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PRASANNA SINGH **GUEST REPORTER**

A stock market downturn, as and when it happens, invariably catches people, and usually these are always retail investors, off guard. We are seeing this play out in India's leading indices over the past three months as well. In a sort of slow motion glide that seems to have suddenly picked up pace this week, provoking this article as well. India's leading stock exchange barometers have all hit new 'lows'. There is a need to qualify that word, because these are corrections when seen from the peaks these indices hit, all in

September. So if the Nifty Mid-cap and small cap indices both hit their peaks early in September, the broader indices comprising the BSE Sensex and the Nifty 50, comprising larger cap stocks, actually hit their highs in the final week of September, on September 27. Today, while the large caps indices are down 155 points from their peaks, the mid cap and small cap indices are down 21 per cent

and 25 per cent respectively. Of course, the correction in many hyped stocks is even worse. For crores of retail investors who had piled into stocks after watching a breathless post-COVID rally that rarely stuttered, it has been agonising, watching their 'wealth' evaporate. Especially when

we consider how even at the peak,

many complained that the rise has been driven by a few, select stocks disproportionately. Leaving only index fund holders uniformly

happy. SO WHY DID THE MARKETS **CORRECT SO STEEPLY?**

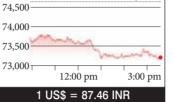
The answer lies in the previous rise itself. Like almost all sustained bull markets, the highs the market saw in September was the fag end of a period of sustained growth, a lot of it is not justified anymore by the quarterly results many key sectors and firms showcased between Q2 and Q3. Worse, when compared to global peers, India's markets were once again trading at a premium, par with, or higher than most global markets bar the still frothy US markets. A premium, most

foreign investors seem to have

PTI



SENSEX IN A TAILSPIN



decided, is not justified in a volatile global environment. And followed it with almost 2 Lakh Crores of sustained selling since. All the anecdotal and actual

signals were blinking red, namely, the stamped like rush for IPOs

among firms and investors alike, and perhaps the worst of all, a quiet reducing of stakes in many firms by promoters. As always, among all the reasons trotted out to explain these warning signs, perhaps the most silly, and eventually foolish one as always, was that 'this time it's different'. It never is.

India's growth prospects have become almost mythical now, in how there is a bull case for 10 per cent GDP growth, yet, we always find our economy overheating at the first signs of a sustained period of 8 per cent growth or even less. Brought down by rising inflation, corruption scandals, or yet another election or oil price spike. The recent trend towards giveaways without a funding plan

has not helped The final trigger for the slide in

2025 has largely been the Trump administration and its actions, threatened or otherwise. If there is one thing that the market does not like, it is uncertainty. And the Trump administration has added dollops of it to global trade and markets including India with its tariff threats and actions.

For many investors this is their first experience with a correction this sharp and long. And they will seek to find answers in every argument, right from the decision to raise capital gains tax on stock market gains, to the tougher rules for FII investments, or the government's apparent pause on further public sector privatisation. Perhaps all of these make a good

wasn't this the year when domestic investors had all but made foreign investors irrelevant according to many claims, including from the government? Clearly not, as we can see. Quite simply, sentiment has turned, and from a change in direction, taken a complete U-turn it would appear. That is not quite as uncommon or improbable as it seems, as stock markets are prone to going to extremes in either direction. One feels we are quite close to the point where the downturn might have gone well beyond what fundamentals justify. But readers will do well to remember that eventually, one thing that the stocks markets do best consistently is reward performance. So firms that meet their projections for three or more quarters without fail, will eventually find their efforts rewarded.

point, or perhaps not. After all,

41 trapped in Uttarakhand avalanche

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

snowfall eavy Uttarakhand resulting I In an avalanche led to at least 41 Border Roads Organisation workers (BRO) being buried in the high altitude border village of Mana, Chamoli district on Friday. The workers were clearing snow when they were trapped. The snowslide had initially buried 57 men but 16 were pulled out safely. There was no immediate news of casualties and rescue efforts were on.

Later, 32 of total 57 workers were rescued on Friday, sources said. The avalanche has buried a camp of the BRO between Mana and Badrinath and multiple teams battled

Labove-normal maximum

temperatures in most parts

between March and May.

According to the India

Meteorological Department

(IMD), more heatwave days

are also likely to be witnessed

across most parts of the

country during the months.

operations have been halted due to bad weather and the impending danger of more in avalanches. It will restart when the weather improves, sources said. Himachal Pradesh and higher

Rescue operation underway after BRO labourers got trapped under an avalanche, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand PTI

tough terrain, heavy snow Badrinath, is the last village

and rain to rescue the on the India-Tibet border at a

121

kilometres from It was also learnt rescue

reaches of Jammu and Kashmir also saw snowfall and rain. Several northern states including Delhi, Punjab and Haryana received rainfall leading to a dip in temperature.

As regards the mishap in Uttrakhand, the avalanche buried a camp of the BRO between Mana and Badrinath, Chamoli District Magistrate Sandeep Tiwari said as multiple teams battled tough terrain, heavy snow and rain to rescue the workers.

HM directs Delhi Govt, Police to act tough on Bangladeshis

अमित शाह HM Amit Shah with Delhi CM Rekha Gupta chairs a PTI

meeting to review law and order situation in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR 📕 NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed law and order situation in the national Capital with Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta while directing Delhi police to take action against the networks that help illegal Bangladeshis and Rohingyas entering India, to take measures to ensure women safety, and

ensure ruthless action against inter-state gangs. It was the first top level interaction after BJP came to power. The AAP regime did not attend such

meetings in its 10-year rule. A key decision taken in the meeting was regarding the expeditious disposal of the 2020 Delhi riots cases. Shah urged the Delhi government to appoint special prosecutors to ensure speedy trials, as per the MHA. Another policy shift was announced regarding constructionrelated matters, where it was decided that Delhi police permission would no longer be required. The Union Home Minister said strict action should also be taken against police stations and sub-divisions that consistently perform poorly.

traffic congestion, Shah said the On Delhi Police should identify the places witnessing traffic jams daily and the Delhi police commissioner and chief secretary should meet and find a quick solution to this.





when the maximum is over 40°C in the plains, and also the temperature is 4.5°C or more

workers, sources said. Mana,

three

Northwest India and South Peninsula, where normal minimum temperatures are most likely," the IMD said. According to IMD, above-

height of 3,200 metres.

normal heatwave days are likely over most parts of central India and adjoining northern parts of South above normal. The IMD said during the Peninsula and some areas of northwest and east India. Analysis of IMD's centurylong temperature data shows the October-December postmaximum monsoon season is warming at a rate of 1.01°C per century, followed by the January-February winter months at 0.73°C. Pre-monsoon (March-May) and monsoon (June-September) seasons are maximum warming at relatively slower rates of 0.62°C and 0.45°C minimum respectively. Delhi recorded its warmest February night in 74 years, with the minimum isolated temperature at Safdarjung reaching 19.5°C on Thursday — the highest for the month in the period between 1951to 2025, according to the IMD. maximum Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said, "Delhi recorded its lowest AQI in 2025, today, with average AQI clocking 121, as per the daily AQI Bulletin by CPCB. Average AQI of 121 for Delhi on Friday is the lowest during January - February in minimum last three years since 2023."





Bureaucrat back at SEBI, after stormy Buch era

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

Tuhin Kanta Pandey, the L government's divestment man who played a key role in sale of Air India as well as listing of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), has been appointed as head of SEBI, marking return of bureaucrat at the helm of market regulator.

Pandey, the top bureaucrat in the Finance Ministry, will replace Madhabi Puri Buch, whose term ends Friday as chairman of the SEBI.

Buch, 60, who was the first woman and the only person from the private sector to head SEBI, had a tumultuous three-year term marked with allegations of conflict of interest as well as sweeping overhaul of regulations.

IMD data shows India also recorded its warmest February in 124 years with an average temperature of more than 22°C. For the first time, the average minimum temperature across the country was recorded at over 15°C, which is the warmest, recorded ever. In terms of the average maximum temperature, February 2025 has been the second warmest, just behind the corresponding month in 2023. In terms of the maximum average temperature, February 2025 has been the second warmest, just behind the corresponding month in 2023. The reverse happened in 2022. April of that year in north India was the hottest on record, while temperatures in Feb were close

to normal. The IMD attributed the unusual rise in temperature to a presence of strong easterly winds, which they said were blocking the cool sea breeze. The IMD declares a heatwave

upcoming hot weather season (March to May (MAM)), above-normal temperatures are most likely over most parts of the country, except over southern parts of Peninsular India, and isolated pockets of Northeast India where normal to belownormal temperatures are likely. The above-normal temperatures are likely over most parts of the country some except southernmost regions of Peninsular India where normal minimum temperatures are likely. "Monthly

temperatures for March are likely to be above normal over most parts of India, except over some southernmost parts of Peninsular India, where below normal maximum temperatures are likely. During this period the above normal monthly temperatures are likely over

100 (Left to right): LoP Atishi interacts with police personnel after allegedly being stopped from entering the state Vidhan Sabha premises on Friday and Delhi Assembly Photo: Ranian Dimri/The Pioneer

Delhi Speaker, Atishi engage in letter war

RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

speaker, Vijendra Gupta

letter war erupted between the Aletter war erupted between the Delhi Assembly speaker, Vijendra Gupta and the Leader of Opposition (LoP), Atishi on Friday, following the suspension of 21 MLAs from the Vidhan Sabha, with Atishi calling it an "insult to the people's mandate" while Speaker Vijender Gupta defended the move, citing parliamentary rules and past disruptions.

The controversy deepened when the suspended MLAs including former chief minister Atishi were prevented from entering the Assembly premises the next day while attempting to hold a protest at the Mahatma Gandhi statue. The LoP termed the move "unprecedented" and accused the BJP government of "crossing all limits of dictatorship" by Opposition's voice. stifling the

"The Opposition was expelled from the House and Committees". House for chanting 'Jai Bhim' slogans, while BJP MLAs continued raising 'Modi-Modi' slogans without any repercussions. Preventing Opposition MLAs from entering the Assembly premises is a blatant insult to democracy," Atishi asserted. "This is an insult not only to the MLAs but also to the mandate given by the people," she said.

Responding to Atishi's claims, the Speaker rejected the allegations of bias and accused the Opposition of disrupting the proceedings of the House. He defended the decision to bar the suspended MLAs from the premises, citing Assembly Rule 277, which states that "A member who has been suspended from the service of the House shall be barred from entering the premises of the House and from taking part in the proceedings of the

Gupta also criticised the Opposition's conduct, stating that disruptions had begun even before the LG's address. Referring to the Speaker's election on February 24, he wrote, "It should have dignified been a dignified process. Unfortunately, the process was marred by sloganeering and disruption by the opposition members. Despite this unbecoming conduct, I exercised restraint and did not take any

disciplinary action." Regarding the LG's address on February 25, Gupta pointed to the fifth schedule (code of conduct rules), which mandates that interruptions during the LG's speech be treated as "disrespect towards the Lt Governor and contempt of the House". He said suspending the MLAs was not an arbitrary decision but based on clear parliamentary rules.

mostly held by bureaucrats. A career bureaucrat, Pandey, 59, is currently the finance secretary and is known to be stickler for rules and a clean image. He will have a threevear term.

Prior to her, the position was

He is the second bureaucrat from the finance ministry to have been appointed to key roles in the financial sector since December. His colleague in charge of the revenue department Sanjay Malhotra was in December appointed as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

À 1987-batch Odisha-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Pandey has been the longest serving divestment secretary, serving for over five years. The role of finance secretary was added to his portfolio in September last year by virtue of him being the senior most among the secretaries in the finance ministry.

An end to legacy of 30 years **Uttam's last rites performed with full State honours** Prez, Guv, CM mourn his demise

NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

 $T_{he mortal remains of}$ Odisha's beloved film icon, Uttam Mohanty, who passed away at the age of 67 years while undergoing treatment for liver cirrhosis at a private hospital in Gurugram late Thursday night, were consigned to flames at the Satyanagar crematorium here on Friday with full State honours.

President Droupadi Murmu, Governor Hari Babu Kambhampati, Chief

Majhi, all Ministers, tall political leaders and the entire Odia film industry mourned actor.

"I am deeply saddened to hear the news of the demise

of eminent film actor Uttam Mohanty. Mohanty won the hearts of countless viewers by playing the lead role in many Odia films. His contribution described Mohanty as a to the development of Odia film will always be remembered. As a sweetspoken and humble

gentleman, he was the idol

an irreparable loss to the Odia film world. My condolences to his family and fans," the demise of the veteran President Murmu said in a post on X in

Odia

The Chief Minister expressed deep condolences on the demise of the distinguished actor. In his condolence message, Majhi "shining star" and the "undisputed hero" of Odia cinema for over two decades. He stated that Mohanty

was an icon who elevated

Minister Mohan Charan of all. His demise has caused Odia cinema to new heights said. by acting in Odia, Bengali, and even Hindi films. "His Ministerannounced that

The Chief



demise is an irreparable loss Mohanty's last rites would be to the Odia art world," Majhi performed with full State

honours.

Uttam Mohanty had dominated the Odia film industry for decades as a household name in the State. He acted in about 135 Odia films and 30 Bengali films.

Born in Baripada, Mohanty earned a Bachelor of Science degree. During his college days, he developed a strong inclination toward acting. After completing his graduation, he moved to Ludhiana to pursue Chartered Accountancy. Later, he stayed with his elder brother, late Arun Mohanty, in Kolkata for

some time before eventually entering the film industry.

His film career began with Sadhu Meher's directorial venture Abhiman, after which he quickly established himself in Ollywood. He then starred in Pati Patni, followed by Nijhum Ratira Sathi, Chinha Achhinha, Ramayana, Tapasya, Ram Balram, and so on.

Often hailed as a "one-man industry," Uttam dominated Odia cinema for three decades, excelling in various rolesromantic lead, village lad, and character roles. His films

Abhiman, Danda Balunga, and Bhakta Salabega are still remembered today for his remarkable performances.

Mohanty acted in over 50 films alongside Aparajita Mohanty, whom he married in 1987. His son, Babushan Mohanty, is also a popular Odia actor with over 50 Odia films to his credit.

Before his last rites, a large number of cine artists, cultural figures, fans and members of the general public gathered at his home here to pay their last respects to the beloved actor.



capital 02

TB by 2025-end: Nadda

PNS **P**URI:

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday said India would meet the target of eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by the end of this year, five years ahead of the global target.

Nadda was inaugurating the 9th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare System in Puri.

"As per the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), India has to eliminate TB by 2030. But we are all set to achieve it by 2025," Nadda said.

"We have already identified 5 lakh TB patients during the ongoing 100-day TB Mukt Bharat campaign in 455 districts across the country. We are going to include all aspirational districts and aspirational blocks under the campaign so that we will be able to eliminate tuberculosis by the end of 2025," he said.

"I see somewhere that officers are a little lagging behind in this aspect. So, please treat the public representatives as spokesperson of your policies and programmes. Take the PRI on board for better implementation of TB Mukt Bharat campaign along with the 22 lines departments," Nadda advised the officers.

He said that there is a tremendous increase in noncommunicable diseases due to the negative impact on the environment. "Prime Minister has

CM directs different departments to approve expenditure

PNS BHUBANESWAR hief Minister Mohan

Charan Majhi has set a target of spending 85 per cent of the budget estimates for 2024-25 fiscal against an expenditure of 81 per cent achieved in 2023-24, an official statement said

Majhi, who also holds the

appealed to the people to decrease oil consumption by at least 10 per cent in every household. We have to take it as a movement with a

where travelling is very difficult, he suggested. Nadda said the ongoing universal screening

infrastructure. The Prime Minister laid the foundation for a 100-bed National Institute for Yoga & Naturopathy on October 29,

holistic approach," he said. Emphasising the delivery of quality healthcare at primary healthcare centres (PHC), Nadda said, "Our base needs to be strengthened to provide quality and accessible healthcare to the 1.4 billion population of our country."

While admitting that there is a shortage of doctors in the country, Nadda said telemedicine is the only solution to overcome this problem.

"We have to ensure the advice of specialist doctors to reach the PHC level and Ayushman Arogya Mandir Centres. Hub and spoke model needs to be adopted to address the issue," he said.

The drone service introduced in the healthcare system should be expanded to hilly and remote areas, 'Achieve 85% expenditure in 2024-25'

proposals and clear pending

payments under welfare

schemes", the statement issued

Stating that Odisha's 6.1-per

cent allocation of its Gross

Domestic Product (GSDP) to

capital expenditure is the

highest in the country, Majhi

said programme expenditure

and capital expenditure are

by the CMO said.

2024.

programme, which was started on February 20, would continue till March 31, for early detection of various diseases like diabetes, three types of cancers, etc. "Our target is to reach 37

crore people through the campaign," he stated. Due to Ayushman Bharat, 90 per cent of cancer cases were detected in early stage within 30 days and their

treatment started, he said. Nadda said that 200 daycare centres for cancer patients would be opened this year while every district would have at least one daycare centre for cancer patients in another year.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who was also present at the meeting, said, "We are firm in our commitment to expand and upgrade medical

PNS **P**URI

Further steps have been taken to establish the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education

and Research and the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, he said. The State has decided to strengthen 7,358 urban and rural PHCs and sub-centres as

Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM) to provide comprehensive primary health care services including yoga and other wellness activities, Majhi said.

"We have made provision to construct a new building for 1,338 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs in the coming year's budget," he informed.

Towards a TB Mukt Odisha, a 100-day intensified TB campaign has been initiated through focused interventions in 20 high-priority districts, the chief minister said.

State to have 2 more med colleges Informs CM

The State Government is all set to open two new medical colleges at Phulbani and Angul during the coming academic year 2025-26 while four more dental colleges would also be opened in the near future, said Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Friday.

Addressing at the 9th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Healthcare System here, the CM said, "Odisha is committed to the journey towards "Sustha Odisha, Samrudha Odisha", where every citizen has access to quality, equitable, and affordable healthcare."

Towards improving medical education, the State opened Maharaja Jajati Keshari Medical College in Jajpur in November 2024 while two new medical colleges at Phulbani and Angul would be opened shortly, he said.

India all set to eliminate Nadda lauds significant decline in MMR, IMR in Odisha Also says Ayushman Bharat ensures timely cancer treatment

said.

communicable

screening campaign for

individuals aged 30 and above.

This initiative is facilitated

outpaced global averages.

Reflecting on the

transformative National

Health Policy introduced in

2017, Nadda explained that

the focus shifted from curative

and tertiary healthcare to a

preventive, promotive and

comprehensive approach.

"Since 2017, we have adopted

NALINI SAHU BHUBANESWAR

Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Friday commended the National Health Mission (NHM) for its crucial role in enhancing India's public health outcomes.

Speaking at the 9th National Summit on Good and Replicable Practices and Innovation in Public Healthcare in Puri, Nadda praised Odisha for its remarkable progress in key health indicators, particularly the significant decline in maternal and infant mortality rates.

"There was a time when Odisha faced criticism for lagging in various health parameters. Today, the state has made commendable strides, particularly in reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, which is truly a matter of pride," Nadda stated.

Nadda emphasised the accelerated decline in Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), and Under-5 Mortality Rate across the

a balanced strategy addressing primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare, ensuring comprehensive coverage. Quality and accessible healthcare are our priorities, country, noting that India's especially considering India's progress in these areas has 1.4-billion population," he

College, Bhadrak; Ravenshaw

University, Cuttack; and

Berhampur University. The

activities included lectures,

experiments, and awareness

competitions,

of

games,

demonstrations

through over 1 lakh Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, where screenings for diabetes, hypertension, oral cancer, breast cancer, and cervical cancer are conducted.

Highlighting the impact of Ayushman Bharat, Nadda

reduction in malaria cases. Additionally, under the 100day TB Mukt Bharat campaign, 5 lakh patients have been identified at the grassroots level, paving the way for the eradication of tuberculosis by 2025.

ILS BBS holds Science Day in different institutions

PNS BHUBANRSWAR

The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) Bhubaneswar celebrated the National Science Day (NSD) and Rare Disease Day on Friday at its campus and six other locations across Odisha.

The NSD is observed to commemorate the discovery of the Raman effect by Sir CV Raman in 1928. As part of the NSD celebrations, the Government of India supports themes related to the impact of science on society and the nation's development. The theme for this year is "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science and Innovation for Viksit Bharat."

Seven different teams comprising ten scientists, along with over 50 PhD scholars, postdoctoral fellows, and other support staff, conducted programmes at ILS, Bhubaneswar; SG Women's College, Rourkela; Sambalpur University; MSCBD University, Baripada; Autonomous Bhadrak

The programme also focused on raising awareness about rare diseases, their causes, societal impact, and potential treatments. Although these diseases are not common, it is estimated that around 7 crore

Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), has launched a mission programme for pediatric rare genetic diseases. The initiative involves 16 different institutes across the country to investigate the prevalence and genetic causes



noted, "Due to the coverage To enhance early detection under Ayushman Bharat, 90 and treatment of nonper cent of cancer patients receive treatment within 30 diseases (NCDs) and common cancers, days of diagnosis." the Union health ministry has Nadda also mentioned launched a nationwide

India's progress in controlling malaria and tuberculosis. According to the 2024 WHO report, India has seen a notable



Finance portfolio, set this target while reviewing the expenditure of different departments on Thursday.

Although expenditure was impacted by the elections, government transition and the budget presentation in September, Majhi stated that spending appeared to be satisfactory. "To meet the target, Majhi advised ministers

crucial for the overall growth. The statement said the expenditure is good in the Departments of Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Resources, Health, Water Resources, Works, Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare and Cooperation.

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	Sarada Prasanna Nanda
Place: Bhubaneswar	PUBLISHER
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Subhadra 2nd instalment to be disbursed in B'pur At special programme on March 8

PNS BHUBANESWAR:

L he second instalment of Subhadra Yojana funds would be disbursed in a special programme in Brahmapur on March 8, International Women's Day, announced Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Friday.



"At least 1 crore women will get their money through direct transfer under Subhadra Yojana on March 8. As promised, we have hit the 1-crore target. All the 1 crore women will get their funds deposited directly in their bank accounts during a special event scheduled to be held in Brahmapur," Parida told mediapersons.

The organising committee is meticulously planning the event to ensure a seamless distribution process. Transparency and efficiency are at the core of this initiative, aiming to deliver tangible benefits to the recipients.

The fund distribution is part of a broader strategy to ensure that financial resources effectively reach those most in need, contributing to both economic stability and social welfare. It reflects ongoing efforts by the government to bolster socioeconomic frameworks and offer sustained support to the citizens.

The scheme underscores a commitment to ensure that economic aid reaches its intended beneficiaries, thus enhancing overall societal wellbeing.

sessions about innovation and the entrepreneurial ecosystem, all designed to spark interest in science among the youth.

Indians are affected by them. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in India, which funds the of these diseases, as well as to develop new diagnostic methods and therapies for children affected by rare genetic disorders.

4-day Odisha Mining, Infra Expo from Mar 6

PNS BHUBANESWAR The 3rd Odisha Mining and Infrastructure International

Trade Fair and Events Private supported by industry Medium leaders like the PHD (OASME).

organiser is Odisha Limited, the event is Assembly of Small and Enterprises

The expo is also supported

by HELP, INDI TREE as

NGO partner and Anveshi

Foundation as knowledge partner.

