving the government's vision 'Insurance for all by 2047' and would substantially reduce the financial burden on families investing in their health and Kandikonda added.
During 2022 2 During 2023-24, the non-life

Rupee rises 22 paise to close at 86.22 against US dollar

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

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

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

It finally closed at 86.22, rising 22 paise against the US dollar from previous close. On Thursday, the rupee declined 9 paise to settle at

86.44 against the US dollar. Jateen Trivedi, VP Research Analyst - Commodity and Currency, LKP Securities, said the rupee strengthened this week as the dollar index saw a



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

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

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

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

Moreover, at the World Economic Forum in Davos,

Donald Trump called for an immediate interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve, a move that will generate a negative sentiment for the DXY, Pabari added. Meanwhile, Brent crude, the

global oil benchmark, rose 0.47 per cent to USD 78.66 per barrel in futures trade. Brent oil was trading at USD

78.03 per barrel as Trump asked Saudi to lower prices so that he could make Russia stop the war. He has also threatened sanctions against Russia if they do not get out of the war, Anil Kumar Bhansali, Head of Treasury and Executive Director Finrex Treasury Advisors LLP, said.

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

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

Other Restrictions'. Switzerland, US President In another release, the RBI A penalty of Rs 1.63 crore has

been imposed on public sector Canara Bank for noncompliance with certain directions on priority sector lending, the interest rate on deposits and financial inclusion - access to banking services - BSBDA, the RBI

non-compliance with certain directions issued by the RBI on 'Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by NBFCs'.

deficiencies in statutory and regulatory compliance and were not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the entities with their customers.

Government restricts import | Used-car sales in India to cross one of herbicide Glufosinate

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

allowed without any restriction. "Import of Glufosinate and its "Import of Glufosinate and its salts (purity - minimum 95 per cent) is restricted for CIF value below ₹ 1,289 per kg. However, import of Glufosinate and its salts is free if CIF value is ₹1,289 per kg and above," the directorate general of foreign trade (DGFT) said in a notification. CIF value (cost insurance)

CIF value (cost, insurance,

and freight) is a trade term used in international

commerce to determine the



total value of goods being imported.

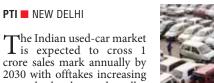
Products under the restricted

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



category need a licence from the government.

The import of the herbicide stood at USD 177 million



across both urban and smaller towns, according to a report by CARS24. As per the 'Gear of Growth:

The 2024 Indian Used-Car Market Report, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi are driving the country's used-car

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

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



crore annual mark by 2030: Report

an uptick vis-a-vis the new car market, he added. As per the report, SUVs

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

Their spacious design, versatility, and premium appeal make them a favourite across both urban and rural markets, it noted. The report highlighted that the post-COVID era has seen a significant shift in consumer preferences, with 12 per cent

of car buyers prioritising personal mobility for convenience and safety over shared transportation. Maruti Suzuki Swift has become the most sought-after model across both metro and non-metro cities, the report

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

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

CBIC notifies rules for entities to get TIN

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

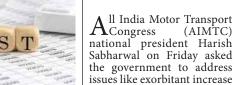


but is required to make any payment under the provision of the Act, the proper officer may grant the said person a temporary identification number," CBIC said while introducing Rule 16A in Central GST Rules.

provision. The decision to issue TIN to Under Goods and Services entities that are otherwise not required a GST registration was taken by the GST council

tax payments while reducing sectors, respectively.

"Where a person is not liable to registration under the Act are payments while reducing the compliance burden on those who do not regularly engage in taxable activities.



in toll tax rates and misuse of the e-challan system. The charge handover and oath taking ceremony of the newly elected office bearers of AIMTC was held on Friday, where Amritlal Madan, President of

in its meeting last month. This would ensure smooth

officially passed on his responsibilities to the newly elected president Sabharwal and his team. AIMTC in a statement said some of the key issues that will be high on Sabharwal's agenda include abolition of border checkposts in the states especially in

the

outgoing AIMTC,



AIMTC urges government to address

challenges faced by transport sector

Maharashtra, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.

