

Balochis take on Pak army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Karachi/Islamabad

Security forces rescued 190 passengers from a hijacked train, killing 30 Baloch militants in Pakistan's restive Balochistan, as they continued to battle heavily-armed insurgents for a second day on Wednesday.

The Jaffar Express, carrying some 400 passengers in nine coaches, was going from Quetta to Peshawar when militants derailed it using explosives and hijacked it.

The Baloch Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack on Tuesday when they said they killed six soldiers. However, there has been no confirmation from the Pakistani authorities on casualties.

The security forces, including the military and frontier corps, are battling the militants who took control of the train near the mountainous terrain of Gudalur and Piru Kunri in a tunnel 160 kilometres from Quetta.

The Balochistan government spokesman, Shahid Rind, said the operation would continue until all passengers were rescued. Rind said extra care was being taken by the security forces because of the hostage situation.

Officials said that some of the militants wearing vests loaded with explosives had formed groups of women and children and forced them to sit near them. Due to the presence of women and children with the suicide bombers, the operation was being conducted with utmost caution, they added.

A security source said that 30 militants had been killed so far in the clean-up and rescue operation, while 190 passengers have been rescued. Around 30 people who sustained injuries had been sent to hospitals. He said two drivers in the main engine and eight security personnel were killed during the operation.

This is the first time the BLA or any insurgent group in the Balochistan province have resorted to hijacking a passenger train, although in the last year, they have stepped up their attacks on securi-



A paramilitary soldier takes position at a railway station near the attack site of a passenger train by insurgents in Mushkaf in Bolan district of Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province

ty forces, installations and foreigners in different parts of the province.

The security source said it was not yet clear how many militants were involved in the attack, but some of them were using satellite phones to remain in touch with their handlers.

The Pakistan Railways have set up an emergency desk at the Peshawar and Quetta Railway stations as frantic relatives and friends try to get some information about their loved ones on the train. Pakistan Railways had resumed train services to Peshawar from Quetta after a suspension of more than a month and a half.

The Pakistan media earlier reported intense firing and explosion near the tunnel, where the militants hijacked the train.

The insurgents claimed that they freed women and children. However, their claim was contested by officials, with Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry saying the hostages were rescued by the security forces.

Rana Muhammad Dilwar, a district police officer in the area where the train was stopped, said the security forces had surrounded the area, but there were reports that the militants had taken some women and children as hostages.

There were around four to five government officials on the train, he added.

Tariq Mahmood, a senior official of Peshawar Railway Station, said that people should not pay heed to rumours on social media.

Balochistan has witnessed an uptick in terrorist attacks over the past year. In the past, the railway tracks in this area have been attacked by Baloch militants using rockets or remote-controlled bombs, and the BLA claimed responsibility for most of the attacks.

In October last year, Pakistan Railways announced the restoration of train services between Quetta and Peshawar after a suspension of more than a month and a half. A month later, at least 26 people were killed and 62 injured after a suicide blast ripped through a Quetta Railway Station.

Balochistan, bordering Iran and Afghanistan, is home to a long-running violent insurgency. Baloch insurgent groups frequently carry out attacks targeting security personnel, government projects and the USD 60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects in the oil and mineral-rich province.

BJP sweeps Haryana local polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chandigarh

Less than six months after scoring a hat-trick of wins in Haryana Assembly elections, the ruling BJP swept the civic polls in the state on Wednesday, bagging nine of the 10 mayoral seats. In the outgoing municipal corporations, BJP had its mayors in seven civic bodies. Congress, which was looking to turn around its electoral fortunes after suffering a defeat in the 2024 Assembly polls, failed to open its account. The party lost in Sonapat, where it had its mayor, and Rohtak, considered a stronghold of its stalwart and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Independent candidate Inderjeet Yadav was the only non-BJP nominee to win a mayoral seat. She was elected from Manesar, where municipal elections were held for the first time. Celebrations erupted in the BJP camp after the results, with party leaders in Chandigarh and many districts distributing sweets. There were early Holi festivities as jubilant BJP members applied 'gula' (colour) to each other.

After the results, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said people have put their stamp of approval on the works and policies of the BJP government and formed a "triple-

TRIPLE ENGINED SARKAR	
MUNICIPALITY	MAYOR
● Sonapat	Rajiv Jain (BJP)
● Gurugram	Raj Rani (BJP)
● Faridabad	Praveen Joshi (BJP)
● Hisar	Praveen Popli (BJP)
● Rohtak	Ram Avtar (BJP)
● Karnal	Renu Bala (BJP)
● Yamunanagar	Suman (BJP)
● Ambala	Shailja Sachdeva (BJP)
● Panipat	Komal Saini (BJP)
● Manesar	Inderjeet Yadav (Independ)

engine government" which will work at a fast pace to realise the resolve of "developed Haryana-developed India".

Polls to elect mayors and ward members in seven municipal corporations — Gurugram, Manesar, Faridabad, Hisar, Rohtak, Karnal and Yamunanagar — were held on March 2. The bypolls for the mayoral posts in Ambala and Sonapat and the elections for presidents and ward members in 21 municipal committees were also held that day.

The results have dealt another blow to the

Congress which saw workers and leaders in districts switching over to the BJP ahead of the elections. The party state unit has been, in the past, plagued with infighting and factionalism unlike the BJP, which has a well-organised and strong organisational structure at the grassroots level.

Saini said people have put their stamp of approval on the works and policies of the BJP government. The "triple engine government", a reference to the saffron party being in power at the Centre, in the state as well as in the civic bodies, will undertake development at three times fast pace to realise the resolve of a "Viksit Haryana-Viksit Bharat", he told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing State Assembly session. "The results prove that people of Haryana want development and they have given their vote for good governance," Saini said.

In Manesar, Independent candidate Inderjeet Yadav defeated her nearest BJP rival Sunder Lal by a margin of 2,293 votes to become the corporation's first-ever mayor. Nikhil Madaan was the outgoing Sonapat mayor and a Congress leader. Ahead of the 2024 Assembly polls, he joined the BJP and won the Sonapat Assembly seat. Senior BJP leader Rajiv Jain won from Sonapat this time.

Delhi under reporting pollution: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Fine particulate matter could be absorbing moisture from Delhi's humid air during winters, which could result in an underestimation of the city's PM10 pollution by up to 20 per cent, according to a new study.

Researchers, including those from the University of Birmingham, UK, explained that the swelling of fine particulate matter by absorbing water from the humid air — hygroscopic growth — reduces the efficiency of sampling devices, possibly leading to underestimation.

The study, published in the journal NPJ Clean Air, "fills in the gap in the understanding of PM10 pollution in the most polluted megacity in the world."

New Delhi remained the world's most polluted capital city, according to the 2024 World Air Quality report by IQAir, a Swiss organisation.

PM10 particles, sized under a micron in diameter, are especially dangerous as they can penetrate lung tissue and enter the bloodstream, IQAir explains.

Study author Ying Chen, from the University of Birmingham, said, "When carrying out air quality assessments, it is crucial to consider hygroscopic growth and the potential for significant underestimation of pollution levels in humid conditions."

The greatest underestimates in pollution levels occur during the rush hours of winter mornings in December-January, when humidity is at its peak and

pollution is most severe, the researchers said.

"The underestimate can be up to 20 percent (or 50 micrograms per cubic meter) of PM10 concentration on average during humid winter morning rush hours," they wrote.

In contrast, pollution estimates during the monsoon season show negligible bias, as the swollen pollutant particles are washed out by heavy rainfall, the team added.

Controlling emissions from biomass burning and residential sources — which contain highly hygroscopic chlorine particles — could effectively improve air quality and reduce this bias, thereby helping improve how air quality is understood, the study suggested.

MP Budget 2025-26: Record Rs 4.21L Crore outlay with no new taxes

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

On March 12, 2025, the Madhya Pradesh government presented a Rs 4.21 lakh crore budget for the fiscal year 2025-26, marking a 15% increase over the previous fiscal year. This substantial rise reflects the state's accelerated development, with Chief Minister Mohan Yadav emphasizing that the budget has grown 21 times since 2003. He asserted that the increased outlay demonstrates the government's commitment to advancing infrastructure, welfare, and economic development.

Focus on 'GYAN' Framework and Welfare Schemes

Finance Minister Jagdish Devda, while presenting the budget, highlighted that the proposals align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'GYAN' framework—focusing on Garib (the poor), Yuva (youth), Annadaata (farmers), and Nari (women). Under this framework, the government has allocated substantial resources to welfare schemes designed to benefit the state's most vulnerable populations.

A major highlight of the budget is the extension of the popular Ladli Behna Yojana, which provides financial assistance to women. The scheme will now be linked to a pension program, ensuring long-term economic security for women across the state. Additionally, the government has promised significant support for the agricultural sector, including bonuses on wheat and paddy procurement over and above the minimum support price (MSP). This initiative aims to provide financial relief to farmers and bolster rural incomes. **2025 Declared as the 'Year of Industry'** In a bid to promote economic growth and industrial development, the government

has declared 2025 as the 'Year of Industry'. Finance Minister Devda outlined a comprehensive strategy to boost investments, promote micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and encourage startup ventures. The budget also introduces new industrial policies and incentives aimed at attracting businesses to the state, fostering job creation, and strengthening the manufacturing ecosystem.

To support this vision, the government has earmarked significant funds for the development of industrial infrastructure. These allocations will facilitate the creation of industrial parks, ease of doing business initiatives, and support for innovation hubs to position Madhya Pradesh as a key player in the national and global industrial landscape.

Massive Push for Infrastructure and Tourism Development

Infrastructure development remains a focal point of the 2025-26 budget, with extensive investments planned for roads, highways, and urban projects. The government aims to improve connectivity across the state through the construction and maintenance of national and state highways. In addition, significant funding has been allocated for the expansion of the Smart Cities Mission, with an emphasis on enhancing urban amenities and digital infrastructure. Recognizing the state's cultural and natural heritage, the budget also prioritizes tourism development. Specific allocations have been made for heritage tourism, eco-tourism, and religious tourism, with the goal of increasing tourist footfall and driving economic growth. The government has outlined plans to promote Madhya Pradesh as a premier destination through improved infrastructure and targeted marketing campaigns.

Ukraine says it is open to 30 day ceasefire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jeddah

The Trump administration lifted its suspension of military aid and intelligence sharing for Ukraine, and Kyiv signaled that it was open to a 30-day ceasefire in the war with Russia, pending Moscow's agreement, American and Ukrainian officials said Tuesday following talks in Saudi Arabia.

The administration imposed the measures a week ago to push Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to enter talks to end the war with invading Russian forces.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the US would present the ceasefire offer to the Kremlin.

"We're going to tell them this is what's on the table. Ukraine is ready to stop shooting and start talking. And now it'll be up to them to say yes or no," Rubio said. "If they say no, then we'll unfortunately know what the impediment is to peace here."

National security adviser Mike Waltz added: "The Ukrainian delegation today made something very clear, that they share President Trump's vision for peace."

Waltz said negotiators "got into substantive details on how this war is going to permanently end," including long-term security guarantees.

The announcements emerged as senior officials from Ukraine and the United States opened talks in Saudi Arabia focused on ending Moscow's three-year war against Kyiv. The discussions started only hours after Russia shot down over 300 Ukrainian drones. It was Ukraine's biggest attack since the Kremlin ordered the full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

President Donald Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, is expected to travel later this week to Moscow, where he could meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to a person familiar with the matter but not authorized to comment publicly. The person cautioned that scheduling could change.

Earlier in the day, journalists were briefly allowed in a room where a senior Ukrainian delegation met with Rubio, who smiled at the cameras and when asked about his expectations for the meeting, gave a thumbs-up and replied, "Good."

Across the table, Ukrainian officials, including the country's top diplomat and defence chief, showed no facial expressions as the meeting got underway at a luxury hotel. However, Ukrainian presidential aide Andriy Yermak told reporters that the most important thing was "how to achieve a just and lasting peace in Ukraine."

CM seeks margdarshan



CM meets former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani

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MP Budget 2025-26 aims at rapid economic growth: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has asserted that Madhya Pradesh is making rapid strides in development and public welfare through well-structured plans that cater to all sections of society, including rural communities and the underprivileged. He emphasized that the state government is working towards a "Developed Madhya Pradesh," in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047. The recently presented budget for the fiscal year 2025-26 is seen as a significant milestone in realizing this goal. On March 12, 2025, the Madhya Pradesh government presented its largest-ever budget of Rs 4,21,032 crore, reflecting a 15% increase over the previous fiscal year. Despite the substantial rise in expenditure, the govern-

ment has not introduced any new taxes or implemented budget cuts. Addressing the media at the State Assembly premises, Chief Minister Yadav highlighted the inclusive and forward-looking nature of the budget, which aims to accelerate the state's progress across key sectors. Yadav revealed that as soon as the new government was formed, a target was set to double the state's budget within five years while simultaneously aiming to double the state's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) by 2029. He underscored that the 2025-26 budget marks a decisive step in this direction, prioritizing the welfare of farmers, women, youth, and the poor. The Chief Minister pointed out that Madhya Pradesh's budget, which stood at just Rs 20,000 crore in 2003-04, has now expanded 21 times to Rs

4,21,032 crore—an indicator of the state's dynamic economic growth trajectory. Praising Finance and Deputy Chief Minister Shri Jagdish Deora for presenting an inclusive and visionary budget, Dr. Yadav stated that the 2025-26 financial plan reflects the aspirations of Madhya Pradesh's citizens and lays a strong foundation for the state's ambitious goal of becoming a \$2 trillion economy by 2047 (approximately Rs 250 lakh crore). He described the budget as a transformative document aimed at enhancing prosperity, empowerment, and infrastructure development, while fostering long-term economic sustainability. The 2025-26 budget maintains the estimated fiscal deficit within 4% of the GSDP, reflecting a prudent approach to fiscal management while pursuing

ambitious growth targets. Total revenue receipts for the year are estimated at Rs 2,90,879 crore, comprising Rs 1,09,157 crore from state taxes, Rs 1,11,662 crore as Madhya Pradesh's share of central taxes, Rs 21,399 crore from non-tax revenue, and Rs 48,661 crore from central grants. The budget projects a 7% increase in state tax revenue compared to the 2024-25 estimates, while capital expenditure for long-term infrastructure development has risen by 31%, underscoring the government's commitment to improving public facilities and economic foundations. A significant portion of the budget is directed toward infrastructure projects, including Rs 2,005 crore for preparations for the Simhashta-2028 religious gathering. Other major allocations include Rs 100 crore each for the Geeta

Bhavan and Vrindavan Gram Yojana, Rs 10 crore for the Shri Krishna Pathway initiative, Rs 100 crore under the Majra-Tola Road Scheme to enhance rural connectivity, and Rs 80 crore to improve transportation services across the state. In the sphere of women's empowerment and social welfare, the Madhya Pradesh government has made substantial commitments. The gender budget has doubled over the past six years, with Rs 18,669 crore allocated to the Ladli Behna Yojana, a flagship scheme for women's welfare. Additionally, ₹1,183 crore has been set aside for the Ladli Laxmi Yojana, which focuses on supporting the education and well-being of girl children, while Rs 720 crore is allocated for maternity assistance under the Mukhyamantri Shramik Seva initiative.



Madhya Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Jagdish Dewda presents the annual budget 2025-26 in the House during the budget session of Madhya Pradesh State Assembly, in Bhopal on Wednesday. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav also seen in pic. Pioneer photo

SISTec opens Centre of Excellence in data analytics

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Sagar Institute of Science and Technology (SISTec) achieved a significant milestone with the inauguration of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Data Analytics at its Ratibad Campus. With this addition, SISTec now boasts six Centres of Excellence across its campuses, enhancing its commitment to industry-oriented education and research. The Centre of Excellence is supported by Lumeneore and Netlink Software Pvt. Ltd. and was inaugurated virtually by Anurag Shrivastava, CEO & Founder of Netlink Software Pvt. Ltd., Vinit Jindal, EVP & Coach at Netlink Software Pvt. Ltd., and Saurabh Mishra, Vice President of Lumeneore, Netlink Software Pvt. Ltd. The event was graced by Siddharth Agrawal, Managing Director

of Sagar Group, Dr. Jyoti Deshmukh, Group Director SISTec, and Dr. Manish Billore, Principal SISTec-R. The Centre of Excellence in Data Analytics aims to provide SISTec students with research-driven learning, industry collaboration, and hands-on experience in cutting-edge technologies. It will focus on real-world problem-solving skills, industry exposure, and shaping students into future-ready professionals, fostering an innovative learning environment. Speaking at the launch, Anurag Shrivastava emphasized the growing importance of data in modern decision-making. He remarked, "Data is like oxygen for companies. Filtering and analyzing relevant data accelerates decision-making. I am confident that this Centre of Excellence will equip students with advanced skills, empow-

ering them to develop innovative tools and technologies using AI." Siddharth Agrawal, Managing Director of Sagar Group, reaffirmed SISTec's commitment to bridging the gap between academia and industry. He stated, "SISTec remains dedicated to skilling students through industry integration and academic excellence. We will continue to foster innovation and practical learning." During the event, Priyanka Bhatle, Head of the Computer Science Engineering - Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Department, shared the vision and objectives of the Centre of Excellence. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ajit Shrivastava, Department Head, who expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for their unwavering support in realizing this initiative.

Complete Simhashta management works by June 2027

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav has said that Simhashta-2028 is a significant religious event for Madhya Pradesh. Millions of devotees are expected to visit Ujjain during Simhashta. Comprehensive arrangements should be ensured so that every devotee can participate in the sacred rituals without any inconvenience. Drawing lessons from previous Simhashta events, meticulous planning and micro-level preparations should begin now to ensure a well-organized and systematic event. Yadav was addressing a gathering at Samatva Bhavan in the Chief Minister's residence on Wednesday while presiding over a meeting focused on the planned organization of

Simhashta-2028, taking into account the experiences from previous Simhashta events. He emphasized that all arrangements and management-related works for Simhashta should ideally be completed before June 2027. This will allow sufficient time to address any remaining gaps and further enhance the preparations. Urban Development and Housing and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kailash Vijayvargya, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge) Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, Additional Chief Secretary in Chief Minister's Office. Rajesh Rajoura, Additional Chief Secretary Home JN Kansotia, Additional Chief Secretary Urban Development and Housing Sanjay Kumar Shukla, Director General of Police

Kailash Makwana, Additional Chief Secretaries of other departments related to the arrangements of Simhashta, Principal Secretaries, Secretary and Commissioner Public Relations Dr. Sudam Khade and other officers were present in the meeting. Yadav emphasized that all approved works related to the arrangements and management of Simhashta-2028 must be completed by June 2027. He directed that a monthly progress report of the ongoing projects should be reviewed to ensure there are no shortcomings in the management. All approved works should commence and be completed within the designated timeframe. He further noted that with the establishment of Mahakal Lok, the number of devotees visiting Ujjain has significantly increased.

Newborn's body found abandoned

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The body of a newborn child was found abandoned in a polythene bag near the culvert of Data Colony on Airport Road, Bhopal. The infant's body was wrapped in cloth and placed inside the bag, raising concerns about the circumstances surrounding the tragic discovery. According to reports, the incident came to light around 12 noon on Wednesday when Municipal Corporation employee Ramdin noticed the polythene bag near the wheel of a Municipal Corporation vehicle while cleaning the area. Upon closer inspection, the body of the newborn was found inside. Local residents were immediately informed, leading to a large crowd gathering at the scene. Subsequently, the police were

alerted. Following the information, a Dial-100 police team arrived at the spot and took the body into their custody. The body has been sent to the mortuary at Hamidia Hospital for post-mortem examination. Initial observations suggest that the child was born one to two days ago. Police officials stated that no identification marks, hospital seals, or chits were found on the body to indicate where the child was born. To identify the person responsible for abandoning the newborn, authorities are reviewing CCTV footage from the surrounding area. "The exact cause of death will only be confirmed after the postmortem report is received. We are scanning the CCTV cameras nearby to identify those involved," a police official said.



NSUI medical wing activists with nursing students march towards the state assembly during a demonstration demanding to conduct exams and scholarship for the students, including several other demands, during the budget session of the MP State Assembly in Bhopal on Wednesday. Pioneer photo

Madhya Pradesh police on high alert ahead of Holi amid Mhow violence

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

In the wake of recent violence during cricket victory celebrations in Mhow, the police administration across Madhya Pradesh is on high alert to ensure peace during the upcoming Holi festival. More than 3,000 police personnel will be deployed in Bhopal, while around 2,000 officers will be stationed in Gwalior and Indore to maintain law and order. Special security measures have been implemented, including drone surveillance in sensitive areas of Gwalior city. Police will take strict action against those driving under the influence of alcohol, and sound systems playing DJs without proper permission will be confiscated. Preparations are underway across major cities such as Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Bhopal, Ujjain, and other districts. In Jabalpur, Inspector General (IG) Anil Singh Kushwaha convened a meeting with police officials, instructing

them to remain vigilant and prevent any untoward incidents. Sensitive areas like Gohalpur, Hanumantal, and Aadhartal will have a heavy police presence from Thursday. Special strategies have been formulated to manage Holi processions and Friday prayers to avoid conflict. In some areas, the routes of the Holi processions have been altered to maintain public order, and IG Kushwaha will personally monitor the situation. In Bhopal, authorities have identified 45 highly sensitive points. Over the next 48 hours, three and a half thousand police personnel will be deployed throughout the city, supported by five additional mobile vans patrolling all police station areas. Meetings with city security committees have been ongoing for the past two weeks, with community leaders assisting police in maintaining peace. Indore is also stepping up its security measures. Additional Police Commissioner Amit Singh confirmed that alongside

the regular police force, 1,000 personnel from the District Reserve Police (DRP) line and 500 members of the city security committee will be on duty. Around 250 members from the Mohalla Committees have also been mobilized to assist with security arrangements. All police zones and traffic units are on high alert, with meetings being conducted regularly to coordinate efforts. Gwalior Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Dharmveer Singh stated that approximately 2,000 police personnel would oversee the city's security. Drone surveillance will be conducted in sensitive areas, and over 100 mobile units, along with traffic police, will monitor major intersections and roads to prevent drunk driving. Checkpoints will be set up at strategic locations to slow down vehicles and facilitate inspections. Individuals found engaging in suspicious activities or creating disturbances will be detained until after the festival. Strict action will be taken against

those carrying more than three passengers on two-wheelers and drunk drivers. In addition, the Gwalior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) urged residents to celebrate Holi responsibly and with mutual respect. He emphasized the need to keep noise levels within permissible limits, especially as school examinations are ongoing. The use of DJs is strictly prohibited without prior permission, and violators will face confiscation of equipment and registration of an FIR. To enforce these measures, a team comprising the Tehsildar, officials from the Pollution Control Board, and police personnel has been tasked with monitoring sound levels and ensuring compliance with regulations. The Madhya Pradesh police administration remains committed to ensuring a safe and peaceful Holi celebration while taking stringent action against any attempts to disrupt public harmony.

JUET celebrates National Science Day 2025 with enthusiasm

PNS ■ Guna

Jaypee University of Engineering and Technology (JUET), Guna, celebrated "National Science Day 2025" from February 27 to March 5, 2025, honoring the legacy of Dr. C.V. Raman. The week-long event, themed "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for Viksit Bharat," aimed to foster scientific temper and innovation among students through a series of lectures, competitions, and exhibitions. The festival was inaugurated by Dr. S.C. Sharma from IIT Roorkee, who engaged with B.Tech students, offering valuable insights and encouraging scientific exploration. Distinguished speakers such as Prof. Prasanta K. Jana (HAG) from IIT-ISM Dhanbad, Dr. Punya Prasanna Paltani from IIT Raipur, and Dr. Nishat Gupta (MBBS) delivered lectures on emerging trends in modern science, enriching the participants' knowledge. A Science Project Model Exhibition and Quiz Competition on "Sustainable Science" were key attractions, encouraging students to show-

case their innovative ideas and scientific understanding. The leadership of Vice-Chancellor Prof. D.K. Rai and Registrar Dr. Sanjay Mishra ensured the event's smooth execution, with significant contributions from Conveners Dr. P.S. Banerjee and Dr. Deepak Sharma, along with organizing faculty and student volunteers. In the Science Project Exhibition, Abhay Tiwari, Khushi Sharma, and Pal Mehta emerged as winners for their outstanding projects. In the Quiz Competition, Arya Mishra, Priyanshi Mishra, and Shubham secured the top positions, showcasing their scientific acumen. The event was catalyzed and supported by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), DST, GOI, New Delhi, and the M.P. Council of Science and Technology (MPCST), Bhopal, with participation from over 300 students. The festival concluded on a high note, reinforcing JUET's commitment to promoting scientific innovation and academic excellence, while inspiring the next generation of scientists and innovators.