Distinguished dignitaries, Managing Director of Futurex Group Swami Prem Anveshi, former CMD of NALCO and eminent industry an professional Dr Tapan Kumar Chand; and Director of IIG GroupSudhanshu Sekhar Mohanty; PRO to the MP of Bhubaneswar Bimal Kumar Raul; Director of Futurex Group Namit Gupta and Managing Director of Equipage Infracore Private Limited Sanjeev Nayak; secretary of HELP Manasmita Jena came together to announce the upcoming expo. They also discussed the

current growth in the mining industry and shared insights on how the expo is expected benefit industry to stakeholders.

Governor Dr Kambhampati Hari Babu will join the event as the chief guest at the valedictory session. The session will mark the conclusion of the four-day exhibition.

Expo will take place from March 6 to 9 at Bhubaneswar.

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Skill Council of To be organised by Futurex Mining Sector. The co-

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capital 03

for 12 hrs to get blood

Issue raises questions on Blood Bank's functioning

RAJEEV RATHAN BRAHMAPUR 'L'he plight of patients struggling for a unit of blood at the

and social workers intervened. The incident occurred at the Blood Bank, located within the Department of Transfusion Medicine at MKCG Medical

fusion. At around 8 pm, the distressed mother approached the blood bank, where the stock board displayed 35 units of O-positive blood. However,



Brahmapur Blood Bank came to light on Friday when an elderly mother had to wait over 12 hours to secure blood for her ailing son.

Despite the availability of blood in stock, she was denied a transfusion until volunteers

Parasailing camp for NCC cadets held

In a first at Jeypore

College and Hospital here. The elderly woman had brought her son, who was suffering from liver jaundice, to Brahmapur General Hospital on Thursday. He was admitted at noon and doctors ad-

the staff refused to provide a unit without a replacement donor. Despite her repeated pleas, she was left waiting for hours, with no assistance from the blood bank staff. By afternoon, the desperate mother vised an urgent blood trans-

forced to suffer. A mother waited for 12 hours, and only after intervention was she given what was rightfully available. This raises serious concerns about the transparency and management of the blood bank." Another volunteer who helped secure the blood for the patient remarked, "We see this happening too often. People in distress are asked to bring donors even when blood is available. If there are hidden malpractices, they must be exposed, and immediate action should be taken." was still struggling for a single

unit of blood. The situation

only changed when social

workers learned of her plight

and intervened. After their

discussions with the blood

bank staff, she was finally pro-

vided with a unit of O-posi-

tive blood for her son's treat-

ment. Local activist Sankar

Panigrahi condemned the in-

cident, stating, "It is unaccept-

able that despite having blood

in stock, patients are being

In Brahmapur Sahayata International holds foundation day

120 boys, girls join NISHAN PATTANAIK JEYPORE

The first time ever Parasailing Camp for NCC



Cadets in Odisha was organised under the aegis NCC Group Headquarters Brahmapur at Vikram Dev University here from February 24 to 28, with an aim to instil confidence, courage and adventure spirit among cadets by providing them with a unique experience of airborne activities.

120 NCC cadets, both boys and girls, from all corners of Odisha arrived and participated in the adventure activity.

Monday with an overwhelm-Commanding Officer Lt Col Priti Ranjan Dash lauded the efforts of NCC Odisha in promoting adventure sports among youth and stated, "This camp is not just about adventure; it's about building self-confidence, overcoming fear, and fostering leadership qualities in our cadets. Such activities help in their overall personality development and prepare them for future challenges."

The camp was organised under the guidance of trained professionals and experienced instructors, cadets were given theoretical and practical training on parasailing techniques, safety protocols, and equipment ĥandling before tak atmosphere seeking prosper ing to the skies. The event ity, peace and harmony. . was supervised by NCC staff The event was streamed and adventure sports exlive allowing devotees from perts to ensure the highest different regions to be part standards of safety. of this momentous occasion.

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR: The guiding force behind Sahaayata International, The Sahaayata Interna-Kiran Guruji, shared his inspiring vision tional celebrated its 9th founemphasised dation day at the Sahayata organisation's unwavering Vinayaka Temple here on commitment to uplifting hu-



ing response from devotees and well-wishers from across the globe.

The organisation held a special 'Kalasha Puja' with divine fervour which was dedicated to the wellbeing of all participants and their families. The sacred rituals, led by esteemed spiritual guides, created a spiritually uplifting

manity through self-transformation, spiritual wisdom, and service. Guruji in his address expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the volunteers, devotees, and wellwishers who have been instrumental in the organisation's journey over the past nine years.

The event was graced by Major General Inderjeet

and

the

Woman made to wait 'Demolish panchayat office built on forestland' As illegal structure violates FRA

PNS BHUBANESWAR

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the District Magistrate of Nayagarh to demolish an illegal structure on Plot No.1793, Khata No.387 and restore the land to its original form.

Notably, one Rabindra Pradhan, a resident of Jharapada, has knocked the doors of NGT alleging that a fellow villager Nityananda Jena of Jhadapada, some years back, denuded trees in Jhadapada mouza khata no-387 bearing plot no-1793 ,which is a jungle kisam land , under Jharapada GP and illegally occupied the land and constructed a pucca house by

PNS BHUBANESWAR/

B_{ID} members on Friday

joined a demonstration held

MALKANGARI:

violating the Forest (Conservation) Act. The house was later used as Jhadapada Gram Panchavat office.

But when the Jhadapada panchayat office bearer made an attempt to set up a 1,200 square feet pucca house on the jungle kissam land near plot no-1793 in April 2024 without requisite approval, Rabindra lodged a complaint with the NGT against 12 numbers of respondents, stated Akhand, the lawyer of complainant Rabindra.

The complainant urged the NGT to take steps in this regard as the matter pertains to illegal construction on junge kissam land by violating the Forest (Conservation) Act,

'Polavaram project

against Odisha's interest'

The National Green Tribunal(NGT), Eastern Zone bench,Kolkota in its earlier order in the matter had issued notice to the State government and directed to constitute a committee, comprising District Magistrate of Nayagarh, DFO, Khurda, a senior scientist of Odisha State Pollution Control Board, and directed the District Magistrate of Nayagarh to send the committee for a spot visit to submit a report within four weeks.

From the Joint Inspection Report and affidavit of the Divisional Forest Officer, Khordha and the Collector and District Magistrate, Nayagarh, it is established that permission for construction of a pucca house was granted in respect of Plot No.1795 only, and not for Plot No.1793, for construction of Community Centre and Fair Price Shop by the Divisional Forest Officer in exercise of powers under Section 3 (2) of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The permission has been granted for diversion of 0.488 hectares of forest land. No permission was granted for opening or operating Gram Panchayat Office over Plot No.1793.The facts are confirmed in the Joint Inspection Report prepared after site inspection by the fact-finding

In Kendrapada Shop torched as owner demands credits to be paid **PNS** ■KENDRAPADA:

committee.

 ${f M}$ iscreants set fire to a shop as the shop owner refused to provide goods without payment under Aul police station limits in Kendrapada district.

One Ranjit Parida of Batipada village under Aul police station limits alleged that his shop was torched by some miscreants.

Parida has a shop near a liquor shop on Sahira-Batipada road. Some miscreants, who were in inebriated condition, came to his shop and asked to provide cigarette and eggs. As the miscreants had earlier taken goods without payment, Ranjit first wanted them to clear the credit. Upon this, the miscreants abused him and left the place threatening to torch the shop.

On Wednesday, Parida saw his shop was torched. Goods, household items, valuable documents worth lakhs of rupees turned into ashes.

The local fire tender personnel reached at the spot and doused the fire. Later, Ranjit lodged an FIR on Thursday at Aul police station alleging that his shop was torched. He suspected that it might be the handiwork of the miscreants, who threatened him.



in Motu of Malkangiri district against the controversial Polavaram inter-State water project. The agitators, along with representatives from Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, who gathered under the Joint Action Committee, demanded immediate steps to stop the project.

BJD president and Leader Patnaik joined the demonstration throug video conferencing and said that he has always fought for the

Maintaining that the project is against the interest of Odisha, Patnaik said he has always opposed the design change of the project for which many areas of Malkangiri district would be submerged.

Hitting out at the BJP-led government at the Centre over the issue, Naveen claimed that the controverof Opposition Naveen sial project is being implemented in an arbitrary and unilateral manner.

Malkangiri district who will lose their land and livelihood once the Polavaram Dam is complete.

cause of the people of

Says Naveen; demo held in Malkangiri tribals, the BJD supremo said he will always fight for the rights of the people of Malkangiri district. The BJD, in a statement

Panjrath, doctor Rabi Satpathy, cardiologist Dr Jayanthi Rao, Dr Suresh Mishra, Jagannath Panda, Chartered Accountant B Gangaraju and principal ad-

Vowing to work for safeguarding the interest of out proper consultation with the riparian States and the communities at risk of displacement.

Sarangi

said that the demonstration

resulted in the adoption of a

set of resolutions aimed at

protecting the land, liveli-

hood, and rights of those liv-

ing in the project's impact

zones. The delegates unani-

mously condemned the uni-

lateral decision by the Cen-

tre to sanction Rs 12,000

crore in 2024-25 and Rs

6,000 crore in 2025-26, to-

taling around Rs 18,000

crore for the project, with-

Acting on the information , Aul police conducted an inquiry, informed Pattamundai SDPOKhyamasagar Panda.

visor B Vijay. Let's make efforts to develop scientific temper among youths

PARTHA SARATHI GURU

India as a country is exemplified as a nation of diversity: diversity in cast, creed, language, culture as well as natural resources. Alongside if we move around it displays an amalgamation of several faiths and beliefs in every geographical corner. From the very childhood we are infused with several faiths, beliefs and hope which is inherited from generation to generation. Our beliefs are an integral part of our life and make us feel less lonely. However, the sad part of this is, at some point knowingly or unknowingly we walk along a path where a trend to believe everything that come our way without questioning has been developed.

Many of our practices have deep-rooted scientific bases. However, it is being twisted and/or used as they made their way down the generations. Although we know science is superior to anything and hold it on a high ground, we fail to apply it in our day- to -day life. It is not wrong to have faiths and beliefs subject to its righteous judgement.

Science and technology play a pivotal role in the

growth of a nation. To be well equipped in the scientific front impregnation of scientific temper in students from very childhood is essential. Scientific temper is nothing but asking questions. In a layman approach "why and how" are two prerequisite to develop scientific temper in youngsters. The eagerness to know, finding the truth, verifying the facts, analysing what we read or hear without conceiving which states that development right away should be the SOP. of scientific temper, human-Inculcating the habit of critiism and the spirit of inquiry cal thinking is a must. Science and reform should be the duty is not confined to the boundof every citizen. Pandit Nehru in his book "The Discovery of ary walls of an institution and/ or laboratory; it is way more India" mentioned that, scienthan everything we do contific temper is a way of life- an sciously or unconsciously right individual and social process from waking up. of thinking and acting which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the

uses scientific method may infirst Prime Minister of the Include questioning, observing dependent India, for the first reality, testing, hypothesizing, time vehemently popularised analysing and communicating. The infrastructure for scithe word "Scientific temper" in the year 1946 (a Nehruvian ence and technology in India thought) and in 1947 (after such as, universities (State and he became the PM) he used Central), Indian Institute of the notion in letter and spirit Technology (IIT), Indian Institute of science (IISC), Counto inculcate scientific temper cil of Scientific and Industrial in citizens of India. In scientific front India is not less than research (CSIR) etc. are the hardware of science whereas any of its peer competitors. In the year 1958 the "Scientific scientific temper acts as the policy and resolution" mensoftware. So, the only way how

tioned that extensive cultivawe can make it possible is only tion of science on a large scale through a synchronous effort and its application to meet the of the hardware and software. country's requirement is the Better output is directly proneed of the hour. India is the portional to better input; we first nation to include "Sciencannot expect wheat flour tific Temper and Humanism" from rice. Only acquiring board based education is just in the Constitution (Article 51A) in 1976, as a fundamenlike equipped with a lots of ultal duty of all citizens of the tramodern ammunition but country. It is the eighth funlacking how to and where to damental duty mentioned in use it. the Constitution of India, Former President Dr APJ

Abdul Kalam (a distinguished scientist, notable educationalist and visionary) while addressing students at the Jammu University during Children's Science Congress had said that children must inculcate a scientific temper for pursuing knowledge to contribute towards making India one of the most developed countries in the world. In many of his interactions with students in India as well as in abroad Dr Kalam focused on energy conservation and scientific temperament. Dr Kalam launched Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) in the year 2015 to fuel scientific temper among school children. He was highly focused on developing the spirit of innovation and experimentation among students.

Moreover, he outlined four qualities of uniqueness such as Great Aim, Quest of Knowledge, Hard work and Perseverance. "We learn to live", "We learn to think" and "We learn to learn" are three mantras he used to give students. Dr Kalam dedicated his whole life in the integration of ancient and modern values for the development of

a balanced Indian society. The bottom line is a meticulous use of the resources and infrastructure with the help of experimentation, examples and guidance of teachers, role models as well as elders in the family; it is not beyond our reach to inculcate scientific temper among students. If we want to shape up our country to meet the future goals, we must begin from shaping up of our youths. The average age of the people in India being approximately 28 years (approximate average age of China, Japan, USA are 38, 48, 38 years respectively), we are potentially the people who are youthful, dynamic and ready to work and transform the world

(Dr Guru is Associate Professor of Chemistry, Vikash Degree College, Bargarh)

NHRC to hold grievance redressal sessions in remote areas Says Justice BR Sarangi

emphasised the harmonious

relationship between law

often respected and hon-

ored." He highlighted the

Indian judiciary's consistent

efforts to uphold human

rights, especially when they

the Jharkhand High Court

and Acting Chief Justice of

the High Court of Orissa,

Justice Sarangi underscored

the NHRC's mission to build

public confidence in the ef-

fectiveness of the national

A former Chief Justice of

are under threat.

rights body.

NALINI SAHU **BHUBANESWAR**

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is committed to addressing the grievances of common people who see the commis-

sion as a beacon of hope for

justice. In a significant

move, the NHRC has de-

cided to conduct grievance

redressal hearings in remote

parts of the country, ensur-

ing that justice reaches the

doorsteps of those in need.

This was announced by Jus-

tice Bidyut Ranjan Sarangi

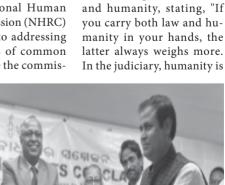
during an interaction with

victims of injustice and hu-

man rights defenders at the

Odisha Human Rights Con-

clave 2025 on Thursday.



Justice

Former Chairperson of the Odisha State Commission for Women Lopamudra Mohanty praised the NHRC's role as a beacon of hope for underprivileged individuals who cannot afford legal representation.

Manoj Jena, Chairman of the Human Rights Foundation and organiser of the conclave, brought several instances of human rights violations to Justice Sarangi's attention, seeking his intervention. In response, Justice Sarangi assured that the grievances would be addressed promptly.

The conclave also saw insightful contributions from senior journalists Rabi Das and AK Sahoo, legal experts Rajib Kumar Pattanayak and Manisha Das Pattnaik, and social activists Kalpataru Khuntia, Bikash Das, Seshadeb Nanda, Rina Routray and Basudev Bhatt. They highlighted various aspects of human rights violations and urged the NHRC to take necessary actions.

This initiative by the NHRC marks a proactive step towards safeguarding human rights and ensuring justice for the marginalised and vulnerable sections of society.



India-EU agree to conclude FTA by year end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Friday agreed to conclude an ambitious India-EU free trade deal by this year amid fears that the Trump administration's threat of higher tariffs could adversely impact the global economy. In their talks, both the leaders also decided to expand twoway defence cooperation, especially in the Indo-Pacific with Vonder Leyen announcing that the announcing that the European Union (EU) was looking at firming up a security and defence pact with India in line with its partnerships with close allies Japan and South Korea.

The deadline for concluding the trade deal that would be the largest of its kind globally came over 17 years after the two sides first began negotiations for it. Negotiations for the pact was re-launched in June 2022 after they were suspended in 2013 due to a gap in ambition.

"Today, we have decided to create a bold and ambitious roadmap for the India-EU partnership for the period beyond 2025. It will be launched during the next India-EU summit," Modi said. India is set to host the summit later this year. The negotiations for the deal

were not moving forward ostensibly in view of the EU's persistent demands to New Delhi cut tariffs on cars, wine and agricultural products. The EU Commission

president, accompanied by the College of Commissioners or senior political leaders of the bloc's member nations began her two-day India visit on Thursday. It is the first such visit after the European parliamentary elections in June last. In his media statement, Modi

indicated resolve by the two sides also to move forward on an negotiations for investment protection pact as well as on geographical



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen near a bus powered by hydrogen fuel cell technology at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Friday Ranjan Dimri

indications as part of broader agreement by the end of this efforts to boost investments. year," he said.

"We have prepared a blueprint for collaboration in the areas trade, technology, investment, innovation, green growth, security, skilling and mobility," he said. "We have directed our teams to mutually conclude beneficial bilateral free trade

Echoing Modi, Von der Leyen said, "We have tasked our teams to build on this momentum and finalise our free trade agreement before the end of this year." "We are expecting a lot of our trade negotiators, we told them they should surprise us," she said.

The Prime Minister described the growing India-EU cooperation on defence and security as a symbol of "mutual trust" and that both sides will take forward the engagement in areas of cyber security, maritime security and counter-terrorism.

"Both sides agree on the importance of peace, security, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," he said, welcoming the EU's decision to join the India-backed 'Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative'. "We will work together on

triangular development projects for sustainable and inclusive development in the Indo-Pacific region and Africa," Modi said. Von der Leyen said now is the

time to step up India-EU security and defence cooperation on land, sea and in space. She called the Indian Ocean as a "lifeline for global trade" and said ensuring its security is vital, not just for India but for the whole world. The remarks came amid China's increasing

forays into the region. "We should also explore expanding our joint naval exercises, building on our very successful operations in the Gulf of Guinea and the Red Sea," the European Commission chief said.

NEW DELHI

South Korea.

The announcement, seen as

president Ursula von der

she pitched for taking the EU-

headwinds. Security should

Security and

Korea," she said.

Commission

Finally, we should deepen cooperation in protecting the cables that ensure data significant, was made by connectivity between India and the European Union, she said. European In his remarks, Modi said the Leven ahead of her wide-ranging talks with Prime India-EU strategic partnership is "natural and organic" and that it is based on "trust" and Minister Narendra Modi. In an address at a think-tank, shared belief in democratic values. "We welcome the new visa cascade regime of the EU. India strategic partnership to This will provide better mobility to the abilities of the next level to effectively deal with various geopolitical India's talented youth," he said. On connectivity, Modi said be a core part of our new concrete steps will be taken to strategic partnership with India, Von der Leyen said. take forward the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC). Economic

"I firmly believe that "IMEEC" shall serve as an engine that drives global commerce, sustainable growth and prosperity in the days to come."

EU exploring security, defence pact with India PIONEER NEWS SERVICE "This will help us step up our

work to counter common threats whether on crosshe European Union (EU) is border terrorism, maritime L exploring a security and security threats, cyber-attacks defence pact with India in line or the new phenomenon we with its similar partnerships with close allies Japan and see: attacks on our critical

nation 04

infrastructure," she said. The president said there is a lot that both India and the EU can build on.

"For instance, the recent collaboration on maritime security. And I am delighted at India's interest in joining defence industrial projects under the EU's Permanent Structured Cooperation," she said. Von der Leyen said India is working hard to diversify its military supply and to access new capabilities and that both sides can help each other to deliver on "our security objectives".

"This is why I can announce "For instance, we can join that we are exploring a future Security and Defence forces where we have technology and expertise, Partnership with India in the such as on cyber security, mould of the partnerships we space and drones. This is not have with Japan and South only about stability in our respective regions," she said.

Technology to play pivotal role on combat future: CDS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

With warfare increasingly becoming "networked, digitised and intelligent", technology would play a pivotal role in deciding the outcome of combats in the future, Chief of Defence Staff General (CDS) Anil Chauhan said here on Friday.

Addressing the Chanakya Dialogues conclave here on the "Bharat 2047: Atmanirbhar In War" theme, he said datacentric warfare includes looking at network security, redundancy, latency in data flow and the use of artificial intelligence as well as storage, collection and analytics of data.

Pitching for developing indigenous capabilities for defence manufacturing, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal AP Singh said the Indian Air Force would prefer a "homegrown" system even if it "sligĥtly gives lesser performance." He made this assertion in his address at the Chanakya Dialogues. Referring to the trends in

robotics and automation, General Ghouhan told the and cyber," he said. gathering that it presents a possibility of combat between humans and machines, and

increasingly becoming digitised, networked and

intelligent. So in future, I think technologies like artificial intelligence, data analytics and supercomputing will play a pivotal role in deciding the outcome of combat," Chauhan said. "The Indian armed forces actually want to transit to data-centric warfare or intelligentised warfare."

Explaining the concept of Theater Commands, the Chief of Defence staff described it as an attempt to separate force generation from force application. "Till now, both these

responsibilities were vested with the service headquarters or the service chiefs. He was responsible for recruitment, training, equipment acquisition and maintenance, among others," the CDS said. "So force generation and force application was one responsibility. Now, we are trying to separate that. We are trying to nominate a theatre commander who would be capable of carrying out multidomain operation, that means in all the three domains, including support from space

General Chauhan said, "In let's say, we add another future wars, one may be able to maybe 12-18 aircraft per year use data analytics so that from their side. So we are

that with advances in drone technology, the speed of warfare may also be higher.

IAF chief said there is a need for manufacturing at least 35-40 military aircraft in India every year and stressed the target is not impossible to meet. He said the IAF's first priority when it comes to acquisition, is "anything that is Jaising that in past 14 months, home grown". "So I'm very convinced in my mind that even if a home grown system and Indian Institutes of gives me a slightly lesser Management (IIMs). performance... If it is 90 per cent or 85 per cent of what I get in the world market, we create a robust mechanism to will go for home grown system check this situation. We will because that is the only way we take this issue to the logical can get over with always conclusion," said the Bench. looking outward to get our systems," he said.

But at the same time, a home grown system cannot just happen overnight. It will take time and it needs to be supported. So for that, Indian Air Force is fully committed to any R&D project," he said. He said India needs to develop capability to produce at least 35-40 fighter aircraft every year to meet the requirements of replacing aging fleets.

2016, Tadvi, a student at TN Topiwala National Medical College, died on May 22, 2019, "If some private industry comes in for a make in India, after she was subjected to purported discrimination by three doctors in her college. ng that number. So that

Systems needed to check suicides in IITs, IIMs: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Centre, said the University NEW DELHI

18 suicides took place in Indian

Institutes Technology (IITs)

"It is extremely unfortunate

what is happening. We will

Jaising, appearing for the

mothers of students Rohith

Vemula and Payal Tadvi, who

allegedly died by suicide after

universities and colleges hadn't

given entire data on suicides

taking place in their campuses

While Vemula, a PhD scholar

at Hyderabad Central

University died on January 17,

facing

discrimination,

despite a court order.

caste-based

said

The Supreme Court on Friday said incidents of suicides in IITs and IIMs were "extremely unfortunate" and assured a robust mechanism to bictions from the public. Jaising said 40 per cent of the universities and 80 per cent of check such cases. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh was informed by senior advocate Indira

the colleges had not created equal opportunity cells in their campuses. The bench asked Jaising and other counsel appearing in the matter to give suggestions on the draft regulations and directed the UGC to look into these suggestions.

