

Wednesday evening. The external affairs minister was in

London as in the first leg of his six-day visit to the UK and Ireland from Tuesday that is aimed at exploring ways to further boost bilateral

"We have seen the footage of a breach of security during the visit of the external affairs minister to the UK,"

(MEA)spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

"We condemn the provocative

activities of this small group of separatists and extremists," he said.

"We deplore the misuse of democratic

freedoms by such elements. We

expect the host government in such cases to fully live up to their diplomatic obligations," Jaiswal

Videos posted on social media

showed a small group of pro-

Khalistan protesters holding yellow

flags were shouting slogans against

India and Jaishankar on the opposite side of the road from Chatham House.

ministry of external

cooperation.

said

added.

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affairs

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

# NDIA BREACHED IN U concluding an interactive session at the institute, home to Royal Institute of International Affairs, on



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during a conversation with Director and CEO of Bronwen Maddox at Chatham House in England

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndia on Thursday took strong objection to a security breach during External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to UK and condemned such "provocative activities." The incident took place in London on Wednesday during an event attended by the minister. A pro-Khalistani protestor attempted to break barricades while some were shouting anti-India slogans. Protestors also tore up the Indian flag. In a firm reaction, New Delhi said it expects the host government to fully live up to their diplomatic obligations in such cases and deplored the "misuse of democratic freedoms" by those elements.

The incident happened as Jaishankar was leaving the Chatham House after

### **Babbar Khalsa terrorist arrested**

BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUCKNOW

In a major counterterrorism operation, the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF) and Punjab Police have arrested a suspected terrorist linked to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI.

The suspect, identified as Lazar Masih, a resident of Kurlian village in Ramdas area of Amritsar, Punjab, was nabbed around 3.20 am in Uttar Pradesh's Kaushambi district.

Addressing a press conference in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar said Masih had planned a major terrorist attack during the

#### Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. The Maha Kumbh was held at Prayagraj from January 13 to

February 26. "However, due to intensive security checks at the religious gathering, he failed to execute his plan," he said and added: "The arrest of the terrorist also

verifies smuggling of arms and drugs from Pakistan into India". He added the UP STF succeeded in recovering some explosives material and illegal arms from the terrorist. Among the seizures made are three active hand grenades, two active detonators, one foreign-made pistol and 13 cartridges of foreign make, the officer said. Besides, a white coloured explosive powder, an Aadhaar card

with a Ghaziabad address, one mobile phone without SIM card was also seized from his possession, he said. According to security officials, Masih was actively working for Swaran

Singh, also known as Jeevan Fauji, the head of BKI's Germany-based module. He was reportedly in direct contact with ISI handlers based in Pakistan.

Investigators revealed that Masih had escaped from judicial custody in Punjab on September 24, 2024, and had been evading arrest since then. His capture is being considered a breakthrough significant preventing potential terrorist activities in India.

## Assembly 2ndphase session from today



PNS BHUBANESWAR

The second phase of the Budget Session of Odisha Legislative Assembly will commence on Friday. This phase will continue up to April 5. Opposition members have decided to raise several issues affecting the State during the session.

The first session had started on February 13 and continued till February 21.

"In this period of the session, 14 days will be earmarked to make demands and discuss all subjects. On March 29, the Appropriation Bill will be tabled," said Speaker Surama Padhy.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had on February 17 presented the State's Annual Budget for 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs 2,90,000 crore.

### Odisha accelerates urban land development



### Under Town Planning scheme PNS BHUBANESWAR

 ${
m T}_{
m he}$  State Government is stepping up efforts to implement the new Town Planning (TP) scheme, designed to reform urban land development. Under this initiative, the government plans to develop land in a 60:40 proportion, aligning with the land it acquires, and ultimately distribute it to the public.

Minister of Housing and Urban Development Krushna Chandra Mohapatra said, "The absence of similar schemes has forced people to reluctantly part with their lands in the past. This new scheme aims to assist individuals in building new homes more efficiently."

He assured that the implementation of the scheme would proceed without delay.

The TP Scheme is poised to provide significant benefits to landowners and prospective homeowners by offering them developed plots. The scheme

### is structured to facilitate the construction of new homes for the populace by ensuring fair allocation of land. Unlike past practices, the TP scheme ensures that land is developed and distributed equitably to

benefit the broader public. Mohapatra highlighted the urgency of rolling out the

scheme, suggesting that the process would begin imminently. Further details on how the land would be reassigned to the public are expected soon.

"We are prioritising the implementation of the TP scheme. This will help house owners get all basic facilities like a proper sewage system, electricity, road connectivity, and other benefits. This will ensure fair allocation of land and offer developed plots," the minister stated.

As the TP scheme gains momentum, it is anticipated to play a pivotal role in the State's urban development plans. This approach could serve as a model for other re-

gions grappling with similar

land-use challenges.

# Anganwadi Workers to get Rs 1,500 bonus **Odisha Mining, Infra Expo kick-starts**

For meeting 1-crore Subhadra milestone PNS BHUBANESWAR

 ${f A}$ nganwadi Workers and Helpers in Odisha are to be rewarded with financial incen- Subhadra beneficiaries," she tives by the State Government said.



Parida also announced an ambitious initiative aimed at empowering women economically throughout Odisha. She said, "To create a strong Odisha, numerous 'Lakhpati Didis' need to be created. Our aim is to have at least five Lakhpati Didis in every vil-

lage." The initiative seeks to

beyond.

wan

eral resources."

Swami Prem Anveshi, Man-

aging Director of Futurex

Group, said this year's expo is

witnessing strong international

companies from Russia, Ger-

many, Korea, Japan and Tai-

In BBSR Mystery shrouds youth's death at rehab centre quire about his health. He had

Kin allege foul play, demand fair probe

PNS BHUBANESWAR

last visited the de-addiction centre two days ago and found him well.

The next day, the family received a call from the centre informing them about their son's poor health condition. After a gap of 15 minutes, they were informed that their son was no more. The family alleged that the de-addiction staffs beat their son to death.

as a token of appreciation for meeting a 1-crore Subhadra Yojana milestone. Anganwadi Workers will be awarded with Rs 1,500 while the Helpers will receive Rs 500 each.

This initiative is a move to motivate the Anganwadi Workers and other staffs involved in implementing the welfare scheme, informed Deputy Chief Minister Pravati Parida on Thursday.