STF cracks down on wildlife smuggling

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Special Director General of Police, MP STF, Pankaj Shrivastava has given instructions to take effective action against the gangs involved in hunting wild animals and trading in their organs for the protection of wild animals. In compliance with this, a team of 06 members was formed under the leadership of Deputy Superintendent of Police, Unit Incharge, STF Gwalior, Sanjeev Kumar Tiwari, under the guidance of Superintendent of Police, STF Gwalior, Rajesh Singh Bhadauria. On 11 March 2025, based on accurate information from an informer, a joint team of the above STF team and State Tiger Striker Force Unit Shivpuri detained Rishikesh Meena father Devial Meena, of Karauli, Rajasthan and Sakhi Adivasi of Sheopor with a Bolero vehicle number MP-06-BA-0660 near the bus stand Sheopor and recovered 11 horns (Deer), a wild live rabbit along with the Bolero vehicle from their possession. Further action is being taken by the General Forest Division, District Sheopor.

MBBS second year student commits suicide in rented flat on Kolar Road

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

A second year MBBS student of a private college committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at Drishti City in Kolar area of Bhopal, three hours before her death, she had met her parents and told them that she had got a day off and did not want to go home and would celebrate Holi in Bhopal. Her body was found in the flat on Tuesday night. The body was handed over to the family after the postmortem on Wednesday afternoon. The police have registered a case and started the investigation. SI Joginder Negi said that Rimjhim Srivastava (21), was from Ujjain. She was a second year MBBS student. When she did not pick up the phone despite calling several times on Tuesday night, her friends reached the flat to check on her well being. They knocked on the door but got no response. When they broke the door and went inside, they found her hanging from the noose. The friends immediately informed the police. The police reached the spot, recovered the body and sealed the spot. No suicide note has been found so far.

Even the family or friends are unable to give any concrete reason for Rimjhim's suicide. Her father Sanjay Srivastava said that Rimjhim has his only daughter. She was a topper in studies. Last year, she got third rank in the entire college in the first year. There was no pressure of studies on the daughter. She was living in Bhopal for one and a half years. He said that he is a DCM in a pharma company and he came to Bhopal on Tuesday in connection with a meeting. Since we were staying in a hotel, my wife also came along so that I could meet my daughter. "After the meeting, I called her to the hotel itself. She was absolutely normal during the conversation. I had asked my daughter to go to Ujjain on Holi, but she said that she has got only one day's leave, so she will not be able to go home and will celebrate Holi in Bhopal itself. We left for Ujjain at 7 pm. When we reached near Sonkachh, we got a call that the daughter has committed suicide," he added. Rimjhim's uncle SP Srivastava said that three friends of Rimjhim were continuously calling her. When she did not pick up the phone, they reached her house and found out about the death there.



Holi Milan function was organized with great enthusiasm in BHEL Ladies Club on Tuesday. President of Ladies Club Sangeta Ramanathan attended the program as the chief guest and wished everyone a Happy Holi. Vice President of the club, Manita Chandra, Secretary, Swati Baghel, Treasurer, Vrishali Paradkar, Manju Shauri and executives of all centers and all the members of the club were also present on this occasion. Pioneer photo

Budget 2025-26 dedicated to women's prosperity: Bhuria

Bhopal: Women and Child Development Minister Nirmala Bhuria described the budget presented by Deputy Chief Minister Jagdish Dewda on Wednesday as a commitment to women's prosperity. She stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, a budget of Rs 27,147 crore has been allocated for Women and Child

Development for the financial year 2025-26. Bhuria emphasized that the government has prioritized the holistic development of women by embracing the spirit of "Yatra Nariyastu Pujyante, Ramante Tatra Devata", which translates to "Where women are honored, divinity prevails." She further mentioned that this year's budget

focuses on the welfare of the poor, youth empowerment, farmers, and women empowerment. Bhuria highlighted that Rs 18,669 crore has been allocated for the "Mukhyamantri Ladli Behna Yojana", aimed at enhancing women's economic independence, health, nutrition, and decision-making roles within families.

CM launches citizen survey for MP vision document

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday evening launched the citizen survey for the developed Madhya Pradesh vision document...

developed Madhya Pradesh @ 2047. It is our endeavour that this vision document should not be just a document of the government but a document of the public...

Samvad programmes. More than 2.5 lakh citizens have ensured their participation in this process. In this episode, the Citizen Survey is being launched today...

Developed Madhya Pradesh @2047 Vision Document. One can participate in this survey through the Commission's website https://mprna.mp.gov.in/vision...

vision for a Developed Madhya Pradesh @2047 - a large and diversified economy that provides the highest quality of life to all residents...



Leader of Opposition Umang Singhar with party MLAs during a demonstration against the state government over increasing debt on the state...



Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav pays tributes to the mortal remains of senior BJP leader and former BJP MLA Surendra Nath Singh...

Dhar, Vidisha, Balaghat Collectors shortlisted for PM Excellence Award

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The collectors of Dhar, Vidisha, and Balaghat districts in Madhya Pradesh—Priyank Mishra, Roshan Kumar Singh, and Mrinal Meena...

uated by the screening committee for the 2024 Prime Minister Excellence Award. The Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration...

Indian Army hosts AMSB Seminar 2024-25 on AI integration

PNS ■ Mhow

The Army Management Studies Board (AMSB) Seminar 2024-25 was held at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow...

developing and deploying AI-enabled capabilities within the armed forces. He stressed the importance of fostering innovation and establishing a robust AI ecosystem...

potential in operational logistics and human resource management, exploring how predictive logistics and AI-driven military healthcare could improve efficiency...

Budget is betrayal of students, youth: NSUI

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Reacting strongly to the Madhya Pradesh government's 2025 budget, NSUI's national spokesperson Viraj Yadav termed it a betrayal of students and the youth...

leged students in the state are struggling to receive their scholarships, but the government has chosen to remain silent on this serious matter. What happened to the right to education?

Mayor joins residents in celebrating backlane transformation

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Mayor Malti Rai visited backlanes in Shweta Complex and Ravi Shankar Nagar on Wednesday to join residents as they celebrated the transformation with games and community activities...

once avoided due to filth are now being used for social gatherings and recreational activities, fostering a sense of community among residents. During her visit, Mayor Rai joined residents in a friendly badminton match...

contribute through active feedback and participation, she also directed officials to enhance backlane maintenance and ensure their long-term upkeep. The Swachh Survekshan—a nationwide sanitation audit of urban areas—makes it mandatory for civic bodies to enhance garbage collection and disposal...

New flyovers, roads, Metro boost for Bhopal in Budget

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday approved major infrastructure projects for the state capital, including three flyovers, 38 new roads, and metro expansion...

A 780-metre, Rs 53 cr flyover at Vyapam Square will provide relief to commuters between Board Office and New Market. A 780-metre, Rs 53 crore flyover at Vyapam Square will provide relief to commuters between Board Office and New Market...

crore allocation for metro projects in Bhopal and Indore. The Blue Line (Bhadbhada to Ratnagiri) will soon see construction, significantly improving public transport in the city. Beyond transport, the budget includes a Rs 20 crore swimming pool and auditorium in Bag Sewaniya...

MKVCL advisory on safe Holika Dahan

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

The Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitanan Company (MKVCL) on Wednesday urged consumers to prioritise electrical safety while celebrating Holi. The company warned against lighting Holika Dahan bonfires near electric poles...

Shopkeepers setting up stalls for sweets, idols, colours, and other Holi-related items have also been advised to arrange temporary electricity connections as per regulations. The company has emphasised that these stalls must be positioned at a safe distance from transformers and overhead power lines...

MP achieves milestone in wildlife conservation

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Madhya Pradesh has reached a significant milestone in wildlife conservation by declaring Madhav National Park in Shivpuri as the state's 9th Tiger Reserve. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while announcing the establishment of India's 58th and Madhya Pradesh's 9th Tiger Reserve...

Table with columns: Sr. No., Loan Account Number, Borrower's Name, Outstanding Amount as on 6th March 2025, Date of Sale Notice. Lists various borrowers and their loan details.

Wedded bliss, bureaucratic abyss: Couples struggle with registrations

KISHAN SINGH RANA ■ Bhopal

Marriage registration is a bureaucratic ordeal for many couples, plagued by endless paperwork, contradictory requirements, and unresponsive officials, leaving newlyweds frustrated. The process, in theory, is simple—pay a small fee online, submit required documents, and receive the certificate. However, reality often presents a different picture...

The Marriage Act of 2008 mandates that couples must register their marriage within 21 days of the ceremony. The municipal office demanded a marriage certificate, but when he approached the Aadhara office to update his wife's address—an essential step in the process—officials again required a marriage certificate first. This paradox is reminiscent of the SIM card-Aadhara dilemma...

end up paying fines simply because of administrative inefficiencies rather than their own negligence. For Muslim couples, the process is even more complex. The Nikah Naama issued by a Qazi is valid in religious and legal proceedings but does not replace government registration. Many within the Muslim community complain that obtaining any government certificate is time-consuming and requires immense patience...

ing a passport, crucial for couples planning to move abroad. Many grooms avoid registration and leave the country, sometimes marrying again. In such cases, if the wife files for divorce, the court issues a summons to the husband. If he fails to appear, the wife may be granted a direct divorce in his absence. Every year, over 10 million marriages take place in India, yet there is no specific data for Bhopal or Madhya Pradesh regarding marriage registrations...

Umang terms it as Karz Ka Budget

STAFF REPORTER ■ Bhopal

Leaders, Leader of the State Assembly Umang Singhar has strongly criticized the budget, branding it a 'Karz Ka Budget' (budget of debt). Singhar alleged that the government's reliance on borrowing would push the state into a financial crisis and questioned the sustainability of its ambitious spending plans. In response, Finance Minister Devda defended the borrowing, clarifying that all loans are taken with the approval of the Government of India and are directed towards capital development projects...

कार्यालय जिला शिक्षा केन्द्र (समग्र शिक्षा अभियान) जिला विदिशा. Includes a table with columns for क्र. (Sl. No.), कार्यवाही का नाम (Name of the work), and दिनांक (Date). Lists various administrative tasks and their dates.

PM receives Mauritius' highest award

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday received Mauritius' highest honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean. He called it a tribute to the centuries-old cultural and historical bonds of kinship between the two nations.

Modi is the first Indian leader to receive the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean award from Mauritius, which recognises his contributions to strengthening ties between India and Mauritius.

"I express my heartfelt gratitude for being conferred the Highest National Award of Mauritius. This is not just my honour. It is the honour of 1.4 Billion Indians. It is a tribute to the centuries-old cultural and historical bonds of kinship between India and Mauritius," Modi said.

Moreover, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest at the National Day of Mauritius on Wednesday, a rare repeat invitation for a leader which, officials said, underscores India's special relationship with the island country rooted in shared history, culture, and diaspora ties. Modi first received the honour in Mauritius in 2015, officials said.

The BJP said Prime Minister Modi has emerged as a "phenomenal leader" in the world with 21 countries bestowing on him their highest civilian award so far and the latest being Mauritius.

The officials cited several instances of Modi being the main guest at signature events of several countries to assert that the prime minister as a "global leader is



PM Modi after being conferred highest civilian award of Mauritius

shaping the rising influence of India" at international level.

An official source said, "The 2023 invitation (to PM Modi) to France's Bastille Day Parade was another defining moment, symbolising India's growing military and strategic partnership with France. The sight of Indian tri-services marching on the Champs-Elysees alongside French troops reinforced India's role in global geopolitics."

In 2022, official sources noted, Modi visited Lumbini in Nepal for Buddha Jayanti celebrations, emphasising India's historical connection to Buddhism and its shared heritage with Nepal. His visit

reinforced India's role in promoting cultural and spiritual ties across the region, they added.

In 2021, Bangladesh had invited him to its National Day celebrations, marking 50 years of its independence, an event closely tied to India's role in its liberation. His visit reaffirmed India's commitment to regional stability and shared prosperity, they added.

In 2017, his visit to Sri Lanka for the International Vesak Day highlighted India's leadership in "civilisational and cultural diplomacy". By reaffirming India's role as a custodian of Buddhist heritage, he strengthened spiritual and diplomatic ties with Buddhist-majority nations, they

added. Hailing the award, the BJP said "With this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the highest civilian award of 21 countries so far, emerging as a phenomenal leader in the world. Recently, Barbados also bestowed on him its highest civilian award," party national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi told reporters in the Parliament complex. These 21 countries include Russia, France, the US and nine Muslim countries, he added.

Trivedi further said, "This shows that under the stewardship of Prime Minister Modi, our relationship with various countries in the world have transcended beyond the utility factor of economic, military or diplomatic aspects. "Now, we have reached a different level in which various countries are feeling a very positive, sentimental attachment and respect towards India," the BJP Rajya Sabha MP said, adding, "It's a matter of pride for 140 Crore people of the country."

Trivedi said Prime Minister Modi has received several other international awards including the UN Champions of the Earth Award and Seoul Peace Prize in 2018. "In our eternal concept of 'vishva bandhutva' (universal brotherhood), Prime Minister Modi has led India in such a way that the entire world is looking at India as 'vishva mitra (universal friend)," he said. "It is a matter of pride for all Indians that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, we are not just becoming a ray of hope for the world and the driver of growth engine of the world but also an affectionate point of attraction for the most of the countries," Trivedi added.

Government to ensure fair conduct of examinations

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The government is committed to ensure fair conduct of examinations and trying to strengthen the system to prevent any malpractice, Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said on Wednesday in the Rajya Sabha.

Replying to queries during Question Hour related to irregularities in the NEET (UG) exam held last year, the minister cited a Supreme Court order to assert that there was no systemic failure and the government has already asked CBI to investigate the matter and five charge sheets have been filed against 45 people in the paper theft case.

Majumdar said the government has passed a new law 'Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024' and implemented many recommendations of the K Radhakrishnan committee. "Our government is committed that examinations are held in a clean system. We assure that under the Modi government, we will not allow any malpractice," he said.

Already, he said, the Supreme Court has given a verdict that there is no systemic leakage. "So, if we call it a leakage then, we are disobeying or disrespecting the verdict of the Supreme Court." Steps are being taken and will be taken against those who have availed unfair means, Majumdar said. "In the new Act, we have made some provisions through which we can punish those people who will try to breach the system. We are trying to strengthen our system so that no one can

breach our system of examination," he said, adding that the National Testing Agency (NTA) is using CCTV and also metal detectors for searches.

The minister said that if the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan committee are implemented fully, "then, I think, this type of incident will be curbed". The NEET (UG) 2024 Examination was conducted by the National Testing Agency on May 5, 2024. "After the conduct of NEET (UG) 2024 Examination, certain cases of alleged irregularities/cheating/malpractices were reported," Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan had said in a statement earlier.

The ministry had asked the CBI to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the entire gamut of alleged irregularities, including conspiracy, cheating, and breach of trust with respect to the NEET (UG) 2024 Examination.

"As on November 21, 2024, the CBI has filed five charge sheets in the NEET (UG) paper theft case against a total of 45 accused," Pradhan said.

Names of candidates, who are beneficiaries of the paper theft/unfair means and names of the MBBS students who had solved the stolen paper or who had appeared in the exam as impersonators have already been identified and sent to concerned authorities, as the case may be, for necessary action, he had stated. In order to suggest effective measures for transparent, smooth and fair conduct of examinations by NTA, the ministry constituted a High-Level Committee of Experts (HLCE) on June 22, 2024.

2000 kids awaiting adoption in WB

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Over 2,000 children are awaiting adoption, with West Bengal topping the list among states, the Women and Child Development Ministry said on Wednesday. Replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Women and Child Development Savitri Thakur said the majority of the Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) prefer to adopt younger children (of normal health and below 6 years of age) in the designated CARINGS portal, Thakur said.

"If there is availability of lesser number of such children in the adoption pool, the waiting period for PAP may be higher," she said in a written response.

According to the data shared by her, 2,321 children are awaiting adoption across the country. The highest number of such children are in West Bengal at 309, followed by Maharashtra at 261, Odisha at 225, Bihar at 205 and Telangana at 197.

Responding to another question, Thakur

said the projected population of all children up to 5 years in India for the year 2021 is 13.75 crores approximately.

"However, only 7.49 crore children up to 5 years were enrolled in anganwadis and registered on Poshan Tracker of the Ministry of Women and Child Development as per the February 2025 data," the minister said.

A total of 7.25 crore of them were measured on growth parameters of height and weight and 39.09 per cent of them have been found to be stunted, 16.60 per cent have been found to be underweight and 5.35 per cent are said to have been wasted (a child too thin for her height), she said. In response to another question, she said the women's helpline has been integrated with Emergency Response Support System and so far, they have handled over 2.10 crore calls and assisted over 84.43 lakh women. She added that as of January 2025, 745 fast track special courts, including 404 exclusive POCSO (e-POCSO) courts, are operational in all states and Union territories.

IIT-G launches meta platform for schools

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Learning concepts of maths and science in local languages using virtual reality will soon be possible for students at PM Shri Adarsh Vidyalayas in Assam with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati developing the country's first VR-enabled metaverse platform for schools. The project called "Gyandhara" in collaboration with Ministry of Science and Technology, and Department of Education, Assam Government will start as a pilot initiative in 56 PM Shri schools in Assam, later this year. The program is designed to enhance their educational experience by providing a more engaging way to learn about various scientific and academic topics.

Concerns against child marriage raised in Rajya Sabha

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Issues including child marriage, agents duping people to travel to foreign countries and duplicate voter ID cards figured in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

Raising the issue of child marriages during Zero Hour, Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai (BJP) made a demand for effective implementation of child marriage act across the country. He said child marriage is a social problem which is hampering education and development of children.

Balbir Singh (AAP) raised the issue of exploitation by travel agents who traffic innocent youth from Punjab to foreign countries.

He said a large number of illegally sent youth are languishing in foreign jails. He also spoke about the recent deportations from the US, wherein youths were brought chained and handcuffed.

He urged the central government to tighten noose on such travel agents. Senior RJD leader Manoj Kumar Jha

expressed concern over duplicate voter ID card numbers and demanded that the Election Commission should immediately take a call on the extent of the duplication in the country.

Jha said a large number of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers have been found, and due to which fairness of elections is being compromised.

Stressing that it is a matter of concern, the RJD member said the Article 324 of the Constitution enshrines free and fair elections as well as the level-playing field.

He further said that there is a spirit and philosophy behind the concept of free and fair elections.

The RJD MP demanded that the Election Commission should determine the extent of duplicate EPIC numbers, investigate from where the fraud started, and take urgent corrective measures.

He further said the Election Commission should also issue a separate list detailing voter deletions, new additions and modi-

fications. Congress MP Vivek K Tankha asked the government to facilitate pilgrimage to Sharda Peeth, located across the Line of Control (LoC) in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, on the lines of Kartarpur corridor. The Congress MP also spoke about the need for rehabilitation of displaced Kashmiri pandits and the facilitation of religious visits to Sharda Peeth through the LoC border.

Abdul Wahab (IUML) made a demand for additional fund for infrastructure development of existing ITIs in Kerala under hub and spoke model.

While expressing thanks to the Union Government for allocating ₹60,000 Crores for ITIs, he said the allocation for Kerala is quite low.

He said the Centre should allocate ₹2,100 Crore for Kerala. Harsh Mahajan (BJP) asked the government to strengthen the civil aviation infrastructure in Himachal Pradesh which is celebrated for its breathtaking nature, natural beauty and serene environment.

CBI, Kerala police arrest founder of cryptocurrency exchange

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The CBI and Kerala Police have arrested Lithuanian national Aleksej Besciokov, who was wanted by the United States for setting up cryptocurrency exchange Garantex allegedly to launder the proceeds of criminal activities, including ransomware, officials said Wednesday.

He was arrested when he was allegedly plotting to escape from the country, officials said.

According to the US Secret Service documents, Besciokov, during 2019-25, allegedly "controlled and operated" Garantex, which facilitated money laundering to the tune of at least USD 96 billion in cryptocurrency transactions by transnational criminal organisations (including terrorist organisations) and violated sanctions.

"Garantex received hundreds of millions



Lithuanian national Aleksej Besciokov, wanted by USA, arrested by CBI and Kerala Police

in criminal proceeds and was used to facilitate various crimes, including hacking, ran-

somware, terrorism, and drug trafficking, often with substantial impact to US victims," it said.

It said Besciokov was Garantex's primary technical administrator and responsible for obtaining and maintaining critical infrastructure of the platform as well as reviewing and approving transactions.

The indictment documents cited by the Secret Service said Besciokov is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

He is also charged with one count of conspiracy to violate the International Economic Emergency Powers Act—which also carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in person—and with conspiracy to operate an unlicensed money-transmitting business, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

"On a request submitted by the USA, the Ministry of External Affairs, acting under the Extradition Act, 1962, got issued a provisional arrest warrant on March 10, 2025 against the subject from ACJM Patiala House Court in Delhi. The IPCU, CBI coordinated with Kerala Police for the arrest of fugitive criminal Aleksej Besciokov. The subject would be produced before the Patiala House Court by the Kerala Police," CBI spokesperson said in a statement. He is wanted for facing trial before the United States District Court for the Eastern District Court of Virginia, it said. The US Secret Service executed a seizure order on March 6 authorised by a judge in the Eastern District of Virginia against three website domain names used to support Garantex's operations to prevent these sites from being used for money laundering and additional crimes.

Defence Ministry inks contract with BEL

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

In effort to strengthen indigenous defence capabilities of the country, Ministry of Defence on Wednesday here inked a capital acquisition contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Ghaziabad for the procurement of Low-level Transportable Radar, LLTR (Ashwini) at a cost of ₹2,906 Crore.

The radar is indigenously designed and developed by Electronics and Radar Development Establishment, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The contract was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, the ministry said.

The LLTR (Ashwini) is an active electronically scanned phased array radar

The contract was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh

based on state-of-the-art solid state technology. The radar is capable of tracking aerial targets from high-speed fighter aircraft to slow moving targets such as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and helicopters.

Its acquisition will significantly enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Air Force.

The programme is a major step towards achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing by reducing dependency on Foreign Origin Equipment Manufacturers besides acting as a catalyst for the development of defence industrial ecosystem in the country.

BJP loses Manesar Municipal Corporation polls

PARVESH SHARMA ■ Gurugram

The results of the Manesar Municipal Corporation (MMC) were interestingly shocking for the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) after the party's mayor candidate and 13 Councillor candidates failed to secure their victory in the civic polls.

The party also failed to get the necessary majority number out of 20 wards of MMC. This was the first MC election in the Manesar area after the formation of the Manesar Corporation.

The saffron party mayor candidate, Sunder Lal Yadav, who was very confident of his victory, was defeated by an independent candidate, Dr. Inderjeet Yadav, wife of Rakesh Yadav, who was claimed by the BJP party as a gangster.

MMC's newly elected mayor, Dr. Inderjeet Yadav, grabbed 26,393 votes, while BJP's Sunder Lal Yadav received 24,100 total votes.

He was defeated with a margin of 2,293 votes. Congress mayor candidate Neeraj Yadav got 5,134 votes, and independent candidate Vijay Singh got 9,163 votes. The newly elected Manesar mayor had asked for a ticket from BJP, but instead, BJP gave the ticket to Sundarlal Yadav. The party also failed to get the necessary majority number out of 20 wards of MMC.

Stalin using three-language formula as eyewash: AIADMK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

AIADMK MP M Thambidurai on Wednesday attacked Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin over the new education policy row, saying if he is sincere about the two-language formula, he should break alliance with the Congress which first introduced teaching three languages.

The Rajya Sabha MP reiterated that his party is also against the three-language formula but accused Stalin of using the issue as an "eyewash" ahead of Assembly elections in the state due next year.

"As far as AIDAMK, we are in favour of the two-language formula. This is a long-standing issue... We are not for English but for Tamil to become official language. We won't accept imposition of Hindi and the Congress is the root cause for all the issues because the three-language formula was introduced by the Congress only," he told PTI Videos in the Parliament complex.