Jaising urged the court to give a hearing before finalisation of the regulations, but Mehta opposed it saying every other person would seek a personal hearing, if allowed. "If they want to give any suggestions, then they can do so through the website but personal hearing cannot be allowed," he submitted.

The bench told Jaising it appreciates the cause raised by the petitioner and assured that court would take it to its logical conclusion. The matter was posted after eight weeks. On January 3, the court called it a sensitive issue and offered to devise an effective mechanism to caste-based combat

New financial laws pave way for investment in India: Birla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Lon Friday stressed that the recent initiatives in simplification and transparency in financial laws have provided an enabling environment for investment in India. Today's India with deeper democratic spirit, stable Government and visionary leadership, is a land of immense opportunities for the investors, he noted. The fastest growing economy in the world is a favourite destination for investment across the world, he added.

Birla made these remarks in his inaugural address at the two-day symposium on 'Adoption to Changing landscape: My Viksit Bharat -2047' organised by the Northern India Regional Council, Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) at New Delhi. Members of Parliament Faggan Singh Kulaste, Bansuri Swaraj also

spoke on the occasion. Referring to legal reforms in India, Birla noted that for the first time in India, an effort has been made to change colonial laws, to repeal the redundant laws and to make new laws which are in sync aspirations of people of New scenario, he added.



LS Speaker Om Birla addresses the inaugural session of a two-day symposium on 'Adoption to Changing landscape: My Viksit Bharat - 2047'

India. Mentioning about GST, proposed income tax legislation, changes in labour laws and company laws, Lok Sabha Speaker emphasised that these initiates reflect the vision of the leadership to take the country on the path of progress and prosperity. New laws are not only simple, transparent and progressive but also inclusive to improve the life of the last person in the society, he observed. Progressive laws always take into consideration the changing requirements of the country and the society and

Mentioning that India's financial institutions are its strength, Birla noted that our institutions financial command respect all over the world. Hailing the contributions of the ICAI, Birla opined that this institution not only plays an important role in ensuring transparency in financial system but also for guiding the country on mass production with minimum cost. Playing a vital role in strengthening economic potential of the country, the ICAI, with its management skills, is improving the lives of the people.

Rajnath releases

'Sashakt Bharat'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

magazine

Grants Commission (UGC) had formulated draft regulations, which took care of majority of the concern raised by the petitioners, and NEW DELHI were uploaded on its website inviting suggestions and

"We all know that warfare is are better and faster," adding is possible," he said.

Mehta, appearing for the institutions in the country.

SC relief for Isha Foundation in Storage capacity of 155 reservoirs environment norms violations would be required in case of

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

In a relief to Isha Foundation, the Supreme Court refused to interfere with a Madras High Court order quashing notices of the TN pollution body over the alleged violation of environmental norms and ordered no against its yoga and meditation centre.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh upheld the Madras High Court order quashing notices of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) against Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation over the construction in the foothills of Velliangiri mountains in Coimbatore without prior environmental clearance. While asking for no coercive action against the yoga and meditation centre, it asked for compliance with all the environmental norms and directions of the TNPCB.

The top court, however, said its order was not a precedent The court's concern only the competent authority



File photo

regularising illegal related to the dismantling of for construction as it ruled in the the structure. peculiar facts Senior advocate Mukul and circumstances of the case. Rohatgi, appearing for Isha Tamil Nadu advocate general Foundation, said the state PS Raman said the authorities should not be government only wanted the allowed to inspect the centre as the same thing would order not to be treated as a "permanent gate pass" and happen. Raman said the town and country planning authorities should be allowed shouldn't inhibit any future and inspection of the properties and the centre should comply to carry out the inspection so to prevent the construction of with environmental norms. The bench said there was no any other building in the area immunity or exemption from for the area was in the vicinity compliance of a protected forest. with environmental norms. The bench said a prior nod of

expansion of the centre. On February 14, the bench pulled up the state pollution control board for moving after two years against an order that quashed a showcause notice issued against Isha Foundation for flouting allegedly

environmental norms. It termed the petition filed by the TNPCB as a "friendly match" played by bureaucrats wanting the apex court's stamp on the petition's dismissal.

The showcause was issued to the foundation for buildings constructing between 2006 and 2014 without reportedly obtaining mandatory environmental clearances but the Madras High Court quashed it.

On December 14, 2022, holding that the facilities set up by Isha Foundation in Coimbatore would fall under the education category, the high court set aside the TNPCB notice.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The total live storage capac-The total live storage capacity of the 155 reservoirs monitored by the Central Water Commission (CWC) stands at 180.852 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM), which is approximately 70.15 per cent of the total estimated live storage capacity in the country, according to the latest bulletin of the CŴC.

While the overall storage has improved compared to the same period last year, significant regional disparities highlight the challenges faced by certain states.

As of Thursday, the live storage available in these reservoirs is 93.529 BCM, representing 52 per cent of their total capacity. This is notable a

improvement compared to when the live storage was 78.633 BCM and the normal years) was 81.497 BCM.

The current storage is 119% of last year's storage and 115% of the normal storage.

improved compare to last year: CWC

Water stress continues in the northern region that encompasses the states of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan.

The 11 reservoirs in this region have a total live storage capacity of 19.836 BCM, but only 28 per cent of this capacity is currently filled.

This is significantly lower than last year's 37 per cent and the normal storage of 40 per cent. Key reservoirs like Pong Dam and Thein Dam are reporting storage levels as low as 40 per cent and 32 per cent of their capacity, respectively.

The eastern states, including Assam, Jharkhand, Odisha, Tripura, West Bengal, West Bengal, Tripura, Nagaland and Bihar, have 25 reservoirs with a total the same period last year capacity of 20.798 BCM. The current storage is 51 per cent of capacity, slightly lower than storage (average of the last ten last year's 53 per cent and the normal storage of 55 per cent.

Reservoirs like Chandan Dam in Bihar are critically low, with 0% storage, while others

like Maithon Dam in Jharkhand are nearly full. The western states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa are faring better, with 50 reservoirs holding 64 per cent of their total capacity of 37.357 BCM.

This is higher than last year's 54 per cent and the normal storage of 49 per cent. Major reservoirs like Sardar Sarovar in Gujarat and Jayakwadi in Maharashtra are reporting healthy storage levels.

The central states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh have 26 reservoirs with a total capacity of 48.227 BCM. The current storage is 54 per cent of capacity, better than last year's 51 per cent and the normal storage of 48 per cent. However, reservoirs like Omkareshwar in Madhya Pradesh are struggling, with only 32 per cent storage.

NEW DELHI Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the first edition of Ministry of Defence's bi-annual Hindi magazine 'Sashakt Bharat.' The magazine comprises poems on the valour, patriotism and sacrifices of the Armed Forces personnel as well as articles on the policies of the Government written by the personnel of the Ministry,

irrespective of their ranks, showcasing inclusivity and unity in diversity.

The defence minister appreciated the efforts of the Ministry of Defence wing of the Department of Official Language towards promoting Hindi. The objective of magazine is to highlight the creative talent of the employees of the defence ministry. The eversion of the magazine will be available on the official MoD website (https://mod.gov.in/).

Wonder how Jaipur becomes 'smart' by damaging Jal Mahal lake?: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday slammed the Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage for damaging Jal Mahal lake and contaminating its water by permitting a night market in the vicinity.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said due to the negligence and illegal acts of the Nagar

Nigam Jaipur Heitage, Jal of the lake," it said. Mahal lake was "completely The court, therefore, directed destroyed".

restoration and preservation

been

"Today, we see municipal appoint commissioner appearing online with a board of smart Research Institute to give a city behind him. We wonder comprehensive report on how will the city of Jaipur become 'smart' by damaging Jal Mahal lake virtually behind repair. We note that an expert committee has not appointed for

the Jaipur civic body to

National Environmental Engineering immediate measures to stop pollution and restoration and preservation of the lake. The top court was hearing an

appeal filed by Nagar Nigam Jaipur Heritage challenging November 3, 2023 order of the



National Green Tribunal market and other activities the civic body to seek which banned the night near the lake while directing permission from the eco-

sensitive zone (ESZ) monitoring committee. The top court noted the municipal corporation headquarter released dirty sewage water into the lake from time to time. It also examined an affidavit of the civic body's chief executive officer in which he referred to a project report by the tourism department and said the project had nothing to do with restoration and preservation of the lake.

The NGT had found the night market was organised within the eco-sensitive zone of Nahargarh Wildlife Sanctuary without obtaining permission as per eco-sensitive zone and without consent of ESZ monitoring committee.

The tribunal's order came on a plea filed by RTI activist Rajendra Tiwari against the night market and discharge of untreated water into the water body.



BHUBANESWAR | SATURDAY | MARCH 1, 2025

nation 05

Bihar Governor addresses joint session of Assembly

PNS PATNA

 $B_{
m Mohammad}^{
m ihar}$ Governor Arif Friday asserted that "rule of law" and "sustained development" have been taking place in the state since November 24, 2005, the date on which Nitish Kumar won his first floor test.

Khan's customary address to the joint session of the legislature, marking the beginning of the budget session, prominently referenced this date multiple times in his 30-minute speech.

"Ever since the formation of a new government on November 24, 2005, the state has been experiencing rule of law and sustained development. The state government has always emphasised development with justice and good governance, which implies growth of all classes in all spheres", the Governor said in his opening remarks.

Khan spoke in the midst of slogan-shouting by legisla-tors of the CPI(ML) Liberation, who had reached the Vidhan Sabha premises wearing handcuffs and chains, as a mark of protest against the shabby treatment meted out to Indian nationals sent back by the Donald Trump administration in the United











ment of new medical col-

the government's commitment to maintaining "social and communal harmony", underscoring steps like "fenc-ing of kabristans (Muslims' places of burial)" and construction of boundary walls for "Hindu temples registered 60 years ago or earlier with the state religious trust board".

ment jobs already created' and promised "the total number will rise to 12 Lakh, not just 10 Lakh, before the assembly elections due later this year". A promise of "10 Lakh government jobs" has been the poll plank of Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the opposition in the

two occasions when the RJD shared power with

Women's empowerment, which Nitish Kumar counts on as one of his main achievements in the traditionally patriarchal state, was also mentioned prominently in the speech by the governor who mentioned 50 per cent reservations in civic bodies, announced in 2007", followed by "35 per cent quotas brought in 2013 in police recruitments and in all government depart-ments since 2016".

The governor also said finan-cial aid of ₹2 Lakh was being given to "94 Lakh poor famlies, from all social segments-Dalits, backward classes, upper castes and minorities" which were identified in the ambitious caste survey conducted in 2023.

PNS MUMBAI

Akhtar, stating that they have

The court will pass a formal order

The actor said she made the state-

ment against Akhtar due to mis-

understanding, and apologised

for the inconvenience caused to

him due to it. Akhtar had filed a

complaint against Ranaut in 2020, alleging that she had defamed and damaged his

'immaculate reputation' by drag-

She had claimed that during her

meeting with Akhtar at his resi-

dence in 2016, he criminally

intimidated her, demanding that

Ranaut's lawyer Rizwan

Siddiquee and Akhtar's advocate

Jay Kumar Bhardwaj said the

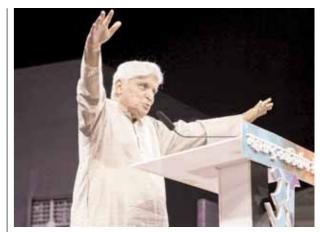
she apologise to a co-star.

insult to modesty.

resolved the legal matter.

on this later in the day.

The Governor's address concluded with a word of thanks case filed against her by veteran to the Centre for the "gener-ous help extended to Bihar" in lyricist Javed Akhtar, which had been ongoing for over four years, through mediation. The BJP MP the Union budget presented recently by Finance Minister also apologised for the "inconve-Nirmala Sitharaman who nience" caused to the screencame up with "announcewriter. The duo appeared before a spements like setting up of a Makhana board, new aircial court here on Friday and informed it of their decision to ports, economic assistance for a canal in the flood-prone withdraw the complaints they had filed against each other. Kosi region and expansion of IIT, Patna". After the court appearance, the actor also posted a photo on her social media platform along with



Veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar during celebrations of 'Marathi Bhasha Gau

Javed, Kangana settle defamation case

matter was settled through an hour-long mediation before a Actress Kangana Ranaut on Friday settled the defamation special magistrate court in

Bandra. Ranaut stated before the mediator that she made the statement due to misunderstanding and she has decided to withdraw it, Bhardwaj said.

Ranaut has apologised to Akhtar for inconvenience caused to him due to her statement, he said adding that she has undertaken not to make such a statement in future.

Siddiqque said, "We were looking for mediation for a long time. We had exchanged drafts also. Finally we have resolved the case.

"There were no issues, only the wordings were to be decided, which was done today. We pre-pared the draft, signed it and both the cases were withdrawn today," he added.

The case was initially heard by a magistrate court in Andheri. In 2024, after she was elected as a Member of Parliament (MP) from the Mandi Lok Sabha constituency in Himachal Pradesh, the matter was transferred to a special magistrate court designated for matters involving MPs and MLAs.

In his complaint, Akhtar claimed that Ranaut dragged his name during an interview while referring to a 'coterie' existing in Bollywood, following the alleged suicide by actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Ranaut posted a photo with Akhtar on Instagram and said the cinema veteran was "kind and gracious" during the mediation process.

States Highlighting the extent to which things have looked up since "formation of the new government on November 24, 2005", the Governor claimed that "the state was then being manned by just 42,481 police personnel. The number has now reached 1.10 Lakh. Similarly, the number of police stations has risen from 841 to 1,380. The number of teachers has

grown significantly, 3.22 Lakh were recruited till 2022, another 2.17 Lakh in two subsequent phases. The results of the third phase have been declared, which will pave the way for the appointment of another 66,800 candidates". Kumar, the JD(U) president and the longest serving chief minister who will seek a fifth

Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan, CM Nitish Kumar pay tribute to President Rajendra Prasad on his death anniversary PT

consecutive term in office in the Assembly polls due later

this year, smiled at the repeat ed mention of the date. Members of the RJD-Congress combine, blamed for the alleged "jungle raj" before Kumar's tenure, were seen whispering among themselves, wondering if they were being indirectly acknowledged given that Kumar has twice allied with them, albeit briefly. However, the CPI(ML)

Liberation, which is an

later, describing the gover-nor's address as a "bundle of lies" intended to cover up the failures of the JD(U)-BJP government in the state. The Governor also spoke of steps to improve agriculture through detailed five-year "road maps" and enhance healthcare with the establish-ment of new medical colleges. He also made a mention of

alliance partner of the RJD-Congress, came out with a strongly worded statement JD(U). describing the gover-

The Governor's address also spoke of "9.35 Lakh govern-

state assembly who served as the deputy CM on the



for surrender of illegal arms

PTI 📕 IMPHAL

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Friday extended the deadline for the surrender of looted and illegal arms until 4 pm on March 6 following demands by people from both hill and valley areas for additional time, an official statement said.

"Upon the expiry of the sevenday deadline for the voluntary surrender of arms, there have been requests from both the valley and hill areas to extend the period. I have considered these requests and decided to extend the deadline until 4 pm on

March 6," the statement read. It further assured that no punitive action would be taken against those who surrender their

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

weapons within this period, emphasising that "this is the last opportunity for everyone concerned to contribute to peace, communal harmony, the future of our youth, and the security of our society. Bhalla had on February 20 urged warring groups to voluntarily surrender weapons robbed from security forces and other illegally held arms within seven days, the deadline of which ended on

Thursday. During the seven-day period, more than 300 weapons were surrendered by the public, primarily in the valley districts. More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered

cyber crime police station (south) of the accounts by hacking the company's software in

between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

Adelegation of Djr regionators and MPs from Bengaluru on Friday met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and sought higher allocation of funds in the upcoming state budget for the city's development. The delegation led by party state BJP President BY Vijayendra and Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R Ashoka asked for allocation of ₹150 Crore for each Assembly segment in the city.

Relook into the Metro fare hike, allocation of funds for con-stituencies represented by first time MLAs, and holding of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) polls at the earliest are among the issues that were highlighted at the meeting. homeless in ethnic violence Siddaramaiah who also holds the finance portfolio is scheduled to

present the budget for 2025-26 on March 7, marking his 16th

delegation of BJP legislators budget. "All our MLAs, MPs, MLCs and district unit presidents from Bengaluru met the Chief Minister and requested for more funds in the budget, funds to the legislators for the development of their constituencies, keeping in mind the development of Bengaluru," Vijayendra said. Speaking to reporters here after meeting the CM, he said, when BJP's B̃ S Yediyurappa and Basavarj Bommai were Chief Ministers earlier ₹6,000-8,000

Crores were given to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for the development of Bengaluru in every budget. "No such allocations have been

made for Bengaluru in the last two years, so we have requested ₹6,000-8,000 Crores for Bengaluru city in the budget," he

said.

Noting that infrastructure projects like flyovers and others are going on at a slow pace, the state BJP chief said, priority should be given for completion of such projects by allocating more funds for them

He said, during the meeting, Bengaluru MPs PC Mohan and Tejasvi Surya suggested that the Chief Minister send necessary communication to the fare fixation committee to reduce the metro fare that was hiked recent-

Requests were made to the CM for enhanced allocation in the budget for Bengaluru's development and to the constituencies represented by first time MLAs. We have also requested that the BBMP polls should be held at the earliest," he said, adding that the CM has responded positively and has assured that he will

ensure allocation of funds with-

in limitations. Claiming that never had such a plight come for Bengaluru and ₹6,000-8,000 Crore was allocated to the city in every budget. When BJP was in power allocations were made to the constituencies irrespective of the party of MLAs who represent them, he said.

ging his name into actor Sushant Keeping in mind Bengaluru's Singh Rajput's death in an interglobal and national reputation, we have urged the CM to give view with a news channel in July that year. more funds to the city, and we are Ranaut had later filed a cross hopeful that the Chief Minister complaint against Akhtar, alleging criminal intimidation and will consider it," he added.

Vijayendra in response to a question said, the party will discuss the proposal to divide BBMP into multiple corpora-

Gurugram police arrest employee for ₹23 Lakh software hacking fraud

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Following the grand conclusion of Maha Kumbh 2025, Chief launched a 15-day special cleanliness drive to ensure that the festival grounds remain pristine. The initiative aligns with his vision of a clean and divine Maha Kumbh, reinforcing his commitment to hygiene and environmental sustainability. During the closing ceremony Chief Minister Yogi honoured sanitation workers for their relentless service and directed officials to maintain the sanctity of the Mela grounds. The cleanup operation is being led by Special Officer Akanksha Rana with Swachhata Mitras and Ganga Sewa Doots actively engaged in restoring cleanliness The Sangam ghats, Mela ground roads, and temporary as well as permanent infrastructure are



tions.

"BBMP polls should not be postponed citing creation of Greater Bengaluru Authority as the reason," he said.

Cleanliness drive launched in Prayagraj after Maha Kumbh ing Sangam ghats, Mela grounds, temples, and roads, both perma-

nent and temporary. The drive also includes the removal of 1.5 Lakh temporary toilets, with ienosal at the aste

As part of the clean-up operation,

all temporary pipelines installed

by the Urban and Rural Water

Ćorporation, streetlights put up by the electricity department, and

tents and pavilions used by saints,

monks, and Kalpvasis are being

Baswar plant in Naini.

PRAYAGRAJ

employee with his accomplice for fraudulently transferring ₹23 Lakh from a company account by hacking the company's software, police said.

According to the police, a complaint was registered on Thursday regarding fraudulent transfer of huge amounts from the account of the company to various bank accounts

During prompt action, police seized ₹9 Lakh out of ₹23 Lakh, which was defrauded by transferring in the matter and nabbed the two culprits from the Badshahpur area of Gurugram on Friday.

The accused were identified as Rohit Gupta, a resident of Sonia Vihar, Delhi, and Jatin Malik, a resident of New Roshanpura Najafgarh, Delhi. During the probe, it was found that the accused, Rohit, was working in the company till a month

ago. Due to his quarrelsome behaviour, the company fired him.

In revenge, the accused, along with his other

"One laptop used by the accused to commit fraud by hacking the company's software in the case has also been recovered from the possession of the accused.

partner, Jatin, committed the crime of fraudu-

lently transferring money to various bank

Further action is being taken by the police to recover the remaining amount," a spokesperson of the Gurugram police said.

Senior police officers of Gurugram claimed that the police are closely working with other agencies and organisations to counter cyber fraud. 'The cyber fraudsters commit fraud by luring people with good profits, investing in the stock market, task-based fraud, in the name of buying/selling cheap goods online, sextortion through video calls on WhatsApp, morphing, sending links through various means, posing as a customs officer or police officer in the name of implicating false case, in the name of issuing a No-Objection Certificate, digitally arresting people by showing the fear of implicating them in a criminal case, etc," Priyanshu Diwan, ACP (cybercrime), said.



Worker collects garbage during cleanliness drive after the conclusion of the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagrai

the Triveni Sangam

being thoroughly cleaned. Over 15,000 sanitation workers and 2,000 Ganga Sewa Doots played a crucial role in maintaining ensure that pilgrims visiting hygiene during Mahakumbh, Prayagraj after Maha Kumbh which saw a record-breaking 66 continue to experience a clean

Crore devotees take a holy dip at and sacred environment.

On Friday, following the chief The post-festival drive aims to minister's directives, Special Officer Akanksha Rana official ly flagged off the cleanliness campaign. The focus is on clean-

dismantled. The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation is also intensifying efforts to enhance greenery and sanitation, ensuring that the city retains its aesthetic and environmental appeal. "The drive underscores the state government's commitment to

preserving the sanctity and cleanliness of Mahakumbh, leaving a lasting legacy of hygiene and sustainability in Prayagraj," said Rana

Andhra Pradesh budget prioritises welfare of farmers, fishermen



Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu with Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan and Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav before presentation of the State Budget in the Assembly in Amaravat

PTI AMARAVATI

The Andhra Pradesh budget for the fiscal 2025-26 tabled on Friday by the TDP-led NDA government accorded top priority to welfare schemes, promis-ing to dole out ₹20,000 per annum for farmers, doubling financial relief for fishermen during a ban period, and ₹15,000 to school going children up to the intermediate level under "Talliki Vandanam"

scheme The "Talliki Vandanam" scheme is one of the Super Six promis-

es made by the ruling bloc during the 2024 Assembly polls. Finance Minister Payyavula Keshav tabled the ₹3.22 Lakh Crore budget and proposed ₹20,281 Crore for the Scheduled Caste (SC) component, ₹8,159

Crore for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) component, ₹47,456 crore for the Backward Classes (BC) component and ₹5,434 Crore for the welfare of minority communities

'I take pride in announcing that the government is launch-ing the Talliki Vandanam scheme, to provide financial support of ₹15,000 in the academic year 2025-26. The scheme will cover children enrolled in Classes I to XII in both government and private schools,' Keshav said.