"The initiative is designed to encourage more efficient implementation of welfare schemes, focusing on achieving the targets set for

Parida also called upon all bolster Odisha's economic stature by supporting finanthe 1 crore Subhadra beneficiaries to participate in a cial independence among unique celebration on the women

More than 2,30,000 women evening of March 7. She told got their Subhadra money on all the beneficiaries to light a lamp for themselves in a sym-Thursday in the fifth phase of bolic act of the success of the the first instalment. An prestigious Subhadra Yojana. amount of Rs 5,000 each was She raised a clarion call undirectly credited to the bank der the initiative 'One accounts of all the beneficiaries. Subhadra, One Diya' to com-The second instalment has

memorate crossing the 1been scheduled for distribucrore milestone of Subhadra tion on March 8. The distribeneficiaries. Each household bution of this instalment is encouraged to light as many would be marked by a special lamps as there are Subhadra event held in Brahmapur, Parida announced. benefactors in their homes.

PNS BHUBANESWAR

Udisha witnessed the inauguration of India's largest mining and infrastructure exhibition as the 3rd Odisha Mining and Infrastructure International Expo 2025 commenced at the Baramunda Ground here on Thursday.

The event was inaugurated by State Minister of MSME Gokulananda Mallik. It brought together leading stakeholders from mining, construction and infrastructure industries in India and of Organising Committee of Minister Mallik said, "Odisha is a leader in the min-

the expo said that Odisha being the mining capital of India has potential to host world ing sector, excelling in bauxite, mining conferences. coal, iron ore and other min-

The Expo featured state-ofthe-art mining machinery, technology solutions, services and supplies, catering to the evolving needs of the mining and infrastructure sectors. participation with leading With participation from over 250+ companies, the event offered a platform to witness the latest advancements shaping Dr Tapan Chand, Chairman the future of these industries.

cluding Moolnivasi United

Front, strongly condemned

this act. Several leaders, includ-

president

State

 ${
m A}$  youth undergoing treatment at a de-addiction centre at Uttara Chhak in the city died in mysterious circumstances, His family alleged foul play in the death.

The deceased was identified as Subhasish Nayak.

As per doctor's suggestion, Subhasish's family had sent him to the Disha Foundation, a city-based de-addiction centre near Uttara Chhak, in December 2024 suspecting that their son was suffering from Obsessive Compulsive Disorder.

The patient's father used to visit him every month to en-

**ABVP** disrupts Dalit, Adivasi meet at Vani Vihar

"The people at the de-addiction centre tortured him physically by tying his hands and legs," alleged the deceased youth's father Nabakrushna Navak.

The family demanded the police for a fair probe and stringent action against people involved behind death of their son.

# STA Dy Commissioner in Vig net

### Farmhouse, 11 plots, gold biscuits detected PNS CUTTACK

he Vigilance police on Thursday conducted raids on the properties of Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, Deputy Commissioner, State Transport Authority (STA), Cuttack, on the allegation of possession of disproportionate assets (DA) beyond his known sources of income.

During the house searches, a triple-storied residential building with area of 2400 sqft Maitri Vihar, Bhubaneswar, a five-storied under-construction building Govindaprasad in at Khordha, payment of Rs 1 crore by S Mohanty to a realtor to purchase a 4-BHK Flat at Bolevard Apartment at Raghunathpur, Bhubaneswar in name of Mohanty and his



is suspected to be benami wife, a triple-storied underconstruction building with which is under verification), a area about 7,500 sqft at building at his native village Balukhand in Puri (the asset Tangi in Khordha district, a

farmhouse spread over with area of 14.78 acres at Kusupalla in Nayagarh district, 11 high-value plots in Bhubaneswar, Khordha, Ranapur, Nayagarh and a patch of agricultural land with an area of 11.08 acres, Rs 15 lakh in cash, three gold biscuits of 100 grams each, 700 grams of gold ornaments, three benami four-wheelers and one two-wheeler were detected in the names of Mohanty and his family members so far. Further investigations were

continuing.

### violence PNS BHUBANESWAR

Milita Dalit

 $T_{
m he\,Constitutional\,and\,fun-}$ damental rights of citizens are being undermined, and the BJPled government is increasing attacks and violence against Adivasis and Dalits. Adivasis are forcibly displaced from their lands and agricultural fields.

To highlight the struggles and unity of the oppressed, Bhim Army chief and MP Chandrashekhar Azad visited Bhubaneswar on Wednesday. A social justice meeting was scheduled at Vani Vihar Auditorium, but the BJP and its student wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) allegedly conspired to disrupt the event by orchestrating an attack the night before and later creating chaos at the venue.



Anugul member Pradyumna Nayak and LDA Balangir secretary Mukesh Suna criticised the violence.

Manoranjan Jena, women's The failure of the adminisleader Suprabha Mallik, tration to suppress Azad's Ambedkar Sevak Sangh execuprogramme has led the police tive president Daitari Nayak, to support ABVP activists, who resorted to attacking All Odisha Scheduled Caste president women, Adivasis and Dalits. The State Government has not Dhananjay Deep, Ambedkar Foundation Dhenkanal presionly failed to protect fundadent Kailash Nayak, women mental rights but has also leader Kalavati Nayak, State changed reservation policies committee member Pratap from 40% proportional repre-Das, Social Justice Campaign sentation to a caste-based syscoordinator Umakant Mallik, tem, depriving the Bahujan Ambedkar Unnayan Parishad community of fair opportuni-Binjharpur president Ramesh ties. Despite prior permission, Jena, Ambedkar Foundation Bahujan groups were not allowed to hold their gathering freely. If attacks on the constitution and Bahujan communities continue, SC, ST, OBC and minority communities would respond accordingly, warned Manoranjan Jena.

The leaders in Bhubaneswar reaffirmed Chandrashekhar Azad's vision and pledged to continue the struggle for Bahujan empowerment, inspired by Ambedkar, Birsa Munda, and Kanshi Ram.

Demands

1. Arrest of ABVP goons 2. Clarification from the government.

3. Compensation for the damaged vehicle.

Various organisations, in-

Sangha condemns

ing

Federation



## Keonjhar mining scam Badri Patra suspects nephew Raja Chakra's role

### Hopes EOW probe will unravel irregularity PNS KEONJHAR

 ${f A}$ midst the Economic Offences Wing's (EOW) raid on BJD leader Raja Chakra in connection with the alleged multi-crore scam involving the Keonjhar Gandhamardan Loading Agency and Transport Cooperative Society, his uncle and Ghasipura MLA Badri Narayan Patra on Thursday suspected mining irregularities by the former.



"There were several media reports that Keonjhar was looted of its natural resources. People's voices reached the top and now raids are on after the change in the government. If he is involved in scams and has amassed wealth disproportionate to his known

sources of income, the raid is 100-per cent right. There have been irregularities and there is no doubt about it," Patra said. He expressed hope that these inquiries would unearth the misconduct

> Earlier, there were widespread speculations that Raja

was acting on Patra's behalf. However, their relationship is said to have turned sour in 2017 over a party ticket, tensions that have now reportedly reached a boiling point.