"If Stalin is sincere about the two-language formula and the state's interest, he has to come out from the Congress' alliance. Otherwise, he is only bringing these issues because elections are coming."

"His protest against the three-language formula is just an eyewash because people are against him, nobody likes him. Family domination is there, the cadre is not happy, the public is not happy, liquor issue raids are going on... He is going to face the same fate as Arvind Kejriwal, so to hide



Pioneer photo

these issues he is playing up the two-language formula," he added.

The Tamil Nadu government and the Centre have been at loggerheads over the implementation of the new National Education Policy and the three-language formula proposed in the policy. Tamil Nadu's refusal to implement key aspects of NEP 2020, particularly the three-language formula, has resulted in the Centre withholding Rs 573 crore in central education assistance under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). According to policy rules, states must comply with NEP guidelines to receive SSA funding, of which 60 per cent is provided by the Centre to states like Tamil Nadu. Under the PM SHRI scheme, the state concerned has to sign an MoU with the central government that it would implement the NEP 2020 and in return the Centre provides funds.

No tribal to be displaced: Oram

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

There will be no environmental impact and no tribal will be displaced due to the Great Nicobar project, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said in the Rajya Sabha while asserting that the project is important for the country owing to its strategic location.

Oram said this while replying to supplementaries during the question hour after several opposition members raised objections to the minister not giving a written reply to the question on tribals who are expected to be relocated as part of the project.

He said China is sitting in Hambantota (Sri Lanka) while noting that "why should India leave our land".

"This project is very important socio-economically and commercially in the interest of the country. We are merely 40 kms away from the sea route. That is why we cannot leave this," the minister said.

TMC member Saket Gokhale and Congress' Jairam Ramesh asked why the minister has not replied to the question. Gokhale had asked on the action taken on concerns raised by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) over effect of environmental and forest clearances granted for the Great Nicobar project on local tribal communities. Gokhale also said there are only 229 members

Due to this project, no one will be harmed or will suffer any harm, I assure you: Tribal Affairs Minister

of the Shompen tribe living in the world.

Oram said after the Tsunami struck the island, because of low-lying area, several tribals had shifted out.

A high-powered committee has been formed after the NGT decision and work is being carried out as per NGT orders, he informed the House.

Oram said he has personally as a tribal minister met the Shompen, Jarawa, Andamanese and Great Andamanese, and held dialogue with them. "Due to this project, no one will be harmed or will suffer any harm, I assure you," the minister said.

"No one is being displaced. Only 7,144 square kms of tribal reserve land will be used and no one is being displaced due to the project. The gram sabha has also passed the project. Hence the objection is misplaced. The issue is pending with the high court," the minister told the House.

Oram said on August 11, 2016, the department of border management, Ministry of Home Affairs, and seven other ministries held meeting and decided to undertake the project since this is at a very strategic point on the southern side and is near the international sea route.

VP Dhankhar discharged from AIIMS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was discharged from AIIMS-Delhi on Wednesday after making a satisfactory recovery, the premier hospital said.

He has been advised to take adequate rest for the next few days. Dhankhar was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) on March 9 following cardiac-related ailments, it said in a statement.

"After receiving necessary care from the medical team at AIIMS, he made a satisfactory recovery and was discharged on March 12," AIIMS-Delhi said.

In a social media post, Dhankhar thanked the medical team of the AIIMS. "Deeply appreciate the exemplary care and professionalism of the medical team at AIIMS, New Delhi, from my admission on March 9 to discharge on March 12.

Their dedication and meticulous attention ensured a smooth recovery," he said.

"Grateful for the concern and good wishes from well-wishers across India and beyond. Your thoughtful gestures have been truly heartening," the Vice-President added in the post.

Widows of Vrindavan unveil a kaleidoscope of hope

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Mathura

In a heartwarming display of resilience and change, widows in Vrindavan once again broke societal norms by celebrating Holi at the historic Gopinath Temple on Wednesday.

Defying centuries-old traditions that once kept them in isolation, hundreds of widows drenched themselves in colours, danced to Krishna bhajans, and embraced the festival with flower petals and gulal.

Just a decade ago, such a celebration was unthinkable. Widows in Vrindavan, often abandoned by their families, were considered inauspicious and barred from participating in social and religious festivities. However, change has been sweeping through these sacred lanes, and this Holi, clad in their signature white sarees, these women reclaimed their space in society.

The celebration, organised by Sulabh International, stood as a testament to their journey towards dignity and inclusion. The tradition of Holi for widows began in 2013, initiated by Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, the late social reformer and founder of Sulabh International. His mission was to challenge deeply rooted prejudices and restore joy to the lives of these marginalised women.

Carrying forward his vision, Sulabh International President Kumar Dilip reaffirmed his organisation's commitment to widow welfare. "This celebration reflects the progress we've made in reshaping societal perceptions. Widows actively participating in Holi signals growing social acceptance. At Sulabh, we will continue working towards ensuring they live with dignity, joy, and hope," he said.

The transformation of Vrindavan's widows began in 2012, when the Supreme



Widows in Vrindavan celebrate Holi



PIONEER PHOTO

Court of India intervened and tasked Sulabh International with their welfare. Over the years, these women have gained access to improved living conditions, financial aid, and social support, breaking free from a cycle of neglect.

India has a long history of advocating for widow rights. In the 19th century, Raja Ram Mohan Roy led the fight to abolish sati, while Pt Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar campaigned for widows' right to remarry. Inspired by this legacy, Dr Pathak dedicated his life to eradicating the stigma attached to widowhood.

Today, Vrindavan's Holi is more than just a festival—it is a symbol of empowerment, a beacon of hope for thousands of widows seeking a life of dignity.

As the colors of Holi brighten their world year after year, the dream of a more inclusive society moves closer to reality.

How UP youths were lured to Myanmar with fake IT jobs

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

When Ankit Sharma (name changed) received a job offer for an AI analyst role in Myanmar, he thought his luck had finally turned. The 26-year-old engineering graduate from Lucknow had been job hunting for months when he stumbled upon a lucrative opportunity through a recruiter on LinkedIn. The salary package—₹70,000 per month—seemed too good to ignore. Within weeks, he and several others were flown to Bangkok, only to realise they had walked into a trap.

As many as 266 Indians, who have been victims of fake job offers in Myanmar and Thailand, were repatriated on Tuesday, the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement. This was in addition to 283 Indian nationals who were repatriated on Monday.

"The moment we crossed into Myanmar, everything changed," Ankit recalled, his voice still shaking. "They took our passports and phones, locked us in a building, and told us we worked for them now. There was no way out."

Instead of coding or working on AI projects, the recruits were forced into cyber fraud. They were made to create fake Instagram and Facebook profiles, using stolen photos of young women to lure unsuspecting Americans.

Once a victim showed interest, they had to extract their WhatsApp numbers and send them on to their handlers. The information was then sold to Chinese cybercriminals, who ran large-scale online scams.

For those who resisted, punishment was swift and brutal. Some were starved for days; others were beaten. When Rahul Verma, a 28-year-old MBA graduate from Kanpur, refused to comply, he was electrocuted. "They tied wires to my fingers and

shocked me until I begged them to stop," he said, holding up his trembling hands. "They told me—work, or die."

Escape seemed impossible. Their captors controlled every aspect of their lives—food, sleep, even bathroom breaks. When they asked about returning to India, they were laughed at. "You belong to us now," one of the guards sneered at them.

But hope came in the form of a smuggled message. One of the captives managed to send out an SOS to Indian security agencies. Soon, a covert operation was set in motion. In a daring rescue mission, 21 young Indians were extracted and brought back home—just in time for Holi.

As they landed in Lucknow, some fell to their knees, kissing the ground. Others simply broke down in tears. "I thought I'd never see my mother again," whispered 24-year-old Rohan Das, who had been promised a cybersecurity job.

Back home, their families had spent sleepless nights, unaware of their children's ordeal. Ankit's mother, Sunita Sharma, sobbed as she embraced him. "I prayed every day for his return," she said. "Never again will I let him go abroad without checking everything a hundred times."

Officials warn that these cybercrime syndicates are expanding, targeting job seekers through professional networking sites and social media. Many victims were promised salaries between ₹30,000 and ₹70,000 but were paid only ₹24,000 if they were paid at all.

The rescued youths, once hopeful professionals, are now grappling with the trauma of their captivity. But for now, they are home. And as they celebrate Holi with their families, they have only one message for others: "If an overseas job sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

(All the names have been changed to conceal identity of victims)

BJP importing fake Hinduism in Bengal: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

Apparently betraying nerves over a reported trend of alienation of Hindu votes from her electoral basket, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that it was not the BJP but she and her Trinamool Congress (TMC), which was destined to protect the Hindu religion.

Banerjee known for her "propagandist sympathy" for the minorities on Wednesday slammed state Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari for "practicing

fake Hinduism." Delivering a speech in the Assembly she said how the BJP had imported a "fake Hinduism" in Bengal and disturbed its communal harmony.

"Your imported Hindu dharma is not supported by the Vedas or the sages. How can you deny the rights of Muslims as citizens? This is nothing but a fraud. You are importing fake Hinduism," Banerjee said adding it was she who would protect Hinduism and not the BJP leaders like Adhikari. "I have the right to protect Hindu dharma. We will protect Hindu religion, but not the one that you preach.

Hindu religion is inclusive, liberal and lenient. Please don't play the Hindu card," Banerjee said.

"Do not engage in deceit in the name of religion. I condemn those who divide people based on religion. They speak of Hindus and Muslims but ignore the true message of humanity," the Chief Minister said. Earlier she had asked the TMC cadres in a party organisational meeting to remain vigilant "against efforts being made by some mischievous elements to stoke communal problem and riots in the State for narrow political gains."

She said that the BJP had been trying to play the Hindu card for years to come to power but the people of Bengal had repeatedly rejected them and they would reject them once again as Bengal being was a politically matured State and traditionally secular.

On Wednesday, Banerjee was referring to a statement made by Adhikari who on Tuesday said that the "Hindus will oust Mamata Banerjee from power," and that when BJP would come to power in 2026 it would ensure that the Muslim MLAs were thrown out of the House.

Amit Shah to visit Mizoram on March 15

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Aizawl

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Mizoram on March 15 to attend a function for shifting of Assam Rifles establishments from Aizawl to Zokhawsang, around 15 km from the state capital, an official said on Wednesday.

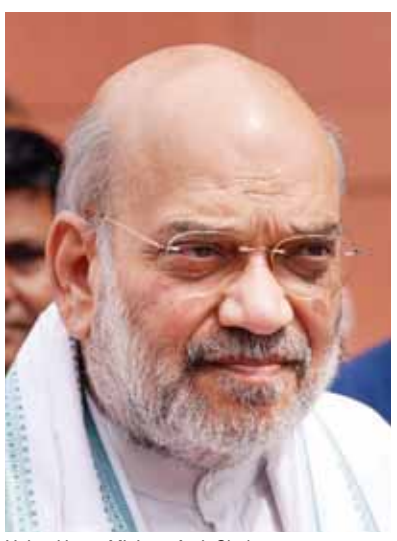
Shah, who will embark on a three-day tour of Assam from March 14 to March 16, will pay a day-long visit to Mizoram on March 15 to attend the function.

He will return to Guwahati on the same day after attending the function, the official said.

During his visit to Assam, Shah is scheduled to attend multiple programmes, including the annual conference of the All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), he said.

The Mizoram government and Assam Rifles had signed a formal agreement on October 23 last year in New Delhi for relocating the paramilitary force's establishments from the heart of Aizawl to the designated battalion complex at Zokhawsang.

The agreement will come into effect in



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

April this year and the country's oldest paramilitary force will vacate its main barracks complex, AR Ground or Lammual, unit hospital, Loch House, quarters guard and other establishments and lands in dif-

ferent parts of the state capital and shift those to Zokhawsang, officials said.

As per the agreement, Assam Rifles will retain its 23 Sector Headquarters, Mizoram Range in Aizawl's Khalta neighbourhood (95.88 acres) and DIG residence near Raj Bhavan at Tuikhuatlang area (0.85 acre), they said.

The lands and buildings vacated by the AR will be reserved for public use as per the Restriction of Use of Transferred Land Act, 2022, they said. The demand for relocation of AR bases from the heart of Aizawl to Zokhawsang was first raised by the erstwhile Mizo National Front (MNF) government headed by former chief minister Laldenga in 1988 after the paramilitary force allegedly killed 11 civilians in a violent clash.

In February 2019, the Union Home Ministry had directed the paramilitary force to shift its bases to Zokhawsang by May 31 of that year. However, the relocation was delayed after Assam Rifles alleged that certain infrastructure issues were yet to be resolved.

The Zokhawsang complex was inaugurated by Shah in April, 2023.

Bengal LOP threatens violence against Muslim MLAs

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ Kolkata

Rank communal and inflammatory invectives hitherto unknown to the Bengali society were hurled and traded with impunity even as senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) ministers and legislators threatened Opposition leader Suvendu Adhikari with "physical consequences" hours after the latter vowed to throw the Muslim MLAs out of the state Assembly if the BJP came to power in 2026 state elections.

While the police administration maintained a patent indifference a Congress leader and former MLA Ali Imran Ramz on Wednesday registered a police complaint against Adhikari for trying to fan communal disturbance in the State. TMC MLA from Murshidabad Humayun Kabir gave Adhikari a "72 hours ultimatum to withdraw his statements and apologise to the Muslim legislators for his communal and insulting remarks towards the Muslim community or else all the 42 MLAs of my community will assemble outside his chamber inside the Assembly and make him see consequences." When asked whether he was taking responsibility of his statements Kabir said, "Suvendu Adhikari has crossed his limits. He has lowered the status of the Leader of Opposition by saying that he will throw out the Muslim MLAs from the State Assembly if the BJP comes to power in Bengal. If he comes to beat us we are expected to throw sweetmeat at him. We will see how many central forces can protect him." Another veteran leader and senior Minister Siddiquilla Chowdhury too threatened to break Adhikari's legs if he engaged in any misadventure. "Suvendu Adhikari has spoken in most undignified way against the Muslims. He has defied the Constitution as well as the penal laws and has threatened to throw out the Muslim MLAs from the Assembly. But before he does so his legs will be broken."

Adhikari immediately retorted at the alleged "audacity" of the TMC's minority MLAs saying that he would take them on alone inside the Assembly premises. "I will ask for no additional security, keep coming to the House alone and go to my office with my PA and secretary. Let us see what they can do. But let me remind if anything happens to me Speaker Biman Banerjee will be held responsible for that."

Things took an ugly turn on Tuesday evening when Adhikari leading a bevy of BJP MLAs - that had walked out of the State Assembly after being denied opportunity by the Speaker to speak on alleged attacks on Hindu temples and establishments in some areas of the State - said that the "BJP will come to power in 2026 defeating Mamata Banerjee, and after we come to power in the State we will toss the Muslim MLAs out of this Assembly." He said, "how in the last four to five days, there have been incidents of attacks on Hindu temples and idols vandalised and set on fire in a few areas in Tamluk constituency without a single arrest being made," and how "in as Naoda area in Murshidabad district houses and shop belonging to the Hindus were set on fire and looted."

He also complained that Birbhum Police had asked people to finish playing Basanta Utsav in Santiniketan by 11 am as it would be Friday.

CM Yogi defends Sambhal's rich history

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

Amid the ongoing controversy surrounding a mosque in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday asserted that forcibly altering history and suppressing faith is unacceptable. Referring to Sambhal's ancient significance, he claimed that the site predates Islam and once housed a Vishnu temple, which was destroyed in 1526.

"Sambhal has been mentioned in scriptures that are over 5,000 years old, with references to Lord Vishnu's future incarnation. Islam emerged only 1,400 years ago, meaning this history predates it by at least 2,000 years," Yogi stated. He further claimed that archaeological findings have uncovered 18 pilgrimage sites in the area.

Speaking at Manthan: Kumbh and Beyond, an event organised by the RSS-linked weekly Organiser in Lucknow, Adityanath compared the destruction of the Vishnu temple in 1526 to the demolition of the Ram temple in Ayodhya in 1528, emphasising that both incidents were carried out by the same forces.

Tensions in Sambhal have been high since last November following a court-ordered survey of a mosque believed by some to have been built over a demolished temple. The Chief Minister strongly criticised those who admire Aurangzeb, calling it a "mental distortion." Citing historical accounts, he noted that Aurangzeb imprisoned his own father, denied him water, and killed his brother. Taking a jibe at Aurangzeb's supporters, he remarked, "If you admire him so much, name your children after him and be ready to suffer his cruelty." CM Yogi also launched a scathing attack on the opposition, accusing past governments of mishandling the Kumbh



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

Mela. He recalled several tragedies, including the 1954 Kumbh stampede that claimed over 1,000 lives and the 2013 mishaps under Congress and Samajwadi Party rule, which he described as chaotic and mismanaged.

He pointed out that in 2013, the then Prime Minister of Mauritius was moved to tears by the unsanitary conditions at Sangam. "Past governments turned Kumbh into a hub of filth and disorder, and today, these same people question our 'Swachh Mahakumbh,'" he remarked.

Highlighting the transformation of Kumbh under the BJP government, Adityanath stated that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership in 2019, the event was rebranded to focus on cleanliness, security, and technology. He praised initiatives like the Digital Mahakumbh, which helped reunite 54,000 lost individuals through a digital lost-and-found centre.

Additionally, he highlighted the construction of 1.5 Lakh toilets linked with QR codes and the introduction of a multilingual mobile app to assist pilgrims. Adityanath stated that while the initial estimate for attendees was 40 Crore, the final count exceeded 66 Crore 30 Lakh.

Discussing the 2025 Maha Kumbh, he acknowledged an unfortunate incident during Mauni Amavasya (January 28-30), when a massive crowd of over 10 Crore devotees led to injuries and fatalities. He praised the administration's swift response, which involved coordinating with saints and Akhadas to postpone the Amrit Snan until noon for public safety.

"The saints cooperated without disrupting tradition, allowing bathing to resume smoothly after 2 pm.

This showcases the devotion and unity within Sanatan Dharma," Adityanath stated, lauding the religious leaders for ensuring the event's success.

Allahabad HC directs painting, lighting of Sambhal Jama Masjid

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Lucknow

In a significant ruling, the Allahabad High Court has directed the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to undertake the painting and illumination of the historic Jama Masjid in Sambhal during the holy month of Ramadan.

The court has given ASI a strict deadline of one week to complete the restoration work.

The decision came during a hearing on Wednesday, following a petition that sought renovation and upkeep of the mosque premises.

Earlier, on March 11, the court had deferred the matter to March 12 after ASI submitted an inspection report.

The report stated that while the mosque did not require repainting, the premises had accumulated dirt and overgrown bushes. ASI also provided photographic evidence supporting its assessment.

In response, the court had earlier ordered ASI to carry out a thorough cleaning of the mosque, including the removal of wild vegetation. Both the Muslim and Hindu sides were given time to file their objections and affidavits regarding the ASI report. After hearing arguments from both sides, the court had initially reserved its judgment until March 12.

However, in the proceedings on Wednesday, the court ruled in favour of the petitioners, allowing the mosque to be repainted and illuminated for Ramadan.

The issue of the Jama Masjid's maintenance has been a contentious one, particularly since November 24, 2024, when a survey of the mosque triggered communal tensions and unrest in the area. Since then, additional police forces have been deployed around the site, with security personnel maintaining a close watch to prevent any disturbances. The court's decision is expected to alleviate local concerns and ensure that the religious site is well-maintained ahead of the sacred month of Ramadan.

Meanwhile, the district administration in Sambhal has taken significant security measures for the upcoming Holi celebrations.

Given past incidents of communal ten-

sion, authorities have decided to cover mosques located along the route of the Chaupai (religious procession) with tarpaulin sheets to avoid any controversy.

According to Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shachandra, a total of 10 mosques, including the Jama Masjid, will be temporarily covered with plastic sheets or tarpaulin in consultation with both Hindu and Muslim community leaders.

The decision has been taken with mutual consent to maintain communal harmony during the festivities.

Sambhal District Magistrate Rajendra Pensia stated that extensive security arrangements have been put in place to ensure peace during the celebrations.

He highlighted that multiple rounds of peace committee meetings have been held, and 27 Quick Response Teams (QRTs) have been deployed in sensitive areas.

The situation remains completely peaceful. We have made elaborate security arrangements, and agencies are fully prepared

— RAJENDRA PENSI, DM SAMBHAL

The district administration has divided the city into six zones and 29 sectors, with magistrates and senior police officers assigned to each section.

Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) battalions have been stationed in key areas as part of a three-tier security plan. To enhance surveillance, 250 CCTV cameras have already been installed, with an additional 100-150 cameras set up for real-time monitoring. Drone surveillance will also be conducted to maintain law and order during the festival. Authorities have instructed sector magistrates to patrol their designated areas actively and report any suspicious activities. "At present, the situation remains completely peaceful. We have made elaborate security arrangements, and law enforcement agencies are fully prepared to handle any situation," said DM Pensia.

With these measures in place, the administration hopes to ensure a smooth and peaceful celebration of Holi while maintaining communal harmony in Sambhal.

Soldier injured in cross-LOC firing

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

A soldier of the Indian Army deployed along the line of control in the Nowshera sector of Rajouri was hit by a stray bullet fired from across the border after a loud mysterious blast rocked the forward area near Kalsiyar early Wednesday morning.

This is the first incident of cross-border

firing in the region after the Brigade commander's level Flag meeting, which took place near Chakan-da-bagh in Poonch, on February 21.

According to official sources, the injured soldier was airlifted to the Udhampur based Command hospital for advanced medical treatment.

Till late evening, no official statement was issued about the circumstances under

which the soldier received a bullet injury on the forehead post.

Local reports also claimed that an explosion was also reported along the zero line in the area around 6 am, followed by three rounds of gunfire.

However, there was no immediate report of any casualty in the blast, the cause of which is not known immediately, the official sources said.

Editor's TAKE

Mark Carney to take on Voldemort

A known Trump critic, Mark Carney replaces Justin Trudeau as Canada's Prime Minister

In a historic political shift, Mark Carney has been announced as the next leader of the Liberal Party and the 24th Prime Minister of Canada, succeeding Justin Trudeau. Carney won the leadership race decisively, securing 131,674 votes, approximately 85.9 per cent of the ballots. His transition into office marks a significant turning point for the Liberal Party and Canada's future, particularly in its economic policies and international relations. Carney brings a wealth of economic expertise to the position, having previously served as the Governor of both the Bank of Canada (2008–2013) and the Bank of England (2013–2020). He is widely credited with steering Canada through the 2008 financial crisis, earning him a reputation as a pragmatic and reliable leader. His experience on the global financial stage, positions him as a leader with strong economic acumen. A former Goldman Sachs executive, Carney has long been seen as a steady hand in times of crisis, making him an ideal choice to ensure stability and economic resilience in the face of global uncertainties.

One of Carney's most immediate and critical challenges will be navigating Canada's relationship with the United States, particularly with former President Donald Trump returning to power. Trump's previous tenure was marked by a disdainful approach toward Canada, imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum, challenging trade agreements, and openly criticising the country's economic policies. In his second term, Trump has become even more vitriolic towards Canada. Carney's economic background makes him suited to address Trump's aggressive trade tactics. Having managed financial stability through turbulent times, he is likely to adopt a measured yet firm approach in negotiations. His experience in global financial leadership suggests he will prioritise economic diplomacy, leveraging Canada's trade alliances, including the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Canada-European Union trade deal, to counterbalance US pressure.

However, Carney's personal history with Trump presents an interesting dynamic. In the past, he has been openly critical of Trump's economic policies and even likened him to Voldemort, the infamous antagonist from Harry Potter. While this past remark may resurface in political discourse, Carney is expected to adopt a professional stance, emphasising economic pragmatism over political rhetoric a stark departure from his predecessor. Carney's leadership is expected to focus on economic stability, climate change initiatives, and maintaining Canada's social programs. Given his strong advocacy for sustainable finance, his administration may prioritise green investments, aligning Canada's economic policies with global climate commitments. Trade diversification will be another key aspect of his strategy. To mitigate the risk of overreliance on the US market, Carney may seek to strengthen economic ties with Europe, Asia, and emerging markets, reducing Canada's vulnerability to American protectionism.