'No matter in what financial situation we are in, our farmers will receive ₹20,000 annually under the Annadata Sukhibhava scheme," he said.

Super Six schemes, pledged in the run up to the 2024 polls, include ₹1,500 monthly aid to every woman in the age bracket of 19 to 59 years, 20 Lakh jobs for youth or ₹3,000 monthly unemployment aid and free bus

travel for women. Other schemes under 'Super Six' are- ₹15,000 to every schoolgoing child per annum (Talliki Vandanam), three free gas cylinders to every household (Deepam - 2) and ₹20,000 annual financial assistance to every

farmer (Annadata Sukhibhava). He also announced doubling of financial relief to ₹20,000 for fishermen during the fishing ban period.

Keshav told the House that the TDP-led NDA government is planning to implement insurance-based health coverage of ₹25 Lakh per family in the next fiscal

The budget of over ₹3.22 Lakh Crore encompasses an estimated revenue expenditure of ₹2.51 Lakh Crore and capital expenditure of ₹40,635 Crore.

Keshav, while presenting the budget said the estimated revenue deficit is around ₹33,185 Crore (1.82 per cent of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)) and the fiscal deficit is around ₹79,926 Crore (4.38 per cent of the GSDP).

The budget proposed an allocation of ₹31,805 Crore for school education and ₹19,264 Crore for the Health, Medical and Family Welfare Department.

The Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department, a portfolio held by deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, got ₹18,847 Crore.

Allocating ₹13,862 Crore to the Municipal Administration and

Urban Development Department, Keshav asserted

that the greenfield capital city Amaravati has proved to become a self-financing project without state budget assistance as the financing has been secured through the Centre from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and HUDCO.For the Energy Department, he proposed a sum of ₹13,600 Crore. According to Keshav, AP's energy sector is undergoing a transformative revival, with the state aiming to emerge as a green hydrogen hub. Other major allocations includ-ed ₹8,785 Crore for the Department of Transport, Roads and Buildings and ₹8,570 Crore

for the Home Department. For Deepam- two scheme, which offers three free gas cylinders per year to over 90 Lakh eligible beneficiaries, Keshav allocated ₹2,601 Crore . In his speech, Keshav said the government was presenting the budget

in the backdrop of the "financial destruction caused by the previous (YSRCP) regime"."It has been a highly complex task, because the previous regime created financial chaos in every department," he alleged.

Railway joins tunnel collapse rescue

PTI NAGARKURNOOL

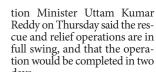
outh Central Railway (SCR) Shas joined the rescue teams that are engaged in locating the eight persons who remain trapped in the partially collapsed Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel for the past six days, with necessary equipment, a senior official said on Friday.

Railways has the expertise in cutting heavy metals using equipment such as plasma cutter and Brocho cutting machine, SCR Chief Public Relations officer A Sridhar said.

'District Collector, Nagar Kurnool sought the help of South Central Railway in rescue operation by clearing iron and steel debris that have been hindering the rescue works at the site," A Sridhar said.

He further said that the SCR quickly responded to the call and deployed two teams of metal cutting experts in the rescue mission

The first batch led by S Murali, Divisional Mechanical Engineer, consisting a senior Section Engineer, 13 Welders and two technicians from Secunderabad have reached the site and have



Meanwhile, Nagarkurnool Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Gaikwad said the metal cutting and debris clearing process is continuously going

"One team went into the tunnel at 7 am.

taken up the required works.

The second batch of experts also

reached the site to support the

first team, last night, he further

said

The clearing of debris has been going on since yesterday morning. Dewatering is also going on," he said. Telangana irriga-

days. The Minister on Wednesday said the Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) that is struck inside will be cut into pieces by using

gas cutters and removed. After this, the Army, Navy, Rat Miners and NDRF teams will make another serious effort to rescue the eight persons who are missing, without compromising their own safety.

Rescue operation underway to trace workers trapped inside the collapsed tunnel in Nagarkurnool



pinion 06

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Lawbreakers as lawmakers

Eradication of the influence of criminality in politics must be taken up on priority

n recent years, the issue of criminalisation in politics has increasingly come under scrutiny. With more politicians facing criminal charges and convictions, questions have arisen about whether the legal framework governing their disqualification from contesting elections is adequate. The ongoing debate, highlighted by a recent Supreme Court case challenging the constitutional validity of limiting disqualification periods, brings to the fore not only legal interpretations but also the broader menace of criminal influences in our political system. A petition filed before the Supreme Court has argued for a lifetime ban on convicted politicians from contesting elections. The petitioner contends that limiting disqualification to a fixed period—currently six years after release for offenses under Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951-undermines constitutional provisions designed to keep criminals away from power. In response, the Centre has defended the existing provisions, arguing that a lifetime ban is "unduly harsh" and



that it would amount to directing Parliament to frame a law in a particular manner-an overreach of judicial power. The government's counter-affidavit emphasises that there are numerous penal laws that operate within a time-bound framework, ensuring that deterrence is balanced against the need to avoid undue severity.

This legal tussle highlights a crucial policy debate: should convicted politicians face an indefinite prohibition from electoral participation, or is a fixed term of disqualification both constitutional and proportionate? The government argues that the current system, which temporarily excludes convicted individuals,

respects the principles of proportionality and reasonability. In its view, the legislative choice to limit the disqualification period is designed to offer both a punitive and rehabilitative measure while preserving democratic participation. Beyond legal debates, the deeper issue remains the rising tide of criminality within political circles. Criminal elements entering politics not only threaten the integrity of democratic institutions but also erode public trust. Politicians with a history of criminal behaviour may be more likely to engage in corrupt practices, undermining the rule of law. As criminalisation in politics becomes more pronounced, the call for stringent measures intensifies. Addressing the criminalisation of politics requires a multi-pronged approach that extends beyond the question of lifetime bans. Parliament could consider revisiting and potentially tightening the eligibility criteria for political candidates. Whether through a longer ban or additional restrictions for those convicted of certain serious crimes, legislative reforms should aim to disincentivise criminal conduct. There may be strong arguments for and against the life ban of convicted persons becoming lawmakers but one thing all can agree upon is that we do not need them in our parliament or state assemblies. How to do it is not difficult but who will bell the cat?



Strengthening public





Digital transformation is reshaping public policy, it is imperative that we embrace it without compromising our enduring commitment to integrity



am a civil servant passionate about governance, institutional resilience and public policy, exploring how institutions can adapt to the digital age. Imagine a world where policies are debated, revised and reshaped in real time-governance moving as quickly as a trending hashtag. That world isn't coming; it's already here. Public institutions, once the reliable backbone of governance, are now transforming rapidly.

Social media, instant communi-cation, and shifting public expectations have redefined how governments interact with citizens. Decision-making, once a structured process guided by expertise and long-term planning, now occurs in an environment where public sentiment can change overnight. This new landscape offers both opportunities and challenges. Increased public engagement promotes transparency and participation but also demands rapid responses. Today's challenge isn't just about efficient policy implementation—it's about balancing speed with thoughtful deliberation and adaptability with established structure.

A New Era of Governance Historically, governance foling was data-driven and refined through expert consultation with a focus on long-term national interests. Then the digital revolution changed everything. Social media now plays a central role in shaping public discourse, often setting the agenda before formal institutions can respond.

A 2023 Pew Research study noted that nearly two-thirds of adults in democratic nations now rely on social media for political news. This shift has empowered citizens and made governance more transparent and participatory, but it has also heightened expectations and pressured institutions to act swiftly.

Adapting Without Losing Purpose

The solution is not to resist change but to adapt strategi-cally. Governments worldwide are using digital platforms to improve service delivery and civic engagement. For instance, India's Digital India initiative has streamlined public services online, while Singapore's Smart Nation program uses data analytics to enhance urban planning and governance. These examples show



DECISION-MAKING. ONCE A STRUCTURED PROCESS **GUIDED BY EXPERTISE AND** LONG-TERM PLANNING, NOW

IN AN **ENVIRONMENT** WHERE PUBLIC SENTIMENT CAN CHANGE OVERNIGHT

ital tools-it requires maintaining the integrity of governance. Institutions must prioritise expert-driven decision-making to ensure that policy shifts are well-considered rather than merely reactive. Preserving institutional memory through thorough documentation and continuous training ensures that experienced civil servants provide continuity, anchoring governance in expertise rather than short-term trends. The Importance of Public Trust At its core, governance

depends on public trust. Institutions thrive when they are seen as credible, reliable, and fair. Trust is built through transparency, efficiency, and ethical practices.

OCCURS Governments that openly communicate their policies and decision-making processes foster confidence among citizens. Estonia's e-Governance model, which gives citizens real-time access to government records, is a prime example. Efficiency is equally critical. Reducing administrative delays, streamlining processes, and making governance accessible are key to maintaining public trust.

Finding the Right Balance The digital age demands a balance between responsiveness and deliberation. Institutions must embrace innovation without becoming reactionary, listening to public sentiment while ensuring that policies are grounded in data, analysis, and long-term planning. Quick decision-making should never come at the expense of depth and foresight. This balance distinguishes effective governance from mere administration. Institutions that thoughtfully adapt are not just keeping pace with change-they are actively shaping the future of governance.

Looking Ahead

Public institutions are more than policy enforcers; they are the foundation of national stability and progress. As governance continues to evolve, these institutions must lead through innovation, efficiency, and an unwavering commitment to public trust. The digital age presents both challenges and opportunities. Institutions that adapt wisely will define the future of governance-not solely through speed or efficiency, but with foresight, trust and

lowed a deliberate, structured path. Political leaders set broad directions, while institutions provided continuity, expertise, and safeguards. Decision-mak-

that when technology is inte grated thoughtfully, it can boost both effectiveness and accessibility. Adaptation goes beyond dig-

when institutions deliver results fairly and efficiently, they not only function better-they strengthen democracy.

enduring strength. (The writer is DGP & Head of Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau; views *expressed are personal*)

Tourists at the Taj Mahal, in Agra

Rupee depreciation calls for structural reforms



R P GUPTA

Despite notable gains such as a reduced trade deficit, emerging challenges including global tariff tensions highlight the urgent need for comprehensive policy reforms

ver the past decade (2014-2024), the compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of India's exports of goods and services in USD terms has fallen sharply to about 5 per cent, compared to 17.9 per cent during 2004-2014 and 12.7 per cent in the period 1994-2004. This decline in export growth has coincided with a significant depreciation of the Rupee, which now trades at roughly Rs 86/87 per USD, a stark contrast to the Rs 60.50 per USD seen in 2013-14. In contrast, between 2000 and 2012, the Rupee remained relatively stable-with occasional appreciation driven by robust export growth at an impressive 19.5 per cent CAGR in USD terms. This historical perspective

demonstrates that a strong, stable Rupee is not an inherent barrier to export performance. In fact, the key to sustained export growth lies in enhancing overall economic efficiency. This efficiency is shaped by a broad range of policies and regulations that affect factors such as capital, energy, logistics and raw materials. By improving these



exports forward while maintaining Rupee stability. A weak Rupee, however, tends to deter global investors. Given that domestic savings alone cannot fulfill India's vast investment requirements, a steady inflow of global funds remains essential until the country transitions into a 'Trade-Surplus Nation." Recent changes in US leadership have sparked a tariff war, adding another layer of complexity to India's export environment.

Despite the sluggish export performance in the past decade, the country achieved a notable reduction in its trade deficit-from 4.3 per cent of nominal GDP in 2004-2014 to an average of 2.5 per cent in 2014-2024-primarily due to lower import volumes. In 2024, inward foreign remittances surged to \$129 billion, inputs, India can propel the highest globally, which vice exports-ranging from

played a crucial role in reducing the current account deficit (CAD) from 1.7 per cent of GDP in 2013-14 to about 0.7 per cent. Consequently, Forex reserves swelled to 18.3 per cent of nominal GDP, underscoring the positive impact of these remittances. Looking ahead, potential chal-

lenges loom. Aggressive deportation policies by the US could discourage migration, thereby diminishing remittance flows. Moreover, if India shifts its oil and gas import sources from Iran, Gulf nations, and Russia to the US, the resulting higher import bill may widen the trade deficit. In response, India must marshal all available policy tools to boost exports, reduce imports, and eventually become a trade-surplus nation. Facilitating legal migration remains crucial until domestic job creation can sustain remittance

inflows, which are vital for curbing the CAD. To further stimulate export growth, targeted export incentives for manufactured and agro-based goods should be implemented, while the untapped potential of ser-

tourism and healthcare to education and professional consultancy-must unlocked through dedicated policies. Additionally, reducing petroleum imports requires massive investments in railway infrastructure and expanded public transportation to lower fuel demand, and increased spending on

petroleum exploration is the need of the hour. Enhancing domestic produc-

tion of thermal coal and adopting innovative measures to reduce gold imports, such as a revised gold deposit scheme, are also essential steps. Finally, attracting global funds through measures like reducing capital gains tax on foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) and encouraging long-term borrowing via bonds backed by sovereign guarantees will help meet India's investment needs. Overcoming outdated colonial-era business and taxation laws remains critical. A second wave of structural

reforms is needed to stabilise the Rupee, secure higher GDP growth, and elevate India's stature on the global stage. (The writer is an industrial*ist; views are personal)*

TRUMP'S GOLD CARD PLAN

Madam — US President Donald Trump has announced a new visa program that will offer a 'gold card' with a potential pathway to US citizenship for \$5 million (approx Rs 43 crores), which could significantly benefit Indian graduates and investors. It seems like a sale of citizenship for money. He is not even asking them to start a business, create jobs, or anything. Moreover, why should one spend 5 million dollars to go to the USA? With that money, they can lead a royal life (invest 5 million in India and get 14 per cent annualised ROI compared to 5 per cent in the US) in India itself, with their own thriving business and stay close to near and dear ones, which is a much better place now than the US.

This is a simple sale of citizenship. This is nothing, but this Trump statement looks a bit stupid! Because, how many students in India will have 5 million dollars to buy a gold card? And which company will be ready to pay 5 million dollars for hiring an Indian employee in the US on a gold card? Is Trump thinking logically, or is he just high on the dose of fake nationalism? This far-right politics is turning the politicians into real fools. Whatsoever, Golden Visa is very expensive.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

BRUTAL MURDERS SHOCK NATION

Madam— The nation is shocked at the brutal and spine-chilling crime of a 23year-old man, who killed as many as five people, including his close relatives and girlfriend, within a few hours at various places in a radius of 15 kilometres in Thiruvananthapuram. By using a simple mallet, he has repeatedly hammered and finished the victims and then coolly surrendered at the police station on his own. It was by sheer luck that the sixth victim, his own mother, survived the attack, though she is still in serious condition. Even though the family was reportedly facing financial hardship, what prompted the man to commit such a heinous

CBSE clarifies language policy



THE

efers to Editorial 'Simmering Linguistic Tension' (February 28), first Tamil Nadu and now Punjab is raising unnecessary controversy over regional languages, that too owing to the CBSE draft norms (not final) for conducting the 10th class board exams. The Punjab government's hasty decision of imposing the Punjabi language on all 10th class examinations in the state of all

crime was nothing but the grave impact of drugs. In fact, Kerala has been reeling under the threat of drugs for quite some time now.

All kinds of drugs have been flowing into the state purportedly with the connivance of those in authority. It is a painful truth that a large number of youngsters, including students, are under the influence of drugs. However, the government has not taken any concrete steps to contain this serious menace. The present situation in the state is bound to ruin the young generation completely. As such, the government must take prompt and stern action against the drug mafia. T T Sakaria | Delhi

AFGHANISTAN STUNS ENGLAND

Madam — Afghanistan pulled off a historic eight-run victory over England, proving once again that cricket is a game of glorious uncertainties. The hero of the night was 23-year-old Ibrahim Zadran, who played a breathtaking knock of 177 off 146 balls, the highest individual score by any Afghanistan batsman in ODIs. His boards, whether Central or State, is uncalled for. This irrational decision has been announced without taking stakeholders-students and teachers-into confidence. It is nothing else but the imposing of the state's will and Punjabi language on innocent students.

How can a student who has never studied Punjabi suddenly take an examination of the same language in the 10th class? It is impossible and irrational. The CBSE was quick to clarify and assure that all regional languages, including Punjabi, will be included in the class 10 board exam. After this clarification and assurance, the Punjab government should immediately withdraw its decision of making Punjabi a mandatory language in all boards' examinations in Punjab.

Vinay Kr Malhotra | Ambala Cantt

fearless stroke play propelled Afghanistan to a challenging total of 325 for 7 despite England's experienced bowling attack.England's chase was anchored by Joe Root, who counterattacked with a brilliant 120 off 111 balls, keeping his team in the hunt.

However, Afghanistan's fiery fast bowler Azmatulla Omarzai turned the game on its head with a sensational 5/58. This is the second time in a row that Afghanistan has beaten England in an ICC tournament. This and Zadran's pedigree once again advertised Afghanistan's evolution as a rapid cricketing force.Despite a late fightback, England fell short by eight runs, handing Afghanistan one of their most significant victories in cricket history. This match will be remembered as a testament to Afghanistan's rising stature and the sheer unpredictability that makes cricket a thrilling spectacle. Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

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the pioneer



Beyond our inner self, natural and material limitations shape our behaviour and outcomes



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

e, human beings, are under control at three levels. The first one is at the level of self. We have been blessed with faculties such as mind, intelligence, etc. And we have free will to decide what we would like to think, decide and do. However, thinking and deciding are in our control, but being able to do is not. Our actions are limited by circumstances, instruments we have, how much we can apply ourselves and providence of course.

Then, there are constraints like limited knowledge, facilities, nature, etc. Knowledge is unlimited, but we can have very limited knowledge only. Even good knowledge of a subject is difficult, never mind of countless subjects. This restricts us greatly. Nature is another limiting factor. The three modes of material nature, which are goodness, passion and darkness, determine how we would act manner. For example, a man predominantly in the mode of goodness will generally act wisely.

The same cannot be said about persons under the control of the modes of passion and darkness. They make many mistakes. And we all generate 'karmas' (deeds) by minds, words and bodies (senses). These actions of ours, both good and bad put us in the control of the Divine Authority, appointed by God; it works under the superintendence of God. (The Bhagavad-Geeta 9.10) Imagine the extent of their work.



They have to be alert to record all our actions 24x7. This is nothing compared to what they have to do to decide our rewards and punishments, their timings, etc. In this, they have to correlate how these will impact others associated with us. Therefore, the Divine Authority may delay the punishment to make its effect on the family a little less harsh.

But the guilty person has no hope of reprieve even if the punishment is to be delayed to the next life. Our 'karmaphalas' (fruits of actions) are carried from life to life. If the job of the Divine Authority is mind-boggling, what God does is simply unimaginable. God has to watch the interest of all His devotees, no matter where they are. Then, He must appropriately respond to our prayers every time. He must also guide us if we sincerely seek it. Additionally, God must help if we deserve to come out of troubles we have gotten into due to our past 'karmas'. This is nothing compared to what God does for the Creation; He has to keep it going for millions of years for us souls. Imagine if there was dissolution every hundred years or so. How will we feel? Then, God has innumerable galaxies to control. He has many planets where we can go to from the earth planet. There is heaven, where pious acts take us for limited periods. This is like going on a vacation to a dream place. There are many such planets which are higher and higher ending in the 'Vaikuntha' planet, which is the abode of God. Only those, who have been liberated reach there. They get freed from the cycle of birth and death. They remain there for good.Knowing all this, we must become wise, really wise. We must seek the shelter of God beginning now, not later. We must follow dharma to please God. God will guide and help. The divine Authority will be giving us more rewards than punishments, which we can tolerate easily. And we will be our best friends.

Finding money for 'freebies': BJP faces an uphill task



analys \$ 07

The challenge now is not just about delivering on electoral promises but also about balancing an already precarious fiscal equation that could see deficits skyrocket



aving swept the polls in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi with a clinch-ing 2/3rd majority, Rekha Gupta-led BJP - government faces the daunting challenge of having to find money to fulfil its poll promises. Amongst others, the BJP had promised Rs 2500 g month to upman under Mebila 2,500 a month to women under Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY); Rs 21,000 to pregnant women; LPG cylinders for Rs 500 and free cylinder on Holi and Diwali; a stipend of Rs 1000 a month to SC students pursu-ing technical and vocational courses; free education for needy students from KG to PG; free travel for students on Delhi Metro; Atal Canteens in Jhuggi Basti clusters pro-viding nutritional meals for Rs 5 only; imple-mentation of Ayushman Bharat scheme and additional cover of Rs 5 lakh for senior citizens. BJP had also vowed to continue all existing schemes such as free electricity and free water (for monthly consumption up to a specified threshold) run by the erstwhile AAP - dispensation under the then Chief

we get a total of over 82.5 lakh HHs. Multiplied by Rs 3000 being the subsidy per HH, the annual outgo comes to Rs 2500 crore. Look at free education for needy students from KG to PG. According to the latest data available, around 10 per cent of Delhi's population was considered below the poverty line in 2011-12. On this basis, the number of poor persons comes to $33 \text{ lakh} (330 \times 0.1)$. About one-third of this or 11 lakh would be persons in the studying age 4 - 25 years. Taking the average expense of educating a child in India at the bare minimum of Rs 20,000 per annum, the total annual expense NOW, CONSIDER on "needy students" in the city would be about Rs 2200 crore THE IMPACT OF (0.11x20,000). The additional bur-**BJP PROMISES.** den of these four promises alone on the Delhi government's budget is Rs MODI HAS 27,950 crore (20,100+3150+2500+2200). Other

GUARANTEED freebies would bloat this figure by THAT EXISTING several thousand crore. Let us take the total to be around Rs 30,000 SCHEMES WON'T crore

come under the Centre's jurisdiction hence, the latter foots the bill for expenses on those functions. Second, Delhi being a major hub of economic activity, its propensity to garner its tax revenue in terms of higher GST collection besides VAT on petrol and diesel and excise duty and VAT on alcohol (these products are outside the GST regime) is greater.

The RD will increase drastically when we consider the cost of servicing the loans taken by various departments of the Delhi government such as the Delhi Jal Board (DJB): over Rs 70,000 crore and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC): Rs 60,000 crore (according to the CAG, these are cumulative losses of DTC as at end of FY 2021-22 and would have ballooned further during the following three FYs till end March 2025).

The liability for servicing those debts is vested entirely in the NCT gov ernment and should be reflected in its balance sheet. Look at the fiscal deficit (FD) which is the excess of total receipts over total expenditure. For FY 2024-25, it is estimated at Rs 18,000 crore which is 80 per cent higher than the FD during FY 2023-24 at Rs 10,000 crore. The surge is despite a steep reduction of over 30 per cent in CE from the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 22,000 crore for FY 2023-24 to Rs 15,000 crore for FY 2024-25. If interest payments on loans taken by DJB and DTC (Rs 130,000 crore plus) which are merely adding to the mountain of debt on the books of those departments year after year are also included, the FD would be much higher. The situation had come to such a pass that the then CM Atishi had approached the Centre seeking a loan of Rs 10,000

iousness of the state's finances has a lot to do with the galloping freebies and irregularities and mismanagement in running various schemes and overall governance on a monumental scale. During 2024-25, the cost of free electricity and free water alone is estimated to be about Rs 11,000 crore. According to CAG, during 2015-16 and 2021-22, the losses of DTC went up by Rs 35,000 crore and that was due to both free bus rides and misgover-

nance.