Notably, during the EOW raids on Raja's properties, in multiple places, the agency seized 200 benami (anonymous) accounts, 20 vehicles (including a Rs 25 lakh Harley Davidson bike) and 18wheeler trucks used in illegal operations. Interrogations revealed Raja's role in monopolising the society's operations.

The Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry Limited (UCCIL) conducted a seminar titled "Types of Specialty Alumina and Their Use: Opportunities for MSMEs" here on Thursday.

The seminar was attended by Saurabh Khedkar, President & CEO Specialty Alumina and Chemicals, Hindalco, and Suman Kumar Bal, Joint President & Chief Sales & Marketing Officer at Hindalco Specialty Alumina. UCCIL president Dr

Prabodh Mohanty welcomed



the dignitaries and Ardhendu Mohapatra, President, Group for the interactive session. Corporate Affairs, Hindalco, coordinated the programme. dent & CEO Specialty Alu-The context was set by Bibhu mina

UCCIL holds talk on specialty alumina Bal, Joint President & Chief Sales & Marketing Officer at Hindalco Specialty Alumina, threw light on opportunities for MSMEs in Odisha for setting up various downstream industries pertaining to specialty alumina. It was assured by the Hindalco top management that they are committed to supporting the MSME s of Odisha.

capital 02

A vote of thanks was given by JK Rath, Vice-President In-UCCIL. dustry The programme was coordinated by Dr Sanjeev Mahapatra, Secretary, UCCIL.

#### 'Bijubabu architect of modern Odisha' Odisha's 1st Deep Brain Stimulation surgery BHUBANESWAR PNS Samantasinhar, Medical Sucountry's eminent surgeons

### Conducted at SUM Hospital PNS BHUBANESWAR

**L** he Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital here has become the first hospital in Odisha to successfully undertake Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) surgery to treat

Parkinson's Disease. Regarded as a powerful advanced surgical therapy to treat certain aspects of Parkinson's Disease (PD), it mostly addresses the movement symptoms of Parkinson's Disease and improves some non-motor symptoms including sleep and pain, said Prof (Dr) Ashok Kumar Mahapatra, one of the

and SOA's Principal Advisor (Health Sciences). Though DBS would not cure the progression of the

reporters.

said.

from PD.

Prof

perintendent, said this surgery has been conducted in Odisha for the first time at IMS and SUM Hospital. Prof disease, it would, however, Soubhagya Panigrahi, Profesimprove the quality of life of sor and HoD of Neuro Suradvanced PD patients, he told gery, said the surgery needed

seven to eight hours. He said DBS is relatively a Parkinson's is a neuro desafe surgery and the patient generative disease and a moveremains awake for most of the ment disorder where the body time during it. "Earlier, this becomes slow. It occurs due to condition was treated only loss of brain cells required for with medicines but now it can dopamine production. It combe done through surgery," he monly occurs in elderly patients above the age of 60 The novel surgery was conyears, Dr Panigrahi said.

Dr Sahoo said the disease is ducted on a 36-year-old now found in even young perwoman who was suffering sons. Some young patients Pusparaj have genetic causes.



Utkal Sammilani pays tributes PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $\mathbf{M}_{\mathsf{embers}}$  of the Utkal Sammilani paid floral tributes to the statue of Biju Patnaik at the Biju Patnaik Park here on Wednesday on occasion of the 109th birth anniversary of the legendary leader.

Presiding over the function, Utkal Sammilani general secretary Dillip Dashsharma said the Sammilani does not support any work which disrespects Biju Patnaik. While Utkalgaurav Madhusudan Das was responsible for formation of Odisha on the basis of language, Bijubabu is the architect of modern Odisha.

Utkal Sammilani advisor Nimai Charan Das, vicepresident Sital Chandra Mohanty, joint secretary Sidhatarth Shankar Gadnayak, Akshay Jethi, Basanti tripathy Maheshwar Biswal, Surajit Parida and Saraswati Patra were present and paid tributes to the iconic leader

#### NHKC starts probe into KII I Nepali student death The KIIT incident has drawn widespread criticism, bringing A team from the National Odisha into the global spotlight for the wrong reasons. As a result, the Ministry of External

Meanwhile, NHRC has ex-

public to submit any perti-

nent information regarding

the controversy at the KIIT.

Priyank Kanungo, a member

of the NHRC, made a state-

ment encouraging individuals

to provide details that could

aid in the ongoing investiga-

"Any information provided

will be thoroughly valued and

investigated. Interested par-

ties are encouraged to ap-

proach the NHRC investiga-

tion team as the body works

towards a deadline on March

10 to compile and report their

findings. We urge everyone

with relevant information to

come forward," said Kanungo.

tion.

Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday com-Affairs (MEA) had to issue an menced an investigation into apology regarding the situation. the death of a Nepali girl student at the KIIT University here. tended an invitation to the

Saurabh Khedkar, Presi-

and

Chemicals,

The investigation aims to explore allegations surrounding the circumstances leading to the student's demise, alongside claims of harassment meted out to other Nepali students.

The investigative team, led by a Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP)-ranked officer, includes three members.

A two-member team is onsite at the university and is expected to submit their detailed findings by March 10.

The team led by Joginder Singh is investigating the case and allegations of harassment of students at the university. Key officials of the institution are reportedly being questioned as part of the probe

> Shekhar Jena on the octopad, Chitta Ranjan Pradhan and Dhrutimaya Behera on the keyboard and M Simadri on

the flute and the saxophone. The guests of the event evening were former Secretary, Odisha Sangeet Natak Akademi Pradeep Mishra, Administrative Officer, Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra Odissi Research Centre Anuja Tarini Mishra, eminent singer and music director Guru Nimakanta Routray, Principal Utkal Sangita Mahavidyalaya Dr Bijay Kumar Jena and secretary, Shruti Harapriya Swain.

# Festival of Sufiana inaugurated at BBSR

(Dr)

### BHUBANESWAR

 ${
m A}$  three-day 13th Annual Festival of Sufiana "Samarpan" organised by the Bhubaneswar Music Circle in association with the State Odia Language, Literature and Culture Department kickstarted the at RabindraMandap here on Thursday.

Sufi Music is arguably one of the best known mystical forms of devotional music. Having its origin in modern day Iran and Afghanistan, Sufism spans almost half the world from the plains of Africa to the eastern coast of India and onward to Indonesia.



to the universal consciousness in joyful ecstasy. of the inaugural evening was Samarpan presents a cross

Abhang (Unbroken) by Vidushi Amruta Kale from Mumbai, section of devotional music drawn from Sufi and other Pan who presented some selected Abhangs which are musical of-Indian traditions. The inaugural evening's ferings made to Vithala. Vithala

# 20th Odishi music, Laghu Sangeet Samaroah ends

Ranjan

With soul-stirring performance by galaxy of artists PNS BHUBANESWAR

 $T_{
m he\ 20th\ Odishi\ Music\ and}$ Laghu Sangeet Samaroah 2025, organised by Shruti, a leading Odishi music institution in Bhubaneswar, was concluded in a colourful and convivial atmosphere here. The closing ceremony featured light music singing by renowned Odisha singers.