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

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

the government should constitute 'Drivers Samajik Suraksha Welfare Board' with representatives AÎMTC.

It also demanded that drivers

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and Ayushman Bharat Yojana.

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

January will be celebrated as 'National Drivers Day'.

In 1936, AIMTC was established as a non-political, not-for-profit apex body representing India's road transport sector in both cargo and passenger segments.

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

INBRIEF

AMPHENOL LAUNCHES TWO MADE-IN-INDIA TECH SOLUTIONS

Amphenol, a world leader in interconnect solutions for Communications, Mobile Consumer Products, RF, Optical **Broadband and Commercial electronics** markets, today ushered into the next era of sustainable technology solutions with the launch of DuraSwap Concentric Connectors and Type 6 Charging Gun solution designed and manufactured in India at the

country's premier battery technology showcase, the Bharat Battery Show 2025 organised under the aegis of Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. **WORKSHOP ON BEAUTY FOR BETTER LIFE**

and Career Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University in coordination
Life Long Learning Department
organised a workshop on the topic of
"Beauty for Better Life" under the
CSR of Loreal implemented by Naandi
Foundation - Mahindra Pride classroom. Workshop offered 40

AMRITSAR: Directorate of Placement

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

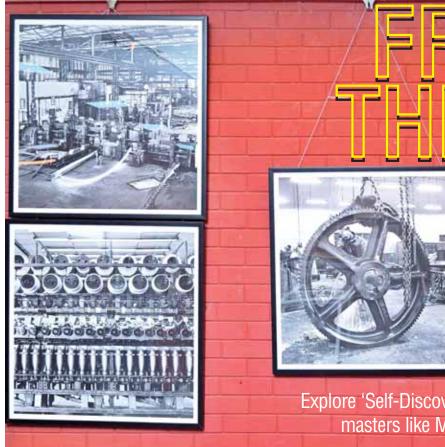
[ART & CULTURE] vivacity

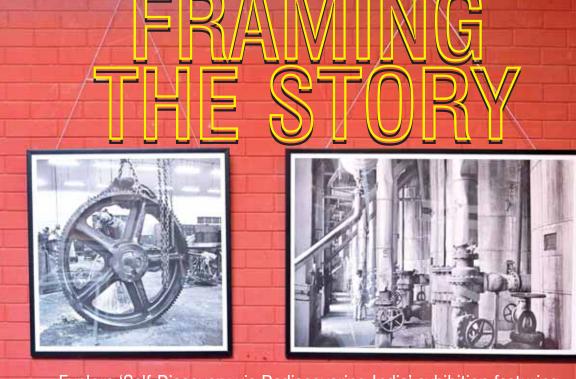


hotography has a way of preserving moments, not just in images but in emotions, in stories and in history. Stepping into the Self-Discovery via Rediscovering India exhibition, curated by Neville Tuli, feels like embarking on a personal journey through time. Hosted by the Tuli Research Centre for India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

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







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



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

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



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

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

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

PHOTOS: PANKAJ KUMAR



By SAKSHI PRIYA

hosted at STIR Gallery, Delhi, is an

ambitious exploration of how our built

environments intersect, clash and

coexist with nature. By using materials

like bricks, pigment, dust and LED

lights, Pravat creates pieces that feel like

echoes of urban landscapes, half-built,

half-ruined and wholly captivating. Walking into the gallery feels like

stepping into a suspended reality. The

sculptures and installations seem to

hold secrets, each fragment whispering

stories of cities in transition. Pravat's

work doesn't just replicate the urban

chaos and its beauty.