Now, consider the impact of BJP promises. Modi has guaranteed that existing schemes won't be dis-continued. So, free electricity/water costing Rs 11,000 crore will stay. Add to this, the fresh guarantees which would be at least about Rs 30,000 crore. This takes the RE from Rs 61,000 crore during FY 2024-25 to Rs 91,000 crore during FY 2025-26 (assuming all other things remain unchanged). The KK is Ks 58,000 crore, we get RD of Rs 33,000 crore - up from Rs 3000 crore budgeted for FY 2024-25. The incumbent government has also promised to clean Yamuna River, clean the air, renovate/build roads, cleanse the drainage systems, build and renovate hospitals and schools in fact, take up and complete a host of physical and social infrastructure projects needed for ensuring a good quality life for Delhiites. That means even if CE is restored to 2023-24 level Rs 22,000 crore, that won't be enough. Even with this insufficient level, the total expenditure will be Rs 113,000 crore. Minus RR of Rs 58,000 crore, we get FD of Rs 55,000 crore. Put simply, the Centre will have to arrange for at least Rs 55,000 crore to enable the BJP to live up to its promises for Delhi

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

linister, Arvind Kejriwal How much will these freebies cost?

Let us look at the Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) under which the party has promised BE DISCONTINUED. to give cash assistance of Rs 2500 per month to every woman. The number of women above the age of 18 years in Delhi is around 6700,000. @ Rs 2500 per month or Rs 30,000 annually to each woman, giving cash assistance to them all will require Rs 20,100 crore per annum $(0.67 \times 30,000)$. The assistance to pregnant women @Rs 21,000 per woman, taking a total of about 1500,000 pregnant women will cost around Rs 3150 crore annually.

As for subsidy on LPG, take consumption of 4 cylinders (14 kg each) per household (HH) in a year. The current cost of supply-ing a cylinder is around Rs 1000. For two WHICH WOULD BE cylinders (Holi and Diwali) promised to be given free, the subsidy will be Rs 2000 whereas for the other two to be given @ Rs 500 each, the outgo will be Rs 1000. This gives an annual subsidy of Rs 3000 per HH. The current population of Delhi is 330 lakh. Taking an average of 4 members per HH,

What is the current state of Delhi's finances?

SO, FREE For the current financial year (FY) 2024-25, the total expenditure of the ELECTRICITY/ Delhi government is estimated at Rs 76,000 crore. This includes revenue WATER COSTING expenditure (RE) of Rs 61,000 crore **RS 11,000 CRORE** and capital expenditure (CE) of Rs 15,000 crore. Against this, the total revenue receipts or RR (tax plus WILL STAY. ADD TO THIS, THE non-tax receipts including transfer from the Central government) is FRESH estimated at around Rs 58,000 crore. That leaves a revenue deficit **GUARANTEES** or RD (RR - RE) of Rs 3000 crore. This is disconcerting when seen in the backdrop of Delhi's potential to AT LEAST ABOUT generate substantial surplus given two fundamental factors working to **RS 30,000 CRORE** its advantage.

First, due to its special status of being NCT, three major functions namely law and order, police and land

crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). The precar(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

India's solar surge: Powering the journey to net zero 2070 India is charting an ambitious course toward Net Zero 2070, with solar energy emerging as the mainstay of its renewable revolution

ndia's steadfast commitment to achieving Net Zero by 2070 is catalysing a dramatic shift in its energy sector, with solar power emerging as the principal driver of this transformation. Abundant sunlight, rapidly decreasing technology costs, strong government support, and an expanding skilled workforce have combined to place solar energy at the heart of India's renewable strategy. While the country has celebrated significant milestones in solar adoption, it also faces multifaceted challenges that require innovative policy interventions and strategic foresight to sustain its momentum.

Over the past decade, India has achieved remarkable progress in solar energy. The nation not only met its ambitious renew-

able targets but exceeded them, with solar power now accounting for over 60 per cent of its renewable energy mix. By 2024, India surpassed the 100 GW milestone, establishing itself as a global leader in solar energy. For example, Rajasthan's solar capacity exceeds 24 GW. Rapid expansion is evident in a 19 per cent increase in solar generation from 2023 to 2024, with solar installations making up over two-thirds of new renewable

capacity. India's role in the International Solar Alliance underscores its commitment to global solar collaboration, as the initiative seeks to mobilise over \$1 trillion in investments for developing countries. National agencies, particularly the Solar



have been vital in driving the development and implemen-

tation of solar projects under the National Solar Mission. Despite these impressive achievements, significant obstacles remain on the path to full solar integration. One major challenge is the limited connection of solar installations to the national grid, with only 16 per cent of capacity Energy Corporation of India, currently integrated. This gap

restricts the country's ability to fully exploit its vast solar potential. Moreover, there are stark regional disparities in solar development. While states like Rajasthan and Gujarat lead the charge, many eastern and northeastern regions lag behind, resulting in an uneven distribution of renewable resources. Financial hurdles also pose

serious challenges. Although government subsidies help reduce costs, the high initial capital required for large-scale installations, coupled with elevated interest rates and delayed payments, discourages private investment. Manufacturers struggle with a shortage of competitively priced solar cells, a problem compounded by strict Domestic Content Requirements that strain pro-



duction capabilities. These financial constraints not only hinder current project deployment but also threaten future expansion in the sector. Another critical issue is India's heavy reliance on imported components. Despite having a domestic module production capacity of around 11 GW, India still depends on global supply chains for essential items such as polysilicon,

wafers, and solar cells. This dependency leaves the country vulnerable to supply chain disruptions, particularly amid geopolitical tensions and trade imbalances, as China continues to dominate global solar manufacturing. Furthermore, the scarcity of critical minerals like cobalt, nickel, and lithium-vital for solar panel production-further complicates efforts to build a self-sufficient solar industry

Local challenges add another layer of complexity. Land acquisition for solar projects often faces resistance from local communities and farmers, leading to protests, legal disputes, and, in some cases, violent confrontations. In Rajasthan, disputes over land rights have led to project cancellations, highlighting the solar panels and key compo-

need for transparent and inclusive processes that respect local interests and ensure fair compensation. Addressing these local concerns is essential for fostering community support and facilitating smoother project implementation.

To overcome these challenges, India must adopt a multifaceted strategy. Strengthening policy frameworks to provide long-term stability is crucial, as is enhancing inter-state cooperation and ensuring reliable access to energy data for effec-tive monitoring. Public-private partnerships can expand solar adoption in underserved regions by providing risk mitigation instruments to attract investment. Promoting domestic manufacturing of

nents will reduce import dependency and bolster energy security. Additionally, investing in workforce development to build a skilled labor pool for solar installation, maintenance, and manufacturing will be vital for sustaining industry growth. By focusing on robust policy support, financial innovation, domestic manufacturing, and community engagement, India can sig-nificantly unlock the full potential of its solar resources. With sustained government backing and strategic collaboration between public and private sectors, the nation is wellpositioned to lead the global solar revolution.

(The writer is assistant professor IIM Mumbai; views are personal. Inputs from Supriya Kaushik and Asmita Tewari)



Israel's army admits failures leading to Oct 7 attack

PTI TEL AVIV

n investigation by the Israeli military has determined that Hamas Was able to carry out the deadliest attack in Israeli history on October 7, 2023, because the much more powerful Israeli army misjudged the militant group's intentions and underestimated its capabilities.

The findings, released Thursday, could pressure Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to launch a widely demanded broader inquiry to examine the political decision-making that preceded the attack, which triggered the war in Gaza.

Many Israelis believe the mistakes of October 7 extend beyond the military, and they blame Netanyahu for what they view as a failed strategy of deterrence and containment in the years leading up to the attack.

That strategy included allowing Qatar to send suitcases of cash into Gaza and sidelining Hamas' rival, the internationally recognised Palestinian Authority.

The prime minister has not taken responsibility, saying he will answer tough ques-tions only after the war, which has been paused for nearly six weeks by a tenuous ceasefire.

Despite public pressure, including from the families of the roughly 1,200 people killed in the October 7 attack and the 251 taken as hostages into Gaza, Netanyahu has resisted calls for a commission of inquiry

The military's main findings were that the region's most powerful and sophisticated military misread Hamas' intentions, underestimated its capabilities and was wholly unprepared for the surprise attack by thousands of heavily armed militants in the early morning hours of a major Jewish holiday.

In comments made to military commanders Monday, and shared with the media on Thursday, the army's chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Herzi Halevi, said he took respon-sibility for the army's failures. 'I was the commander of the military on

October 7th, and I have my own responsibility. I also carry the weight of all your responsibility — that, too, I see as mine," said Halevi, who announced his resignation in January and is set to step down next week.

The military's findings are in line with past

conclusions reached by officials and analysts. The military released only a summary of the report and military officials out

lined its findings "October 7 was a complete failure," said one military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations

A central misconception was that Hamas, which seized control of Gaza from the Palestinian Authority in 2007, was more interested in governing the territory than fighting Israel, the inquiry found.

The military also misjudged the militant group's capabilities. Military planners had envisioned that, at worst, Hamas could stage a ground invasion from up to eight border points, the official said. In fact, Hamas had more than 60 attack routes

Intelligence assessed in the aftermath of the attack has shown Hamas came close to staging the offensive on three earlier occasions but delayed it for unknown reasons, the official said.

The official said that in the hours before the attack, there were signs that something was amiss, including when Hamas fight-ers switched their phones over to the



Israeli network

The perception that Hamas did not want war guided decision makers away from taking action that night that might have thwarted the attack. The Israeli military official said intelligence shows that Yahya Sinwar, a mastermind of the October 7 attack who was killed last October, had begun planning it as early as 2017. With the military off guard on a holiday

weekend, Hamas launched a heavy wave

of rockets that allowed thousands of fighters to burst through the security fence or fly over it on hang gliders. They knocked out surveillance cameras and auickly overwhelmed hundreds of soldiers stationed along the border.

From there they advanced to key highway intersections and attacked troops dispatched to the area, including some senior officers, disrupting the military's command and control, according to a sec-

ond military official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. For the first three hours after the attack, Hamas fighters marauded through border communities and a music festival with little resistance. That was when most of the 251 hostages were taken and most people were killed, the official said. The official said the chaos led to friendly fire incidents, although he said there were not many, without disclosing a figure.

world 08

It took hours for the military to regain control and days until the area was fully cleared of militants. According to the first official, the report blamed the military for being overconfident in its knowledge and not showing enough doubt in its core concepts and beliefs. The summary said a key lesson was that Israel could not let a threat develop on its border. It spelled out several recommenda-

tions, including creating special units meant to prepare for such sur-

prise and large-scale events, as well as reform in the military intelligence department that would foster "openness, scepticism, listening, learning.

It did not place blame on any individual soldiers or officers, but is likely to pave the way for a reckoning in the military and eventual dismissals.

Some high-ranking officers other than Halevi have also resigned, including the former head of military intelligence.

claimed nearly 1400 lives.

Bangladesh witnessed a resur-

gence of unrest since February

burned and demolished the

residence of the country's

founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, coinciding

with her daughter Hasina's pre-

viously announced virtual

address to students from India.

this year when protestors

Israel, Hamas have begun negotiating next phase of Gaza ceasefire, says Egypt

PTI KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP)

Negotiations between Israel and Hamas on the next phase of the Gaza ceasefire began Thursday, Egypt said, averting a collapse ahead of Saturday's expiration of the agreement's first phase.

Officials from Israel, Qatar and the United States started "intensive discussions" on the ceasefire's second phase in Cairo, Egypts state information service said.

"The mediators are also discussing ways to enhance the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, as part of efforts to alleviate the suffering of the population and support stability in the region," its statement said.

Phase 2 talks are meant to negotiate an end to the war, including the return of all remaining hostages in Gaza who are alive, and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from the territory. Return of remaining deceased hostages would happen in Phase 3

According to Israel, there are 59 remaining hostages - 24 of whom are still believed to be alive.

It will be difficult to reconcile a deal with the war objectives of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanvahu, who has called for dismantling Hamas' governing and military capabilities. After suffering heavy losses in the war, Hamas less emerged intact during

of four hostages in exchange for over 600 Palestinian prisoners, the last planned swap of the ceasefire's first

phase US President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy, Steve Witkoff, was expected in

the region in the coming days. Blatant violation: An Israeli official, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with regulations, said the army needed to remain in the so-called Philadelphi corridor, on the Gaza side of the border with Egypt, to prevent

weapons smuggling. Separately, Defense Minister Israel Katz said at a meeting with local leaders that he had seen tunnels penetrating the border on a recent visit to the corridor, without providing evidence or elaborating on Israel's plans. Egypt says it destroyed the smuggling tunnels from its side years ago and set up a military buffer zone to halt smuggling.

Hamas said any Israeli attempt to maintain a buffer zone in the corridor would be a "blatant violation" of the ceasefire agreement. The militant group says that sticking to the agreement is the only way for Israel to secure the release of dozens of hostages still held in Gaza.

Israel was supposed to begin withdraw-ing from the Philadelphi corridor on Saturday, the last day of the first phase, olete it wi and con There was no immediate comment about the corridor from Egypt, which is opposed to any Israeli presence on the Gaza side of its border. Remains of 4 hostages identified: The remains released Thursday were confirmed to be those of Ohad Yahalomi Itzhak Elgarat, Shlomo Mantzur and Tsachi Idan, according to the Hostages and Missing Families Forum, which represents families of the captives.

China to send Pak astronaut as first foreign guest to its space station PTI BEIJING/ISLAMABAD

hina plans to send an astronaut from its all weather ally Pakistan as the first foreign

guest to its space station Tiangong. China and Pakistan on Friday signed an agreement including bilateral efforts to select and train Pakistani astronauts and then send some of them to Tiangong, currently orbiting 400 kilometres above the earth, China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) said in a news release here.

The agreement to send the Pakistani astronaut in space was signed by the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) and Pakistan's Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) at a ceremony attended by Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad, state-run China Daily reported. China has been launching satellites for Pakistan

for the past few years to help its close ally. The Chinese space station, which has been in orbit for nearly four years, is regarded as a rival

to Russia's international space station Mir, cur rently in orbit. China built Tiangong after the country was reportedly excluded from the International

Space Station (ISS) over concerns that China's space programme is manned by its military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). China's space station is also seen as a new field

of competition between China and the US. The two robotic arms of the station, especially

the long one which has the ability to grab objects including satellites from space, drew international concerns.

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Students-led political party to be launched amid unrest in Bangladesh

PTI 📕 DHAKA

Bangladesh on Friday is set to witness emergence of a political party led by students who spearheaded the 2024 street campaign that led to the toppling of the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime.

A large stage is ready in central Dhaka's Manik Mia Avenue for the launch of 'Jatiya Nagorik Party' or National Citizen Party (NCP) led by the key-figures of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, also called Students Against Discrimination (SAD).

The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement led a mass uprising leading to the ouster of Hasina's over 15 years of rule on August 5 last year. Three days later, Muhammd Yunus assumed charge as the Chief Adviser of the Interim government, effectively the prime minister.

NCP leaders said they expect-ed around 3,00,000 people, including students from across the country, at the launch event. "People from all the 64 districts are to join our inauguration alongside the family members of those who gave

include Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson and ex-premier Khaleda Zia; her son and acting BNP chairpere-Islami ameer Shafiqur Rahman, and leaders of several Islamic, rightist and leftwing

parties and groups. BNP had earlier expressed skepticism about the neutrality of the Yunus' interim administration ahead of expected general elections in December this year, particularly after he extended his support for the proposed student-led party while three of their representatives were serving as advisers, equivalent to ministers, in his government.

One of the advisers, entrusted with the portfolio of information ministry, Nahid Islam, however, resigned earlier this week to head the NCP amid the criticism that the new party was being floated using the advantage of being part of the government.

A recent UN fact-finding report suggested policed

The protesters set on fire or ransacked the houses and business establishments of the Awami League leaders and supporters across the country. Bangladesh's security forces have arrested over 8,600 people in a two-week crackdown named 'Operation Devil Hunt' that targeted gangs allegedly linked with the ousted Hasina government. The arrests came amid growing

concerns about rising crime levels, particularly in Dhaka, with police saying the number of robberies had doubled since January last year.

5 killed, 20 hurt in Pak mosque blast

PTI PESHAWAR

Secretary Shahab Ali Shah con-(Sami Group) after the death of

of Nowshera district, Chief during 'Jumma' prayer. The Darul Uloom Haqqania A powerful blast killed at Aleast five people and Haq became chief of his JUI Hanafi Deobandi school of and removed the bodies and Haq became chief of his JUI Sunni Islam It was founded by

former chief Akhtar Mansour, studied here.

their lives in the July-August mass uprising," a spokesman of the new party's media cell said. 'We have also invited the leaders of major political parties," he added. The new party is

being launched with the blessings of Yunus, who took over

as the Chief Adviser as the SAD nominee in August 2024. NCP leaders said Yunus was also invited to their launch cer-

emony The other high-profile invitees



actions during the uprising and subsequent violence

the ceasefire, and the group says it will not give up its weapons.

Hours before talks began, an Israeli official said the country would not withdraw from a strategic corridor in the Gaza Strip as called for under the ceasefire, a refusal that could severely complicate negotiations with Hamas and key mediator Egypt at a sensitive moment for the fragile truce.

Overnight, Hamas released the remains

ther development of space programmes, which included launching a manned lunar mission construction of a lunar space station, exploration of habitable planets and extra-terrestrial life to expand its space programme in the next few decades

Deputy Director of the Chinese Manned Space Agency Lin Xiqiang told media here earlier that China plans to land astronauts on the moon before 2030 while the US plans to put its astronauts back on the lunar surface in 2025.

10 Friday prayers at a mosque in northwest Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province ahead of the fasting month of Ramazan, police said.

The blast claimed the life of Hamidul Haq Haqqani, chief of his own faction of the Jamiat Ulema Islam (JUI) and caretaker of the Madrassa-e-Haggania, located in Akora Khattak town

his father Maulana Sami ul Haq. Khyber IGP, Pakĥtunkhwa, Zulfiqar Hameed said the blast is suspected to be a suicide bombing and Hamidul Haq appeared to be the target. "We had provided six security guards to Hamidul Haq," he said.

DPO Nowshera district Abdur Rasheed said the blast occurred

Maulana Abdul Haq along the lines of the Darul Uloom Deoband seminary in India, where he had taught.

It has been dubbed the "University of Jihad" due to its methods and content of instruction, along with the future occupations of its alumni. A number of leading members of the Taliban, including

evacuated the injured hospital. An emergency was declared in both Nowshera and Peshawar hospitals.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Governor Faisal Karim Kundi have condemned the suicide blast. The Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam leaders have appealed for blood donation for the injured.

Quake rattles Kathmandu PTI 📕 KATHMANDU

At least four people were Ainjured in Kathmandu and elsewhere due to a strong earthquake in the neighbouring Sindhupalchowk district early Friday morning.

The quake measuring 6.1 magnitude was recorded at 2.51 am with its epicentre at Bhairabkunda, Sindhupalchowk district, 65 km east of Kathmandu, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre

Some houses in Sindhupalchowk district developed cracks after the tremor hit the district. Besides Kathmandu valley, the earthquake was also felt by people in southern and eastern Nepal according to officials.

The earthquake prompted many people in Kathmandu and nearby areas to come out of their houses in panic. Two people were injured in Kathmandu while an inmate of Chautara prison was injured as he tried to escape fol

lowing the earthquake. An elderly man was injured in a village in Sindhupalchowk district as he tried to exit his house soon after the earthquake, officials said. Nepal lies in one of the most active tectonic zones, making the Himalayan nation extremely vulnerable to earthquakes. The worst quake it has so far witnessed was in April 2015 when a 7.8 magnitude quake killed more than 9,000 people and damaged over 1 million structures.



Indonesian Muslim women buy vegetables to prepare for the holy month of Ramadan at a market in Jakarta, Indonesia on

Russian, US diplomats meet in Istanbul

PTI 📕 ISTANBUL

Russian and US diplomats met in Istanbul on Thursday to discuss normalising the operation of their respective embassies after years expelling each others' diplomats.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the talks followed an understanding reached during President Donald Trump's call with Russian President Vladimir Putin and contact between senior Russian and US diplomats and other officials in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking during Thursday's

meeting of the Federal Security Service, Putin hailed the Trump administration's "pragmatism and realistic view" compared with what he described as the stereotypes and messianic ideological cliches" of its predecessors

The first contacts with the new US administration encourage certain hopes," Putin said. There is a mutual readiness to work to restore relations and gradually solve a colossal amount of systemic strategic problems in the global architecture?

Putin said that "part of Western elites are still determined to

maintain global instability" and could try to "disrupt or compromise the dialogue that has begun," adding that Russian diplomats and security agencies should focus their efforts on thwarting such attempts.

Return to civilised communication: In Riyadh, Moscow and Washington agreed to start working toward ending the war in Ukraine and improving their diplomatic and economic ties. That includes restoring staffing at embassies, which in recent years were hit hard by mutual expulsions of large numbers of diplomats, closures of offices, and other

A US Embassy official in Ankara confirmed that the Istanbul talks focused on the issues affecting the operation of respective diplomatic missions. Later Thursday, a spokesman for the US State Department said: "The United States raised concerns regarding access to banking and contracted services as well as the need to ensure stable and sustainable staffing levels at the US Embassy in Moscow. Through constructive discussions, both sides identified concrete initial steps to stabilize bilateral mission operations in these areas.

restrictions

Panama, Costa Rica turning into 'black hole' for migrants, deportees from US, observers warn

PTI MIRAMAR (PANAMA)

Officials in Costa Rica and Panama are confiscating migrants' passports and cellphones, denying them access to legal services and moving them between remote outposts as they wrestle with the logistics of a suddenly reversed migration February. flow. The restrictions and lack of United States immigration pol-icy," said Harold Villegastransparency are drawing criticism from human rights observers and generating Román, a political science professor and refugee expert at the increasingly testy responses from officials, who say their actions University of Costa Rica. "There are aimed at protecting the is no focus on human rights, migrants from human traffickthere is only focus on control and security. Everything is very Both countries have received murky, and not transparent." Deportations and reversed

hundreds of deportees from

migration: Earlier this month. various nations sent by the United States as President the US sent 299 deportees from Donald Trump's administration mostly Asian countries to tries to accelerate deportations Panama. Those who were willing to return to their countries At the same time, thousands of – about 150 to date — were put migrants shut out of the US have on planes with the assistance of started moving south through United Nations agencies and Central America – Panama paid for by the US recorded 2,200 so far in Carlos

Ruiz-Hernandez, We're a reflection of current Panama's deputy foreign minister, said Thursday a small number are in contact with international organisations and the UN Refugee Agency as they weigh whether to seek asylum in Panama.

"None of them wants to stay in Panama. They want to go to the US," he said in a phone interview from Washington. "We cannot

give them green cards, but we can get them back home and for a short period of time provide them with medical and psychological support as well as housing.

Despite Trump's threats to retake control of the Panama Canal, he said Panama had not acted under US pressure. "This is in Panama's national interest. We are a friend of the US and want to work with them to send a signal of deterrence."

the deportees remaining in Panama would be given the option of staying at a shelter originally set up to handle the large number of migrants moving north through the Darien

Gap. One Chinese deportee currently detained in the camp, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to avoid repercussions, said she wasn't given a choice.