The concluding evening's renowned singers were Dr Sangeeta Gosain, Dr Bijay Kumar Jena, Guru Nimkant Rautray, Guru Chandan Kumar Jena, Susant Kumar Panda, Harapriya Swain, Rajendra Kumar Barik, Gitamanjari Behera, Basundhara Parida, Rabi Narayan Das, Rupak Kumar Parida, Himanshu Shekhar Swain, Anuja Tarini Mishra, Matru Prasad Das, Baishnabi Ghosh, Rasa Bihari Nath



Devotional music helps connect the devotee to the infinite and often induces a state of mystical trance in the singer

first programme was 'Music of the Masters' by Vidushi Manali Bose from Kolkata, who rendered some beautiful divine and spiritual songs.

is generally considered as a manifestation of the God Vishnu or his avatar Krishna. Amruta Kale's songs were superb and melodious.

Many eminent gurus, musicians and artists participated in the two-day festival and showcased their expertise.

Subhalakshmi Ojha, Swadesh Mohanty, Chandra Shekhar Biswal, Pradosh Prasunna Biswal, Narayan Jena, Soumya

nied on instruments by Guru

Ajay Choudhury and Guru Gahan and Balakrushna Jena. The artists were accompa-

Pramod Kumar Sahu on the Tabla, Preeti Sundar Behera on the Dholak, Sudhanshu

# **SOCIAL CANVAS** Language row in NEP: Put stress on mother tongue, English

The opposition of language policy in National Educa tion Policy (NEP)-2020 by the DMK government in Tamil Nadu has a strong merit. The overemphasis on Hindi and Sanskrit in the proposed three-language policy, and withdrawal of English from primary level in NEP will be impacting over non-Hindi speaking States. The language burden will be more on students of these States and additional burden on students of linguistic and religious minorities such as STs and Muslims in multilingual States like Odisha. The lowering of English will have several ramifications over participation in governance, access to higher education and scope of employment.

The NEP -2020 approved by the Union Cabinet has been opposed from many quarters based on the language policy especially by non-Hindi speaking States and others concerned for education of the linguistic minorities mostly the marginalised sections. Along with language policy, there are also many connected issues such as privatisation of education and lim-



### MANAS JENA

iting the scope of States in education policy formulation, although education is in the Concurrent List. However, the selection of language is most important in the medium of education. The NEP says that wherever possible, the medium of instruction until at least grade-5 but preferably till grade -8 and beyond, shall be the mother tongue /local language /regional language. It is also said that the three language formula will con-

tinue to be implemented and the San-

skrit knowledge system will be offered

at all levels of school and higher education as an option in the three language formula.

There is nothing wrong in learning as many languages as possible and the mother tongue is always good for a child to learn as its first lessons, as suggested by many. But at the same time, there must be a purpose of learning languages and its usefulness in our life to get access to the scope of knowledge and dignified meaningful employment. Glorifying the past, mother tongue and ancient classical language may not serve the current purpose of building a rational knowledge society without access to available global knowledge which is not possible without English.

The recent trend in India shows an increase in learning towards English medium education and many States have already adopted English as the medium of instruction from primary level. Now-a-days the common people in both urban and rural areas prefer to send their children to English medium schools for a better future and a dignified life using the English language as a gateway to opportunities globally. It is

now fundamentally necessary for higher education, science, technology, engineering, IT, law, medicine, business, and governance.

In line with this since independence, many of the Union Government's education programmes have established English medium schools such as Navodaya, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, Eklavya model school to cater to needs which have also created scope for the rural poor from different social groups to access quality English medium education because they cannot pay the higher amount of school fee charged by private schools indirectly reserved for the children of upper class. The Government English medium schools have been contributing to reducing inequality and exclusion while reducing regional disparity and promoting nation-building activities by preparing students of diverse backgrounds from different parts of the country.

There are about 5,100 languages spoken in the world and about 99 per cent of them are home to Asia and Africa, Pacific and American

continents whereas only 1 percent of them are in Europe. The Census of India 2001 has identified 1,500 distinct languages as mother tongues and these languages are grouped under 114 major languages out of which only 22 languages including Sanskrit are scheduled languages included in the eighth schedule of the Constitution of India. It is mentioned in the Constitution of India (Article 343) that English is the official language for 15 years only and after that Hindi will be used but again in 1965, it was decided to continue with English. The use of Hindi was opposed by the south Indian States in 1965 especially the Dravidian movement leaders like RS Periyar, CN Annadurai, who advocated for English to curb the north Indian language and cultural dominance against federal ethos.

Article 348 says that language of the Supreme Court, High Courts and orders, rules, regulations, bylaws and laws made by Parliament and the legislatures of States shall be in English. Even today after 75 years of constitutional governance, the dominance of the English language is to be found everywhere. The

people who know English are rulers and leaders of their respective field and the common people who have no access to English are excluded from all spheres of socio-eco and political life.

The pioneer of modern India Raja Ram Mohan Roy had vehemently argued for modern education with English medium in India in his letter to Governor General William Pitt in 1823. He said "the Sanskrit system of education would be best calculated to keep this country in darkness". In 1816, he opened an English medium school for boys. Later, TB Macaulay in 1835 introduced English education through the English Education Act and it was approved by William Bentinck, the then Governor General of India. Though English was discouraged as part of the anti-colonial struggle by GK Gokhale, MK Gandhi and RM Lohia but post-Independent India witnessed the growth of English education in cities and mostly preferred by Indian ruling elites and today it is being realized by many States that the unemployment, backwardness and social inequalities are many ways

linked to the medium of education. Dr Ambedkar once said English is like the milk of lioness and access to this can be a life changing skill. The States of West Bengal, Odisha, AP and Telangana, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir have adopted English as a medium of instruction from primary level along with giving equal importance to their regional language. It is said that the decision of the Left Front Government of WB in 1983 to withdraw English from primary level affected the employability of the youths in the State. The 62 tribes in Odisha constitute about one-fourth of the State's population who speak about 21 languages and 74 dialects and only seven tribes have their own scripts. Santali language is included in the 8th schedule but it has been difficult to teach the tribal children in their mother tongue at primary level due to lack course material in all subjects. Though it is good to educate children in mother tongue for learning the basics but they must be educated in English medium for a level playing field if we want to see any radical change in their life. (manasbbsr15@gmail.com)

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Printed and published by Sarada Prasanna Nanda for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 1067, Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar-751012. Tel: 0674-2560355. e-mail: orissapioneer@gmail.com. Printed at WEBLINE, D-2/19, Sector-A, Zone-D, Mancheswar Industrial Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010. Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli. Resident Editor: S.P. Nanda. RNI Regn. No. ORIENG/2007/22475. AIR SURCHARGE of Re. 1.00 East: Calcutta, Ranchi, North: Leh West: Mumbai & Ahmedabad South: Bangalore & Chennai. Central : Khajuraho, Delhi Office: 100k Milap Bhawan, 8/A Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Corporate Office:- 201-205, 208-210, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-46035729, 011-69342500. Lucknow Office: 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow 226 016. Telephones: 0522-2346443, 2346444, 2346445.