Mark Carney's rise to Canada's highest office brings a shift from Trudeau's leadership style to one deeply rooted in financial expertise and economic strategy. Under Mark Carney's leadership, Indo-Canada relations are expected to take a pragmatic and economically driven turn. He is likely to prioritise trade, investment, and economic collaboration with India. Canada may seek to expand its role in sectors such as technology, clean energy, and natural resources, aligning with India's rapid economic growth. However, political tensions, particularly surrounding issues like Khalistani separatism, could remain a challenge. Carney's diplomatic approach will likely focus on de-escalation and fostering stronger ties through economic partnerships rather than ideological confrontations. His leadership presents an opportunity for renewed negotiations on a long-pending free trade agreement, which could significantly enhance bilateral trade.

Leaderspeak



Today, Prime Minister Navin Chandra Ramgoolam and I decided to give the India-Mauritius partnership the status of 'Enhanced Strategic Partnership'. We decided that India will cooperate in building the new Parliament building in Mauritius. This will be a gift to Mauritius from the Mother of Democracy. India and Maurities are connected not just by the Indian Ocean but by shared culture and values. We are each other's partners on the path of economic and social progress.

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



Delhi's bold step towards sustainability

The newly elected Delhi government is setting ambitious goals for environmental sustainability and disaster resilience, with a strong focus on cleaning the Yamuna River, pollution control, and waste management

Cleaning the Yamuna river, pollution control, garbage management, and addressing climate and disaster resilience to ensure sustainable development are among the top priorities of the newly elected Delhi government. However, these ambitious goals can only be achieved with active community participation. Raising awareness and fostering public engagement are crucial to creating a more sustainable and disaster-resilient future. In this context, a Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Environmental Sustainability, known as "Yamuna- Apda evam Jalvayu Parivartan Nyunikaran Adhishthan (YAJNA)" meaning- Yamuna - Institute for Disaster and Climate Change Mitigation, is proposed. This centre will serve as a hub for education, collaboration, and action, setting an example for other states to follow.

Delhi, the national capital of India, faces a complex web of hazards. From earthquakes and floods to human-induced crises such as severe air and water pollution, road accidents, and inefficient waste management, the city's vulnerabilities are escalating. Rapid urbanisation and a dense population further compound these risks, leading to widespread environmental degradation and public health crises. Despite existing efforts by multiple agencies, a significant gap remains in public engagement, coordination, and proactive action. A dedicated awareness centre like Yajna will bridge this gap by equipping citizens with the knowledge and tools to become active participants in resilience-building.

Disaster management museums cum knowledge centres worldwide have demonstrated their potential to drive awareness and preparedness. The Kobe Earthquake Memorial Museum in Japan and the Tsunami Memorial Museum in Thailand have played pivotal roles in educating the public on natural and human-induced hazards and mitigating the risk with better response strategies. In India, the Earthquake Museum in Bhuj, Gujarat, serves as a model for enhancing public understanding of seismic risks. Inspired by these global and national examples, the proposed centre in Delhi will not only focus on disaster risk reduction but also integrate environmental conservation, climate change mitigation, and pollution control efforts, with a special emphasis on cleaning the Yamuna River.

Yamuna, the lifeline of Delhi, has been battling severe pollution for decades. Industrial waste, untreated sewage, and rampant encroachments have turned this once-pris-



time river into a toxic water body. The newly elected government has placed Yamuna's rejuvenation at the forefront of its agenda, recognising that a clean river is fundamental to public health, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable urban development. However, government initiatives alone cannot restore the Yamuna. Without widespread community participation, even the most well-intentioned policies will fall short. The proposed centre will be crucial in mobilising citizens, educating them about the importance of river conservation, and providing actionable solutions for sustainable water management.

Environmental sustainability and disaster resilience are deeply interconnected. Poor waste management contributes to urban flooding, air pollution exacerbates respiratory diseases, and deforestation heightens vulnerability to climate-induced disasters. The centre will function as a convergence point where experts, policymakers, students, and local communities come together to find innovative and practical solutions. Through interactive exhibitions, hands-on training, and community-driven campaigns, the centre will empower people to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives. It will promote waste segregation, composting, and recycling, significantly reducing Delhi's landfill burden. Additionally, it will advocate for green energy solutions, urban afforestation, and pollution control measures, aligning with India's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for

Disaster Risk Reduction.

Public engagement will be at the heart of this initiative. Schools, colleges, resident welfare associations, and corporate sectors will be actively involved in awareness campaigns, training sessions, and workshops. The younger generation, in particular, will be encouraged to take ownership of environmental stewardship, ensuring long-term impact. By fostering a culture of responsibility and collective action, the centre will create a ripple effect, inspiring similar initiatives in other cities and states.

Beyond its educational role, the centre will also serve as a research and policy hub, providing scientific insights and data-driven recommendations to strengthen urban resilience. It will facilitate collaboration between various government agencies, research institutions, and civil society organisations to develop integrated strategies for disaster preparedness and environmental sustainability. With real-time monitoring of air and water quality, the centre will enable authorities to take proactive measures in pollution control and disaster risk reduction.

This initiative is not just about creating another institution—it is about transforming

Delhi into a model city for resilience and sustainability. By integrating disaster risk reduction with environmental conservation, the centre will facilitate enhancing public safety, improve air and water quality, and promote sustainable urban planning. The direct economic benefits in the form of revenue will be significant as well. Similar to the Bhuj Earthquake Museum, which has become a successful revenue-generating centre, YAJNA is expected to attract students, researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals from across the country and beyond. Educational programs, training courses, and consultancy services will generate revenue, ensuring the centre's long-term viability.

As Delhi embarks on a new chapter under the leadership of the newly elected government, the time to act is now. The commitment to cleaning the Yamuna, controlling pollution, managing waste effectively, and building climate resilience must be translated into concrete actions. This initiative offers a comprehensive and practical roadmap to achieve these goals. By bringing together the government, experts, and citizens, the centre will ensure that resilience and sustainability become embedded in Delhi's development journey. A resilient Delhi is not just a necessity—it is a responsibility we owe to future generations.

(The writer is former executive director, National Institute of Disaster Management. Views expressed are personal)



SATENDRA SINGH

The delicate strength of relationships

SECOND Opinion



SANJAY CHANDRA

Relationships are beautiful. However, I often view them through the lenses of the boundaries deeply ingrained during childhood and over the decades. I fail to grasp that human relationships are pure and unadulterated emotions. They cannot follow any scientific formulae. I also need to curb my tendency to judge the raw emotions and reactions of others solely based on my experiences.

I am the oldest child of my generation in the entire family. A lesson deeply ingrained into my psyche by my elders was that I needed to be mindful of the youngsters and guests came first. I discharged my responsibilities with the utmost care till I had my first setback in my early teens. A much younger cousin was playing with my sister. Like all children, they also started fighting for the same toy. It fell upon me to mediate. My sister did not say anything but burst into tears when I tried to explain that it was our responsibility to take care of the younger guest. Her tears taught me an important lesson. We have tried hard not to burden our daughters with unnecessary baggage.

A few days into my first posting in the railways, I was asked to chair the farewell meeting of a retiring staff. It was the senior-most official in the gathering at the relatively young age of 25. I was taken aback when I was asked

to speak a few words. Eloquence is not my strong suit. I prefer brevity, or even silent brooding, over a long drawn flowery speech. I remember my impromptu words even four decades later. I compared the professional journey of everyone from the time of joining till retirement to the life of a rose and the fragrance that it spreads till the end. I also compared the new life that the staff would embark upon from the next day to the blooming of a new flower. The staff had tears of gratitude in his eyes. The supervisors applauded me for words well said. It was Bengal where words spoken from the heart are also received with utmost sincerity. I had developed an instant connection and lasting relationships with them. They recognised me as a sensitive soul they could uninhibitedly approach for help. I may not always have been of much assistance, but it was enough for the person to unburden.

A young neighbour told me that she finds me unduly sensitive to certain situations. She said that she, and probably many more, look up to me for guidance. She went on to mention that I need to curb my impulsive reactions. My response was that I am an extremely sensitive and emotional person, and I have spent a lifetime worrying about others. It is now time for me to be myself. I rather flippantly concluded, "This is what I am."

This is a lesson I sometimes forget when imparting my words of wisdom to those dear to me. A long time as an

engineer has made me too rational and logical. I often find myself at the receiving end when I abruptly interrupt my wife as she starts talking about something bothering her, a situation that I may feel is beyond her control. I conveniently forget my learnings over a lifetime, till she reminds me that she is aware of the impossibility of the situation. She wants me to let her vent her frustrations. I realise there is a lot I need to work on.

In author Mignon K Eberhart's words, "The complexity of human relationships is never simple to follow; it is like intricate lacework, but lacework made of steel."

To conclude, relationships are intricate, shaped by personal experiences, emotions, and deep-seated values. My journey has been one of constant learning—understanding that relationships cannot be governed by rigid logic but by sensitivity and empathy. From childhood lessons of responsibility to professional experiences that connected me with people on a deeper level, I have realised that emotions must be acknowledged, not judged.

Over the years, I have also recognised my own need to evolve. While my rationality has served me well, it sometimes overshadows the simple act of listening. As my wife often reminds me that not every problem requires a solution—sometimes, people just need to be heard. As I continue to navigate relationships, I strive to embrace emotions without overanalysing them.

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing. Views expressed are personal)

Letters to the Editor

From Goddesses to Subjugation

Madam—The editorial 'Beyond the rhetoric' should sensitise all the concerned. History presents the picture of women placed in high esteem and treated with dignity and honour. Even where men were ruling women were guiding them in the fields of diplomacy, finance and social issues. We have many women rulers who have been envied by others for their value, popularity they enjoyed, ability to rule to the satisfaction of all their subjects. It is even said that before the male God's came in the scene it was Goddesses who were actually worshipped.

However, in due course of time they have yielded to the dominance of men. Even today the society worships goddesses but keeps women in a tamed status. In spite of their fine and valuable contributions they should not learn and recite Vedas.

But women are springing up today proving themselves to be the best in every field. There are scenes of rape and denial their due rights also, which are the fallouts of the impulsive rulers' who still view the women gender as a subjugated section. Some sections justify this by calling them the dictum of the Gods.

If the government is really serious it can implement the deterrent provisions to stop the spate of rapes. Women are paraded nude in public, raped and murder in Manipur.

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTAPUR

India Fights Cancer

Madam—It is with reference to the news "BJP to open 200 day care cancer centres this year. Nadda". Central government's proposal of opening 200 day cancer centres in the country in 2025-26 to provide basic facilities to cancer patients is a welcome move. It has also been planned to establish such centres in all districts in the next three years to treat cancer patients. In India, the number of cancer patients is rising and the country needs to improve access to cancer care. It is estimated that one in nine persons in India are likely to develop cancer in their lifetime.

Among the new cases breast, cervix and lung cancer are the most frequently reported. Though India has some of the most advanced cancer treatment methods and technology, there are still gaps in access and affordability. There are also shortage of cancer care facilities, manpower and training. Early detection, screening, education, health promotion and tobacco control are important to prevent and control cancer. It is estimated that by 2050, there will be an 85 per cent increase in the number of new cancer cases and deaths in the WHO'S South East Asia region. It is unfortunate.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for continued efforts from clinicians, researchers and policy makers to collaborate and find the most effective strategies to serve cancer patients in the best way possible.

P VICTOR SELVARAJ | TIRUNELVELI

Self-Defence or Self-Reliance?

Madam—The recent report from the Stockholm Peace Research Institute which highlight the Arm Import by the countries has revealed some of the really interesting facts. The report designate India as the second largest arms importing country after Ukraine, followed by Qatar. Although, the fact is not shocking that India is the major arm importing country, because we had a long history of it. There is no such big problem in such imports, but the shocking part of the story is that India fails to implement its so called state of the art plan of Aatmnirbhar Bharat idea of domestic arm manufacturing.

Whereas, China make a drastic shift of altering its import status. It successfully managed to keep itself out of the top ten importer ranking, paving the way for domestic manufacturing of such critical arms and ammunition in their own country.

Arms are the basic need for self defence for any nation, which no country could ever think to avoid for. It is welcoming that despite India stand at the second position in the arm importing list, the import goes 9.3 per cent down in 2020-2024, compared to the arm trade figures of 2015-19.

In a bid to incline for self defence on our own, it is required that India must start satisfying its arm need on its own. We need to be self reliant for our self defence.

KIRTI WADHAWAN | KANPUR

SUPREME COURT MOOTS FOR DISABLED FRIENDLY PRISONS

Supreme Court had expressed concerns over the plight of disabled prisoners which is against the Disability Act 2016 passed by the Parliament and it is worth mentionable that during that Parliament session there was pandemonium and Disability bill was passed and all parties supported the bill and the Supreme Court said a petition highlighting the trauma and inhumane conditions suffered by Professor G Saibaba and the elderly Stan Swamy raised a "serious" issue about the lack of disabled-friendly accommodation and facilities in prisons across the country.

While Stan Swamy had passed away while lodged in jail as an undertrial prisoner, Saibaba had passed away last year a few months after he was acquitted and released from jail. The Supreme Court sought the response of the Central government to a PIL seeking adequate facilities for disabled prisoners in jails.

The PIL cited the instances of treatment meted out to Professor GN Saibaba and Father Stan Swamy to highlight the severe neglect of disabled prisoners and lack of disabled-friendly accommodation, wash-rooms and other facilities in jails.

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While Stan Swamy passed away in 2021 while lodged in jail as an undertrial prisoner in the Bhima Koregaon violence case, Saibaba passed away last year a few months after he was acquitted and released from prison. The demise of Professor GN Saibaba, a scholar and human rights activist with disabilities, was directly attributable to his deteriorating health, exacerbated by prolonged incarceration and the inhumane conditions of his detention. Stan Swamy also struggled with disability due to Parkinson's syndrome and died while in prison. He was denied medical treatment and basic support," the petition submitted.

The PIL cited the instances of treatment meted out to Professor GN Saibaba and Father Stan Swamy to highlight the severe neglect of disabled prisoners and lack of disabled-friendly accommodation, wash-rooms and other facilities in jails.

YASH PAL RALHAN | JALANDHAR

Logistics is holding back north India's growth

India's industrial landscape is marked by a stark regional imbalance, with western and southern states surging ahead while northern states struggle to keep pace. Without urgent intervention to rationalise freight costs and improve logistics infrastructure, northern states risk falling further behind

**FIRST
Column**

India's industrial growth narrative presents an alarming regional imbalance that cannot be ignored. While western and southern states like Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Telangana stand as formidable economic powerhouses, their northern counterparts state such as Punjab and Uttar Pradesh remain entrenched in stagnation. This disparity poses a significant threat to our ambition of achieving a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. A critical factor driving this divide is logistics. The lack of adequate access to seaports makes manufacturing in northern India prohibitively expensive, crippling competitiveness and driving away crucial investment. If we fail to rationalise freight costs, the industrial sector in landlocked states will perpetually struggle, deepening the economic chasm.

Logistics: A Key Driver of Industrial Inequality

With a coastline stretching 4,316 km, southern and western states possess undeniable locational advantages that enable seamless exports to markets in China, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, and throughout the ASEAN region. Tamil Nadu dominates India's automobile sector, while Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Telangana lead in engineering, IT, and textiles. Collectively, these five states account for a staggering 53 per cent of India's total factories, firmly establishing their dominance in industrial growth. Maharashtra's industrial sector has experienced explosive growth, achieving a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.77 per cent from FY 2021-22 to 2023-24—the highest in the nation. Tamil Nadu follows closely at 11.63 per cent, with Telangana at 11.47 per cent, Gujarat at 10.2 per cent, and Karnataka at 8.47 per cent. In stark contrast, northern states such as Haryana (7.1 per cent), Punjab (6.78 per cent), and Uttar Pradesh (4.7 per cent) are falling behind, as highlighted by the Economic Survey of these states.

The Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for 2022-23 further underscores this imbalance. Maharashtra and Gujarat contribute nearly 40 per cent of India's industrial output, while Uttar Pradesh and Punjab generate a mere 8.5 per cent and 2.8 per cent, respectively. The exorbitant cost of transporting goods from landlocked northern states to coastal export hubs severely undermines competitiveness. This issue has dampened overall industrial sentiment, making these states far less attractive for both domestic and foreign direct investment (FDI) compared to their southern and western counterparts.

FDI trends paint a stark picture of this disparity. According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Maharashtra has emerged as the leading recipient of FDI from FY 2021-22 to 2023-24, attracting ₹5,32,429 Crore—an impressive 30 per cent of total FDI equity inflows. Karnataka follows with ₹3,89,483 Crore (22 per cent) and Gujarat with ₹2,99,624 crore (17 per cent). Together, these three



states command an astounding 69 per cent of India's total FDI, while the remaining states are left with a mere 31 per cent. This clearly illustrates how locational advantages significantly dictate industrial investment.

Export statistics serve as further evidence of this imbalance, with Gujarat and Maharashtra accounting for over 50 per cent of India's total exports, thanks to their robust seaport infrastructures. Without immediate and decisive intervention, this disparity will only continue to widen, threatening the future economic landscape of our nation.

Seaport-Led Industrialisation: A Global Perspective

Seaports play a critical role in industrialisation. Some countries, like China, have successfully leveraged their coastal regions to expand manufacturing capabilities. In China, industrial hubs are strategically located near ports, minimising logistical costs. In contrast, India's hinterland dry ports and container depots are, on average, 1,400 km away



AS MITTAL

from seaports, leading to significantly higher export and import costs. This distance compounds competition from China, which accounted for nearly 42 per cent of India's textiles and clothing imports, 40 per cent of machinery imports, and 38.4 per cent of electronics imports in 2023-24. Why Freight Costs Matter The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported in 2022 that India's logistics costs are already 14 per cent higher than the global average, disproportionately affecting manufacturers in landlocked northern states that rely on dry ports as critical trade gateways. Manufacturers in these areas face higher freight costs due to longer transit distances to seaports like Mumbai, Mundra, Kandla, and Chennai. Dependence on road transport is 30-50 per cent

more expensive than rail. The lack of dedicated freight corridors slows transportation efficiency and increases operational expenses. Industries in northern states not only receive raw materials from coastal regions but also send finished products to markets using the same routes.

While dry ports have been established to bridge this gap, they often function merely as booking centres rather than effective logistics solutions. As a result, northern manufacturers face a double freight burden, forcing many to relocate or shut down operations due to unsustainable costs. In contrast, industrial clusters in coastal states benefit from proximity to ports, enhancing their global trade competitiveness and generating employment.

Railway freight initiatives: The Indian Railways has successfully implemented targeted freight subsidies in select sectors. First, A 40 per cent discount is available for loading fly ash. Second, Traditional Empty Flow Directions (TEFD) rebate up to a 20 per cent reduction in costs for freight that moves along underutilised routes. Third, 157 'Kisan Rail'

services transport perishable goods and vegetables. A 50 per cent subsidy on railway freight, funded by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries under the 'Operation Greens' scheme, has significantly boosted farm exports of agricultural commodities. Fourth, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) offers a 20 per cent Transport Incentive (TI) Scheme for finished goods transported via rail or the Inland Waterways Authority of India, from the port nearest to the location of industrial units in the North-Eastern Region (NER) to the buyers' area.

How freight subsidy could be re-structured Based on previous initiatives, a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program could be a game changer and might be structured as follows: Subsidised Rail Freight Rates: 1. Offering up to a 30-40 per cent subsidy on goods transported from northern dry ports to major coastal hubs. 2-Expanding Empty Flow Rebates: Extending TEFD rebates to northern states to make backhaul freight more economical. 3-Infrastructure Development: Investing in multimodal logistics parks and dedicated freight corridors in the northern states.

The Way Forward: The central government must not overlook its landlocked northern states to achieve inclusive industrial growth. Rail freight subsidies will support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), attract new investments, and create jobs. While global trade regulations often scrutinise subsidies, the pricing autonomy of Indian Railways allows for strategic adjustments in freight costs without breaching World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. By revising freight structures, northern manufacturers can enhance their global competitiveness. If we aspire for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), it is essential to ensure balanced industrial progress. To conclude, India's industrial growth is marked by stark regional disparities, with southern states while northern states lag behind. A key driver of this imbalance is logistics, as landlocked states face high freight costs that hinder competitiveness and discourage investment. Proximity to seaports has enabled coastal states to dominate exports, attract foreign direct investment, and develop thriving industrial sectors. To bridge this gap, India must implement a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program, including subsidised rail freight rates, expanded empty flow rebates, and enhanced logistics infrastructure.

(The Author is Vice-Chairman of Sonalika IITL Group, Vice-Chairman of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council. Views expressed are personal)

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Explore the role of foreign investments for economic stability

India's economic trajectory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi blends rigorous analysis with bold policy moves. The BJP-led government has combined openness to foreign capital — through Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) — with initiatives to boost self-reliance. Economists and policymakers alike recognise foreign investment as a pillar of economic stability, providing critical financing, technology, and market access across sectors. This balanced strategy favours pro-growth reforms while building domestic capacity.

FDI AND FII: Temporary Boost For Long-Term Self-Reliance

Surging FDI inflows have strengthened India's growth and stability. Annual FDI hit a record \$83.6 Billion in FY2021-22, almost double the \$45 Billion in 2014. This reflects investors' confidence in India's reform agenda. Manufacturing FDI alone jumped 76 per cent in FY2021-22 after initiatives like Make in India, and even post-COVID FDI inflows were 23 per cent higher than pre-pandemic levels, underscoring sustained foreign trust during crises.

FII has been crucial in bolstering India's financial markets and boosting its economy. India has managed to extract maximum advantage out of FII inflows to improve market liquidity and reinforce a strong balance of payments position. Moreover, the Modi government's economic policies have inspired considerable confidence in the Indian economy among global investors leading to ever-increasing inflows of capital that have further firmed up the Indian economy. Timely and proactive actions taken by policymakers from targeted liquidity infusions during the 2020 global crisis to automatic stabilisers have mitigated volatility and supported growth momentum.

This bolstered economic momentum, with its cadre of dedicated professionals, startups, and thriving industries, has catapulted India to a challenging, productive, and sustainable global positioning of higher foreign investments.

Transformative Impact Across Key Sectors

Liberalised foreign investment regulations have funnelled significant capital reserves into formative industries including information technology, manufacturing infrastructure, healthcare, agribusiness, and education.

Technology corporations have been top beneficiaries, with the software and hardware sector attracting approximately 25 per cent of all foreign direct investment inflows in fiscal year 2021-2022, underscoring India's emergence as a global technology leader. Manufacturing

industries have gained momentum thanks to both foreign capital and domestic incentives designed to stimulate job creation and output. The innovative Production-Linked Incentive schemes introduced in 2020 have since incentivised ₹1.32 Trillion in new investments while expanding total production value by a staggering ₹10.9 Trillion, generating hundreds of thousands of well-compensated employment opportunities.

Strategic Reforms Boost Self-Reliance

PM Modi has aligned the overarching policy goals of self-reliance with encouraging foreign investment. Prime Minister Modi has shifted policy to turn self-reliance into both a goal and an opportunity for foreign investors. Launched in 2020 with a \$20 Trillion stimulus, the Atmanirbhar Bharat mission epitomises India's pursuit for self-reliant growth; more efficient, competitive and resilient economies that welcome foreign participation which can strengthen the domestic base.

Defence manufacturing is a case in point. The FDI cap on it was raised from 49 per cent to 74 per cent to attract joint ventures and technology transfer. On a broader scale, substantive liberalisation of FDI across all sectors (from coal mining and aviation to insurance and the internet) along with simplifying investment rules has radically improved India's investor-friendly environment. Together with the Make in India initiative, this ensures that foreign investment enters the country in forms that are consistent with national goals and strengthen the industrial foundation.

Self-Reliant Growth

Continuing reforms and overall multi-sector growth should keep India firmly on the map as a global place for investment. Nearly constant inflows from abroad, gains in sectors besides heavy industry, and a market that has been proof of the strength of this strategy.

Consequently, strategic foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign institutional investors (FII) will continue to play important roles in India's pursuit of balanced development. By keeping up steady government policies and forming international partnerships, India can achieve economic self-reliance. This formula for success will ensure that India is a strong and resilient economic power.

Conclusion

The challenge of balancing foreign investment with self-reliant economic growth in India has its roots in the socialist Nehruvian policies. Historically, India has oscillated between protectionist policies and open-market reforms. Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the government has pursued a dual approach: encouraging Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) while simultaneously strengthening domestic industries. The core issue being tackled is how India can leverage foreign capital for growth without becoming overly dependent on external funding.