She was deported to Panama without knowing where they were being sent, without signing deportation documents in the US and without clarity of how long they would be there. She was among the deportees who were moved from a Panama City hotel where some held up signs to their windows asking for help to a remote camp in the Darien region.

Speaking to the AP over messages on a cellphone she kept hidden, she said authorities confiscated others' phones and offered them no legal assistance. Others have said they've been unable to contact their lawyers.

"This deprived us of our legal process," she said.

Panama President Jose Raul Mulino, asked about the lack of access to legal services on Thursday, questioned the idea that migrants would even have lawyers. "Doesn't it seem like a coincidence that those poor people have lawyers in Panama?" Mulino said.

Black hole for deported migrants: Costa Rica and Panama have so far denied press access to facilities where they are holding migrants. Panama had initially invited iournalists to the Darien this week, but ultimate ly canceled the visit

Panama cannot end up becoming a black hole for deported migrants," said Juan Pappier, deputy director of Human Rights Watch in the Americas. "Migrants have the right to communicate with their families, to seek lawyers and Panama must guarantee transparency about the situation in which they find themselves."

Costa Rica has faced similar criticisms from the country's independent human rights entity, which has raised alarm over "failures" by authorities to guarantee proper conditions for deportees arriving.

Ruiz-Hernandez said some of



North Korea's current solid

cooperation with Russia after

Last Saturday, North Korea's

Defense Ministry alleged the

US and its allies were ramp-

ing up more serious military

provocations targeting North

Korea since Trump took

It cited the recent US-South

Korean aerial exercise involv-ing a US B-1B bomber and

other reported activities

involving U.S. military assets.

A Defense Ministry state-

ment said North Korea will

counter the strategic threat of

the US with strategic means.

Kim and Trump met three

times from 2018-19 to discuss

the fate of North Korea's

nuclear program, but their

the war ends.

ower.

Doctors suggest Pope has overcome the worst

PTI ROME

Pope Francis reached the two-week mark recovery from pneumonia Friday as doctors suggested he had overcome the most critical phase of the infection while holding out on declaring him out of danger entirely.

The Vatican's early Friday update also suggested a level of normalcy and routine as the 88-year-old pope continues recovering at Rome's Gemelli Hospital. "As in past days, the night was tranquil and the pope now is resting."

In their Thursday evening bulletin, doctors said Francis' clinical condition had confirmed that he was improving. He was alternating the high-flow supplemental oxygen he had been receiving by a nasal tube with a mask in a sign of improved respiratory function. Additionally, he left his hospital room to go to his nearby private chapel to pray, while continuing with respiratory physiotherapy and work, the Vatican said.

For the second day in a row,

doctors avoided saving Francis was in critical condition, suggesting he had overcome the most acute phase of the infection. But given the complexity of his lung infection, they said "further days of clinical stability are needed" before they revise their prognosis officially and say he is out of danger. Francis has been at Gemelli

Hospital since February 14 after his bronchitis worsened. He has shown steady, albeit slight improvements since a respiratory crisis and kidney trouble over the weekend sparked fears for his life. The improvements beat back speculation of an imminent death, resignation or a conclave and signalled that he was still very much in charge.

Prayers continued to pour in: In Mexico City, a few dozen people gathered Thursday night at the cathedral to pray for Francis' recovery. "He is like part of the family,"

said Araceli Gutiérrez, who treasures the time she saw the pope during his trip to the country of nearly 100 million

we feel so concerned for him." María Teresa Sánchez, who was visiting from Colombia with her sister, said that she has always felt close to Francis the first Latin American pope. 'That's like having a relative within the higher-ups, with God," she said. "He has done so much for religion; he's such a humble person.

Upcoming calendar in question: Despite his improvements, Francis' near-term upcoming calendar of events was being changed: The Vatican cancelled a Holy Year audience scheduled for Saturday, and it remained to be seen if Francis would skip his Sunday noon blessing for the third week in a row. Ash Wednesday next week starts the Lenten season leading up to Holy Week and Easter, which this year falls on April 20. In past years, when Francis has battled bronchitis and influenza in winter, he curbed his par-

ticipation in Ash Wednesday and Holy Week events, which call for the pope to be outdoors in the cold leading services, Catholics in 2016. "That's why participating in processions

"These are rank-and-file work-

ers who joined the federal gov

ernment to make a difference

in their communities, only to

be suddenly terminated due to

this administration's disdain

for federal employees and

desire to privatize their work.

An email seeking comment

from the Office of Personnel

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PUBLIC NOTICE

is providing loan on the following property

and presiding over prayers in the solemn period in which the faithful commemorate Christ's crucifixion and resurrection. Beyond that, Francis has a few major events coming up that he presumably would hope to keep if well enough. On April 27, he is due to canonize Carlo Acutis, considered to be the first millennial and digital-era saint. The Vatican considers the Italian teenager, who died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15, an inspiration for young Catholics. Another important appointment is the May 24 commemoration of the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicea, Christianity's first ecumenical council. The spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Patriarch Bartholomew I, has invited Francis to join him in Iznik Turkey, to commemorate the anniversary, which he has called an important sign of reconciliation between the Catholic and Orthodox churches. Before he got sick, Francis said he hoped to go, though the Vatican hasn't confirmed the trip.

84 Indonesians freed from scam centers in Myanmar set to return home PTI MAE SOT (THAILAND)

Eighty-four Indonesians freed from scam centers in Myanmar were set to return home Friday as the repatriation of thousands of such workers after a crackdown strains regional resources.

The Indonesians were among more than 7,000 people being held in the Myanmar border town Myawaddy following a crackdown on the scam centers by Thailand, Myanmar and China. Two buses carrying the Indonesians arrived Thursday in the Thai border city of Mae Sot, where the passengers had health checks and their identities were verified.

Hundreds of thousands of people are believed to have been lured to work in Mvanmar. Cambodia and Laos to commit global scams through false romances, bogus investment pitches and illegal gambling schemes. Many of the workers were recruited under false pretenses, only to find themselves trapped in virtual slavery.

The Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry said the 84 Indonesians, which included 69 men and 15 women, were healthy and will fly to Jakarta on three commercial flights Friday. The ministry had said last week as many as 270 Indonesians were stranded in Myanmar after leaving the scam centers, but it was not clear why

North Korea says it performed cruise missile tests

PTI SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

North Korea said Friday it had test-fired strategic cruise missiles to demonstrate its nuclear counterattack capability, days after it vowed to respond to what it called escalating U.S.-led hostilities since the start of the Trump administration.

The official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the missile tests off the country's west coast Wednesday.

They were the North's fourth missile launch event this year and the second of President Donald Trump's second term. The launches were designed to inform "the enemies, who are seriously violating our security environment and fostering and escalating the

Ukraine with supply of confrontation environment." weapons and troops, won't of the North Korean mililikely embrace Trump's outtary's counterattack capability and the readiness of its reach anytime soon. They say Kim could reconsidnuclear operations, KCNA said. er if he doubts he'll maintain

Kim expressed satisfaction over the results of the drills and said the military must be battle-ready and prepared to use its nuclear weapons, the report said.

Trump has said he would reach out to Kim again after they met at three summits in his first term.

North Korea hasn't directly responded to Trump's overture as it continues its typical aggressive rhetoric against the U.S. and weapons testing activities.

Many experts say Kim, now preoccupied with his support of Russia's war against

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Deepak Kumar Yadav and Manju Devi are in process to purchase the Entire Third Floor built on Front Side Portion of Property bearing Municipal Old No. 7-P(3), New No. 5-4, area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., Out of Khasra No. 133, situated in the area and abadi of Srinwaspuri, New Delhi,; (availing Ioan from PCHFL) from Surest Kumar Arora, having acquired the said property by virtue vide Relinquisitment Deed dated 16/12/2020 (Document No. 12668) executed by Sunita Ran', Mrs. Suman Anagal, Mrs. Lalita, Mrs. Ankita Makkar, Ms. Srishti Arora and Mr. Madhav Arora All personis having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family prossession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, piedge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to Ause been waived and/or abandunde. Mr Ma Man Mart Darian Kan Guyta (Mavccate) Unit No. Fr-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower Sec.4, Vaishai, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 810063351 PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Its to inform to the public at large that Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mrs. Arti Kumari who are the owners of Entire Third Floor, with roof terrace rights, area measuring 110 Sq. Yds., I.e., 91971 Sq. Mits., out of Property Bearing No. R2-F21/17, Street No.5, out of Khasra No.447/2, Stuated in the area of Village Mahavir Enclave, New Dehi-110045 vide Sale Deed dated 31.05.2023 (Vide Doc. No.5937) Award Wrs. Geeta Kothari and same to be financed & mortgaged by Acitya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. Intel. Original Sale Deed dated 31.05.2023 executed by Mrs. Geeta Kothari in favour of Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mrs. Arti Kumari in respect of said property, vide Registration No.5937, Book No.1, Vol. No.12176, on pages 191-199, on dated 31.05.2023, SR-IX, New Delhi is lost/misplaced. 31.05.2023 SR-X. New Delhi sloet/misplaced. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBEC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim /indivitile/interest/ creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lienetc. Lucern Legal LLP B-333, Second Floor, Ops. SBI Bank Sector 2,Noida,UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379

diplomacy derailed due to disputes over US-led sanctions on the North. Kim has since sharply increased the pace of weapons tests to expand and modernize his nuclear and missile arsenals. Having a bigger nuclear arse-

nal now, experts say Kim would think he could win greater US concessions if he revives diplomacy with Trump.

Opening

21/03/2025

1515 Hrs

21/03/2025

1530 Hrs

21/03/2025

1545 Hrs

M.P. POWER GENERATING COMPANY LIMITED **S** Office of the Addl. C.E. (P&W), Shree Singaji Thermal Power Project Dongalia Distt. Khandwa (M.P.), E-mail ID : sepnw.sstpp1@gmail.con No. 515-1700/SSTPP/MPPGCL/P&W/9195 Date : 28.02.2025 **Tender Particulars/Tender Numbe** Estimated Last date and Tender Cost (Rs.) Cost & time for closing (including EMD in of online GST) submission Rs. Work Contract of day to day routine maintenance of 220ky & 400ky 89.33.699/ 2000/- & 04.04.2025 up Switchyard, all HT and LT transformers, Overhead line faults, lighting 1.78.700/ to 15:30 of BOP & BTG building in plant, street lighting in plant, to raw water intake and inside colony and maintenance of electrical installation siwariya township as per scope of work of phase-1, SSTPP, SSTPF MPPGCL, Khandwa. (T-2025_MPPGC_393547_1) For extension & other details, the bidders are requested to please visit e-portal of GoMP at www.mptenders. gov.in M.P. Madhyam/119021/2025 SE (P&W) BSES **BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi** TENDER NOTICE Date: 01.03.2025 Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders Estimated Cost of Due Date & Time Date & Time of NIT No Brief Tender Description

Cost

₹ 22.67 Cr

₹ 13.48 Cr

₹ 40.91 Cr

EMD

₹ 22.67

lakhs

₹ 13.48

lakhs

₹ 40.91

lakhs

of Submission

21/03/2025

1500 Hrs

21/03/2025

1500 Hrs

21/03/2025

1500 Hrs

Judge finds mass firings of federal probationary workers likely to be unlawful

PTI SAN FRACISCO

Afederal judge in San Francisco on Thursday found that the mass firings of probationary employees were likely unlawful, granting temporary relief to a coalition of labor unions and organizations that has sued to stop the Trump administration's massive dismantling of the federal workforce.

US District Judge William Alsup ordered the Office of Personnel Management to inform certain federal agencies that it had no authority to order the firings of probationary employees, including at the Department of Defense.

"OPM does not have any authority whatsoever, under any statute in the history of the universe," to hire or fire any employees but its own, Alsup said.

The complaint filed by five labour unions and five nonprofit organizations is among multiple lawsuits pushing back on the administration's efforts to shrink a workforce that Trump has called bloated and Danielle Leonard, an attorney sloppy. Thousands of probationary employees have already been fired, and his administration is now aiming at career

officials with civil service pro-

tection Lawyers for the government agree that the office has no authority to hire or fire employees in other agencies. But they said the Office of Personnel Management asked agencies to review and determine whether employees on probation were fit for continued employment. They also said that probationary employees are not guaranteed employment and that only the highest performing and mission-critical employees should be hired. "I think plaintiffs are conflat-

ing a request by OPM with an order by OPM," said Kelsey Management was not immediately returned Thursday Helland, an assistant U.S. attor-Michelle Lo, an assistant US ney in court Thursday. attorney with the Department Attorneys for the coalition cheered the order, although it of Justice, declined to comment Alsup ordered the personnel

does not mean that fired employees will automatically be office to inform a limited numrehired or that future firings will not occur. 'What it means in practical effects is the agencies of the federal government should hear the court's warning that that Punjab and Sind Bank, Bahadurgarh order was unlawful," said

for patriotic Americans across ber of federal agencies represented by the five nonprofits this country who were illegally fired from their jobs by an that are plaintiffs in the lawsuit, agency that had no authority to which include veterans, parks, do so," said Everett Kelley, small businesses and defense. He seemed particularly trounational president of the American Federation of bled by firings expected at the Government Employees. Department of Defense.

Date : 28.02.2025

Place : New Delh

only 84 were being repatriated. Judha Nugraha, director of Indonesian citizen protection at the ministry, has said that approximately 6,800 Indonesians have fallen victim to illegal job scams, ending up in online gambling operations or bogus investment schemes in Myanmar.

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995

Regd. Off: NS- 92, Khasra No-33/21, Ranaji Enclave, Najafgarh, Near Ariun Park Bus Stand, New Delhi -110043; Email : superiorfinlease@gmail.com; Website: http://www.superiorfinlease.com Phone No.: +91-9953798335

Corrigendum

n the notice to the members regarding the Extraordinary General Meeting of SUPERIOF FINLEASE LIMITED which was published on 28" February, 2025, please note that in the eading of Public Notice for attention of equity shareholders regarding Extraordinary General Meeting dated 26.02.2025, the date of Extraordinary General Meeting is mistakenl published as Friday 27th March, 2025 instead of Friday 21st, March 2025. It is requested to rea pove date as Friday, 21st March 2025. The error is regretted

For Superior Finlease Limit

PUBLIC NOTICE My client HDFC Bank Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mrs. Sangeeta Khandelwal and Naveen Khandelwal has taken a housing loan against Flat No. CM309A, Tower-3A, 9 th Floor, CM309A, Tower-3A, 9 th Floo DLF THE CAMELLIAS I SUBVENTION, S. No. DLF M Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 but in the internal movement of file one

file containing the original Flat Buyer Agreement is not traceable

which was lost/misplaced if any

body find the same may return to

the undersigned, if anybody

misuses the same, the same shall

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Karnail Singh, (Advocate)

be at his/their own risk and cost.



CHANGE OF NAME

Sector 45, Gurugram, have

changed my name Shivani

Solanki to Shivani Balhara.

Shivani Solanki to Shivani

I, Shobha Sharma W/o Brij

PD(1599)C

PD(1603)C

person. Kindly note.

I Shivani Balhara W/o Sh. Ravi Kumar R/o H. No. 310,

Social Security Administration could reduce 50% workforce

at

"The

benefit program.

ber will soar."

Security.

PTI WASHINGTON

The Social Security Administration is preparing to lay off at least 7,000 people from its workforce of 60,000, according to a person familiar with the agency's plans who is not authorised to speak publicly. The workforce reduction, according to a second person who also spoke on the condition of anonymity, could be as high as 50%.

It's unclear how the layoffs will directly impact the benefits of the 72.5 million Social Security beneficiaries, which include retirees and children who receive retirement and disability benefits. However, advocates and Democratic lawmakers warn that layoffs will reduce the agency's ability to serve recipients in a timely manner.

Some say cuts to the workforce are, in effect, a cut in benefits. Later Friday, the agency sent out a news release outlining plans for "significant workforce reductions," employee reassignments from "non-mission critical positions to mission critical direct service positions," and an offer of voluntary separation agreements. The agency said in its letter to workers that reassignments "may be involuntary and may require retraining for new workloads." The layoffs are part of the Trump administration's intensified efforts to shrink the size of the federal workforce through the Department of Government Efficiency, run by President Donald Trump's advisor Elon Musk.

A representative from the Social Security Administration did not respond to an Associated Press

of Sh. Ashish Gulia S/o. Sh. Joginder for the coalition, after the hear Singh and Smt. Sweety W/o. Sh. ing. "This ruling by Judge Alsup is Ashish Gulia situated at Plot No.855.

Sector-2, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar an important initial victory Harvana-124507. We hereby state that the Original Conveyance deed 3810 dated 18-10-2006 is lost. Punjab and

ß

Sind Bank is providing loan on the said property, if any person has any objection to the above consent, then contact the branch within 15 days or Advocate

Pooja Rani (Mobile: 7988636387)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Sh. Imran Khan who is purchasing the Plot No. 29, 31, & 33, Area Masuring 50 Sc, Yds. Out Of Khasra No.8/18 & 19/3, Situated In The Area Of Village Hastsal Delhi, State Delhi, Area Abadi Colony Known As Shiva Enclave, In Block-F, Vikas Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 from Sh. Bal Gowind Tiwari who became owner vide Notarized GPA dated 04.03.2022, Notarized ATS date 04.03.20228 WILL date 04.03.2022 executed by Sh. Hariom Buddha and same to be financed & mortloaged by Aditya Birla request for comment. The people familiar with the agency's plans say that SSA's new acting commissioner Leland Dudek held a meeting this week with management and told them they had to produce a plan that executed by Sh. Hariom Buddha and same to be financed & mortgaged by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. Lucem Legal LLP B-33B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sector 2,Noida,UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379 eliminated half of the workforce SSA headquarters in Washington and at least half of the workers in regional offices. In addition, the termination of office leases for Social Security sites across the country are detailed on the DOGE website,

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the Public at large that Sh. Sumit Arora Sio. Sh. Ramnik Arora is the 'Title Holder' in possession of 'DDA Built Up Freehold Property Bearing Flat No. 113-F, 2nd Floor, Pocket-4, Mayur Vihar, Phase-I, New Delhi-91', hereinafter referred to as 'Schadule Property' vide Sale Deed dated 18.10.19 duly registered as Regn. No. 7268, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 9386, pp. 63-68 on 23.10.2019 in the Office of the Sub Registrar-VIII, Geeta Colony, New Delhi. That original documents is. (I) NOC for Water & Electricity dated 04.09.89, (ii) Possession Silp issued by D.D.A. in favour of Smt. Chotti Mulji David, (iii) Death Certificate of Smt. Chotti Mulji David, (iii) Indemnity Bond dated 14.01.05, (v) Letter of Authority for Appointing Authorized Signatory issued by M/s. Mannil Property & Development Corp. Ltd. (for Sale Deed dated 12.01.05) and (vi) Letter of Authority for Appointing Authorized 22.09.05) w.r.t. the Schedule Property have been lost/misplaced and are untraceable as on date, in lieu of which Information Report dated 25.02.25 bearing LR No. 2619438/ 2025 has been filled with Delhi Police. Thal, 'Smt. Joyco V, Chawhan' prior to her marriage to Sh. VH. Joseph Chawhan was known by the name of 'Ms. JM. David' and thus, the Transfer Letter dated 01.02.93 was issued by DDA in the name of Ms. JM. David' and thus, the Transfer Letter dated 01.02.93 was issued by DA in the name of Ms. JM. David, howev upon her marriage, the Conveyance Deed dated 08.08.01 was executed in the name of 'Smt. Joycos V. Chawhan'. This notice is therefore issued to the Public at large, i.e. any Person(J). which maintains a "Wall of PUBLIC NOTICE Receipts," which is a selfdescribed "transparent account of DOGE's findings and actions." The site states that leases for dozens of Social Security sites across Arkansas, Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Kentucky, North Carolina, and other states have been or will be ended. Social Security Administration is already chron-

ically understaffed. Now, the Trump Administration wants to demolish it," said Nancy Altman, president of Social Security Works, an advocacy group for the popular public

Altman said the reductions in force "will deny many Americans access to their hard-earned Social Security benefits. Field offices around the country will close. Wait times for the 1-800 num-

Chawhan' This notice is therefore issued to the Public at large, i.e. any Person(s). Companylies), Authority(ies), Society(ies), Organisation(s), Financial Institution(s), Bank(s), HUPS etc. having any knowledge, custody or possession of the above mentioned lostmisplaced/untraceable original documents or otherwise having any claims, rights, title, Property, by way of Ownership, Succession Inheritance, Sale, Mortgage, Exchange, Charge, Lien, Gift, Trust, Encumbrance etc., may come forward with supporting documents, to be delivered to the undersigned within 15 days from the date of this Publication, post original surved, <u>Joni Kashyap</u>, Advocate Void and as waived. <u>Joni Kashyap</u>, Advocate Social Security is one of the nation's largest and most popular social programs. A January poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that two-thirds of US adults think the country Void and as waived. Joni Kashyap, Advoca Address:Chamber No.6, Block-E,Karkardooma Cou New Delhi-110032, Contact No. +91 99716 2644 is spending too little on Social

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that Gou Tonger is the owner of Hause no. 307, a measuring 170 Sa. Mirs, covered area 70.27 Mirs, situated at Block – B. Sector/Village Kat Greater Norda, District Gautam Budh Nagar, through Transfer Deed Idade 02.05.2022 as o Mir Gouray Tonger in respect of said Property. The above-said owner has misplaced the Original Regd. GPA dated 14.06.2010 as doc. 1011 & ATS WILL dated 14.06.2010 as coc. 1011 & ATS WILL dated 14.06.2010 execute Sh. Member in favour of Sh. Narendra Kuma respect of said property. (2) Original Trans Deed dated 21.03.2013 executed by Sh. Naren fumar in favour of Sh. Ashok Kumar in respect plotno. 307, totalplot area 170 Sg, Mirs. Applica No. - 2611137/2025, registered at P.S. Cr Branch, Delhi on dated 23.02.2025 Anyone v anch, Delhi on dated 23.02.2025 Anyon ds the above-mentioned documents, indover the same to the Manager of Adity using Finance Limited, Barakhamba, New burav Tonger intends to transfer the owner over-mentioned Property by way of Tr ed to Sudhir Sheoran. Subsequently, 1 ad to Sudhir Shedran' Subsequently. Su-scrain is in the process of mortgaging the perty with Aditya Birta Housing Fina nited. Any objections or concerns regarding maction should be raised within a period or so from the date of this public notice, ections submitted after the completion of this yperiod will not be considered binding with re-said property or the interests of our client, nyone wishes to raise an objection, please of thin the sitpulated 15-days period by conta

within the stipulated 15-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s); +910120-3101683, e-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

Form No. URC-2 Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI [Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies {Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014}

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application is proposed to be made atter fifteen days hereof but before the expiry of thirty days hereinafter to the Registrar at NCT of Dehi that HOREKAA TECHNOCON LLP (LLPIN: ACH-9205) a (LLP) business existence and Part I of business entitymay be registered under Part I Ghapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as company limited by shares.