# he pioneer BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | MARCH 7, 2025 Varsities invite applications for PM Internship Scheme

he Government of Odisha, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs, has unveiled the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) 2025, a pioneering initiative aimed at transforming the career prospects of unemployed gradu-

Announced in the Union Budget 2024-25, the Odisha Higher Education Department has now instructed universities in the State to allow ensuring that participants are graduates to start enrolling in industry-ready.

**RAJEEV RATHAN BRAHMAPUR** 

Preparations are in full

swing for Chief Minister

Mohan Charan Majhi's one-

day visit to Ganjam on March

tion, a high-level review meet-

ing was held at the venue in the

afternoon. Minister Bibhuti

Bhushan Jena, Brahmapur

MLA K Anil Kumar,

Purnachandra Sethi and

Digapahandi MLA Sidhant

Mohapatra attended the

MLA

Naik,

MLA

to beneficiaries.

Chhatrapur

Khallikote

Krishnachandra

Preparations on for CM

visit to Ganjam on Mar 8

The PM Internship Scheme offers 12-month internships in India's top 500 companies, enabling youths to gain hands-on industry experience while addressing the gap between academic learning and

market demands. With a target to train 1 crore youths over five years, the programme combines financial support, insurance coverage and corporate mentorship to boost employability and refine technical and soft skills.

The scheme is open to Indian nationals aged 21-24 years who are unemployed or not pursuing full-time education

The scheme targets graduates holding degrees such as BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA or BBA, with a family income not exceeding Rs 8 lakh annually (FY 2023-24). Further, the applicants must be unemployed and not enrolled in other government-funded training

programmes. Those excluded from the scheme are graduates from premier institutions (IITs, postgraduates (MBA, CA, CMA, CS, MBBS, BDS, PhD, etc.), individuals undergoing apprenticeships under NATS/ NAPS or similar schemes and family members of permanent government employees.

Interns will receive Rs 5,000/ month. Training costs are covered by corporate CSR funds.

The PMIS marks a strategic effort to align academic training with industry needs. By placing interns in top companies, the scheme fosters practical skill development, enhancing employability.

### marriage pretext PNS BARGARH

 $T_{he \, owner \, of \, a \, two-wheeler}$ showroom in Bargarh town has been arrested and sent to jail for allegedly sexually abusing a married woman.

The arrested was identified as Akash Agarwal, the owner of a hero Motors showroom. Reports suggest that Akash

maintained a long-term relationship with the woman, keeping her at Niki Hotel in Bargarh under the pretext of marriage. When the woman sought social security for herself and her minor daughter,

Akash ended the relationship. There are claims that the hotel owner was aware of Akash's actions but did not report it to the police.

In Bargarh Bizman held for

cheating woman on

While the relationship between Akash and the woman was initially consensual, their dispute led to police and court intervention.

However, some journalists tried to defame the woman's character and reported the matter in a motivated manner. The town's intellectuals have demanded a impartial

probe by the law enforcement agencies into the incident.

Patnagarh parcel bomb case Accused Punjilal appears in court PNS BALANGIR

In a development in the Patnagarh parcel bomb case in Balangir district in February 2018, accused Punjilal Meher recorded his statement in court on Thursday. Meher, an English Lecturer, is the only accused charged in the case.

Meher, who is currently lodged in Balangir Jail, was taken to the Additional District Judge (ADJ) Court in Patnagarh.

The proceedings continue in the Patnagarh ADJ Court, where statements of all witnesses have been previously recorded by the investigating agency.

The devastating explosion occurred on February 23 2018 when a parcel intended as a wedding gift exploded, claiming the life of a newly-wed engineer Soumya Shekhar Sahu along with his grandmother while his wife Reema Rani sus-

tained severe injuries. Meher had sent the parcel bomb due to a personal vendetta against Soumya's

As per police reports, Meher studied for seven months and took the help of the internet and YouTube to assemble the bomb.

mother Sanjukta, who was

made Principal of Jyoti Bikash

College, replacing Meher. In a

bid to take revenge on

Sanjukta, Meher allegedly

planned and executed the ex-

plosion, intending to elimi-

It is alleged that he was so

blinded with his revenge that

he himself prepared the par-

cel bomb and sent it through

courier to Sahu's family from

Chhattisgarh's Raipur. Police

had earlier seized crackers,

gun powder, a laptop and a

pen drive from the possession

of Meher.

nate the entire family.

### **Rs 87L investment fraud** Odisha CB arrests woman from Delhi Group' by an individual who PNS BHUBANESWAR

he Cyber Crime Unit of

the Odisha Crime Branch (CB) has arrested a woman from Delhi in connection with an investment fraud of Rs 87 lakh.

The cyber police had launched a probe into the fraud after receiving a complaint in connection from the victim, a resident of Saileshri Vihar area in Bhubaneswar.

The arrested was identified as Vandana Bawa of south Delhi. The Cyber police brought the accused to Odisha on a transit remand after producing her in a court in Delhi.

The cops have seized a mobile phone, two SIM cards, an Aadhaar card and a PAN card.

The complainant, an employee of a private firm, was added to a WhatsApp group named '101 Stock Discussion

identified himself as a Professor. The victim was assured of getting stock trading tips, IPO guidance and investment strategies from the WhatsApp group.

The fraudsters later persuaded the victim to deposit around Rs 87 lakh in various bank accounts in several installments. They promised the victim of high returns from

the investment. The complainant, later, realised that he had been duped by the fraudsters and lodged a complaint in this regard with the Cyber Crime

Unit. During investigation, the cops have frozen several bank accounts of the fraudsters and recovered Rs 10 lakh.

The arrested accused has been involved in two more cybercrime incidents in Kerala and Gujarat.