FDI brings in critical capital, technology, and expertise, which boost infrastructure, manufacturing, and technology sectors. Meanwhile, FII helps stabilise financial markets and improve liquidity. However, excessive reliance on foreign investments can lead to economic vulnerabilities, particularly during global downturns.

India has addressed this issue by implementing structural reforms such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Production-Linked Incentives (PLI).

These initiatives ensure that foreign investments align with national priorities, fostering job creation, technological advancements, and industrial self-sufficiency. In essence, the problem being analysed is whether India can sustain high economic growth, attract global investments, and enhance self-reliance without compromising financial stability.

India's economic trajectory under Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflects a strategic blend of foreign investment and self-reliance.

The record-breaking inflows of FDI and FII underscore global confidence in India's reform agenda, strengthening financial markets, industrial growth, and employment generation. Initiatives like Make in India, Production-Linked Incentives, and Atmanirbhar Bharat have ensured that foreign investments align with national priorities, bolstering domestic capabilities while sustaining economic expansion.

The liberalisation of foreign investment regulations across key sectors such as technology, manufacturing, and defense has attracted significant capital and fostered innovation.

The Modi government's pragmatic policies have mitigated global economic volatility, creating a resilient economic environment that can weather crises and sustain long-term growth. India's rise as a technology and industrial powerhouse is a testament to this strategic approach.

(The author is Chairperson - National Unity and Security Council. Views expressed are personal)

The silent crisis in education: teacher burnout

Teachers are more than just educators. They are mentors, motivators and role models who profoundly shape their students' lives. Teachers' ability to inspire, adapt, and create lasting impact makes them unique.

However, what saddens is that the fast-paced nature of education has left the teachers physically, emotionally and mentally exhausted.

Today, teacher burnout is real, and it is a growing crisis that affects not only educators but also students and the overall quality of education. Burnout, which is characterised by chronic stress, exhaustion and a loss of motivation, has led many skilled educators to leave the profession.

Several factors such as excessive workload, lack of support resources, wherein teachers work beyond their contracted hours, grading assignments, preparing lesson plans, attending meetings and handling administrative tasks, along with the expectation to constantly perform at high levels with limited time have resulted to overwhelming stress.

Many teachers, especially in underfunded schools, are facing challenges such as overcrowded classrooms, lack of teaching materials and inadequate support staff, which has forced the teachers to find alternative solutions, often at the cost of their time and money.

Teaching is an emotionally demanding job. Today, a teacher apart from just teaching has to support students academically and personally, often acting as mentors, counsellors and caregivers. They even have to deal with student trauma, behavioural issues and academic struggles, which, as per several studies, has taken a significant emotional toll. Studies also reveal that in many countries, teachers are underpaid when compared to other professionals with similar education levels. This has led to financial stress and has contributed to dissatisfaction and exhaustion.

Due to their demanding schedules, many teachers struggle to find time for themselves and their families. The inability to maintain a work-life balance has contributed to chronic fatigue and decreased job satisfaction, resulting in teacher burnout.

Teacher burnout has serious consequences, not only for teachers but also for the education system as a whole. It is quite certain that once the person develops chronic stress, it will lead to physical health issues such as headaches, high blood pressure and insomnia. Not only this, it will also increase the risk of anxiety, depression and emotional exhaustion. Such teachers will at the same time struggle to maintain the same level of enthusiasm, patience and creativity in their teaching, affecting student engagement and learning outcomes.

Today, many dedicated educators are leaving this noble profession due to burnout, resulting in teacher shortages and the loss of experienced professionals.

Consequently, schools are compelled to hire less experienced teachers, which impacts the overall quality of education. When teachers experience burnout, students feel less supported and motivated. A disengaged or emotionally drained teacher can create a negative learning environment, impacting student performance and well-being.

It is high time to address teacher burnout through systemic changes at multiple levels, requiring action from schools, governments and society to create a healthier teaching environment. Reducing workload by implementing manageable schedules, providing administrative support and minimising unnecessary paperwork can help alleviate stress.

Additionally, offering mental health resources, counselling services and stress management programs can support teachers in coping with emotional challenges. Increasing salaries, providing financial incentives and recognising teachers' efforts, can enhance job satisfaction and reduce financial stress.

Conclusion

Above all, promoting work-life balance by limiting after-hours communication, ensuring adequate breaks and offering flexible schedules is crucial. Furthermore, fostering a supportive work environment through strong leadership, collaboration, mentorship programs and professional development can make teachers feel valued. Lastly, granting teachers more autonomy by reducing excessive standardised testing and allowing them to design engaging, student-centred lessons can boost motivation and fulfilment.

There is no denying that teacher burnout is a serious issue that demands immediate attention. Without proper intervention, the education system risks losing passionate and skilled educators, which will ultimately affect students' success and the future of education.

Investing in teacher well-being is not just about improving their lives, rather it is about ensuring a better future for generations to come. To conclude, teachers are the backbone of education. Yet, the growing demands of the profession have left many educators physically, emotionally, and mentally drained. Teachers have a larger responsibility towards the society. If they are emotionally, mentally and physically fit they can deliver what it takes to build a nation!

(The writer is an educator. Views expressed are personal)



MONICA B SOOD



SAKSHI SETHI

Trump says it is up to Russia to accept ceasefire deal in war with Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York / Washington

President Donald Trump said he is hopeful that Russia will agree to a 30-day ceasefire with Ukraine even as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Wednesday termed it as a positive step and said it is up to the US to convince Russia to accept it.

Senior officials from the US and Ukraine held talks in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday focussing on ending the over three year war between Moscow and Kyiv, which gave an indication to accept a 30-day ceasefire.

"A while ago, Ukraine has agreed to the ceasefire. Now we go to Russia and hopefully President Putin will agree to it also," Trump said here soon after the Jeddah announcement.

"If we get Russia to do it, that will be great. If we can't, we keep going on and on and people are going to get killed," he said in another video posted on his TruthSocial account.

He also spoke about meetings with Russia soon, in an apparent reference to Steve Witkoff, his special envoy, who is likely to visit Moscow to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin.

President Zelenskyy said the American side understands his country's arguments and considers their proposals and added that he is "grateful to President Trump for the constructive conversation between our teams."

"Ukraine is ready to accept this proposal—we see it as a positive step and are ready to take it. Now, it is up to the United States to convince Russia to do the same. If Russia agrees, the ceasefire will take effect immediately," Zelenskyy said hours after the announcement came from Jeddah.

"During today's talks, the US side pro-



President Donald Trump and Tesla CEO Elon Musk speak to reporters near a red Model S Tesla vehicle on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

AP/PTI

posed taking an even bigger first step—a 30-day full interim ceasefire, not only stopping missile, drone, and bomb attacks, not only in the Black Sea, but also along the entire front line," the Ukrainian president said in a video, text for which was posted on his official X handle too.

Asserting that Ukraine's position remains absolutely clear, he said, "Ukraine has been seeking peace from the very first second of this war, and we want to do everything to achieve it as soon as possi-

ble and in a reliable way—so that war does not return."

Zelenskyy also talked about the three key points that his team proposed during the meeting with the Americans in Jeddah: silence in the skies—stopping missile strikes, bombs, and long-range drone attacks; silence at sea; real confidence-building measures in this whole situation, "in which diplomacy is ongoing, which primarily means the release of prisoners of war and detainees—both military and

civilian—and the return of Ukrainian children who were forcibly transferred to Russia."

There has been no official reaction from Russia as yet.

Meanwhile, soon after the announcement coming in from Jeddah, the Trump government lifted its suspension of military aid and intelligence sharing with Ukraine, measures that were imposed a week ago in an apparent effort to push Zelenskyy for talks about ending the war.

Centre-right party wins most votes in Greenland's parliamentary election

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Nuuk (Greenland)

The centre-right Demokraatit Party won the most votes in Greenland's parliamentary elections, a surprise result as the territory went to the polls in the shadow of US President Donald Trump's stated goal of taking control of the island one way or another.

Both Demokraatit — the Democrats — and the second place party, Nalaraq — "Point of Orientation" — favour independence from Denmark but differ on the pace of change.

Demokraatit's upset victory on Wednesday over parties that have governed the territory for years indicates that many in Greenland care just as much about health care, education, cultural heritage and other social policies.

"I think this is a historic result in Greenland's political history," Demokraatit party leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen said at the election party after the results.

Greenlandic newspaper Sermitsiaq wrote that Nielsen, 33, appeared to be surprised by his party's gains, with photos showing him sporting a huge grin and applauding at the election party.

The Danish Broadcasting Corporation DR reported that Nielsen said his party would reach out to all other parties to negotiate the future political course for Greenland.

"We had not expected that the election would have this outcome," Nielsen told Greenlandic Broadcasting Corporation KNR TV. "We are very happy."

Nielsen also said that Greenland needs to stand together "in a time of great interest from outside," KNR TV reported.

Prime Minister Mute Bourup Egede had called the early vote in February, saying the country needed to be united during a "serious time" unlike anything Greenland has ever experienced.

On Wednesday, after the results were known, Egede thanked voters in a Facebook post for turning out and said the parties were ready to turn to negotiations to form a government.

Danish Defence Minister Troels Lund Poulsen congratulated the Demokraatit party and said the future Greenlandic government would likely have to "deal with massive pressure from US President Donald Trump," according to DR.

He added that "it's not the case that you can just take part of the Danish Realm — the future of Greenland is based on what the Greenlandic people and government want," DR reported.

Trump has been outspoken about his desire to control Greenland, telling a joint session of Congress last week that he thought the US was going to get it "one way or the other."

Greenland, a self-governing region of Denmark, straddles strategic air and sea routes in the North Atlantic and has rich deposits of the rare earth minerals needed to make everything from mobile



Electoral workers prepare to count votes during parliamentary elections in Nuuk, Greenland.

AP/PTI

phones to renewable energy technology.

Egede's Inuit Ataqatigiit (United Inuit) had been widely expected to win, followed by Siumut — two parties which had dominated Greenland's politics in recent years. A break from Denmark wasn't on the ballot, but it was on everyone's mind. The island of 56,000 people has been on a path toward independence since at least 2009, and the 31 lawmakers elected will shape the island's future as it debates whether the time has come to declare independence.

Four of the five main parties in the race sought independence, but disagreed on when and how.

Nalaraq is the most aggressively pro-independence, while Demokraatit favours a more moderate pace of change.

"What approach to independence will win the day will ultimately depend on if Demokraatit decides to form a coalition government, and if so, with which party," said Dwayne Menezes, managing director of the Polar Research and Policy Initiative.

White House pressures Columbia University as it seeks to deport pro-Palestinian activists

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

The White House complained Tuesday that Columbia University is refusing to help federal agents find people being sought as part of the government's effort to deport participants in pro-Palestinian demonstrations, as the administration continued to punish the school by yanking federal research dollars.

Immigration enforcement agents on Saturday arrested and detained Mahmoud Khalil, a legal U.S. resident and Palestinian activist who played a prominent part in protests at Columbia last year. He is now facing possible deportation.

President Donald Trump has vowed additional arrests. In a briefing with reporters in Washington, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said federal authorities have been "using intelligence" to identify other people involved in campus demonstrations critical of Israel

that the administration considered to be antisemitic and "pro-Hamas."

She said Columbia had been given names and was refusing to help the Department of Homeland Security "to identify those individuals on campus."

"As the president said very strongly in his statement yesterday, he is not going to tolerate that," Leavitt said.

A Columbia spokesperson didn't immediately return a message seeking comment.

Last week, the Trump administration announced it was pulling \$400 million in grants and contracts from Columbia, accusing the school of failing to stop antisemitism on campus. As part of those cuts, the National Institutes of Health late Monday it was cutting more than \$250 million in funding, which included more than 400 grants.

X. Edward Guo, director of Columbia's Bone Bioengineering Laboratory, posted a screenshot on X of an email he received

notifying him that one of his NIH awards had been canceled. "We understand this may be shocking news," the email reads.

The university was wracked last spring by large demonstrations by students calling for an end to Israeli military action in Gaza and a recognition of Palestinians' human rights and territorial claims. The university ultimately called in police to dismantle a protest encampment and end a student takeover of an administration building.

Khalil, 30, had been a spokesperson for the protesters. He hasn't been charged with any crimes, but Leavitt said the administration had moved to deport him under a section of the Immigration and Nationality Act that gives the secretary of state the power to deport a non-citizen if the government "has reasonable ground to believe" the person's presence could have "serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States."

As of Tuesday, Khalil was being held at an immigration detention center in Louisiana. Civil rights groups and Khalil's attorneys say the government is unconstitutionally using its immigration-control powers to stop him from speaking out. A federal judge set a hearing for Wednesday and ordered the government not to deport him in the meantime.

Trump, a Republican, has suggested that some protesters support Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, killing 1,200 people and abducting 251. Israel responded with bombardment and other military offensives that have left over 48,000 Palestinians dead in Hamas-ruled Gaza. Israel says more than 17,000 were militants.

Trump heralded Khalil's arrest as the first "of many to come," vowing on social media to deport students the president described as engaging in "pro-terrorist, anti-Semitic, anti-American activity."

US tariffs on steel, aluminum unjustified: Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Melbourne

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Wednesday that US tariffs on Australian steel and aluminum were unjustified, but his government would not retaliate with its own tariffs. US President Donald Trump said last month he was considering a tariff exemption for Australia, a free trade treaty partner that has traded with the United States at a deficit for decades.

A former Australian government secured an exemption with the previous Trump administration in 2018 based on arguments including that Australian steelmaker BlueScope employs thousands of workers in the US.

Albanese said he would continue to pursue an Australian exemption. The 2018 exemption took several months to

secure. "It has been foreshadowed that no country regardless of its relationship with the United States has been granted an exemption. Such a decision by the Trump administration is entirely unjustified," Albanese said.

"Tariffs and escalating trade tensions are a form of economic self-harm and a recipe for slower growth and higher inflation. They are paid by the consumers. This is why Australia will not be imposing reciprocal tariffs on the United States," Albanese added.

The US officially increased tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports to 25 percent on Wednesday. The US decision not to exempt Australia was announced days after a spat became public between Trump and the former Australian prime minister who secured the 2018 exemption, Malcolm Turnbull.

Trump tariffs disappointing but no retaliation: UK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

The British government on Wednesday called the Trump administration's tariffs on global steel and aluminium imports "disappointing," but said that it won't impose retaliatory measures.

Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, however, did not rule out future tariffs on US imports and said he would "continue to engage closely and productively with the US to press the case for UK business interests."

"We will keep all options on the table and won't hesitate to respond in the national interest," Reynolds said.

Treasury Minister James Murray echoed that, telling Times Radio: "We reserve our right to retaliate."

Britain is not part of the European Union, which Wednesday announced import taxes on American goods, ranging from steel and

aluminium to bourbon, peanut butter and jeans in response to Trump's move.

Center-left UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has worked to build strong ties with President Donald Trump, in hope of avoiding the tariffs levied on many other US trading partners.

After a meeting last month at the White House, Trump and Starmer said their governments would work on sealing a long-elusive US-UK trade deal.

Reynolds said the government remains "focused on a pragmatic approach and are rapidly negotiating a wider economic agreement with the US to eliminate additional tariffs and to benefit UK businesses and our economy."

The tariffs are a new blow for Britain's once-mighty steel industry, which has shrunk dramatically from its 1970s peak and now accounts for 0.1% of the economy.

Trump halts programme that keeps aging affordable housing livable

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Washington

The Trump administration is halting a USD 1 billion programme that helps preserve affordable housing, threatening projects that keep tens of thousands of units livable for low-income Americans, according to a document obtained by The Associated Press.

The action is part of a slew of cuts and funding freezes at the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, largely at the direction of President Donald Trump and Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency, that have rattled the affordable-housing industry.

Preserving these units gets less attention than ribbon-cuttings, but it's a centre-piece of efforts to address the nation's housing crisis. Hundreds of thousands of low-rent apartments, many of them aging and in need of urgent repair, are at risk of being yanked out from under poor Americans.

The programme has already awarded the money to projects that would upgrade

at least 25,000 affordable units across the country, and details of how it will be wound down remain unclear.

A spokesperson for HUD did not respond to repeated requests for comment. But an internal document reviewed by the AP said that the programme is being "terminated" at the direction of DOGE. Two HUD workers, who have knowledge of the programme and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal, confirmed the directive to shutter it.

On its face, the over USD 1 billion Green and Resilient Retrofit Programme, passed by Congress in 2022, is intended for energy-efficiency improvements. It is distributed in grants and loans to owners of affordable housing in need of updating, including replacing or repairing heating and cooling systems, leaky roofs, aging insulation or windows, or undertaking flood-proofing.

But the money plays a much larger role in preserving affordable units.

Projects that use the funds are required



to keep their buildings affordable for up to 25 years. The money is also leveraged to pull in other investments for major repairs and renovations needed to keep the buildings livable.

It's like building a Jenga tower, where one of the programme's grants or loans — which range from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars — is a bottom block and each new block is another investment, experts said.

This money "was essential in order for the project to come together," said Mike Essian, vice president at American Community Developers, Inc., which received funding for several affordable

housing projects. "Projects will fail and these are projects that are already difficult to finance."

The news has been a jolt to Al Hase and Joan Starr, tenants in an apartment building in Vancouver, Washington, full of other low-income seniors with few or no other options — most of whom live on less than USD 33,000 a year.

The 170-unit Smith Tower Apartments, built in the 1960s, is in need of updates, including its first building-wide sprinkler system. The USD 10 million award was a financial kickstart for its nearly USD 100 million project, and is cited in applications for other investments.

The potential loss "seriously jeopardises our ability to be able to provide an upgrade to the current systems," said Greg Franks, president of the property's management company, adding that the work is "needed to sustain the livability of this building based on its age, and to keep it viable for another 60 years."

"We are depending on that USD 10 mil-

lion," he said.

So, too, are Hase and Starr, a retired couple in their 70s who have lived there for 16 years.

They fill their balcony with geraniums and petunias, count the eagles at a nearby park and live off of meagre Social Security incomes. They learned about the potential funding loss in a letter from the apartment's management company.

"It's kinda terrifying, it's almost like getting news from a doctor that something's going to take your life in six months or a year," Hase told the AP in a phone call.

"We're from an era where the wages weren't there, so our Social Security..." he said, pausing. "Sucks," pitched in Starr.

"If I'd been born a rich man," he said. Starr added: "We're just regular people."

"And we're the lucky ones because we've got two social securities coming in," she said.

But being lucky ones still doesn't count for much in today's rental market. "Prices

keep going up, I've looked, and there's no way," she said.

"It's the difference between living and not being able to live," he said.

HUD's lack of communication about the programme's future sent organisations in search of contingency plans, though roughly two dozen projects will still get funding, one HUD employee told the AP. The rest are in limbo.

"If these funds aren't reinstated, we will certainly seek other funding to fill that gap. The reality is that will take time and will inevitably make the project more expensive," Travis Phillips of the Housing Development Centre said of funding for Smith Tower.

It's the position several hundred other affordable-housing projects now find themselves in across 42 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

"In all honesty," said Michelle Arevalos, Smith Tower's administrator, "if this building were not here, a lot of our folks actually probably would be homeless."

Nearly 550 Indians rescued from scam centres near Myanmar-Thailand border

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

The Indian Embassy here in close coordination with its counterpart at Yangon in neighbouring Myanmar has ensured repatriation of 549 Indians after rescuing them from scam centres operating in areas near the Myanmar-Thailand border, officials said on Wednesday. The Indian nationals were repatriated through Mae Sot in Thailand to India on March 10 and 11 by two special flights, according to the Indian Embassy in Thailand.

"This is part of Government of India's sustained efforts to secure release and repatriation of Indian nationals who were lured with fake job offers and were made to work in scam-centres in the neighbouring countries of Thailand," the Embassy said in a post on X.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Indian Embassy at Yangon said in a post on X: "In coordination with Myanmar's Union authorities and local groups, 283 Indian nationals at scam compounds in the Myawaddy area of Myanmar were released and repatriated yesterday through Mae Sot in Thailand. Strongly reiterate our advice against such job offers."

It followed up with another post on Wednesday that pointed out how "the second batch of 266 Indian nationals from scam centres in Myawaddy were repatriated to India via Mae Sot yesterday."

The Indian Embassy thanked "the border authorities and @IndianThailand for seamless coordination and support" and reiterated: "We firmly advise against such job offers in the area."

Earlier on Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi that the government of India has been making sustained efforts to secure the release and repatriation of Indian nationals lured to various southeast Asian countries, including Myanmar, with fake job offers.

"These persons were subsequently made to indulge in cybercrime and engage in other fraudulent activities in scam centres operating in regions along the Myanmar-Thailand border," MEA said in a statement on Monday.

The post by the Indian Embassy at Thailand also advised the Indian nationals to verify credentials of foreign employers and check the antecedents of recruiting agents and companies, before taking up job offers.

The MEA statement echoed the sentiment: "The government of India wishes to reiterate its caution, circulated earlier from time

to time through advisories and social media posts, about such rackets.

"Indian nationals are once again advised to verify credentials of foreign employers through Missions abroad and check the antecedents of recruiting agents and companies before taking up a job offer."

According to media reports, Myawaddy and Tachilek near Thailand-Myanmar border have been known as safe havens for criminal syndicates that have trapped thousands of people from across South Asia forcing them to run online scam centres.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is informed that General Power of Attorney which is Executed by Sarthak Jain S/o Mr. Praveesh Jain in favour of Mr. Praveesh Jain S/o Late Mr. D. C. Jain Reg. as Docs. No. 101 Dated 22.02.2006. Has been lost anywhere. If anyone find this Original GPA or having any objection Regarding this GPA, Please Inform me on my given Mob No.-9911004142 within 7 days.
Yogesh Kumar (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, RAJENDRA SINGH RANA S/O SHRI S.L.S RANA (LATE SHYAM LAL SINGH RANA) R/O H.NO 62 A PKT-D-2, JANIA FLATS KONDOLI, EAST DELHI-110096 have severed of my relationship and/or/ disowned/dishonored my Unmarried son ATUL RANA from my moveable or immovable properties due to his bad habits, continuous irresponsible behavior breach of trust, not heading to my advice, it appears that he is involved in such activities detrimental to my family interest for which I shall not be responsible for any of his act, deeds done by him in future in any manner and anybody dealing with him shall be at their own risks and consequences.
PD(1666)A
I, Satewan, Father of No.16020079X Hav Sandeep Sahu, R/o- VPO- Bibipur, Teh & Dist- Jind, Haryana-126102, have changed my name from Satewan to Satywan, vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1666)C
I, Suresh W/o- JC-472032M Sub Ajit Singh, R/o- VPO-Sultana Ahiran, Teh - Buhana, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan- 333502, have changed my name from Suresh to Suresh Devi, vide affidavit No. INDL48330590091923X, dated 11/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1669)C
I, Mohanan V, F/o- JC-858077P NB/SUB(OFC) Suresh M, R/o- Vill & PO- Balamarampuram, Teh- Neyyattinkara Dist- Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala- 695501, have changed my name from Mohanan V to V Mohanan Nair, vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1670)C



THANKSGIVING
Thank you holly spirit for all the blessings Celine
PD(1667)C

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K Thankanchen, F/o-15799374P NK(OPR) Aneesh T, R/o- Puthenchira, Thekumuri, Champakulam PO, Alappuzha, Kerala-688505, have changed my name from K Thankanchen to Thankachan K, vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1671)C
I, Mahadik Dadaso Ramu Father of- No.14868601F Nk Mahadik Mahesh D, R/o- A/P Dhmalwadi, Tal- Koregaon, Dist- Satara, Maharashtra- 415010, have changed my name from Mahadik Dadaso Ramu to Dadaso Ramu Mahadik, vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1672)C
I, hitherto known as Pratap Sunder Das Makhija S/o Sunder Das Makhija, R/o- 32B, Sanskriti Apartments, Sec- 19B, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110075, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pratap Makhija.
PD(1673)C
I, Dwarika Nath Ram R/o- RZ- 33/1/195, Gali No.- 14 D, Durga Park, New Delhi- 110045, declare that in my service records (Lab Assistant Employee Id 20130613), my name has been erroneously recorded as Dwarika Nath Ram, whereas my correct name is Dwarika Nath Ram, which may be amended accordingly.
PD(1674)C

CSB Bank PUBLIC NOTICE ON AUCTION OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS
The borrower/s in specific and interested bidders in general, are hereby informed that on account of non-payment of the Banks due by the borrowers as under despite the payment notice and recall/notice issued by the Bank, the gold ornaments pledged with the bank security by the respective borrowers for the loan availed by them will be sold in public auction on "as is where is" and "non-recourse" basis through e-auction portal <https://gold.samil.in> on 24th March 2025 at 10.30 AM. The auction may be adjourned to any other later date at the discretion of the bank upon publication of the same in the Bank's notice board. The borrowers are hereby informed that the gold ornaments will be disposed of by private sale if the public auction is not successful and if there is a further balance to be recovered thereafter, legal action will be initiated against the borrower/s for recovery of the balance amounts due to the bank. "In case of defaulted borrower, all conditions will be applicable to legal heirs."