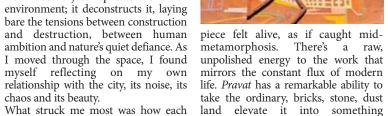
n Terraform, M. Pravat invites us to

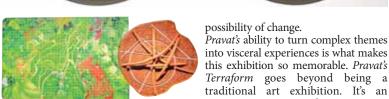
walk through a world that feels both familiar and unsettlingly fragmented. This solo exhibition,



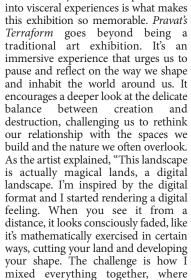








profound. The interplay of light and shadow adds another layer, creating moments that feel almost cinematic, as though you're watching the city breathe. But beneath the aesthetic appeal lies a deeper message. Terraform is a powerful commentary on the relentless pace of urbanisation and its cost to the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



contrast exists between the elements,

and people should think about why this

context has changed."



Steps of Serenity

By TEAM VIVA

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

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

A particularly emotional part of the performance was Saanson Ki Maala pe Simrun Main Pii Ka Naam, choreographed by Padma Bhushan Shri Raja Reddy, where Samaya beautifully expressed the spiritual dance, history and emotion. connection between two souls.

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

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

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



By TEAM VIVA

the National School of Drama (NSD) is set to host the 25th edition of Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) from 28 January to 16 February 2025, marking a significant milestone in its history as the world's largest theatre festival. For the first time, the festival will expand beyond India, with performances in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and Kathmandu, Nepal, alongside 11 Indian cities including Bengaluru, Jaipur and Ranchi. Themed One Expression, Supreme Creation, BRM 2025 will feature over 200 productions from nine countries, including Russia, Germany and Taiwan, creating a global platform for collaboration and cultural

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

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

NSD Director Shri Chittaranjan Tripathy said, "Bharat Rang Mahotsav has evolved into a global celebration of theatre, providing a platform to share and celebrate diverse creative expressions. With its expanded reach,



this year's festival sets a new benchmark."

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

anniversary and the Repertory's 60th year. With its unique blend of global outreach, inclusivity, and cultural immersion, BRM 2025 promises to be a landmark event in the world of theatre.





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

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

with Australian Pat
Cummins as its captain.
The team also had two New
Zealanders, including the
redoubtable Kane

Williamson. Cummins was the lone Australian to make the all-star XI.

magical in 2024, dominating every team and every batter he bowled to. He became the first bowler to average under 20 with a minimum of 200 wickets in Test cricket, solidifying his place in

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

series against Australia, which India lost 1-3. He began the year with a

stellar performance against England, taking 19 wickets in four matches, including a remarkable nine-wicket haul in Visakhapatnam. At home against Bangladesh, he further extended his tally with 11 wickets in just two

games. Although his outing against New Zealand was subdued, where he picked up three wickets, it was against Australia that Bumrah truly Bumrah was nothing short of magical in 2024, dominating of the greatest bowlers of all Jadeja, meanwhile, scored

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







amassing a staggering 712 runs. This included two double centuries and three fifties, showcasing his dominance.

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

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

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

Williamson was also one of the stand-out performers in 2024 as he accumulated 1,013 runs in 2024 at an outstanding average of 59.58, making him the sixth-highest run-scorer of the

Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis also figured in the team after his 1,049 runs in 2024 at an extraordinary average of

Cummins led his team to series victories against the West Indies, New Zealand, and most notably India. He took 37 wickets in 2024 at an average of 24.02 and scored 306 runs, averaging 23.53. ICC Test Team of the Year

Pat Cummins (c) (Australia), Yashasvi Jaiswal (India), Ben Duckett (England), Kane Williamson (New Zealand), Ioe Root (England), Harry Brook (England), Kamindu Mendis (Sri Lanka), Jamie Smith (wk) (England), Ravindra Jadeja (India), Matt Henry (New Zealand), Jasprit Bumrah (India).

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

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

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

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

At his news conference,

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

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

He was bidding for an 11th



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

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

The

Zverev reached his first title match at Melbourne Park and on Sunday will face the winner of Friday's second semifinal between number one Jannik Sinner of Italy, the defending champion, and number 21 Ben Shelton of the United States. Zverev, a 27-year-old German, is a two-time runner-up at other major tournaments, losing finals in five sets at the 2020 U.S. Open and 2024

"My goal is still to compete with the big guys and to compete for these kind of tournaments and try to win them," Zverev said.

French Open.