### meeting. Senior officials, including Ganjam Collector Dibya Jyoti Parida, Ganjam SP Subhendu Patra, Zilla Parishad Executive Officer Madhumita and

8. A massive gathering of Additional SP Sima Swain around 25,000 women is were also present to assess the planned at Vivek Bihar arrangements. ground at Ambapua here, The meeting focused on sewhere the Chief Minister will curity measures, logistical address a public meeting and planning and program execudistribute the second installtion. The Chief Minister's ment of the Subhadra Yojana visit, scheduled from 11 am to 2 pm, marks his third trip to To ensure smooth execu-

Ganjam since assuming office. Given the scale of the event, both the district administration and BJP leaders are leaving no stone unturned to ensure its success. Ganjam district BJP presi-

dent Saroj Sabat, along with other senior party leaders, actively participated in the review meeting to oversee the arrangements.

# Fear over BU M Pharm course validity; students take transfer cert

### **RAJEEV RATHAN BRAHMAPUR**

Students pursuing the M Pharma course at Berhampur University (BU) are facing a crisis as the programme lacks approval from the Pharmacy Council of India (PCI). Without PCI recognition, the defer Certificates (TC), while others remain deeply con-

The M Pharma programme was introduced in the 2007-08 academic year with the efforts of then Vice-Chancellor Pro28, 2009, the State Govern-An RTI response received in ment had granted permission to start three courses, each with 20 seats. Of these, two Pharmaceutical Analysis and Quality Assurance and Pharmaceutics were introduced. Admissions are conducted

sis and the lack of PCI ap-

January confirmed their worst fears that the M Pharma degree from BU is not recognized by PCI, rendering it invalid for jobs or higher studies. The revelation has trig-

dents, leading to five of them leaving the programme. While a former student has been appointed as a guest lecturer, concerns persist over the department's faculty cri-

proval.

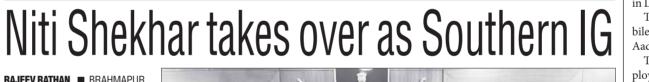
though

PG Council Chairman Professor Sukant Kumar Tripathy acknowledged the students' concerns and stated that a letter has been sent to the State

Vice-Chancellor Professor Jayanta Mahapatra, who was involved in launching the M Pharma programme, confirmed that while the course was initially started as a selffinancing programme, it never secured PCI recognition. Althe State Government's Health Department granted permission in 2009, the PCI approval remains elusive.

manent resolution. Former

With their degrees at risk of being unrecognized, M Pharma students at BU are demanding immediate intervention from the authorities to secure PCI accreditation and protect their academic and professional futures.



### **RAJEEV RATHAN BRAHMAPUR**

 $S_{enior \ IPS \ officer \ Niti}$ Shekhar assumed charge as the Inspector General (IG) of the Southern Range here on Wednesday. His appointment





gree is not valid for employment or higher education, pushing students into uncertainty. At least five students have already taken their Trans-

cerned about their future.

fessor Bijay Sahu. On August

### lor and the PG Council Chairman to discuss the issue. Government, seeking a per-

rolled. ulty shortage, with only one teacher managing the

workload meant for six. Con-

cerned about the impact on their education, students recently met the Vice-Chancel-

gered anxiety among stuthrough the Odisha Joint Entrance Examination (OJEE) and this year, 27 students en-However, students are struggling due to an acute fac-

### Scamsters still off the hook

At least 91 lakh scam has come to the fore in the Paralakhemundi Cooperative Urban Bank. The irregularities have been committed in one and a half years

Though the issue was raised in the Assembly and the concerned Minister assured of an inquiry in the matter, nothing tangible has happened so far while the culprits go scot-free.

On September 27, 2023 the then MLA Mohana, Dasarathi Gomango had sought action against the scam sters by raising the issue in the Assembly. The then Minister Atanu Sabyasachi Nayak had instructed for an inquiry vide letter no 1695, dated May 6,

2023. But till date no action has been taken. Sources further informed that from 2018-19 to date no Board of Directors meeting has been held.

follows his promotion to the IG rank, effective from January 1, 2025 as part of a major reshuffle in the State police force

> Prior to this, Niti Shekhar served as the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the South Western Range in Koraput, where he played a key role in strengthening law enforcement and maintaining public safety. His extensive experience in various capacities in the Odisha Police is expected to bring strategic leadership to the Southern Range.



The Southern Range, headquartered in Brahmapur, comprises Ganjam, Gajapati, Kandhamal, Boudh and Brahmapur police districts. As IG, Niti Shekhar will oversee law and

order, crime prevention and community policing initiatives in these districts, focusing on tackling major challenges such as organised crime, Left-Wing Extremism and public safety con-

cerns Alongside him, other se nior IPS officers, including Awinash Kumar and Sarthak Sarangi from the 2007 batch, have also been elevated to the IG rank.

### Student dies on way to exam centre pickup van hit the bike caus-

PNS MALKANGIRI

A Class-X student, on his way to the examination centre, lost his life after meeting with a road mishap near Chandanguda area in Malkangiri district on Thursday

In Malkangiri

The identity of the deceased was yet to be ascertained.

According to reports, two students from MV-101 village were on their way to the HSC examination centre at Serpalli on a bike when a speeding jured. The biker and the pillion rider were not wearing helmets. While one of the students sustained head injuries in the mishap and died on the spot, the other student was rushed to a nearby hospital.

ing death of a student on the

spot and leaving another in-

Getting information, police reached the spot and send the body for postmortem and further investigation was ongoing.

# Techno mgmt symposium, SANKALP, held at NIST



### PNS BRAHMAPUR

 ${
m T}_{
m he~NIST~University}$ organised SANKALP 2025 - A Techno Management Symposium, on its campus from February 28 to March 1.

The symposium inaugural ceremony was attended by a band of dignitaries including Arun Rath, Head, Brown Field Projects Odisha, AMNS, as chief guest and Bibhu Mishra, Advisor, Hindalco Industries Limited, Aditya

Birla Group as guest of honour. The event was further graced by founder and president Dr Sukant K Mohapatra, Vice-Chancellor Dr Priyadarshan Patra, Prof Swadhin Mishra, Faculty Advisor, Sankalp Student president ArjaAvinash, secretary

Manish Kumar Bhatta and treasurer Deeshanshi Sahu. The symposium had feature talks by industry experts, who shared their experiences and provided valuable insights

into the latest technologies and trends in the industry. The event was followed by cultural shows like Mr and Miss Sankalp, comedy show, DJ and Band.

On the second day of the event, popular Bollywood celebrity singer Yasser Desai and DJ Waseem demonstrated their performance. The event was coordinated by Miss Shreya Ojha while vote of thanks was offered by Prof Mitu Baral

# Subhadra march held ahead of CM visit on Women's Day

### RAJEEV RATHAN 🔲 BRAHMAPUR

he Silk City witnessed a massive turnout of women as part of a 'Subhadra Rally' on Wednesday aimed at promoting women's empowerment and social welfare. The rally, organised by the Women & Child Development (WCD) Department, saw participation from Anganwadi Workers, ASHA Workers, Community Organisers of BeMC and members of BJP Mahila Morcha.