S. No.	Account Name	Client ID	No. of Acc.	Bal. Outstanding as on 11-03-2025	Weight (grams)
BRANCH NAME : ROHINI SECTOR 7					
1	SURENDER SINGH NEGI	7662258	001	2,56,483.96	53.82

For more details/ account wise information borrower/s interested bidders may contact respective branches and for participating in the auction, please visit/ login to the e-auction portal <https://gold.samil.in>.
NCT OF DELHI | 13.03.2025 Sd/- Authorized Officer, CSB Bank

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No.: S/66/022/24-25; Dated: 10-03-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-
SN. 1: Tender No. NJ255084; Closing/Opening Date: 31-03-2025
Brief Description & Qty: Traction Motor stacking as per annexure; Consignee: - SSE/D/Siliguri Jn., NFR; Qty: 10 Nos.
NOTE: For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.
Dy. Chief Material Manager, New Jalpaiguri
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/40/2024-25 Dated: 10-03-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
SN.1. Tender No. 40/25/0528/OT/314/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 19-03-2025
Brief Description: LED Based Emergency automatic Light Unit Type II, with 12V, 7Ah capacity Soaked Maintenance free Batter for LHB Coaches conforming to RDSO's Specification No RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0180-2016 (Rev.0) and RDSO Drg No. RDSO/PE/SK/TL/0181-2016 (Rev.0) Sheet 1 & 2. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No. Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item Type: Goods (supply)] (i) Qty-40 Set for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty-02 Set for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), (iii) Qty-72 Set for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (iv) Qty-60 Set for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam) P.L. No. -45151489.
SN.2. Tender No. 37/25/0759/OT/315/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 25-03-2025
Brief Description: Constant contact polyurethane Side beater pad assembly for NLB Bogies Drawing- AAL-021101/N Alt-1. Mat. Spec-WD-38-Misc-2004 (Rev-2) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100354, Constant Contact Side Beater for rolling stock Sub item: Constant contact side beater for CASNUB 22NLB BOGIES, Item Type: Goods (supply) 1) Qty-100 Nos for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty-300 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty-700 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), iv) Qty-3120 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-38106462.
SN.3. Tender No. 61/24/5677/OT/316/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 17-03-2025
Brief Description: Wider base bridge Approach sleepers (RT-8971-8978) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty- 551 Set for Sr. Section Engineer/Works/Concrete Sleeper, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. 609007190137.

SN.4. Tender No. 37/25/0635/OT/317/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 24-03-2025
Brief Description: Coupler Body With Shank Wear Plate/BG/Wagon, Drawing-SK-62724-Item-1 & Item -10 alt -30. Mat Spec-WD-70-BD-10 (Rev-3) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100446, Upgraded High Tensile Centre Buffer Coupler for freight stock Wages Sub item: Coupler Body & Shank: Wear Plate, Item Type: Good (supply) i) Qty-161 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty-1242 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP Depot, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty-130 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 38135840.
SN.5. Tender No. 50/25/5036/OT/318/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 26-03-2025
Brief Description: 1) Supply of 6 Quad 0.9mm dia as per spec. no. IRS:TC 30/2005 VER.1, Arndt 5 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAM Item ref. (Item Id:-3100047-QUAD CABLES for S&T INSTALLATION, Sub Item Id:- 3100047001-Underground Railway Jelly Filled Telecom Quad cables For Signalling And Telecom Installations) Qty-35.00 Kilometre for SSE/SIG/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-561100193138. 2) Supply of 6 Quad 0.9 mm dia as per spec. no. IRS: TC 30/2005 VER.1, Arndt. 5 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAM Item ref. (Item Id:-3100047-QUAD CABLES for S&T INSTALLATIONS, Sub Item Id:- 3100047001-Underground Railway Jelly Filled Telecom Quad Cables For Signalling And Telecom Installations) Qty-50.00 Kilometre for SSE/SIG/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-561100193199.

SN.6. Tender No. 61/25/5115/OT/319/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 28-03-2025
Brief Description: 6 mm Thick Nylon Cord Reinforced Grooved Rubber Sole Plates for 52 kg 1 in 12, Turnouts (T-4732). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100584, RAIL PADS Sub Item: GRSP Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty-500 Set for JITENDRA KUMAR, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 609002780108.
SN.7. Tender No. 30/25/1219/OT/320/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 31-03-2025
Brief Description: Schaku Semi permanent coupler End 'A' for DEMU 1400 HP (Complete Unit) to M/S Escorts Drg. No. 40-586 A(0) and SK-750 or Similar Spec: 61-B-36 Rev. 68-1 with amendment no. 1 of October-2016 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100362, Scharfenberg couplers & Draw Gear for Electric Multiple Unit Rolling Stock for Calcutta & Bombay suburban service Broad Gauge 1676 mm to Spec. No. 61-B-36 Rev. 68-1 (RECONSTRUCTED November 2004). Sub Item: Scharfenberg Couplers & Draw Gear for Electric Multiple Unit Rolling Stock for Calcutta & Bombay suburban service. Broad Gauge 1676 mm Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty- 46 Nos for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L. No-32230059.

SN.8. Tender No. 50/25/5039/OT/321/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 31-03-2025
Brief Description: Underground signalling cable of size 2 core x 25 sq. mm. Aluminium, PVC insulated, as per spec. no. IRS-S-63/2014 & Rev.4.0 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAM Item ref.] (Item Id:- 3100053 - PVC Insulated Armoured, Unscreened Underground Power Cable, Sub Item Id :- 3100053001- PVC Insulated Armoured, Unscreened Underground Power Cable) Inspection Details Stage Inspection Not Required Qty- 90.00 Kilometre for SSE/SIG/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L. No-400580780586.
NOTE: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.
PCMM, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers With A Smile"

THANKSGIVING
Thank you holly spirit for all the blessings Celine
PD(1667)C

CHANGE OF NAME
I, K Thankanchen, F/o-15799374P NK(OPR) Aneesh T, R/o- Puthenchira, Thekumuri, Champakulam PO, Alappuzha, Kerala-688505, have changed my name from K Thankanchen to Thankachan K, vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1671)C
I, Mahadik Dadaso Ramu Father of- No.14868601F Nk Mahadik Mahesh D, R/o- A/P Dhmalwadi, Tal- Koregaon, Dist- Satara, Maharashtra- 415010, have changed my name from Mahadik Dadaso Ramu to Dadaso Ramu Mahadik, vide affidavit dated 12/03/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.
PD(1672)C
I, hitherto known as Pratap Sunder Das Makhija S/o Sunder Das Makhija, R/o- 32B, Sanskriti Apartments, Sec- 19B, Dwarka, New Delhi- 110075, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Pratap Makhija.
PD(1673)C
I, Dwarika Nath Ram R/o- RZ- 33/1/195, Gali No.- 14 D, Durga Park, New Delhi- 110045, declare that in my service records (Lab Assistant Employee Id 20130613), my name has been erroneously recorded as Dwarika Nath Ram, whereas my correct name is Dwarika Nath Ram, which may be amended accordingly.
PD(1674)C

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to all concern that LATE SHRI BHUVANENDRA AGNIHOTRI who is the original allottee of PLOT NO D-4, SECTOR-27, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH who expired on dated 21.01.2025 WILL was executed on in favour of SHOBHA AGNIHOTRI W/O LATE SHRI BHUVANENDRA AGNIHOTRI R/O D-4, SECTOR-27, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH which is registered in the office of Sub-Registrar 1, Noida Vide Book No 3 Document No 1145 dated 28.11.2024. So it is informed to all concern that the said PLOT NO D-4, SECTOR-27, NOIDA DISTT. GAUTAM BUDDH NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH is going to be transferred in favour of SHOBHA AGNIHOTRI through registered WILL. If any one has/have objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of the Noida Authority within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.
Signature/s

PUBLIC NOTICE
FOR SHIFTING OF REGISTERED OFFICE
Notice is hereby given that LUCKY ESTATES PRIVATE LIMITED, a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, having its registered office presently at 3018/1 G.F. Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi - 55, has applied to the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), for approval of shifting its registered office from the National Capital Territory of Delhi to the State of Haryana under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013.
New Registered Office Address:
160, Sector 4, IMT Manesar, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122050
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed shifting of the registered office may deliver a representation to the Regional Director, Northern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice.
NISHANK TANDON (Director)
LUCKY ESTATES PRIVATE LIMITED (CIN: U45201DL2002PTC118246)
Reg. Office: 3018/1 G.F. Chuna Mandi, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi - 55
Email: nishanktandon@gmail.com
Date: 08.03.2025

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
E-procurement Tender Notice No. S/40/2024-25 Dated: 10-03-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works.
SN.1. Tender No. 40/25/0528/OT/314/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 19-03-2025
Brief Description: LED Based Emergency automatic Light Unit Type II, with 12V, 7Ah capacity Soaked Maintenance free Batter for LHB Coaches conforming to RDSO's Specification No RDSO/PE/SPEC/AC/0180-2016 (Rev.0) and RDSO Drg No. RDSO/PE/SK/TL/0181-2016 (Rev.0) Sheet 1 & 2. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No. Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item Type: Goods (supply)] (i) Qty-40 Set for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), (ii) Qty-02 Set for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), (iii) Qty-72 Set for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), (iv) Qty-60 Set for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam) P.L. No. -45151489.
SN.2. Tender No. 37/25/0759/OT/315/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 25-03-2025
Brief Description: Constant contact polyurethane Side beater pad assembly for NLB Bogies Drawing- AAL-021101/N Alt-1. Mat. Spec-WD-38-Misc-2004 (Rev-2) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100354, Constant Contact Side Beater for rolling stock Sub item: Constant contact side beater for CASNUB 22NLB BOGIES, Item Type: Goods (supply) 1) Qty-100 Nos for Dibrugarh Town WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty-300 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty-700 Nos for New Jalpaiguri/GSD, NFR (West Bengal), iv) Qty-3120 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-38106462.
SN.3. Tender No. 61/24/5677/OT/316/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 17-03-2025
Brief Description: Wider base bridge Approach sleepers (RT-8971-8978) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: CONSG, Stage Insp.: NA, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty- 551 Set for Sr. Section Engineer/Works/Concrete Sleeper, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. 609007190137.

SN.4. Tender No. 37/25/0635/OT/317/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 24-03-2025
Brief Description: Coupler Body With Shank Wear Plate/BG/Wagon, Drawing-SK-62724-Item-1 & Item -10 alt -30. Mat Spec-WD-70-BD-10 (Rev-3) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100446, Upgraded High Tensile Centre Buffer Coupler for freight stock Wages Sub item: Coupler Body & Shank: Wear Plate, Item Type: Good (supply) i) Qty-161 Nos for Pandu GSD, NFR (Assam), ii) Qty-1242 Nos for New Bongaigaon WORKSHOP Depot, NFR (Assam), iii) Qty-130 Nos for New Jalpaiguri GSD, NFR (West Bengal), P.L.No- 38135840.
SN.5. Tender No. 50/25/5036/OT/318/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 26-03-2025
Brief Description: 1) Supply of 6 Quad 0.9mm dia as per spec. no. IRS:TC 30/2005 VER.1, Arndt 5 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAM Item ref. (Item Id:-3100047-QUAD CABLES for S&T INSTALLATION, Sub Item Id:- 3100047001-Underground Railway Jelly Filled Telecom Quad cables For Signalling And Telecom Installations) Qty-35.00 Kilometre for SSE/SIG/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-561100193138. 2) Supply of 6 Quad 0.9 mm dia as per spec. no. IRS: TC 30/2005 VER.1, Arndt. 5 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAM Item ref. (Item Id:-3100047-QUAD CABLES for S&T INSTALLATIONS, Sub Item Id:- 3100047001-Underground Railway Jelly Filled Telecom Quad Cables For Signalling And Telecom Installations) Qty-50.00 Kilometre for SSE/SIG/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L.No-561100193199.

SN.6. Tender No. 61/25/5115/OT/319/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 28-03-2025
Brief Description: 6 mm Thick Nylon Cord Reinforced Grooved Rubber Sole Plates for 52 kg 1 in 12, Turnouts (T-4732). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100584, RAIL PADS Sub Item: GRSP Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty-500 Set for JITENDRA KUMAR, NFR (Assam), P.L.No- 609002780108.
SN.7. Tender No. 30/25/1219/OT/320/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 31-03-2025
Brief Description: Schaku Semi permanent coupler End 'A' for DEMU 1400 HP (Complete Unit) to M/S Escorts Drg. No. 40-586 A(0) and SK-750 or Similar Spec: 61-B-36 Rev. 68-1 with amendment no. 1 of October-2016 [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp.: No, Stages: 0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100362, Scharfenberg couplers & Draw Gear for Electric Multiple Unit Rolling Stock for Calcutta & Bombay suburban service Broad Gauge 1676 mm to Spec. No. 61-B-36 Rev. 68-1 (RECONSTRUCTED November 2004). Sub Item: Scharfenberg Couplers & Draw Gear for Electric Multiple Unit Rolling Stock for Calcutta & Bombay suburban service. Broad Gauge 1676 mm Item Type: Goods (supply) Qty- 46 Nos for New Bongaigaon/WORKSHOP/DEPOT, NFR (Assam), P.L. No-32230059.

SN.8. Tender No. 50/25/5039/OT/321/2024-25
Closing/Opening date: 31-03-2025
Brief Description: Underground signalling cable of size 2 core x 25 sq. mm. Aluminium, PVC insulated, as per spec. no. IRS-S-63/2014 & Rev.4.0 or latest. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery] [UJAM Item ref.] (Item Id:- 3100053 - PVC Insulated Armoured, Unscreened Underground Power Cable, Sub Item Id :- 3100053001- PVC Insulated Armoured, Unscreened Underground Power Cable) Inspection Details Stage Inspection Not Required Qty- 90.00 Kilometre for SSE/SIG/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam), P.L. No-400580780586.
NOTE: For full details of tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in). Prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tender are required to log on themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.
PCMM, Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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AXIS BANK LTD.
PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION OF PLEDGED ASSETS BEING GOLD ORNAMENTS
THE BORROWERS, IN SPECIFIC AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT PUBLIC AUCTION OF THE GOLD ORNAMENTS PLEDGED IN THE BELOW ACCOUNTS IS PROPOSED TO BE CONDUCTED BY THE AXIS BANK AT THE BELOW MENTIONED BRANCH. THE BELOW MENTIONED BORROWERS HAS AVAILED THE CREDIT FACILITY FROM THE AXIS BANK LIMITED AGAINST THE PLEDGE OF GOLD ORNAMENTS ("GOLD LOAN FACILITY") IN FAVOUR OF THE BANK TOWARDS THE SECURITY. THE DEMAND NOTICES WERE ISSUED TO THE BORROWERS/GUARANTORS CALLING UP THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS TO PAY THEIR OUTSTANDING AMOUNT TOWARDS THE GOLD LOAN FACILITY. AS THE BORROWERS/ GUARANTORS HAVE FAILED TO REPAY THE OUTSTANDING LOAN AMOUNT, THE BANK IS CONSTRAINED TO INVOKE THE PLEDGE AND PROPOSED TO CONDUCT AN E-AUCTION SALE OF PLEDGED GOLD ORNAMENTS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED IN SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY HEREUNDER ON 24.03.2025 AT 12.30 PM TO 03.30 PM ON "AS IN WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", "WHATEVER THERE IS" AND "NO RECOURSE BASIS". DETAILS OF BORROWERS AND OUTSTANDING AMOUNT

SR NO.	CUSTOMER NAME	LOAN A/C NO.	AMOUNT OUTSTANDING (IN RS.)	DATE OF RECALL NOTICE	GROSS WEIGHT	NET WEIGHT
B.O.: ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI [DL]						
1	NASREEN	XXXXXXXXXXXX3034	RS. 95,334.00	28-NOV-24	29.500	24.400
2	WINOD KUSHAL	XXXXXXXXXXXX4279	RS. 34,682.00	26-JUL-24	8.500	8.200
B.O.: DARYAGANJ, DELHI [DL]						
3	ARVIND DUGAWA	XXXXXXXXXXXX5097	RS. 4,51,401.00	30-JAN-25	104.800	102.100
4	KISHAN MAHTO	XXXXXXXXXXXX0741	RS. 1,33,523.00	4-AUG-24	34.500	33.000
5	RAJ KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX9868	RS. 77,685.00	8-MAY-24	12.600	10.500
B.O.: DWARKA, DELHI [DL]						
6	GHANSHYAM SHARMA	XXXXXXXXXXXX8208	RS. 1,98,541.00	21-SEP-24	53.200	52.700
7	JANARDHAN .	XXXXXXXXXXXX3796	RS. 1,56,542.00	20-JUL-24	26.400	20.800
8	KUMARI RACHNA	XXXXXXXXXXXX9669	RS. 1,28,401.00	4-NOV-24	42.030	38.900
9	SUBHOJIT SAH	XXXXXXXXXXXX5690	RS. 47,459.00	8-MAY-24	18.700	17.900
B.O.: FARIDABAD [HR]						
10	PRATIMA RAI	XXXXXXXXXXXX8122	RS. 83,262.00	8-MAY-24	11.650	11.650
B.O.: GEETA COLONY, NEW DELHI [DL]						
11	ASHISH KUMAR	XXXXXXXXXXXX7960	RS. 4,44,099.00	30-MAY-23	105.820	93.400
B.O.: GHAZIABAD [UP]						
12	BALRAJ SINGH	XXXXXXXXXXXX3130	RS. 55,518.00	20-JUL-24	109.500	74.000
13	SANJEEV KUMAR TYAGI	XXXXXXXXXXXX6001	RS. 58,469.00	28-AUG-24	9.500	9.200
14	SANJEEV KUMAR TYAGI	XXXXXXXXXXXX3265	RS. 58,377.00	27-SEP-24	9.900	9.800
B.O.: GREATER NOIDA [UP]						
15	SANGITA .	XXXXXXXXXXXX7527	RS. 59,035.00	6-JAN-25	21.200	13.000
B.O.: JYOTI NAGAR DEL DL						
16	HEMANT GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXXXX9104	RS. 1,71,411.00	8-MAY-24	48.600	48.300
17	HEMANT GUPTA	XXXXXXXXXXXX8634	RS. 1,71,188.00	20-JUL-24	44.600	37.200

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Industrial production grows

India's industrial production growth accelerated to 5 per cent in January 2025, driven by a rebound in manufacturing activity, according to official data released on Wednesday.

The government has also revised the December 2024 industrial output figure to 3.5 per cent from the provisional estimate

of 3.2 per cent released in the previous month, an official statement said.

The IIP growth in November 2024 was 5 per cent.

The pace of factory output growth stood

at 5 per cent in January 2025.

The country's factory output, measured in terms of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), witnessed 4.2 per cent growth in January 2024.

The data released by the National Statistic Office (NSO) showed that the manufacturing sector's output grew by 5.5 per cent in January 2025, up from 3.6 per cent in the year-ago month.

Mining production growth declined to 4.4 per cent from 6 per cent year-on-year.

Power output growth slowed to 2.4 per cent in January 2025 from 5.6 per cent in year ago. In the April-January 2024-25

period, the IIP grew 4.2 per cent, slower than 6 per cent recorded in the year-ago period. As per use-based classification, the capital goods segment growth accelerated to 7.8 per cent in January 2024 against 3.2 per cent in the year-ago period. Consumer durables (or white goods production) grew by 7.2 per cent during the reporting month against a growth of 11.6 per cent in January 2024.



बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

JABALPUR ZONAL OFFICE, WRIGHT TOWN, JABALPUR PH: 0761-2480065,67,68

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Bank of Maharashtra, the possession of which have been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Maharashtra, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" & "WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" on 29.03.2025, for recovery of the balance due to the Bank of Maharashtra from the Borrower (s) and Guarantor(s) as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, Short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and the earnest money deposit are also given as under-