The principal objects of the company are a follows: follows: Manufacture or Trading of tableware kitchenware and other household articles and toilet articles of plastic, including manufacture of vacuum flasks and other vacuuw vessels gas stoves.cooking/kitchen appliances, meta household articles (plates,saucers, pots ketties, saucepans, frying pans and other non-electrical utensils, small hand-operated kitchen, appliances and accessories)

Kitchen, appliances and accessories) A copy of the draft memorandum and articles association of the proposed company may i inspected at the office atHouse No 2/11 Moc Town-2, Block D Landmark Near Mcdonal Model Town, North West Delhi-110009.

Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to thisapplication may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at (address) within twenty one days from the date o publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. lated this 1st day of March 2025

before Notary Public Delhi. Name(s) of Applican 1. CHIRAG AROR 2. RADHIKA AROR

	CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/PR/FH/1257	RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 1C Cables IN BRPL	₹ 5.74 Cr	₹ 5.74 lakhs	21/03/2025 1500 Hrs	21/03/2025 1600 Hrs
	CMC/BR/25-26/ FK/PR/KG/1258		₹ 44.93 Cr	₹ 44.93 lakhs	21/03/2025 1500 Hrs	21/03/2025 1615 Hrs

Balhara is one and the same Cost of each Tender Document : ₹1180/

CMC/BR/25-26/

FK/PR/FH/1254

CMC/BR/25-26/

FK/PR/FH/1255

CMC/BR/25-26/

FK/PR/FH/1256

For any query call on 011-49107235 or e-mail on Brpl.Eauction@relianceada.com

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV

GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 2CX25

SQ.MM IN BRPL

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV

GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 4C CABLES

IN BRPL

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF LT

AERIALLY BUNCHED CABLES OF SIZES

3CX150 & 3CX95 SO MM IN BRPL

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bha tion No.: U40109DL2001PLC11152 : +91 11 4910 7235 | Website : www.bs

	Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 I Website : www.bsesdelhi.com					
Behari Sharma R/o H.NO.46,						
Vijay Block, Laxmi Nagar	Verka Har Din Da, Har Dil Da					
Delhi-110092 declare that	THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FED					
Sohobha Sharma & Shobha	SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. Notice Inviting Tender	SCO 153-155. SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX NO. 0172-5041812,66 Notice Inviting Tender				
Sharma both names are same	www.verka.coop e tenders are hereby Invited for the purchase and supply of following items:-					
	Sr. Name of Work/Item	Period/Tentative				
& One Person i.e. myself.	No. 1. For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh	Qty				
PD(1600)C	Hiring a professional agency for Designing, Creating and Executing a					
I, JC-472891X Sub Sachin	comprehensive branding and advertisement solution for Milkfed Punjab.	02 years				
Kumar R/o- Vill- Jagahari, PO-	2. <u>For Verka Chandigarh Dairy</u> Sealed tender for hiring of five seater Tata Xenon/ Mahindra Bolero	01 No.				
Kajikhera, Teh & Dist-	pickup double cabin or equivalent vehicle along with driver	01110.				
Muzffarnagar, U.P 251001	3. <u>For Verka Mohali Dairy</u> a) Contract for providing security personnel's.	Annual				
have changed my daughter's	 b) Hiring of insulated & refrigerated vehicles with different capacities for supply of verka milk and milk products. 	25 No's (no.of vehicles may be				
name from Seneha Kumari to		increased or decreased)				
Sneha Malik, vide affidavit	 c) Housekeeping and letting filled milk pouch handling activities 4. For Verka Ludhiana Dairy 					
dated 28/02/2025 before	Job contract for packing of liquid milk, dahi and lassi in pouches and cleaning of milk plastic trays.	Annual				
Notary Public Delhi.	5. <u>For Verka Patiala Dairy</u> Hiring of Vehicles:-					
PD(1601)C	i. Tata 207, Mahindra Maxi truck etc. for transportation of milk from	02 No's				
I, Badarun Nisha, Mother of-	societies/farms at MCC samana route no.28 & route no.42. ii. Double cabin pickup vehicle for LN2 gas supply route.	01 No.				
No.16017500W Hav Meraj	iii. Tata 207, Mahindra Maxi truck etc. for supply of Verka Cattle	01 No.				
Ahamad, R/o- Vill- Tandwa,	Feed, mineral mixture, ghee etc. to societies/farms. For Verka Hoshiarpur Dairy					
Post- Ekail, Teh- Sikanderpur,	Advertisement material. (Flexi board, flexi banner, star flex banner, vinyl board, glow sun board, gum sheet sticker, pamphlets, danglers,	Annual				
Dist- Ballia, U.P 221711, have	sun board, wall painting, vehicle painting, standies, canopies).	7.11.11.44				
changed my name from	7. <u>For Verka Sangrur Dairy</u> Allotment of Verka Milk booths on rent.	Three Years				
Badarun Nisha to Badrun	i. Civil Hospital Tapa ii. Civil Hospital Bhadaur					
Nisha, vide affidavit dated	8. For Verka Amritsar Dairy					
28/02/2025 before Notary	a) Purchase of:- i. Polypropylene bottles cap. 180ml with caps.	Annual				
Public Delhi.	ii. Corrugated tray for PP bottles cap. 180ml.					
PD(1602)C	 iii. Printed shrink sleeve rolls for PP bottles cap. 180ml. iv. Conduction aluminium lid foil for PP bottles cap. 180ml. 					
I, Ram Nath Yadav, F/o-	b) Hiring of:-	01.04.2025 to 31.03.2027/				
No.10136992Y RFN Sumit	i. Can route vehicles for lifting of milk from DCS to MCC	15 No's				
Yadav, R/o- H-33, Prem	Capacity:- 1 Ton to 2 Ton. ii. Insulated Single portion road milk tankers (Capacity- 10000 Ltr.) for the transportation of milk from BMC/ MCC to Verka	10 No's				
Nagar-1, Kirari Suleman	Amritsar Dairy.	1/212/22/212/202				
Nagar, North West Delhi,	 c) Supply of Indonesian Steam coal. d) Outsourcing of security, housekeeping & horticulture activities. 	1500 MT Annual				
0	 For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Loading/Unloading of Verka milk & milk products corrugated boxes, 	Annual (from the date of issue				
Delhi- 110086, have changed	SMP bags.	of work order)				
my name from Ram Nath	NOTE: 1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our webs	site i e www.verka.coon &				
Yadav to Ram Nath, vide	e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.	no no. ministerica.coop a				
affidavit dated 28/02/2025	2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.					
before Notary Public Delhi						

NA/12/28385/2023/42103 Dated CHD :- 2/28/2025

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

GDP growth rate 6.2 per cent in Q3

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

India's economic growth rate decelerated to 6.2 per cent in the October-December quarter this fiscal, mainly due to poor performance by mining, manufacturing and all other sectors, with the exception of agriculture.

However, on a sequential basis, the economic growth rate in the third quarter showed improvement over 5.6 per cent recorded in the

second quarter. The GDP (gross domestic product) growth was 9.5 per cent in the October-December 2023 quarter, according to the data released by the National Statistical Óffice (NSO) on Friday.

It also released the second advance estimate for the current fiscal and pegged the

economic growth at 6.5 per utility services segment grew cent against 6.4 per cent 5.1 per cent in the third estimated in the first advance estimate released in January. The manufacturing sector's output growth, as per the gross value added (GVA), in the third quarter dipped to 3.5 per cent from 14 per cent in the variance of the services sector – trade, hotel, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting – was 6.7 per in the year-ago period.

Mining and quarrying production growth slowed to 1.4 per cent in the third quarter from 4.7 per cent a year ago. The construction sector growth too slipped to 7 per

cent from 10 per cent a year ago. However, the output of the

farm sector increased by an impressive 5.6 per cent during the quarter compared to a growth of 1.5 per cent in the year-ago period. The national accounts data showed that the electricity, gas, water supply, and other

quarter against 10.1 per cent a year earlier. The GVA growth in the services sector - trade, hotel, cent during the third quarter

against 8 per cent. Financial, real estate and professional services grew by .2 per cent in the third quarter over 8.4 per cent earlier.

administration, Public defence and other services posted 8.8 per cent growth, marginally up from 8.4 per cent in the third quarter of the last fiscal.

"Real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹187.95 Lakh Crore in the financial year 2024-25, against the First Revised Estimate of

growth rate in Real GDP during 2024-25 is estimated at 6.5 per cent as compared to 9.2 per cent in 2023-24," the NSO statement said.

According to the statement, nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹331.03 Lakh Crore in 2024-25 against Rs 301.23 lakh crore in 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.9 per cent.

The real GDP or GDP at Constant Prices in Q3 of FY 2024-25 is estimated at ₹47.17 Lakh Crore over ₹44.44 Lakh Crore in Q3 of FY 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 6.2 per cent, it addad added.

The nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices in Q3 of FY 2024-25 is estimated at ₹84.74 Lakh Crore against ₹77.10 Lakh Crore in Q3 of

The Reserve Bank on Friday conducted US dollar-

rupee swap worth \$10 Billion

for injecting long-term liquidity in the system, with

the auction eliciting robust

PTI MUMBAI

demand.

March 6.

times

RBI conducts forex

swap worth \$10 Billion

the

GDP for the year 2023-24 of FY 2023-24, registering a ₹176.51 Lakh Crore. The growth rate of 9.9 per cent. The NSO revised upwards the GDP growth for 2023-24 to 9.2 per cent from 8.2 per

the years 2023-24 and 2022-23 stands at ₹176.51 Lakh Crore and ₹161.65 Lakh Crore, respectively, showing a growth of 9.2 per cent during 2023-24 compared to

Per Capita Income i.E. Per Capita Net National Income at current prices is estimated at ₹1,69,145 and ₹1,88,892 respectively for 2022-23 and 2023-24, it noted. The NSO has also revised

GDP estimates for the first and second quarters of this fiscal to 6.5 and 5.6 per cent from 6.7 per cent and 5.4 per

cent, respectively

Reserve Bank side

A bank shall sell US dollars to

simultaneously agree to buy

the same amount of US

dollars at the end of the swap

Reserve Bank and

push GDP growth in Q4: CEA

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

A significant pick up in the government capex and additional expenditure linked to Maha Kumbh congregation are expected to push the fourth quarter GDP growth to 7.6 per cent, required to achieve an overall economic expansion of 6.5 per cent in the current fiscal, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said on Friday.

Briefing media on the third quarter GDP number, he said the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) augurs well, and the upwardly revised 6.5 per cent GDP estimate for the current financial year is realistic.

During the third quarter ended December 2024, India's economic growth rate decelerated to 6.2 per cent against 9.5 per cent a year ago, mainly due to poor performance by mining, manufacturing and all other

sectors, except agriculture. NSO also released the second advance estimate for the current fiscal and pegged the economic growth at 6.5 per cent against 6.4 per cent estimated in the first advance estimate released in January.

grow at 7.6 per cent in the rattled investors. fourth quarter, which, according to experts, is He also said that the Indian optimistic. Nageswaran noted that 7.6

per cent growth is realistic

and can be achieved during

"There are some good

developments, such as a very significant pickup in government capex and the

additional expenditure that

we are seeing happening because of the footfalls in

Maha Kumbh...That we have

Amidst external negative factors, he said, there are incremental positive factors,

making a good case for implied growth of 7.6 per cent being attained in the

Asked about the stock market fall, he said looking at

the long-term prospects of

compared to other places and

looking at the historical track

record of the Indian market,

one shouldn't be over-

interpreting the near-term

Benchmark indices Sensex

and Nifty tumbled nearly 2

per cent on Friday, mirroring

deep losses in global markets

as the latest announcement

economy

Indian

been seeing," he said.

fourth quarter.

the

numbers.

the fourth quarter.

economy is on the verge of crossing \$4 Trillion in FY25. Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹331.03 Lakh Crore in the year 2024-25, against ₹301.23 Lakh Crore

in 2023-24, showing a growth rate of 9.9 per cent. About inflation, Nageswaran

said, it is trending down. He further said that the near term global economic outlook is influenced by the trade policies of major economies amid a slowing disinflation.

Despite the uncertain global outlook, he said, India's economic momentum is expected to be sustained, driven by strong rural demand and a revival in

urban consumption. The robust kharif production and better rabi sowing, coupled with higher reservoir levels and seasonal

winter correction vegetable prices, augur well for food inflation going forward, he said. Budget's The Union

emphasis on agriculture, MSMEs, investment, and exports is likely to enhance India's medium-term economic prospects, he added.

(RBI) said it received 244 bids India, EU discusses progress of FTA during the auction and 161 of them were accepted for amount totalling \$10.06 Billion.

PTI NEW DELHI,

India and the European Union (EU) on Friday discussed the progress of negotiations on the proposed free trade agreement (FTA), aimed at boosting two-way commerce and investments. The agreement was discussed during a meeting between Commerce and industry Minister Piyush Goyal and European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maros Sefcovic here. "Had a candid and insightful discussion with EU Trade Commissioner @MarosSefcovic over breakfast today on the India-EU FTA and the progress of the Trade and Technology Council. Exciting times ahead evating our trade and investment ties to the next level as trusted partners," Goyal said in a post on X. Sefcovic is accompanying European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who is here on an official visit with the EU College of Commissioners or senior political leaders of the bloc. meeting The assumes significance as the senior officials of the two sides are scheduled to hold the tenth round of negotiations for the FTA from March 10-14 in Brussels.

progress of the talks.

Union Minister Piyush Goyal during a meeting with EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic, in New Delh

Further strengthening of economic ties between the two is crucial in light of the threat from US President Donald Trump to impose higher tariffs. In the current uncertain

global economic situation, India is the fastest growing major economy. It is projected to grow at 6.4 per cent in 2024-25.

In the ninth round, India and the EU discussed trade issues covering goods, services, investment and government procurement along with necessary rules such as rules of origin, SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary), and technical barriers to trade. In June 2022, India and the sides are negotiating a free

27-nation EU bloc resumed trade ations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets. demanding Besides significant duty cuts in automobiles, the EU wants tax reduction in wines, spirits and a strong intellectual property regime. Indian goods' exports to the EU, such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, will become more competitive, if the pact gets concluded successfully. India is also seeking data security status for the IT sector. The lack of this status has prevented the flow of constitive information to fully built-up (CBU) vehicles.

India, a big deal for its IT

industry. India's bilateral trade in goods with the EU was \$137.41 Billion in 2023-24 (exports 575.92 Billion, imports \$61.48 billion), making it the largest trading partner of India for goods. The EU market accounts for about 17 per cent of India's total exports, while the EU's exports to India make up 9 per cent of its total

exports In addition, the bilateral trade in services, in 2023, between India and the EU was estimated at \$51.45 Billion.

The agreement is aimed at further boosting bilateral trade and investments between the two. The two agreement, an

amid global uncertainties. The swap was in the nature of a simple buy/sell foreign exchange swap from the

backdrop of rupee trading at 87.46 against the US dollar Friday.

Jharkhand Economic Survey estimates Centre's fiscal deficit mining royalties will fetch ₹19,300 Crore

PTI RANCHI

Projecting robust mining growth to be a key driver of the state's economic development, Jharkhand Economic Survey on Friday estimated rovaltie will fetch ₹19,300 Crore in the ongoing fiscal.

The sector's contribution to mining the state's non-tax revenue continues to grow, with studying the successful mining royalties projected to mining models of states like generate 19,300 Crore for FY 2024-25, reflecting a 20 per It said NTPC mining has cent increase compared to the reported remarkable coal revised estimates from the

operations. Jharkhand is actively

exceeding 19

touches 74.5 per cent for 2024-25 has been pegged at 4.8 per cent of GDP (lower than earlier estimate of 4.9 per

cent) and at 4.4 per cent for 2025-26.

Crore.

transferred

the previous year.

According to the data, ₹10,74,179 Crore has been

governments as devolution of

share of taxes by Government

of India up to January, which is

₹2,53,929 Crore higher than

to

state

Buy/Sell swap. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank will be conducting a USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction of \$10 Pilliag for a torget of 2 more?" The auction comes in the through

Billion forex swap. The rupee declined 28 paise to

87.46 against the US dollar on

The settlement of auction will take place on March 4 and The USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction for a tenor of 3 years was oversubscribed 1.62 The Reserve Bank of India

announced liquidity injection worth over ₹1.5 Lakh Crore different

instruments, including \$5

While announcing the swap auction last week, the RBI had said: "In order to meet the durable liquidity needs of the system, the Reserve Bank has decided to inject Rupee liquidity for longer duration through long-term USD/INR

Billion for a tenor of 3 years." In January also, the RBI had

To achieve 6.5 per cent growth, India's GDP has to of an additional 10 per cent tariff on Chinese products

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

The Centre's fiscal deficit touched 74.5 per cent of the annual target at the end of January 2025, according to the data released by Controller deficit for the financial year General of Accounts (CGA) on

In absolute terms, the fiscal ending March



money 10

In January this year, Goyal was in Brussels to meet the European Commissioner for Trade to take stock of the

invest ion agreement and an agreement on geographical indications (GIs)

A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural manufactured prod or product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its

origin. According to the economic think tank GTRI, In FY24, the

The total value of mineral production in Jharkhand as of March 2024 stood at approximately ₹75,358 Crore, underscoring the state's rich reserves of coal, iron ore, and bauxite, it said.

As a state endowed with approximately 40 per cent of India's total mineral resources, Jharkhand holds significant reserves of coal, iron ore, copper, and uranium, making it a pivotal contributor to the nation's mineral production.

"In the fiscal year 2024-25, Jharkhand's mining sector has continued to demonstrate robust growth, solidifying its role as a key driver of the state's economic development.

previous fiscal year," the survey tabled in the Assembly Jharkhand Finance by Radhakrishna minister Kishore said.

However, despite Jharkhand's vast mineral wealth, the mining sector directly employs only around 20,000 workers, indicating the need to operationalise inactive mines to expand job opportunities and fully leverage the state's resource potential, it said. The mining sector plays a

crucial role not only in revenue generation but also ensuring the state's in industrial growth and employment. To further optimise revenue and improve the efficiency of

million tonne (MT) in the first half of FY 2024-25, reflecting a 20 per cent yearover-year growth.

This significant output has strengthened the energy sector by ensuring fuel security for thermal power plants across the country, further reinforcing Jharkhand's position as a leading coal-producing state. The survey said that in line with its commitment to sustainable development, the Department of Mines and Geology has emphasised the importance of value addition, local processing, and promoting downstream industries to generate employment and boost local economies.

estimated at ₹15.69 Lakh Friday.

In actual terms, the fiscal deficit - the gap between expenditure and revenue - was ₹11,69,542 Crore during the April-January 2024-25 period.

The deficit was 63.6 per cent of Revised Estimates (RE) of 2023-24 in the year-ago period. The CGA data showed that the central government's tax revenue (net) was ₹19.03 Lakh Crore, or 74.4 per cent of the RE of 2024-25. It was at 80.9 per cent during the corresponding year of the last financial year.

The total expenditure was at ₹35.7 Lakh Crore, or 75.7 per cent of the RE, according to the revenue-expenditure data of the Union government. In the year-ago period it was at 74.7 per cent of that year's RE. In the Union Budget presented in Parliament, the fiscal deficit

INBRIEF

Out of the total revenue expenditure (₹28.12 Lakh Crore), ₹8,75,461 Crore was on account of interest payments and ₹3,37,733 Crore on account of major subsidies. Commenting on the CGA data, Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA, said revenue expenditure rose by 5.1 per cent year-on-year in January 2025, whereas capital expenditure surged by about 51

per cent, which would augur well for economic activity in the ongoing quarter.

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT VIT-AP

BINOD ANAND NEW DELHI

For years, Indian farmers have struggled with inadequate credit access, inefficient inefficient procurement systems, and bureaucratic delays in government support. The Kisan Credit Card (KCC), introduced in 1998 under Union Agriculture Minister Sompal Shastri, was a pioneering initiative, however, in today's fast-evolving financial ecosystem, the KCC must evolve into a multipurpose tool integrating procurement, production planning, and financial empowerment. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

through cooperative reforms, digitalisation, and advanced technology like blockchain. KCC is no longer just a borrowing mechanism-it is being envisioned as a financial identity for farmers, ensuring transparent MSP payments, streamlined subsidy disbursals, and efficient procurement

planning. blockchain Integrating technology into the KCC system will enable every transaction-from seed purchase to final sale-to be recorded in a tamper-proof ledger. This will provide realtime production data to agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI), allowing them to make advance procurement decisions. As a result, market prices will stabilise, middlemen exploitation will reduce, and farmers will receive fair prices.

Blockchain-enabled traceability will also enhance food safety, boost export Home Minister Amit Shah, potential, and India is undergoing a policymakers

transformation in rural finance interventions based regional crop patterns. With better data analytics, the government can plan input subsidies, allocate irrigation alerts,

resources, and predict future demand more efficiently. Transforming KCC into an Aadhaar-linked, chip-enabled smart card can turn it into a real-time financial education tool. Farmers will receive SMS mobile app notifications, and updates through local extension centers about loan eligibility, repayment schedules, interest subsidies, and market trends. Enhancing financial literacy will improve credit discipline and open avenues for new financial products such as savings accounts, pension schemes, and insurance policies. A financially aware farmer is better positioned to

KCC as a Financial Identity: The key to transparent a MSP

handle market risks, invest in technology, and reduce dependence on informal credit sources. Beyond agricultural finance, KCC can serve as a credit card for farmers' daily consumer help tailor needs. Currently, small and

marginal farmers lack access to on formal credit for personal consumption, forcing them to rely on high-interest informal loans. Expanding KCC's scope within the financial ecosystem will enable farmers to use it for essential purchases, education, healthcare, and household expenses.

A chip-enabled KCC with UPI integration will allow digital payments at local stores, ATM withdrawals, and online shopping for agricultural inputs. This will bridge ruralurban financial gaps and give farmers the same financial privileges as urban consumers. Moreover, building credit history through KCC transactions will facilitate higher-value loans for farm expansion, mechanization, and allied activities like dairy and fisheries.

A key grievance of farmers regarding MSP is delayed lack payments, of transparency, and middlemen interference. A blockchain-enabled KCC system will directly link MSP procurement with farmers' bank accounts,

without deductions. tracking of Real-time

farmers to monitor transactions, understand the accepted quantity, and know the payment status, bringing accountability to the system. Additionally, integrating mandi prices with the KCC portal will help farmers make informed colling informed selling decisions, choosing between MSP procurement, private buyers, or direct-to-consumer markets based on prevailing rates.

Expanding the role of multipurpose cooperative societies will transform PACS from mere lending institutions into procurement hubs, storage centers, and rural banking service providers.

This will reduce reliance on commercial banks and empower farmers through local financial institutions. Furthermore, the increase in collateral-free loan limits to ₹5 Lakh and interest subvention schemes reducing rates to 4 per cent per annum will make credit more accessible and

ensuring instant payments affordable for small farmers and tenant cultivators.

> KCC is poised to become the financial backbone of Indian agriculture-integrating banking, credit, procurement, and production planning into a single, seamless platform.A chip-enabled, Aadhaar-linked KCC will provide financial security, transparent MSP payments, seamless subsidy transfers, and direct market access. The integration of blockchain, direct benefit transfers (DBT), and smart financial tools will ensure that no farmer is left behind.