Brahmapur MLA K Anil Kumar lauded the initiative, emphasising that the Subhadra Yojana is a transformative step towards strengthening women's financial independence. The event served as a prelude to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's visit to Brahmapur on March 8 where he is set to disburse the second installment



of the Subhadra Yojana for the State.

The rally focused on raising awareness about the scheme, engaging the public particularly women through educational activities and outreach

programmes. Community ing with the International **Development Project Officers** Women's Day, reinforcing the (CDPOs) were instructed with global focus on gender equalspecific guidelines to ensure ity and women's rights. smooth execution of the Notably, CM Mohan Majhi programme. These rallies will has proposed an allocation of culminate on March 8, align-Rs 10,145 crore for the Subhadra Yojana and Rs 153 crore under Subhadra Surakshya in the FY 2025-26 State Budget aimed at ensuring women's safety and security.

Additionally, the State Government plans to introduce the 'Subhadra Plus' umbrella scheme, which will include multiple new initiatives such as 'Kishori Subhadra,' 'Subhadra Sanchay, 'Subhadra Surakhya, 'Subhadra Sakhi,' 'Subhadra Yatri,' 'Subhadra Sangh (Subhadra Club),' 'Kuha Subhadra (Call Centre),' 'Subhadra Sahyogi, 'Subhadra Scholars' and 'Sujogya Subhadra'.

"This historic and pathbreaking initiative is the largest women's empowerment scheme in Odisha's history and underscores our commitment to placing women at the centre of the State's growth story," the CM had stated earlier.



## **PM reviews progress in cooperative sector, seeks focus on export markets**

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of the cooperative sector and emphasised the need for partnerships with global cooperative organisations and for promoting organ-ic products with special focus on export markets.

Modi also recommended the use of digital public infrastructure (Agristack) to expand agriculture and related activities in cooperative sector and highlighted the importance of integrating UPI with RuPay Kisan Credit Card to facilitate financial transactions.

During the meeting here, discussions were held on promoting "Sahkar Se Samruddhi' bringing transformation through technological advancements in the cooperative sector, plans to increase the participation of youth and women in cooperatives, and the various initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

The meeting was attended by Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah.

Minister Prime Modi emphasised the need for partnerships with global cooperative organisations to expand the Indian cooperative sector and stressed promoting organic products through cooperative organisations. He also suggested focusing on

export markets and developing a soil testing model through cooperatives to improve agricultural practices. Modi emphasised the need

for healthy competition among cooperative organisations, the statement said. He also emphasised the importance of documenting the assets of cooperative organisations to ensure transparency and suggested promoting cooperative farming as a more sustainable

agricultural model. Modi also recommended the use of digital public infrastructure (Agristack) to expand agriculture and related activities in the cooperative sector, providing farmers with better access to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

services. In the context of education, the prime minister proposed introducing cooperative courses in schools, colleges, and IIMs, as well as promoting successful cooperative organisations to inspire future generations, according to the statement. He further said that young graduates be should encouraged to contribute, and

inclusion of the latest techno-

logical advancements, artificial

medical students and said that

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

TERI's

NEW DELHI

cooperative organisations should be ranked based on their performance, so as to promote competition and growth simultaneously. During the meeting, the

Prime Minister was also about National briefed Cooperation Policy and key achievements of the Ministry of Cooperation over the past three-and-a-half years, the statement said.

Realising the vision of 'Sahkar Se Samruddhi', the ministry has formulated a draft of the National Cooperation Policy 2025 through an extensive consultation process.

The objective of National Cooperation Policy 2025 is to facilitate the systematic and holistic development of the cooperative sector, with a focus on accelerating rural economic development, while prioritising women and youth.

It aims to promote a cooperative-based economic model and establish a robust legal and institutional framework, the statement further said. Furthermore, the policy

endeavours to deepen the grassroots impact cooperatives and significantly enhance the contribution of the cooperative sector to the overall development of the country, it said.

Since its inception, the ministry has undertaken 60 initiatives across seven key areas to promote and strengthen the cooperative movement, it added. These initiatives include the

digitization of cooperative

institutions through the 'Tribhuvan National Cooperative University' and make it an Institution of National Importance has been Database and Computerisation Projects, as well as the strengthening of introduced in the Parliament, Primary Agricultural Credit the statement said. Prime Minister Modi was briefed on (PACS).

Societies Additionally, the ministry has focused on enhancing efficiency the and sustainability of cooperative sugar mills.

The Centre has implemented schemes various for cooperative societies through "whole of government approach", integrating over 15 schemes from more than 10 ministries at the PACS level, the statement said.

As a result, there has been the cooperative sector, which includes over 8.2 lakh diversification in cooperative businesses, additional income cooperative generation, increased spanning more than 30 opportunities for cooperatives, and improved exceeding accessibility of government individuals. schemes in rural areas, it said. attended by Annual targets have also been Ministry of Cooperation, set for the formation of these cooperatives, the statement Ashish said.

Principal Secretary to the PM To promote cooperative PK education, training and Secretary-2 to research and to provide Shaktikanta Das; Advisor to skilled professionals, a Bill to the PM Amit Khare; and convert IRMA Anand into other senior officials.

Indian national Shahjadi Khan buried in Abu Dhabi

Cooperative

the growth of cooperatives

and their vital role across

various sectors. Cooperative

sector's contribution to

India's economy, particularly

in agriculture, rural development, and economic inclusion was highlighted, the

During the meeting, it was highlighted that presently,

one-fifth of the country's

population is associated with

sectors, with a membership

The meeting was also

Mishra;

30

Kumar Bhutani;

institutions

crore

Secretary,

Principal

the PM

statement said.

nation 04

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

ndian national Shahjadi Khan was buried on Thursday in Abu Dhabi as per regulations of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), according to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Shahjadi, a caregiver from Uttar Pradesh's Banda district, was executed last month after a court found her guilty of allegedly murdering a child. "Burial of Shahjadi Khan, an Indian national, was conducted on Thursday in Abu Dhabi as per regulations of the

UAE authorities," MEA said. "Prior to her burial, the authorised representatives of Shahjadi's family paid respect to the mortal remains. They also attended the funeral prayers at the mosque as well as the burial at the Baniyas cemetery," it said. Embassy assisted the officials authorised representatives in this regard as well as attended the last rites, it added.