Name & Address of Borrower / Guarantor	Outstanding Dues for Recovery of which Property are being sold	Description of properties	Type of Possession	Date of Auction	Reserve Price	
					EMD Amount	Bid Increase Amount
1) Branch - Gorakhpur Borrower: Arjun Paigwar, Shivani Paigwar Mouza Rimjha N.B 401 PHN 79 (Old 23) R.N.M Maharajpur Old Tehsil Panagar Dada, Than Than Pal, Ward no 72, Kh no - 157/2, 158/2 and 174 TNCP Layout Plot No- 78, New Tehsil Adhartal, Dist: Jabalpur - 482002	Rs.2857259/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lakh Fifty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Nine only) Led.Bal.Rs.2774113/+unapplied interest Rs.82825/- @9.35 % p.a at monthly rest + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses w.e.f 10.06.24	Double storied residential house at Mouza Rmjh N.B 401 PHN 79 (Old 23) R.N.M Maharajpur Old Tehsil Panagar Dada, Than Than Pal, Ward no 72, New Tehsil Adhartal Kh no-157/2, 158/2 and 174 TNCP Layout Plot No- 78 Plot area 17.50*48.57 = 849 sq ft (78.90 sq mtr) Dist. - Jabalpur	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.30,50,000/- Rs.3,05,000/- Rs.10000/-	
2) Branch - G. S. College Borrower: Mr.Prakash Gautiya, Mrs. Jyoti Gautiya, H No. 1, situated at Mouza Bilpura, P h No. 53, Khasra No. 446, RNM Bilpura, Ward No. 78, Tehsil Ranjhi, Dist Jabalpur, MP	Total dues: Rs. 25,35,149.00 /- Ledger Bal: Rs. 24,53,267.00/- + unapplied interest Rs.81,595.00 /- + penalty of Rs.287.00/- (Rupees. Twenty Five Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Fourty Nine only) + Unapplied Interest @ 9.45% p.a. with monthly rate w.e.f. 06/07/2024 + penal interest and other charges / expenses till realization.	H.no.1, situated at Mouza Bilpura, PH.no. 53, Khasra no. 446, RNM Bilpura, Ward no. 78, Tehsil: Ranjhi, Dist: Jabalpur, MP area admeasuring 880 sq.ft out of total area 4356 sq.ft.	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.1902000/ Rs.190200/ Rs.10000/-	
3) Branch - G. S. College Borrower: Mr. Shiv Kumar Uikay, Mrs.Suneeta Uikay Plot no.9, Maharshi Valmiki Ward no.78, Mouza Bhipura, PH no. 21/16(old),New 53, RNM Bhipura, Tehsil Ranji, Dist: Jabalpur - 482005	Rs.2604292/- (Rupees Twenty Six Lakh Four Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Two only).Led.Bal. Rs. 2532116/-+ unapplied interest Rs.71868/- @ 9.60% p.a at monthly rest + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses w.e.f 16.07.24)	All the Piece and parcel of property with construction & fixture there being & lying at vill. Mouza Bhipura, PH no. 21/16(old), 53(new), RNM Bhipura, Tq. Ranjhi, Dist.Jabalpur,Khasra no. 634/4, area 1000 sq.ft, Plot no.09, Maharshi Valmiki ward no. 78	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.15,50,000/- Rs.1,55,000/- Rs.10000/-	
4) Branch - Satna Borrower: G S Agro Proprietor Proprietor - Mrs. Anjana Singh Vill: Laulachh, Post: Laulachh, The: Kotar, Dist: Satna 485226 Guarantors: 1.Mr. Prateek Singh Vill: Laulachh, Post: Laulachh, The: Kotar, Dist: Satna 485226 2.Mr. Nivendra Singh Vill: Bihta, Post: Bihta, The : Unchehara, Dist: Satna 485661 3.Mr. Gulab Singh Vill: Laulachh, Post: Laulachh, The: Kotar, Dist: Satna 485226	Rs.7189614 (LB Rs.6958726/- +unapplied interest Rs.230888/- and other charges and expenses w.e.f 03.05.2024	Khasra No 624/3/1/2/2 area admeasuring 0.405 hectare Mauza Madhvargh,PHN 81, Tehsil: Raghurajnagar Dist: Satna Survey no.1232/2, area-0.040 hectare situated at Mouza Laulachh, PHN-24/22, RNM-Bihra, Vikas Khand-Rampur Baghelan, Tehsil-Kotar, Dist-Satna (M.P.),2,survey no. 1235/2, area-1.619 hectare and survey no.1234, area-0.490 hectare both situated at Mouza Laulachh, PHN-24/22, RNM-Bihra, Vikas Khand-Rampur Baghelan, Tehsil-Kotar, Dist-Satna (M.P.)	Physical Symbolic	29.03.2025 29.03.2025	Rs.32,00,000/- Rs.3,20,000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.17794000/- Rs.1,779400/- Rs.10000/-	
5) Branch - Sanjeevani Nagar Borrowers Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay, Add: H.No.2014, Kiran Kuti, Vijaynagar, Jabalpur - 482001	Rs.18618136/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Six Lakh Eighteen Thousand One hundred Thirty Six only plus applicable interest and penal interest thereon + Others Charge w.e.f. 30.05.2024	Residential building at JDA Property Plot 2014,JDA Scheme 5 Mouza Lamti , Maharaja Agrasen ward 35 Vijay Nagar Property 1: Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 25-A on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhera S.No. P C No. 22/24 R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by Mr. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1250 Sqft. Property 2: Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 24 on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhera S.No.4 P C No. 22/24 R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by M.r. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1000 Sqft. Property 3: Freehold residential plot bearing plot no 25 on Diverted Khasara No. 17/3 situated at Amkhera S.No.4 P C No. 22/24 R I Circle Maharajpur Tehsil Panagar and Dist Jabalpur owned by M.r. Ashutosh Upadhyay Area 1150 Sqft.	Symbolic Physical Physical	29.03.2025 29.03.2025 29.03.2025	Rs.1,79,00,000/- Rs.17,90,000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.2312000/- Rs.231200/- Rs.10000/- Rs.18,50,000/- Rs.1,85,000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.21,27,000/- Rs.2,12,700/- Rs.10000/-	
6) Branch - Satna Borrower : Mr. Mohammad Shahid Khan, S/o Mr. Suleman Khan Mrs. Saishita Khan, W/o Mr. Mohammad Shahid Khan S/o: Mr. Suleman Khan Ward no. 29, Gali no.1, Pateri road, Jawahar Nagar, Satna-485001	Rs.1919169.43 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Sixty nine plus interest thereon @9.95% w.e.f 30.05.2024	Residential Property, area admeasuring 1200 sq.ft. with construction thereon situated at Mouza Umrahi Mathuryan, Circle AMarpatan, Land bearing Khasara no. 129/9, Ward no.1, Krishna Nagar Colony , Tehsil- Amarpatan, Dist: Satna	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.30,24,000/- Rs.3,02,400/- Rs.10000/-	
7) Branch - Sidhi Borrower : Mr. Ashok Kumar Kushwah, Mrs. Asha Kushwaha H No 178, Ward No 13,Near H S S Madwa Gopadbanas, Gopadvanas, Sidhi, Madhya Pradesh - 486661	Rs.1278116/- (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Eight thousand One hundred Sixteen Only) plus applicable unapplied interest + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses w.e.f 16.07.24	Khasra No. 144/4(S) , Part area 78/170, Situated At Village -Karaundiya Dakshin Tola Tehsil Gopad Banas District Sidhi 486661 Area Admeasuring 836 SqFt	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.6,00,000/- Rs.60,000/- Rs.10000/-	
8) Branch - Sakra Borrower : Mrs. Kavita Kadam W/o Subhash Kadam, Mr. Sanket Kadam S/o Subhash Kadam House No 1465/b-1, Plot No. 117, S. No. 599 Mouza - Garha, P.C. No. 06, Ward No. 16, Gujrati Colony, Maharana Pratap, Garha, R.N.M.Jabalpur Tehsil and District Jabalpur	Rs.1465900/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Sixty Five Thousand Nine Hundred only) (Ledger Bal: Rs.1417743/- + Unapplied interest Rs.47907/-@9.25% p.a at monthly rest + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses w.e.f 12.08.2024)	Single Storied residential house having address House No 1465/b-1, Plot No. 117, S. No. 599 Mouza - Garha, P.C. No. 06, Ward No. 16, Gujrati Colony, Maharana Pratap, Garha, R.N.M.Jabalpur Tehsil and District Jabalpur admeasuring total Plot Area - 600 Sqft. (Approx.), Built Up Area - 550 Sq Ft	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.13,80,000/- Rs.1,38,000/- Rs.10000/-	
9) Branch - JHRC Mob. - 8888390379 Borrower: M/S Mahi Earth Movers Prop. Mr. Arshad Khan,Address: Jawahar Ward, Saray Mohalla, Sihora, Jabalpur 483225 Madhya Pradesh Guarantor: Mr.Arshad Khan Address: Ward No 5, Saray Mohalla, Sihora, Jabalpur, M.P. 483225	Rs.2064064/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh Sixty Four Thousand Sixty Four only)(Ledger balance Rs.1984805/- plus unapplied interest Rs.66524/- and penal interest + Others Charge w.e.f.13.06.2024	All those pieces and parcel of land situate being and lying at village Mouza Mansakra, (1)Ph no- 06 admeasuring 2360 sq.ft and bearing CTS/Survey no. Khasra No. 408/2/1/2, (2) Ph no- 73/06, admeasuring 1800 sq.ft bearing CTS/survey no, Khasra no.408/2/2, (3) Ph. no.06, admeasuring 2812.5 sq.ft bearing CTS/survey no,Khasra no.408/2/2,Combined all khasra 6972 sq.ft. in the Registration Dist: Jabalpur, Sub dist: Sihora,	Physical	29.03.2025	Rs.3138000/- Rs.3,13,800/- Rs.10000/-	
10) Branch - Shahdol Borrower : M/s Jahnavi Buildcon, Prop - Mr. Shiva Pandey , MIG 607, New Housing Board Colony, By Pass Road, Shahdol, MP 484001, Guarantor: Shri Prakash Narayan Pandey. MIG 608, New Housing Board Colony, By Pass Road, Shahdol, MP 484001	Rs.3599505/- (Ledger balance Rs.34927690/-+ plus unapplied interest Rs.106306/-@11.00 % p.a at monthly rest and penal interest thereon + Others Charge w.e.f. 03.10.2024	All those pieces and parcel of land & property with construction & Fixtures there being and lying at-MIG 607, New Housing Board Colony, By Pass Road, Taluka Sohagpur, Dist Shahdol, Area admeasuring 38.50 Sq. Mtr., All those pieces and parcel of land & property with construction & Fixtures there being and lying at- MIG 608, New Housing Board Colony, By Pass Road, Taluka Sohagur, Dist Shahdol, Area admeasuring 38.50 Sq. Mtr.,	Symbolic Symbolic	29.03.2025 29.03.2025	Rs.2400000/- Rs.240000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.2400000/- Rs.240000/- Rs.10000/-	
11) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower: 1. Mr Raj kumar Dubey S/o Mevalal Dubey 2. Mr Mevalal Dubey S/o Anand kr. Dubey Both reside at - House no. 173 Shanti Nagar near Dubey Bhavan Damoh Naka Jabalpur, MP 482001	Rs. 30,45,605/- + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 25.07.2022 + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	All those pieces and parcel of property with Construction , Fixture along with RCC godown and dairy shed Mauza saliya no. 490Ph N4/10 RNM, Panagar, khasra No160 District Jabalpur area admeasuring 6000 Sq Feet	Physical	29.03.2025	Rs.25,14,000/- Rs.2,51,400/- Rs.10000/-	
12) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur RAIS AHMAD KHAN Prop. - Adil Ahmed Khan Borrower: ADIL AHMAD KHAN S/o Late Rais Ahmad Khan ADD - GP 79 Lake Pearl Spring, Airport Raod Gandhi Nagar Huzur , Bhopal PIN 462036 (M P), Guarantor: 01 JAMEELA AHMAD KHAN 02 AQEEL AHMAD KHAN 03 KHALID AHMAD KHAN 04 SMT SAHEED AHMAD KHAN 05 ASRAF AHMAD KHAN ADD: GP 79 Lake Pearl Spring, Airport Raod Gandhi Nagar Huzur , Bhopal Pin 462036 (M P)	Rs. 1,82,05,334/- (Rupees One crore eighty two lakh five thousands three hundred thirty four only) + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 05.07.2022 + penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	House No - SP- 74, part of khasra no 473/3/1/2(ka) and 476/3/1/2(kha), 476/3/1/1, 463/2, 463/1/1, 462/1, 462/2, 462/3 Ph no 04, Situated at LAKE PEARL SPRING, Village - Gondermau, Near Addas Nagar, Inside main road, ward no 01, Tehsil Huzur, Dist - Bhopal (M.P)	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.52,70,000/- Rs.5,27,000/- Rs.10000/-	
13) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur HERAMBH ENTERPRISES Borrower: 01 - Sunil Bawiskar S/o Sadashiv Bawiskar ADD:- Plot No 201 Second Floor Jay Gajanan Apartment Plot No 44 Lokmanya Nagar Extention Indore (MP) Guarantor : Sandhya Bawiskar W/o Sunil Bawiskar Add:- Plot No 201 Second Floor Jay Gajanan Apartment Plot No 44 Lokmanya Nagar Extention Indore (MP)	Rs. 5253598/- (Rupees Fifty two Lakh fifty three thousands five hundred Ninety eight only) + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 01.01.2019+ penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	Flat No 201 Second Floor Jay Gajanan Apartment Plot No 44 Lokmanya Nagar Extention Indore	Physical	29.03.2025	Rs.22,88,000/- Rs.2,28,800/- Rs.10000/-	
14) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower - M/s Sharmila Singhai B-16, Manisha Market, Shahpura, Bhopal- 462016 Guarantor: 1. Smt. Sharmila, W/o: Shri Prashant Singhai 2. Shri Prashant Singhai, S/o: Shri M.M Singhai All - R/o- B-16, Manisha Market, Shahpura, Bhopal- 462016	Rs.2,01,27,048/- + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 01.01.2019+ penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses Rs.2,01,27,048/- + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f. 01.01.2019+ penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	Khasra no. 309 admeasuring 0.10 hect (1000 Sq. Mt.). At Nayapura, Kolar Road, P.H no. 38/28 R.N.M-03, Vikas Khand Fanda Tahsil Huzur, Bhopal Owner: Ms.Sharmila Singhai, Shri Prashant Singhai Khasra No. 307 admeasuring 0.10 hect (1000 Sq. Mt.). At Nayapura, Kolar Road, P.H no. 38/28 R.N.M-03, Vikas Khand Fanda Tahsil Huzur, Bhopal Owner: Ms.Sharmila Singhai, Shri Prashant Singhai	Symbolic Symbolic	29.03.2025 29.03.2025	Rs.1,20,00,000/- Rs.12,00,000/- Rs.10000/- Rs.1,12,00,000/- Rs.11,20,000/- Rs.10000/-	
15) Branch - Asset Recovery Branch, Jabalpur Borrower- M/s Om Dutta Industries, Through its partners 1.Mr. Piyush Kaushik, Through its LRs- Mrs. Manjula Kaushik, & Mr. Vinod Kaushik 2.Mrs. Manjula Kaushik Both- Plot No. 6, Survey No. 787, Manishpuri Extension, Village Khajrana Dist- Indore M.P. Guarantors - 1.Mr.Piyush Kaushik, Through its LRs- Mrs. Manjula Kaushik, & Mr. Vinod Kaushik 2.Mrs. Manjula Kaushik, 3.Mr. Vinod Kaushik All- 1,2 & 3 R/o- Plot No. 6, Survey No. 787, Manishpuri Extension, Village Khajrana Dist- Indore 4.Mrs. Mangala Kaushik 5.Mr. Pradeep Kaushik All- 4 & 5 R/o- 6.Mrs. Chandrabhabha Mishra - R/o- House No. G-67/10, South T.T. Nagar, Bhopal M.P.	Rs.83329264/- + Unapplied interest on contractual rate w.e.f.29.07.2019+ penal interest thereon and other charges and expenses	Plot/House no.285 situated at Khasra No. 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69/2, 70/2, 89, 90/1, 104, 105, 106/1, Rohit Nagar Phase - 1, Village- Bawadia Kalan, Tehsil- Huzur, Dist: Bhopal admeasuring 2100.00 sq.ft. Owner: MS. Chandra Prabha Mishra	Symbolic	29.03.2025	Rs.1,02,00,000/- Rs.10,20,000/- Rs.10000/-	

Inspection of Properties by bidder: 26.03.2025 & 27.03.2025 between 11.00 a.m to 05.00 p.m
Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid application/KYC documents/EMD etc. 29.03.2025
Date & time of E-auction with auto extention for 10 minutes-29.03.2025 from 12.00 p.m to 04.00 p.m.

The auction sale will be On-line E-Auction / Bidding through website <https://banknet.com>, email: support.banknet@psballiance.com, Mob. - 8291220220 The intending Bidders / Purchasers are requested to register on portal using their mobile number and email id. Please take note that the registration and KYC approval etc take 2-3 working days.

For detail terms and conditions of sale please refer to the link provided in <https://bankofmaharashtra.in/asset-for-sales-search> and <https://banknet.com>. Also prospective bidders may contact the authorized officials Shri Hariom Trivedi: 9405719723, Shri Ravi Verma: 9300955688, Shri Vishal Kanoje: 9822188704

Date: 13/03/2025 **Authorised Officer, Bank of Maharashtra**

Manchester United to build 'world's greatest' soccer stadium

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Manchester United unveiled plans on Tuesday to build the "world's greatest" soccer stadium. A proposed 100,000-seater arena, costing around 2 billion pounds (\$2.6 billion), would be built next to United's current Old Trafford home and surpass Wembley Stadium as the biggest in the United Kingdom.

"Manchester United is the world's most favorite football club and, in my view, is the biggest and deserves a stadium fitting of its stature," part owner Jim Ratcliffe said.

Work could begin as early as this year, with completion by the 2030-31 season, the club said.

Ratcliffe, who is one of Britain's richest people, said the new venue could be a tourist attraction in the manner of the Eiffel Tower.

"We have 1 billion people around the world who follow Manchester United. They will all want to visit this stadium," he said. Designed by British architect Norman Foster, the first released images of the stadium include three giant tentpoles that would be seen from 40 kilometers (25 miles) away. They support a surrounding covered area, which he describes as "arguably the largest public space in the world."

Wembley is currently the biggest stadium in the UK, with a capacity of 90,000, and is home to England's national soccer teams. Twickenham, the national rugby stadium, holds 82,500.



Old Trafford is the country's biggest dedicated soccer stadium with a capacity of just over 74,000, but is dated in comparison to the likes of the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, which regularly hosts NFL games.

Old Trafford, which was bombed during World War II, has been home to United since 1910.

Under the plans, the 20-time English champion said it would not need to relocate during the construction process. It is estimated it would take around 12 months to disassemble Old Trafford once the new stadium is completed.

Ratcliffe paid \$1.3 billion for an initial 25% stake in United last year and made a new stadium one of his priorities.

"Today marks the start of an incredibly exciting journey to the delivery of what will be the world's greatest football stadium," Ratcliffe said. "Our current stadium has served us brilliantly for the past 115 years, but it has fallen behind the best arenas in world sport."

United has not set a start date yet but Foster said building work, which could include pre-fabricated parts and a "Meccano" type construction, could mean it is completed in five years.

The timing would likely rely on government involvement in what United wants to be part of a wider project to regenerate the surrounding Old Trafford area. It said it would be worth 7.3 Billion pounds (\$9.4 Billion) to the UK Economy, and the UK Government has already voiced its support for the project.

"Our long-term objective as a club is to have the world's best football team playing in the world's best stadium," United chief executive Omar Berrada said.

Managerial great Alex Ferguson said the club "must be brave and seize this opportunity to build a new home, fit for the future, where new history can be made."

The announcement came days after thousands of United fans marched in protest against the club's ownership in the face of cost cuts, ticket price increases and ongoing failure on the field.

United is majority owned by the American Glazer family, which also owns the NFL's Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Upon investing, Ratcliffe vowed to return the once-dominant club back to the summit of European soccer after more than a decade since it last won the Premier League.

But his first year in charge of soccer operations has been turbulent. United endured its worst-ever Premier League season last year and is on course to set a new low this term, with the team currently languishing in 14th position.

United has not won the league title since Ferguson's final season in 2013.

Berrada said the club was still focused on returning to the summit of European soccer. "We don't want to inhibit our ability to invest in the team, for us to continue being competitive while we are building a new stadium," he said.

Our number one goal is to get our teams winning and to get the men's team competing for all the titles consistently.



Bayern Munich victory over Bayer Leverkusen

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Leverkusen

Harry Kane is one step closer to being a Champions League winner, and he wants to enjoy Bayern Munich's statement victory over German rival Bayer Leverkusen.

"To beat this team 5-0 over two legs shows the type of team that we are," Kane told broadcaster Prime Video after scoring his 10th Champions League goal of the season in Tuesday's 2-0 second-leg win. "We're in the quarterfinal now where Bayern Munich should be and we want to keep pushing," Kane said. "We just want to enjoy this because it's not easy. Especially when you play your domestic rivals, there's a lot of pressure, there's a lot of intensity that goes into it."

Kane added that Bayern hadn't wanted to protect its three-goal lead from the first leg, but instead wanted to put Leverkusen under more pressure by creating chances early on: "In the second half we knew they had to come out and try something and we punished them."

Next stop in the Champions League is a quarterfinal meeting with Inter Milan.

"It will be tough," Kane said. "The San Siro's a really tough place to go but also, any team we play, we know that we can cause problems."

Kane and Kompany

Kane's career has been defined by an abundance of individual awards and a lack of team trophies. With Bayern leading the Bundesliga by eight points from Leverkusen and into the Champions League quarterfinals, that wait could soon come to an end.

The coach who has got the best out of Kane and the players around him wasn't Bayern's first choice last year. Vincent Kompany isn't getting carried away with success. "I won't surf on a hype wave, no chance," Kompany said after beating Leverkusen on Tuesday.

He praised Kane's contribution

"It obviously helps when you have a top player who only wants to run and fight for the team like a youth player," Kompany said. "That energy just helps."

Leverkusen under strain

Xabi Alonso's team is no stranger to a busy schedule — Leverkusen played 53 games last season, losing only the Europa League final — but the extra strain of the Champions League has seemed to take its toll on his relatively small squad.

Both Leverkusen and Bayern lost their Bundesliga games last week after their Champions League first-leg game. That defeat in itself was a blow to Leverkusen's fading German title defense ambitions, but far worse was an injury to attacking midfielder Florian Wirtz, who is set to be out for several weeks.

Against Bayern on Tuesday, Alonso tried to shake up his tactics with more long balls and a starting spot for tall striker Patrik Schick, but the Czech international's main contribution ended up being an involuntary assist for Kane's goal as Leverkusen didn't have a shot on target until the 65th minute.

We are doing everything to bring two sides together, says Jay Monahan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ponte Vedra Beach

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan wants to get a deal done with the Saudi backers of LIV Golf provided it doesn't compromise what he considers the essence of the tour.

Monahan said on Tuesday that President Donald Trump's involvement makes the prospect of reunification "very real." Missing were details on how to get there, only a suggestion that the PGA Tour and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia were at a standstill.

"We're doing everything that we can to bring

the two sides together," Monahan said ahead of The Players Championship. "That said, we will not do so in a way that diminishes the strength of our platform or the very real momentum we have with our fans and our partners. So while we've removed some hurdles, others remain."

"But like our fans, we still share the same sense of urgency to get to a resolution," Monahan and Adam Scott met with Trump at the White House on February 4. The next meeting included Tiger Woods and Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the PIF governor behind LIV and its concept of team golf. It was the second meeting where progress slowed. Monahan said

no other meetings currently are scheduled.

"President Trump is a lifelong golf fan. He believes strongly in the game's power and potential and he has been exceedingly generous with his time and influence to help bring a deal together," Monahan said. "He wants to see the game reunified. We want to see the game reunified. His involvement has made the prospect of reunification very real."

"When you're in the midst of complex negotiations, particularly when you may be near a breakthrough, there are ebbs and flows in the discussion." That began a year ago when several players accompanied Monahan to the Bahamas to start the conversation with PIF. The PGA Tour last year brought on the private equity Strategic Sports Group and its \$1.5 Billion investment in a commercial venture.

बैंक ऑफ महाराष्ट्र
Bank of Maharashtra, Datia Branch, Datia
Mob: 8979947387

NOTICE

The under mentioned person is hereby informed that he has failed to pay off the liability in the loan account. Notices sent to them by Registered Post has been delivered to him. He is therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **24.03.2025** failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction at the cost of the borrower at the Bank's premises at **12:30 P.M. to 5.00 P.M. on 25.03.2025** or on any other convenient date & Time thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the Bank. Parties interested in purchase of the Gold Ornaments may participate in the auction.

S. No.	Date of Loan	Loan A/c No.	Name & Address of the Borrower	Description of Jewels	Net Weight (in gram) (excluding weight of stone & gems)	Reserve Price of Auction
1	12.08.2024	60501878138	Mr. Akash Yadav S/o Balwan, Address:- Dr Chauda ke Samne, Near Anand, Talkies, Datia, MP-473661	1. Long Haar-1 2. Ring-1	28 2.20	Rs.164000/- Rs. 13100/-

For further details, please contact Bank of Maharashtra Datia Branch.
Date: **13.03.2025** Branch Manager

कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, राजधानी संभाग क्रमांक-2, लोक निर्माण विभाग, भोपाल।
निविदा क्रमांक 79/तक/2024-25 (प्रथम आमंत्रण) भोपाल, दिनांक

:- निविदा सूचना :-

म.प्र. के राज्यपाल की ओर से पंजीकृत टेक्सी वाहनों को कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, लोक निर्माण विभाग, राजधानी संभाग क्रमांक-2, बिट्टन मार्केट, भोपाल के अन्तर्गत उपसंभागों एवं निर्माण भवन में पदस्थ अधिकारियों के लिए निम्न प्रकार के वाहन शासकीय उपयोग/निर्माण कार्यों के निरीक्षण हेतु मासिक दर लिये जाने हेतु मुहरबंद निविदायें दिनांक 25.03.2025 समय सायं 5.00 बजे तक शासकीय स्वीय पोस्ट पंजीकृत डाक से आमंत्रित की जाती है।

स. क्र.	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन की अनुमानित संख्या	शर्तें	मॉडल	वाहन जहाँ उपयोग में लिया जाना है।
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	महोदय बुलेटो/इंजीनो ECS	5	चालक सहित किन्तु बिना ड्राइवर	माह जनवरी 2021 के बाद के क्रय एवं टेक्सी कोट में पंजीकृत	सामान्य भोपाल एवं आवश्यकता होने पर कहीं भी

निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस पर कार्यालयीन समय में दिनांक 24/03/2025 सायं 4.00 बजे तक आवश्यक दस्तावेज के परीक्षण करने के उपरान्त निविदा प्रपत्र को लागत रु. 5,000/- मात्र (रु. पाँच हजार मात्र) एम.पी.ऑनलाईन के माध्यम से शीर्ष 0059-01-800-0000 में जमा कर मुद्रा: रसीद इस कार्यालय में आवेदन के साथ प्रस्तुत कर दिनांक 11/03/2025 से 24/03/2025 तक दोपहर 12.00 बजे से 4.00 बजे तक निविदा प्रपत्र प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। निविदा के साथ रु. 50,000/- (रु. पचास हजार मात्र) की अमानत राशि कार्यपालन यंत्री, निर्माण संभाग क्रमांक-2, लोक निर्माण विभाग, सी.पी.ए. भोपाल के नाम से बैंक एफ.डी.आर. अलग लिफाफे में कार्यालय कार्यपालन यंत्री, राजधानी संभाग क्रमांक-2, लोक निर्माण विभाग, बिट्टन मार्केट, भोपाल को प्रस्तुत करना होगा। अमानत राशि के अभाव में निविदा नहीं खोली जावेगी। डाक बिल्टन से निविदा प्राप्त होने की जवाबदारी विभाग की नहीं होगी। दिनांक 26.03.2025 को सायं 5.00 को इच्छुक निविदाकारों के समक्ष खोली जावेगी। निविदा संबंधी विस्तृत विवरण व शर्तें किसी भी कार्यालयीन दिवस में दिनांक 24.03.2025 तक कार्यालय के नोटिस बोर्ड में देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यालयन यंत्री,
राजधानी संभाग क्रमांक-2,
लोक निर्माण विभाग, भोपाल

G-24243/24

Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd.
Corporate Office: Unit No. 802, Natraj Rustumjee, Western Express Highway and M.V. Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400069
Narmadapuram Branch : Khasara No.72/10, Mouza Kishanpur ward no.16, R.K.Shri tower, 2nd Floor, Itarasi Road, Near Meenakshi Square, opp. Gala Mandi, Hoshangabad-MP-461001

DEMAND NOTICE

UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 READ WITH RULE 3 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

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

S. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Co-Borrower & Guarantor	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured assets (immovable property)
1	(Loan Code No. 05600000139/ Narmadapuram Branch) Shobha Gajanan (Borrower) Ashish Mishra (Co-Borrower)	08-03-2025 & ₹ 5,27,573/-	All that part & parcel of property bearing, 353/4, Patwari Halka No. 9/12, B.No 250, Tehsil Itarsi, Dist Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh Boundaries: East - Rakha of Ramlal, West - Kaccha Rasta Then Land of Irrigation Department, North- Sub Plot No. 1 of Janna Rajput, South- Rest Land of Seller Plot No. 03

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

Place : Madhya Pradesh, Date : 13-03-2025

Sd/- Authorised Officer
For : Aadhar Housing Finance Limited

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Regional Office, Third Block 5th Floor, Paryawas Bhawan, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal.