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

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

The only set of Djokovic vs.

Zverev lasted one hour, 21

minutes and included 19 points that lasted nine strokes or more apiece. The first four games alone lasted 31 minutes, slowed both by the lengthy baseline exchanges and Diokovic's deliberate pacing between points, taking the 25second serve clock down to -and occasionally slightly beyond - the full allotment. The match was grueling - and would have been even without dealing with a leg problem that initially became an issue late in

the first set against Alcaraz.

ICC women's ODI Team of the Year of ODI engagements for the hundred, Mandhana became



PTI DUBAI

Star batter Smriti Mandhana and all-rounder Deepti Sharma were on Friday named in the ICC women's ODI Team of the Year 2024 but none of their male counterparts found a place in the men's side that was dominated by Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Afghanistan. The women's all-star team

has three players from England, two Australians, two South Africans and one each from Sri Lanka and West Indies, besides the two Indians. South African batter Laura Wolvaardt, who scored 697 runs in 12 matches in 2024, was named captain of the ICC team.

The men were, however, absent from the ICC XI and that can be attributed to lack of ODI engagements for the country last year. India played only three ODIs -- an away series against Sri Lanka --, losing two of them while the third one ended in a tie. The 28-year-old Mandhana

accumulated 747 runs in 13 matches to be the highest run-scorer in women's ODIs in 2024. She is also in the running for the ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year award.

In the home series against South Africa, Mandhana was in sublime form, beginning with back-to-back centuries in the first two ODIs. She narrowly missed a third consecutive ton, falling for 90, though her remarkable tally of 343 runs in the series earned her the Player-of-the-Series award.

Mandhana had a shaky start in the first two ODIs against New Zealand in October, but ended the series on a high note with a brilliant century in the final match. With this

the most prolific century-maker for India in the Women's 50-over format. Deepti scored 186 runs and took 24 wickets in 13 matches

in a fine all-round show in

Sub-continent shines in Men's all-star line-up The men's all-star ODI team

announced by the ICC features four players from Sri Lanka, three each from Pakistan and Afghanistan and one from the West Indies. Sri Lanka captain Charith

Asalanka was named skipper of the ICC team as well for his stupendous batting through

In his 16 ODI appearances in 2024, Asalanka scored 605 runs at an average of 50.2 including a century and four

Sri Lanka played 18 ODIs in the year gone by, the highest among all teams, and won 12

U-19 Women's T20 World Cup: Pakistan, Indian GM P Iniyan Nepal win fourth place play-off matches

PTI ■ KUALA LUMPUR

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

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

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

Right-arm pacer Haniah then unsettled the Samoan batters, returning with excellent figures of 4/20, while Quratulain Ahsen (2/13) and from the early loss and folded took all three wickets.



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

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



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

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

wins title in Malaysia

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

▼ndian Grandmaster Iniyan Panneerselvam clinched the ninth Johor International Open chess tournament title in Malaysia with a dominating performance.
The 22-year-old from Erode

in Tamil Nadu accumulated 8.5 points in nine games. He finished 1.5 points ahead of his nearest rival, winning against four International Masters and one Grandmaster.

The nine-round tournament, which ended on Thursday, had 84 participants from eight countries, out of which 24 were titled players. In fact, at the end of the

penultimate round where he beat Indonesian IM Navaka Budhidharma, Iniyan had already secured the title as he



was 1.5 points ahead in the points table.

. Iniyan beat Vietnamese GM Nguyen Van Huy in the final round in an impressive performance.

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

Rohit Sharma shows some spark but falls for 28 on Ranji Trophy return

He pulled Umar Nazir for a trademark six, effortlessly lofted Auqib Nabi and Yudhvir Singh for a couple of more hits over the ropes to give a glimpse of his absolute best. But eventually, a fifty on Ranji comeback was not meant to be for India captain Rohit Sharma who fell for 28 here on Friday.
Playing his first game for

Mumbai in domestic red-ball cricket in nearly a decade, Rohit's first day on the field was a disaster with the 37year-old falling for a 19-ball 3 in the opening hour of the Ranji Trophy clash against Jammu Kashmir.