The next revolution in Indian agriculture will be driven by technology-powered financial empowerment. India must accelerate this transformation to ensure that all 140 million farmers benefit from this financial revolution. The future of Indian agriculture depends on it—and the time to act is now.

(The writer is a Secretary General CNRI and Member, High Power Committee on MSP and Agriculture Reforms, Government of India)



around Vijayawada and Guntur visited the campus enthusiastically to participate in various events aimed at promoting scientific zeal and temperament including the expert talks on Li-ion battery industry by Amara Raja Battery scientists.

PFC SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF MADHYA PRADESH AT **GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT 2025**

Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) has signed a Memorandum Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Madhya Pradesh to extend financial assistance of ₹26,800 Crores



to the State's power utilities. This funding will support capital expenditure projects for entities such as Madhya Pradesh Power Generation Company Limited (MPPGCL), Madhya Pradesh Power Transmission Company Limited (MPPTCL), and MP DISCOMs.

procurement will enable

www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

Amit Singh's Rhythmic of Marble explores nature's essence through intricately *carved sculptures*

with deep

symbolism, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR

ne pioneer

[ART & CULTURE] VIVACILY

Patience

THE EXHIBITION CAPTURES THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE, OUR CONNECTION WITH NATURE, THE PASSAGE OF TIME AND THE PATIENCE **REQUIRED TO SHAPE BEAUTY FROM RESIS-**TANCE, MUCH LIKE LIFE ITSELF

arble has a way of holding stories within its veins, waiting for the right hands to bring them to life. Rhythmic of Marble, the solo exhibition by Amit Singh at Triveni Kala Sangam, was a breathtaking display of patience, devotion and an artist's relentless pursuit of expression.

Amit Singh's work is about preserving the delicate balance between nature and human intervention. When asked about the concept behind his exhibition, he spoke with a quiet intensity. "Nature has always been my priority," he said. "My work is about our con-nection with it."

Each sculpture told a different story, some reflecting the tranquillity of nature, others capturing its raw beauty. His intricate carvings on marble ranged from smooth, flowing forms that mimicked water's grace to bold, angular pieces that seemed to resist time itself. The detailing was mesmerising, delicate veins running through stone, each mark a reminder of the patience and precision it took to create. His Nature Series was particularly striking, with sculptures inspired by the elements, wind, water, and earth, translated into marble with astonishing delicacy. The dedication behind

the exhibition was staggering. Singh revealed that it took him five years to complete the entire body of work. "Some pieces were done in minutes," he admitted. "A simple idea, a quick execution. But others, some marble works

demanded days, even weeks. Patience is the key.'

His favourite piece? He smiled at the question. "That's like asking a parent to choose their favourite child," he said. "Every sculpture is a part of me.

The sculptures seemed to hold an unspoke dialogue with their surroundings. Natural light filtered through, casting shifting shadows

on the marble, adding depth and movement to the stillness. The play of light and texture gave each piece a different life depending on the time of day, a quiet reminder of the ever-changing nature of art and perception.

Beyond the aesthetic, *Singh's* work carried an undeniable emotional weight. Some pieces felt serene, almost meditative. Others had a raw intensity, as though the stone itself resisted the chisel before surrendering to form. His ability to extract such depth from a material as unyielding as marble was nothing short of extraordinary.

At a time when mass production dominates, Singh's art stands as a craftsmanship that cannot be rushed. His exhibition was an experience, a moment of stillness in a world that rarely pauses. As I left, I couldn't help but glance back one last time. The sculptures stood there, unmoving yet alive, each a quiet reminder of the hands that



MARBLE, BOTH FRAGILE AND ENDURING, MIRRORS HUMAN EXISTENCE, SHAPED BY TIME, PATIENCE AND THE ARTIST'S SKILLED HANDS

had shaped them, the time they had endured and the stories they would continue to tell long after the exhibition ended.

Chromalogue: Art in Every Shade



BY TEAM VIVA

olours hold memories, emotions and unspoken stories. 🖌 At Chromalogue - Colours & Conversations, they take centre stage, shaping a dialogue beyond words. The group exhibition presented by The Art Exchange Project and curated by Aarti Uppal Singla, brings together 15 artists who use colour as their language, creating an immersive experience where shades and textures communicate in their own quiet yet powerful way.

The gallery becomes a world of shifting moods and narratives. *Neelesh's Echoes of Dawn 1* fills the space with deep blues, evoking the quiet beauty of early mornings. Aarti Uppal Singla's Lotus Pond 1 captures resilience in soft yet strik ing tones.

Silence Speaks in Colour by Madhav Bhardwaj invites viewers to listen beyond the visible, while Portal of Peace by Himani Pasricha offers a sense of stillness. Nikita Gambhir's Smell the Coffee warms the senses, drawing on the simple joys of everyday life. These works do not just exist on the wall, they engage, they invite and they stay with those who witness them. Beyond paint, mixed

media adds depth and dimension. Priya Bery's Poppies: The Intoxicators bursts with life on Waterford paper, while Winnie Singh's Meditative Reveries 9 softens the senses, creating a quiet space within. *Babita Varma's* Aswan, sculpted in clay on wood, and Kripal Mathur's Spring Dance, work with hand-dyed goat's wool, show that colour is not just seen, it is felt.

The exhibition stretches further into digital and graphic precision. Khushroo Kalyanwala's The Blues That Bring Cheer across fine paper, while Sushil Bhasin's Trance Dance moves with an almost hypnotic rhythm. Pragati Gupta's Paws-1, a pen drawing on textured paper, proves that even in black and white, colour is imagined.

Chromalogue is a celebration of this language, a space where colours speak and those who listen will hear.



Experience the evolution of art

At India Design 2025 in New Delhi, Masha Art reinterprets artistic heritage through bold experimentation, transforming tradition into a dynamic, sensorial experience, says SAKSHI PRIYA

A India Design 2025, an exhibition brings this idea to life in a way that feels both rooted in tradition and open to reinvention.Walking through the space, the artworks create a sense of connection between past and present, between intricate craftsmanship and bold contemporary expression. It is a meeting point of heritage and innovation, where stories unfold through colour, form and texture.

The collection, curated with a thoughtful eye, features works by 21 artists including Seema Kohli, Chandrashekhar Morkondo and Sanjay Chakraborty. Every piece feels like a conversation, one that speaks of history, personal narratives and the evolving artistic language of the subcontinent. Some paintings draw from mythology, their golds and deep blue's reminiscent of temple murals, while others break away from

convention with striking abstraction. The sculptures add another dimension, their forms shifting between realism and imagination, inviting the viewer to explore beyond the surface.

A DYNAMIC INTERPLAY OF TRA-

DITION AND INNOVATION, WHERE

21 ARTISTS REDEFINE ARTISTIC BOUNDARIES THROUGH COLOR,

FORM AND TEXTURE

There is an undeniable energy in the way these works come together.

canvas, sits beside an abstract piece movement and emotion where colour dominates form, challenging perception. A sculptural installation nearby, crafted from repurposed materials, transforms discarded objects into something unexpected and powerful. The juxtaposition of mediums and styles creates a dynamic interplay, one that encourages curiosity and dialogue.

> stillness, their subtle shade and delicate strokes evoking a quiet reverence for nature and tradition. Others disrupt

take precedence over precision. The diversity in expression makes the exhibition feels alive, constantly shifting in meaning depending on who is viewing it. Samarth Mathur, the mind behind this Some pieces invite showcase, describes art as an investment in culture and creativity. His approach moves beyond traditional curation, treating each

rt has always been a reflection A painting depicting a celestial dance, this calm with bold, unrestrained piece as part of a larger dialogue. This is intricate lines almost breathing on strokes of pigment, where is not art placed on walls to be admired from a distance, it is art meant to be lived with, engaged

with and understood. The exhibition respects artistic heritage but does not hesitate to push boundaries. It does not try to define what Indian art should be, instead offering a glimpse into what it can become

> DESIGN IS NOT ONLY ABOUT AESTHETICS, IT IS ABOUT CREATING MEANING.THIS EXHIBITION **BRINGS ART TO LIFE**



sports 12

Hockey India unveils performance-based system for national championship

PTI NEW DELHI

ockey India on Friday unveiled a new format with a promotion and relegation system for the Senior Women's National Championship to be held in Panchkula from March 1 to

The competition will feature 28 teams divided into three divisions titled 'A', 'B' and 'C'. The new format aims to enhance competition but also provides intends to provide a pathway for teams to ascend to higher divisions or risk relegation based on their performances.

The introduction of the promotion and relegation system is a significant step in raising the standard of hockey across the country," Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey said.

"It ensures that every match in the Championship holds importance, whether it's a battle for the title or to avoid relegation. We look forward to an exciting tournament where teams can showcase their skills and aim for the

top." The top 12 teams will compete in Division A which will be further split into four



will play in a league format within their respective pools. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the quarterfinals, scheduled for March 9, followed by the semifinals on March 10 and the final and 3rd/4th place play-off on March 12. The bottom two teams will be

pools of three teams each and relegated to Division B for the next edition Nine teams will compete in Division B, with the goal of earning promotion to Division A. Here, five teams are in Pool A and four are in Pool B.

The top two teams will earn promotion to Division A for the next season, while the

bottom two will be relegated to Division C. No knockout rounds will be held in Division B; the league standings will determine promotions and relegations," HI said.

Seven teams in Division C will vie for promotion to Division B which will have three teams in Pool A and four in Pool B Division C will also only play

league matches, with the top securing two teams promotion to Division B. During the league stage, teams in all three divisions will earn points based on their performance. Each team will

be awarded three points for a win, one point for a draw, and

no points for a loss. In Division A, the league stage will culminate with the knockout rounds, while Divisions B and C will conclude with final standings determined solely by league matches.

Division A **Pool A:** Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha, Hockey Karnataka Pool B: Hockey Maharashtra, Manipur Hockey, Hockey

Punjab Pool C: Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Mizoram, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu Pool D: Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Bengal, Uttar Pradesh Hockey

Division B Pool A: Telangana Hockey, Hockey Uttarakhand, Assam Hockey, Hockey Rajasthan, Hockey Association of Bihar **Pool B:** Delhi Hockey, Chhattisgarh Hockey, Hockey Chandigarh, Hockey Himachal Division C

Pool A: Kerala Hockey, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu Hockey, Hockey Gujarat **Pool B:** Hockey Andhra Pradesh, Le Puducherry

Hockey, Hockey Arunachal, Hockey Jammu and Kashmir.



Praggnanandhaa draws against Gurel Ediz

PTI PRAGUE

randmaster GPraggnanandhaa played out a second straight draw against Turkey's Gurel Ediz while Aravindh Chithambaram crashed through the defences of Germany's Vincent Keymer in

the second round of the Prague Masters here. Chithambaram, who has been knocking hard on the doors of elite circles, scored his first victory with black pieces after squeezing himself out of danger zone in his first-round game against Czech Grandmaster Nguyen Thai

Dai Van. The Indian was involved in the sole decisive game of the day in the 10-players round-robin format, while the other

normal, while the other matches ended in draws. Dai Van drew his second game on the trot with Sam Shankland of the United States, top seeded Wei Yi from China opened his account after splitting the point with Dutchman Anish Giri, and Quang Leim Le of Vietnam achieved the same result against Navara David from Czech Republic.

With seven rounds to go, Chithambaram joined Shankland in lead on 1.5 points out of two games. They are followed by Giri, Le, Dai Van, David, Keymer and Praggnanandhaa. Ediz and Wei Yi share the last

spot on a half point apiece from their two games.

On a day when world champion Boris Spassky breathed his last, Chithambaram's victory had traits of the Russian's style of play to go for the kill at the first opportunity and not let it slip. The Queen's gambit accepted may have a solid reputation with black pieces but the young Indian cavalry is all out to breakout of that stereotype. How else could one explain Chithambaram's choice of move order that gave white the luxury of a dynamic centre? It was an inch-by-inch invasion that won Chithambaram a pawn in the middle game and the trade of queens was later forced by the Indian to harp on the better

Chithambaram was quite unstoppable as he kept increasing the pressure till Keymer walked in to a lost rook and pawns endgame - it took 45 moves in all.

Praggnanandhaa has shown his ability to play all openings with either colour and his choice of French defence turned out to be a good one guaranteeing an equal game.

The lone problem was to make something out of an equal position and the 16-year old Turk proved why he is hailed as one of the brightest among young Europeans, as he gave a little away.

The players signed the peace on move 46 when it was evident the rook endgame did not offer chances for either of them.

In the challengers' section which is being held simultaneously, Divya Deshmukh broke out of her shackles to score an impressive victory over Richard Stalmach of Czech Republic.

The adage about the King being a strong piece in the endgame came right for Divya, even though her position oscillated between better and

winning. In the end, Divya had two connected passed pawns in the middle of the board, well aided by her marching king. The

game lasted 50 moves. Results (round 2): Vincent Keymer (GER, 1) lost to Chithambaram Aravindh (IND, 1.5); Wei Yi (CHN, 0.5) drew with Anish Giri (Ned, 1); Nguyen Thai Dai Van (CZE, 1) drew with Sam Shankland (USA, 1.5); Gurel Ediz (TUR, 0.5)drew with Praggnanandhaa (IND, 1); David Navara (CZE, 1) drew with Le Quang Leim (VIE, 1).



WPL: RCB looks for victory against DC

heel.

Her

PTI BENGALURU

Defending champions Royal Challengers (RCB) Bengaluru will be determined champions to give their home fans a parting victory over a fatigued Delhi Capitals (DC) outfit here on Saturday, before the Women's Premier League (WPL) moves to Lucknow for its third leg

Gujarat Giants. The bowling department has been equally underwhelming. Frontline pacers Renuka Singh and Kim Garth have RCB had begun the third season of WPL with two wins in Vadodara, but their fortunes have nosedived since lacked consistency, often the tournament caravan shifted to their home ground erring in line and length. hree

New Zealand excited to play in different conditions: Bracewell

PTI DUBAI

New Zealand off-spinner Michael Bracewell on Friday brushed aside any talks about India getting an unfair advantage in the ongoing Champions Trophy by playing all their games in Dubai, simply saying that his team was "excited to try and play in different conditions" play in different conditions". Rohit Sharma's team is playing all its matches in Dubai, and even the final will be held here if India goes the

distance. New Zealand will be playing their first match of the tournament here - against India on Sunday – after their last two games were held in Pakistan.

Some cricketers, including South African top-order batter Rassie van der Dussen and former Australia skipper Pat Cummins, have said India are in an advantageous in Dubai.



position as they have played all their games at one venue while other teams have had to travel to different venues in Pakistan.

India had refused to travel to Pakistan for the tournament citing security reasons. Look, it is what it is. It's been decided, and that's the way it is, and there's no point

third title. "Ultimate Table

their group once and two randomly drawn teams from

The top four teams at the end

will advance to the knockout

rounds, leading to the grand

the other group.

finale on June 15

year-old off-spinner. dwelling on that," said Bracewell, when asked if India have unfair advantage

The New Zealander opined that the pitches here would aid spin and it would be a the game against India. "The wickets here have looked like they've taken a bit of a spin. So, it'll be good to try and get used to the wickets as quickly as we can. We've obviously enjoyed the pitches in Pakistan.

⁴And I think we've got a pretty well-balanced side to play in any condition. So hopefully, we can continue to do that and adjust to what's in front of us. I think that's been the strength of our side, adjusting to the surface. So, hopefully, we continue to do

that as a side," he added. He said New Zealand doing consistently well against India in ICC tournaments was because of his players not putting themselves under pressure. New Zealand inflicted recently humiliating 3-0 Test defeat on

India, becoming the first touring side to seal a series

"It's part of what makes it exciting. I personally think it's coming to a different ground and trying to figure out those different conditions. Yeah, not much

more to say on that other than we're excited to try and learn and play in different conditions," added the 34-

good idea to train hard before win in India in 13 years.

consecutive defeats, including a heartbreaking loss in the Super Over to UP Warriorz, have left them reeling.

Placed third on the table and winless at home so far, RCB will be desperate to bounce back against a Delhi Capitals side facing the challenge of playing back-to-back games before the WPL heads to Lucknow.

The Meg Lanning-led Capitals will have little recovery time as they take on Mumbai Indians in a top-of-the-table clash on Friday before locking horns with RCB the very next

day. RCB's struggles have been glaring in both batting and bowling. Their batting unit collapsed in the defeat against Gujarat Giants on Thursday, skipper with Smriti Mandhana's form being a major concern. Her 81 against DC remains her only notable

Ekta Bisht, and Kanika Ahuja have struggled to exert control in the crucial middle overs, compounding RCB's woes further.

knock in five innings, as spin continues to be her Achilles'

opening

England's Danni Wyatt-

Hodge too has been

inconsistent, while Australian

veteran Ellyse Perry, despite being in sensational touch,

suffered a rare failure with a maiden WPL duck against

partner.

Delhi Capitals, too, have endured an inconsistent campaign, with two losses

sandwiched between three wins. Their batting lineup has finally started firing with Shafali Verma and Jess Jonassen finding form.

However, skipper Lanning continues to struggle at the top. Jemimah Rodrigues and Annabel Sutherland have provided occasional fireworks in the middle order, but DC will seek more consistency from their batting unit. time.

In Shikha Pandey, Marizanne Kapp, young Titas Sadhu, Sutherland, and Minnu Mani, DC boast a formidable bowling attack, making them a dangerous opponent despite their inconsistencies.

UTT sixth season to West Ham beats Leicester in Premier League begin from May 29

PTI 🗖 NEW DELHI

Tennis has been instrumental sixth edition of **¬**he in transforming the table Ultimate Table Tennis tennis landscape in India, (UTT), the sport's premier providing our players with an league in India, will be held unparalleled platform to compete against top international talent," Table from May 29 to June 15 in Ahmedabad, the organisers Tennis Federation of India announced on Friday. The state-of-the-art EKA Secretary Kamlesh Mehta Arena, a venue that has staged the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup said. The upcoming season will and 2019 Intercontinental feature eight teams split into Cup (football), will be the two groups of four for the draw, with each team playing venue for the event that will be five ties in the league stage in Ahmedabad for the first facing all three opponents in

As UTT continues to grow, eight teams featuring top Indian and international table tennis stars will battle for the with defending crown. champions Goa Challengers looking to claim a historic

PTI LONDON

West Ham names relegation-threatened Leicester its fourth straight Premier League loss by Ruud beating van Nistelrooy's team 2-0. Leicester failed to score in

each of those defeats - and allowed a total of 12 goals to remain 19th in the standings, five points from safety. The Foxes have lost 11 of their past 12 league games.

Tomas Soucek scored in the 21st minute for the home team at London Stadium and the Hammers doubled lead when Jarrod the Bowen's strike deflected off Jannik Vestergaard for an own goal just before halftime. Leicester shook up its coaching staff after last Friday's 4-0 home loss to



Brentford but kept Van Nistelrooy in charge.

In 14 Premier League games By virtue of an affidavit sworn under the Dutch manager, before Notary Public, Cuttack Leicester has two wins, one draw and 11 losses.

We were way too passive, Van Nistelrooy told TNT Sports. "Of course we're in a situation where we're not

winning games and we're in a situation where we are in the bottom three, and the pressure's on. But I think the way to get out of it is to literally move forward — on the pitch as well. We have to take initiative."

West Ham moved past Everton into 15th place and has recorded back-to-back Premier League wins for the first time this season.

AFFIDAVIT

AFFIDAVIT

dated 24/02/2025 I, Jagmohan Jethy aged about 36 years son of Pitabash Jethy resident of Mansinghpatna, Mansinghpatna High School Lane Po-Tulsipur. Dist-Cuttack-753008. Odisha have changed my name from Jagamohan Jethy to Jagmohan Jethy. Jagamohan Jethy and Jagmohan Jethy is one and same person. My name as Jagmohan Jethy has been correctly mentioned in my Aadhaar Card bearing No- 354147332147. Henceforth, I shall be known as

, Titun Kumar Dash aged -35 ears, son of Binaya Dash, At PO - koira, PS - Koira, Dist Sundargarh do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name had been wrongly mentioned as Manoj Kumar Dash, S/ O Bijaya Ranjan Dash in the Aadhar card no××××7863 issued in my favour. I have corrected the same as Titun Kumar Dash, S/o- Binaya Kumar Dash by virtue of an affidevit before the Notary Public to this effect. Barbil, Dist - Keonjhar.Hence forth, i will be known as Titun Kumar Dash, S/o-Binaya Kumar Dash for all purposes. for correction of name in the Aadhar card.

(Jagmohan Jethy)

Titun Kumar Dash

Champions Trophy: South Africa eyes semifinal spot against England

PTI KARACHI

As the battle for the semifinals intensifies in Group B, top-ranked South Africa will aim to assert their dominance and secure a spot in the final four when they face a struggling England in a high-stakes Champions Trophy (CT) clash here on Saturday

Unlike Group A wherein two best sides - India and New Zealand – have sailed through with ease into the knockouts, Australia, Afghanistan and South Africa in Group B are locked in for an intense battle over the two days for the remaining two semifinal berths.

A crushing loss by eight runs to Afghanistan not only sent England out of the contention for the semifinals but also kept the Asian team's hopes alive of making to the final four, which has kept both South Africa and Australia on



tenterhooks. Afghanistan will take on Australia on Friday in Lahore riding on the big wave of confidence from their last outing between the two teams in the 50-over format.

The Afghans had pushed Australia to the brink in their last meeting in the 2023 ODI World Cup before Glenn Maxwell's sensational 201 not out turned the tables. While there are possibilities locked in for a battle with

of the contest being affected by rain, a win for Afghanistan will be enough for them to seal a spot in the semifinal, as Australia's defeat will leave the Steve Smith-led side

South Africa for the second and final spot from this

South Africa (3 points, 2.140 NRR) are likely to progress if Australia (3 points, 0.475 NRR) beat Afghanistan (2 points, -0.990 NRR), even if the Proteas lose to England because of their healthy NRR. A favourable result should not be too difficult for South Africa who have all their bases covered and more importantly, have their key players in-form compared to a misfiring England, who are overly dependent on Joe Root.

In their only completed contest so far — South Africa split points with Australia after a washout in Rawalpindi the Proteas had crushed Afghanistan by a massive 107 runs. Ryan Rickelton struck a century while skipper Temba Bavuma, Rassie van der Dussen and Aiden Markram hit a half-century each to

power South Africa to a formidable 315/6 batting first, following which the bowlers produced a unified to bundle out Jagmohan Jethy for all future show Afghanistan for a mere 208. purposes

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER M.I.DIVISION GANJAM NO-I, BERHAMPUR E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE A-1139 Bid Identification No. : Online Tender/19/GMID-1/2024-25 Name of Work Civil Construction Works. No of Work 4(Four) : Estimated Cost Varies from Rs 75.00 lakh to Rs. 95.00 lakh . Period of Completion : Varies from 02(Two) to 04 (Four) Calendar Month Date and Time of Sale and From 03.03.2025 at 10.00 Hours to 11.03.2025 upto : receipt of Bid-document 17:00 Hours online Date & time of opening of 12.03.2025 At 11.00 Hours bids Name & Address of the Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division Ganjam-I, Officer inviting Tender. Berhampur. Further Details can be seen from the website:https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in.Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of can also be seen in the said website.

OIPR-32104/11/0033/2425

Superintending Engineer, M.I. Divn. Ganjam-I,

Berhampur