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Properties)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Canara Bank under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice date mentioned below to the following borrowers/guarantors, calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned in the respective notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of said notices.

The under mentioned borrowers/guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on them under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned in respective columns. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrowers/Guarantors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Canara Bank, Concerned Branch for an amount herein below mentioned & interest thereon.

Name of Account / Borrower / Guarantor	Amount Outstanding	Demand notice Dt. Possession Date	Description of Property
Borrower/Mortgagor: M/s Shree Harihar Warehouse proprietor/Mortgagor: Mrs. Maya Singh Bais W/o Mr. Sanjay Bais	₹ 93,54,933.14/- + Interest & Other Charges	01.01.2025 11.03.2025	Diverted Commercial Land Revenue Survey no. 503/2/2 area 0.607 hec situated at Village Berchha Datar P.H. No.37, R.N.M.02, Haika Berchha Datar Tehsil Kalapipal Distt. Shajapur (MP). Boundaries: North: Land of Kumer Singh Khichi, South: Land of Mahipal Singh East: Berchha Datar to Kothdi Road, West: Land of Mahipal Singh Bais, Property Owner : Mrs Maya Singh Bais W/o Mr. Sanjay Singh Bais

Date & Place : Shajapur, 11-03-2025 Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

Bank of Maharashtra
(A Govt. of India Enterprise) www.bankofmaharashtra.in

ZONAL OFFICE, 1/14, ADMINISTRATIVE ZONE, ARERA HILLS, BHOPAL, 462011.

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)]

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Bank of Maharashtra under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, and in exercise of the powers conferred under Sub-Section (12) of Section 13 read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated mentioned below calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay outstanding amount (mentioned below) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The notice was sent by Regd AD Post and hand delivery.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on dates mentioned below. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of Bank of Maharashtra, T.T. Nagar Branch, Bhopal for an amount herein above mentioned. The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section 8 of Sec 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrowers & Guarantor (s)	Details of Property	Demand Notice Dt Possession Notice	Outstanding Amount ₹
M/s Uma Local Service (Borrower) Prop: Shri Uma Shankar Rathore 2) Mrs Kalawati Bai W/o Lt Shri Badri Prasadji Rathore (Guarantor) 3) Shri Ramesh Rathore s/o Shri Badri Prasad (Guarantor) Regd. Address of Lt: 134, IbrahimGanj, Bagh Ghasiramji, Chhola Road Bhopal -462001	All those pieces & parcel of Commercial land situated at 134, IbrahimGanj, Bagh Ghasiramji Chhola Road, Bhopal- 462001 in the name of Mrs Kalawati Rathore and bounded as: East- Plot of Tej Singh, West-Govt Road, North-House of Noorbai, South-Abchak & House of Biharilaji This Property is owned by Mrs Kalawati Bai W/o Lt Shri Badri Prasadji Rathore.	24/12/2024 10/03/2025	₹ 561932.00/- +UI-223436.00 + penal charges + Other charges w.e.f. 24/12/2024

Date : 13.03.2025 Chief Manager & Authorised Officer
Place : Bhopal Asset Recovery Cell

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
Regional office- 1st Floor, Sai Baba complex, Near GDA Building, Phool Bagh, Gwalior. Ph.:0751-2423126

DEMAND NOTICE

Notice U/S 13(2) Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

60 DAYS NOTICE FOR MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Borrower's and Guarantor's Name & Address	Account No. & Outstanding Amount	Details of Mortgage Property
Borrower Mortgagor - 1. Ashok Kumar Namdev S/o Mr. Joravar Namdev Add : R/O 226 Village Sironja, Bamhori Bika, Sagar, Banda, Sagar (M.P.) 2. Kalpana Namdev W/o Ashok Kumar Namdev, Add : R/O 226 Village Sironja, Bamhori Bika, Sagar, Banda, Sagar (M.P.) 3. Nitin Namdev S/o Ashok Namdev Add: R/O H No. 25, Village Sironja Patharia Jat, Bamhori Bika, Sagar, Banda, Sagar, (M.P.)	A/C 78819730000015 and 788197400000448 Rs. 11,07,780.00/- + Interest and other Expenses	Property Owner- Ashok Kumar Namdev and Kalpana Namdev- Emt of The Residential House Measuring 597.50 Sqft. Located At Khasra No. 114/48, Ward No. 06, Mahaveer Ward, Mouza Makronia, Tehsil / District Sagar, Boundaries: East- Rasta West- House of Shankar Lal Kori, South- Plot of Chedilal Kori, North- Road

The Borrower mentioned above has availed total credit facilities as mentioned above from CANARA BANK and the mentioned Guarantors provided guarantee and secured by way of mortgaged of above mentioned property. The borrower failed to adhere to terms and conditions of sanction. The account became irregular and classified as NPA as mentioned above as per RBI guidelines. The Bank intends to enforce the said property mortgaged by you and issued Demand Notice as mentioned above for recovery of outstanding amount as mentioned above with interest and expenses thereon under registered post with acknowledgment due which were not served to the borrowers and guarantors. Hence this publication issued. Hereby Borrower/Guarantor are called upon to pay the amount mentioned above with rate of interest (Contractual Rate), costs, charges etc., thereon within 60 Days from the date of publication failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action against mortgaged property under section 13 (4) and the provision of said act to realize our Bank's dues. Your attention is invited to provisions of the Sec (8) of Sec (13) of the act in respect of time available to you redeem the secured assets.

Place: Gwalior Date: 12.03.2025 Authorised officer - CANARA BANK

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Open Tender Electrical Branch Tender No-JBP-L-T No.-61-2024
The Divisional Railway Manager (Electrical), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tenders from the reputed and experienced contractor through ON-Line for the following works- Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. NIT No.: JBP-L-T No-61-2024, Name of work with location: Provision of 14 Nos escalators at Amrit Bharat Station (SGO-10, & DMO-4) including Civil engineering work and 05 years AMC after warranty period. (Composite tender for Electrical and Civil work), Approx cost of the work: 173004264.24. Cost of tender form (In Rs.): 0, Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased: Sr. DEE/G/Jabalpur 11nd floor, DRM building, JBP-482001, Earnest Money (In Rs.): 1015000.00, Completion period (In years): 01 Years, Date & Time for submission of tender (Up to 15.00 hrs. on): 01/04/25, Date & Time for opening of tender (at 15.30 hrs. on): 01/04/25. Complete details of tender document available on the Railway website http://ireps.gov.in and also placed on notice board of the DRM (Electrical)'s Office, WCR, Jabalpur, For DRM (Electrical), WCR, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

Rohit is clear about his goals: Ponting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

Australia legend Ricky Ponting believes Rohit Sharma is still going strong and a sense of unfinished business was behind his decision to continue playing and leading India in the 50-over format until the 2027 ODI World Cup to be jointly hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Barring the ODI World Cup, Rohit has won all ICC titles while captaining India. He came agonisingly close to laying his hands on the 50-over world title at home in 2023, only to lose to Australia in the final.

Speaking on The ICC Review, the former Australia skipper said Rohit is pretty clear about his future goals.

"When you start getting to that point of your career, everyone's waiting for you to retire. And I do not know why, when you can still play as well as he's played (in the Champions Trophy final), I think he was just trying to put those questions to bed once and for all and say, 'no, I'm still playing well enough. I love playing in this team. I love leading this team.'"



to me, it means that he must have that goal in mind of playing in the next (50-over) World Cup (in 2027)," Ponting stated.

Handed the responsibility of captaincy in 2021 at the age of 34, Rohit on Sunday

clinched his second ICC title following the T20 World Cup win last year as India defeated New Zealand by four wickets to win the Champions Trophy here.

Chasing 252, Rohit, 38, led from the

front with an 83-ball 76 at the top to set the platform for a comfortable win.

In the run-up to the tournament, there were talks around Rohit's retirement from the ODI format after the Champions Trophy, as he had retired from T20Is after winning the T20 World Cup.

But Rohit simply rejected the theories at the post-match press conference following the final.

"One more thing, I'm not going to retire from this format, just to make sure no more rumours are spread," Rohit told reporters after winning the player-of-the-match award.

Ponting said the urge to win the only missing ICC trophy in his cabinet, the ODI World Cup, might be behind Rohit's mind to prolong his career.

"I think probably the fact that they (India) lost the last one and he was captain, that might be the thing that's playing on the back of his mind," the Australian said. "Just have one more crack at trying to win the T20 World Cup, the Champions Trophy, and the ODI World Cup."

"I mean when you see him play like he played in the Champions Trophy final, you wouldn't say that his time is up just yet," Ponting added.



Masters League: West Indies defeat South Africa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Raipur

West Indies Masters rode on the brilliance of centurion Lendl Simmons and Ravi Rampaul's five-wicket haul to beat South Africa Masters by 29 runs and enter the semi-finals of the International Masters League (IML) here.

Put in to bat by South Africa Masters on Tuesday night, the Caribbeans rode on Simmons' 108, skipper Lara's 29 off 34 balls and Chadwick Walton's 38 not out to put up 200 for 5.

After a shaky start that saw Dwayne Smith (5) and William Perkins (5) depart early off Garnett Kruger, Simmons and Lara took the centre stage and forced a spectacular recovery with a 125-run partnership for the third wicket.

Simmons blazed to a 31-ball fifty, setting the tone with fearless hitting, while Lara elegantly painted his masterpiece. Lara, content on playing second fiddle early on, then launched Alvir Petersen for a towering six and a crisp boundary in consecutive deliveries.

Simmons continued to dazzle, racing to his century in just 54 balls, dispatching Thandi Tshabalala to all parts with a six and a four before calmly taking a single to bring up a well-deserved hundred.

But just as the duo threatened to take the game away from the grasp of South Africa Masters, Ntini infused life back into the contest by ending Simmons' 59-

ball knock, laced with 13 fours and five massive sixes.

Ryan McLaren then picked up the prized scalp of Lara after the southpaw steered West Indies Masters' recovery.

Despite the setbacks, Walton was in his elements, providing the much-needed impetus to the innings with six gigantic sixes to help West Indies Masters reach the 200-run mark.

South Africa Masters' chase began in explosive fashion, with wicketkeeper Richard Levi's breezy 44 setting the tone. However, the early momentum was short-lived as the loss of three quick wickets derailed their progress, putting the Proteas on the back-foot.

Jacques Kallis and Jacques Rudolph then steadied the innings with a crucial 78-run stand, reigniting South Africa's hopes. With both batters matching each other shot for shot, the game seemed to be slipping away from West Indies Masters. But just when the Proteas looked in control, Simmons produced a game-changing moment, breaking the partnership by dismissing Rudolph for a well-compiled 39 off 34 balls, studded with four boundaries. Sensing an opportunity, Rampaul returned for a second spell, and what followed was nothing short of dramatic.

In the pulse of just five deliveries, Rampaul ripped through South Africa Masters' middle order, claiming the wickets of Kallis (45), Farhaan Behardien, and Dane Vilas, adding to his earlier scalp of Hashim Amla (3).

WFI to conduct selection trials for Asian Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Its status as a National Sports Federation (NSF) restored, the WFI swung to action, announcing that the selection trials for the upcoming Asian Championship will be held at Delhi's Indira Gandhi Sports Complex on March 15.

It will be first proper trial under the supervision of the new WFI administration as it was suspended three days after it conducted election on December 21, 2023 to pick new office bearers.

The trials will be conducted to identify the top wrestlers who will represent the country in Amman, Jordan from March 25-30.

Mumbai Indians takes on Gujarat Giants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Harmanpreet Kaur's ability to unflinchingly guide Mumbai Indians in difficult situations could be the clinching factor for the former champions when they take on Gujarat Giants, a team they have vanquished twice this season, in the Women's Premier League (WPL) Eliminator here on Thursday.

With Delhi Capitals already sitting snugly in the final after topping the WPL table with 10 points, the focus is now on India skipper Harmanpreet and Gujarat Giants' captain Ashleigh Gardner to guide their sides into the title round.

Mumbai Indians would certainly enjoy the home advantage as the match will be played at the Brabourne Stadium and the fact that they overwhelmed Gujarat Giants in their penultimate league game here on Monday, with Harmanpreet blazing to a 33-ball 54 in the nine-run victory.

Mumbai Indians' playing XI has largely remained unchanged with Hayley Matthews giving them flourishing starts while also tormenting the opponents with her off spin.

The West Indian all-rounder could once again prove to be the match-winner for her team following her sterling performances against the Gujarat side in their previous two meetings this season.

She broke the back of Gujarat Giants, returning with figures of 3/16 in Vododara last month and again tormented them in the return match at Brabourne, snaring three wickets. With Nat Sciver-Brunt doing the bulk of the scoring for MI, smashing four half-centuries and emerging as the top run-getter this season with 416 runs from eight matches, the onus would be on Gujarat Giants bowlers to tie down the England stalwart.

Sciver-Brunt's wicket-taking ability too cannot be underestimated, given that she along with Matthews have played a piv-

otal role in MI's successful run this season. While Harmanpreet's form has been patchy this season, she did manage a half-century against Gujarat on Monday, which would have given her enough confidence going into the Eliminator.

Gujarat Giants skipper Gardner, who took over the captaincy from country-mate Beth Mooney this season, would know that beating the inaugural edition champions in their own den wouldn't be easy.

Her form has fluctuated all season, though she still continues to be among the top-five scorers with 235 runs. She scored a duck against Mumbai Indians on Monday, one of the reasons they lost the match, which dashed their hopes of automatically qualifying for the final ahead of Delhi Capitals.

The Australian would bank on talented batter Harleen Deol to come good in the do-or-die contest and also hope that opener Mooney gives them a flying start.

Mumbai to host PSA event from March 24 to March 28

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Mumbai will host a PSA event from March 24 to 28, pitting India's top squash players like Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh against their overseas rivals.

The \$40,000 prize money Indian Open, to be held at the indoor courts of Bombay Gymkhana, will see participation of players from countries like Egypt, Canada, Malaysia and Japan.

Besides Tandon and Anahat, other Indian players set to take part are Velavan Senthilkumar, Veer Chotrani, and Akanksha Salunkhe. The event will mark the return of a top squash tournament in the country after 2018, when Mumbai hosted the CCI International a PSA World Tour Silver tournament, a release from title sponsors JSW Sports said.

Starting in August 2024, PSA (Professional Squash Association) replaced World Tour tournaments with new PSA World Events, comprising new tournament-tiers Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Copper. The

The level of competition is right up there, and it is a great opportunity for Indian players to test themselves against the best

— RAMIT TANDON, SQUASH PLAYER

Indian Open will be a copper event.

A full-glass outdoor court has been set up for the quarterfinal, semifinal and final, creating a thrilling spectator experience, the JSW said.

India Number one Ramit Tandon said, "It's always special to compete at home, and having a PSA event like the Indian Open in India is a huge boost for the sport."

"The level of competition is right up there, and it's a great opportunity for Indian players to test themselves against the best. With squash making its Olympic debut at LA28, events like these are crucial in building momentum and inspiring the next generation."

PSA CEO Alex Gough welcomed the return of a PSA tournament to India.

Buttler one of my closest friends: Samson

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson is still not over Jos Buttler no longer being part of the team, and if he had his way, he would do away with the rule of releasing players in the IPL. Samson and Buttler opened batting for Royals for seven years but they did not retain the Englishman ahead of the mega auction last year.

Buttler will play for Gujarat Titans in the upcoming IPL.

"The IPL gives you the opportunity to lead a team and play at the highest level, and it also allows you to build close friendships," Samson told JioStar.

"Jos Buttler is one of my closest friends. We played together for seven years. During this time, our batting partnership time itself is so long that we got to know each other so well."

"He has been like an elder brother to me. Whenever I had a doubt, I would talk to him. When I became captain (in 2021), he was my vice-captain and helped me become a good captain."

Samson said letting go of Buttler was one of the hardest decision he has had to make. Royals had retained six players, including Samson, Yashavi Jaiswal, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel, Shimron Hetmyer and

The IPL gives you the opportunity to lead a team and play at the highest level and it also allows you to build close friendships

— SANJU SAMSON, CRICKETER

Sandeep Sharma.

"Letting him go has been one of the most challenging decisions for me. During the England series, I told him over dinner that I was still not over it. If I could change one thing in the IPL, I would change the rule of releasing players every three years," he said.

"While it has its positives, on a personal level, you lose that connect, that relation you built over years. He was a part of the family. What more can I say?"

While Buttler will not be around in Royals dugout, Samson is happy about reuniting with head coach Rahul Dravid.

"Rahul sir was the one who spotted me from the trials. He came up to me and said, 'Can you play for my team?' From there to now, with me being the captain of the franchise and he coming back - I'm very grateful, as we all are in the franchise, to have Rahul sir back," he said.

"I have played under him [at RR] as a player when he was the captain and I have

played under him in the Indian team when he was the coach. But a captain-coach relationship is very special and I'm very much looking forward to learning a lot from him."

"He is a top-notch professional and makes sure everything is done properly. I was with him last month in Nagpur at RR's sports academy. From morning ten o'clock till evening five o'clock, he was standing in the heat, watching the batsmen bat and the bowlers bowl, interacting with them, discussing with the coaches. He is absolutely involved in each and everything."

Royals signed 13-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi at the auction and that attracted a lot of attention.

Samson said the teenager is ready for the big leap.

"He looks very confident. He was sitting sixes out of the ground in the academy. So what else can I do? I think it's all about understanding his strength, backing it and being around as an elder brother."

"He looks ready. I think it's all about keeping him in the best shape and in a relaxed environment, which RR is known for, and then back him. You never know, in a couple of years he might end up playing for India as well."

Gill wins ICC Player of the Month award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

Star India opener Shubman Gill was on Wednesday named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for February following his stellar performances, which includes his exploits in his team's title-winning Champions Trophy campaign.

Gill took home the award, beating competition from Australia's Steve Smith and New Zealand's Glenn Phillips.

In his five ODIs over the course of the month, Gill compiled 406 runs, averaging 101.50 at a strike rate of 94.19. This included a stellar outing in the 3-0 series win over England, wherein Gill registered three consecutive scores of over fifty. Gill began with a confident 87 in Nagpur and followed it up with a 60 in Cuttack. He finished in a grand style, smashing a hundred in Ahmedabad. His 112 came from merely 102 balls and included 14 fours and three sixes.

Gill was awarded player-of-the-match for this innings, and also took home the player-of-the-series award.

Continuing his golden run into the Champions Trophy, Gill hit an unbeaten 101 to lead India's chase in their tournament opener against Bangladesh.

I do not look back, I care about wins and finishing on top, says Collin Morikawa

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ponte Vedra Beach

It's hard to win on the PGA Tour, a sentiment usually heard from players when they are sitting next to the trophy and realise what it took to get there. Collin Morikawa keeps getting reminded after some painful losses.

The player who won five times on the PGA Tour in just over two years as a pro has only one title in his last 75 starts. Morikawa is Number four in the world ranking, and that's not an accident. He is playing good golf and giving himself plenty of chances.

Small consolation

"I don't look back and be like, Man, I had a great week' because I do care about the wins and I do care about finishing on top," Morikawa said Tuesday. "So there's a little bit of yes, I feel great because I know I can keep putting myself in contention, and if I just keep doing that, it's going to happen. "But for me, it does suck because I do look back at the wins and I do care about winning," he said. "So that's where it kind of hurts."

He can look back to being in the final group of two majors last year. Morikawa was done in at the Masters when it took him two shots to get out of bunker on No. 9 for double bogey. He shared the 54-hole lead at the PGA Championship with Xander Schauffele at Valhalla. That requires good golf.

But remember, Morikawa won two majors, the PGA Championship in 2020, the British Open a year later, before his 40th career start on tour.

Golf felt easy back then, not so much at Morikawa has better scoring statistics now than when he was winning, but he speaks more about the freedom he felt on Sunday when he was winning with a little more regularity.

There wasn't much freedom when he took his place in the PGA Tour record book for losing a six-shot lead in the final round at Kapalua to start 2023. He played 67 consecutive holes without a bogey that week until one shot after another went wrong. Even more frustrating is losing without really doing much wrong.

Such was the case last week at Bay Hill, when Morikawa lost the lead without really losing control of his game. He was three shots ahead with five holes to play on a course with really one one birdie opportunity left. The other four holes were ranked among the top six in difficulty that day.

Morikawa had made only three bogeys in the previous 58 holes at that point. It wasn't a matter of what went wrong as much as it what went right, a lot, for Russell Henley. There was a two-shot swing on the par-3 14th, the toughest hole Sunday at Bay Hill, which at that point had yielded only one birdie. Morikawa missed the green and made bogey. Henley made his best swing of the tournament with a 5-iron to 10 feet for birdie. And then came the breaks that win tournaments. Morikawa found a bunker off the tee at the par-5 16th (the



easiest hole of the final round) and had to lay up and hit wedge to a front pin, no easy task. Henley went just over the green in rough so thick he could only see his golf ball by standing over it.

And then he chipped in for eagle, a good

shot because it was on line, a massive break because it hit the middle of the pin. An inch to the right or to the left, and Henley isn't sure the ball would have even stayed on the green.

Instead, he had an eagle and the lead for

the first time when Morikawa made par. And that's the way it stayed for the last two holes until Henley held his nerve to make a pair of par putts (the combined length of those putts was 10 feet) for the biggest of his career.

Henley's words were telling when he turned his attention to Morikawa.

"Sometimes golf is just mean like that," he said. Morikawa clearly is trending with his game. The world ranking might not include LIV Golf players, but it's generally accurate at the top. The trick now is moving on, just like he had to do after Kapalua in 2023, after the Masters and the PGA Championship last year.

He was in no mood to talk Sunday and offered no apologies given how he felt in the moment.

"I don't owe anyone anything," he said to a roomful of media at the TPC Sawgrass. "No offense to you guys, but for me in the moment of that time, I didn't want to be around anyone. Like, I didn't want to talk to anyone."

He was headed up the highway that evening for The Players Championship, another chance to get in the mix, another reminder that it is coming up on 18 months since his last win, and it was two years before that since he won in Dubai to capture the European tour season title.

The game is there while the frustration mounts. Winning is hard. He needs no reminders and is getting plenty of them, anyway.

"I love being in that position. I don't take it for granted because you just never know," he said. "But it was frustrating Sunday night. I have to get over it. ... I'm going to think about it. I know what happened. I fully am aware of how it played out. But I just have to move on and I have to learn from it. I have to keep getting better."