But on Friday, Rohit gave a far better account of himself to notch up a fluent 28, his best in first-class cricket since a 52 in the second innings of the Bengaluru Test against New Zealand last year.

It indeed has been that long for Rohit, who has since scored 0, 8, 18, 11, 3, 6, 3 and 9 in subsequent outings against New Zealand and Australia.

Back then in mid-October, India were cemented on top of the World Test Championship points table and the house was in complete order for the national side.

But it all came crumbling down following defeats to New Zealand and Australia which forced Indian superstars to play domestic cricket.

On Friday, he looked for a big one but it wasn't to happen. Rohit's knock of 28 was mixed with hits and misses in the initial stages, which all began with a tough dropped chance by Nazir in the fourth over sand two fours.

when he could not grab a return catch on his follow through.

Rohit immediately responded with a pull shot for a six over the square leg.
A thick outside edge then flew between the fielder at gully

and second slip, and on the final ball Rohit flashed hard and wide to put the ball away for another four on the off-

Dropped on one, Rohit had raced to 21 off 11 balls at one stage but he remained cautious mostly, even though there were a few times he was beaten.

With comparatively no moisture on the second day wicket here at the BKC, I&K bowlers also had to work hard to keep it tight but could not stop Rohit from freeing up his arms for a total of three sixes

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

PTI ■ CHENNAI

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

The 34-year-old was expected to feature in the first game and he was actively involved in the nets too, but his comeback was postponed possibly because the management

wanted to take a deeper look at his

readiness. However, India did not miss Shami much in Kolkata where pacer Arshdeep Singh, with the new ball, and spinner Varun Chakravarthy, in the middle phase, wrecked England, producing impressive spells. The Chepauk spin

The Eden pitch had enough help for both quicks and their slower colleagues but the corresponding 22yard trampoline here could offer more assistance to the spinners, as it often has been the case in the past. India would not be complaining whatever be the nature of the track. The home side boasts of quality and variety in a line-up consisting Varun, vice-captain Axar Patel and Ravi Bishnoi.

From England's perspective, they would require much better



contributions from experienced spinners Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone to challenge the Indians.

Apart from pacer Jofra Archer, none of the other English bowlers could survive the onslaught of Abhishek Sharma and the mini cameo of Sanju Samson in the first match. Sanju-Abhishek pair on

Since coming together in the T20Is last year, Samson and Abhishek have had considerable success, often giving India a flying start. The desired doublebarrel firing has been occasional, but at least one of them has produced the goods rather consistently. In Kolkata, Abhishek hurt England with a brutal knock, striking at over

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

They also offer that rare right-handleft-hand combination at the top. Here too, the Indian openers will have to give their side a solid start considering the tricky nature of the

England too will hope for a fiery start from their openers to clinch early momentum, as Phil Salt and Ben Duckett jointly made just four runs off seven balls.

Time for Surya to shine

It's not a matter of grave concern yet but skipper Suryakumar Yadav will be mindful of the fact that he has just two fifties in the previous 11 innings after the T20 World Cup final last

Further distilled, the stats will show that he has made no significant contributions in the last three matches, including a three-ball duck at Kolkata.

But such things often get papered over when the team is on a roll as the reigning T20 World Champions have steamrolled Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and South Africa in their last three assignments.

But he would not want to miss the party for long and will be eyeing a fruitful outing here.

Team combination India might not ring in many major not recover in time.

changes considering the series is just one-match old, and if Shami is indeed fit to make his international comeback since the 2023 World Cup final, then Nitish Kumar Reddy could make way for him.

Chepauk pitch, two-time world champions England might look to reinforce the spin department, adding young leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed. The visitors have made one like-

Keeping in mind the character of

for-like change to the side by bringing in right-arm pacer Brydon Carse for Gus Atkinson. They have also added another wicketkeeper -- Jamie Smith- to the 12-player squad. His addition has been forced by

Jacob Bethell's illness. He might make the playing XI if Bethell does

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