#### Frame more vibrant medical curriculum, says Nadda Congress slams new panopticon PIONEER NEWS SERVICE "the biggest investment is the NEW DELHI investment in people". Nadda underlined that the Income Tax law $U_{\rm Nadda\ has\ advocated\ the}^{\rm nion\ Health\ Minister\ JP}$

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday alleged that the new income-tax law which will helps the tax officials to have access to the e-mails, social media and bank accounts of all assessees, which will lead to India becoming a surveillance state.

Congress spokesperson and the head of the party's social media department, Supriya Shrinate, said this is a warning for everyone as email, social media, bank and trading accounts are under an attack now.

"They spied on us with Pegasus. Now, they'll take away our personal lives altogether. Under (Prime Minister Narendra Modi's) new income tax law, the government is quietly giving tax officials the power to break into your digital life. No warrant, no notice - mere suspicion is enough to strip you of your privacy. This is surveillance. And we must all oppose it unequivocally," the

### way?" she asked.

The Congress leader said this intelligence, telemedicine and digital healthcare in the revised is a warning for everyone as the government will very medical education curriculum. soon have access to citizens' e-In his address at a post-budget mails, social media accounts, webinar series organised by bank accounts, financial transactions and trading the Health Ministry on Wednesday, he sought the accounts, because the new framing of a curriculum that income-tax law proposes that is more vibrant, meaningful and fit to current challenges tax officials should have access to the same. and makes optimum use of She said the tax officials can existing infrastructure and read private conversations, medical faculty.

have access to bank accounts and get to know about the amount earned by someone and how the money is spent. They can also have access to people's trading accounts to know about their know investments.

"This is nothing but the government trying to enter our lives surreptitiously. This is nothing but the government trying to take control through backdoor entry. This is nothing but the government trying to make India a surveillance state and I am not fine with it.

Ongoing geopolitical chal-lenges like wars, trade dis-"Because we have already seen putes and technology conflicts how driven by vendetta are weakening the trust among particular politics ountries and this is. government They action more difficult, Brazil's weaponise the ED, CBI and Environment and Climate income-tax (department) not Minister Marina Silva said on just against their political Thursday. opponents, (but also) to crush Silva, who was in India to activists, students and attend anybody who has a difference Sustainable Development of opinion with it," Shrinate Summit, told journalists that said in a video message along while multilateralism is with her post on the struggling to fully address microblogging platform. global challenges, it remains She said she is not fine with the only viable path forward. tax officials having access to She also acknowledged that the US decision to pull out of e-mails, social media and bank accounts, because this is the Paris Agreement "does going to lead to unnecessary influence to a certain extent" harassment and intimidation. the goals Brazil has set for this year's UN climate conference 'This is going to lead to weaponisation of the (COP30) in Belem. agencies and this will also "We do have a very challenging confluence of lead to assassination of reputation and lives and I am multiple factors that are certainly not fine with this. worrisome for climate action will lead to a in general. This increasingly-This surveillance state and if you complex geopolitical context -- wars in different regions or are someone who values their countries, trade disputes, privacy, it is time for you to speak up. Because the tax tariffs and technology officials are going to do this disputes - may all impact not on the basis of proof but climate progress. They may the basis of simple drain resources and also on suspicion," the Congress hamper confidence and trust leader claimed. among parties. So we have a

government was working with a "holistic approach" that focuses not only on the curative aspect but also on the preventive, palliative and rehabilitative approach to patient care.

We are also trying to include AYUSH and other medical systems to ensure the availability and access to healthcare for the people." Addressing the event, Nadda said, "Since cancer treatment is a lengthy process with a long cycle of chemotherapy, the government is focusing on He emphasised the need for engaging with Day Care Cancer Centres rather than adding soft skills to increase the empathy, ethics and big hospitals to ensure engagement of patients postcommunication skills of the

chemotherapy sessions.

challenges, says Brazil Minister

said.

short-term

"The government will establish Day Care Cancer Centres in all district hospitals over the next three years. Two hundred of these will be set up this year itself." Underlining the importance of strengthening the medical health system, reiterated the Nadda budget announcements introducing new medical seats and highlighted the government's efforts to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality healthcare to people through more than 1.75 Lakh Ayushman Aarogya Mandirs. The minister said that the number of medical colleges has increased from 387 in

# Union Health Minister JP Nadda Pioneer Photo

number of seats for undergraduate and a 135 per cent growth in seats for postgraduate courses during the same period. also supported the He suggestions made during the

webinar such as faculty pooling among medical institutes, hiring retired teachers as visiting faculties to make unviable institutions incorporating viable, medical competency-based

education, early clinical exposure for students, and enhanced communication skills for both students and faculty. Highlighting the developments made in medical infrastructure for cancer care, Nadda mentioned the establishment of the National Cancer Institute at AIIMS-Jhajjar, the upgradation of Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute in Kolkata and the setting up of oncology departments in all 22 AIIMS. Citing a recent LANCET study, he underlined that "timely cancer treatment initiation has improved significantly because of the Ayushman Bharat Jan Aarogya Yojna. Patients enrolled under AB-PMJAY saw a 90 per cent rise in access to cancer treatment within 30 days."

### Multilateralism struggling with global |BJP wins MLC polls in Andhra Pradesh emissions driving climate

### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home P Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on victory of NDA candidates Thursday thanked the people in the polls.

laundering case journey to new heights," the against SDPI prime minister said, responding to a post by Chief Minister N PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Chief NEW DELHI

Enforcement The

ED conducts

raids in money

underlined that there has been a 130 per cent rise in the

2014 to 780 now and

said from its official X handle.

Shrinate, in a post on X, said, "Warning: Your email, social media, bank and trading accounts are under attack." "The new income tax law allows tax officials unrestricted access to your emails: read your private conversations; your social media: monitor your posts, messages and interactions; your bank accounts: track every rupee you earn and spend; and your trading watch accounts: vour investments and financial moves.

"They need NO proof to do just suspicion. so, A government with unchecked power. The Modi government with that has been misusing agencies to silence critics and crush Opposition will now do this: harass and intimidate citizens, settle political scores by targeting opponents, weaponise tax department to destroy reputations and lives. is nothing but This surveillance. Will you just stay silent or look the other

conomic instability and food insecurity.

triple negative effect," she

The minister warned that

protectionism may bring

temporary gains but, in the

long run, leads to inflation,

trade

She stressed that two major global challenges — health and climate change - cannot solved without World international cooperation. There is growing scepticism about multilateral efforts, particularly in climate negotiations, following the disappointing outcome at COP29 in Baku, the US withdrawal from the Paris Agreement and Argentina signalling its intention to do the same.

"Baku represented disappointment.... This climate of disappointment after the COP was due to developed countries not fulfilling their commitments, which leads, on one hand, to a loss of credibility and a deficit of implementation. This is now even more difficult to handle because it also results in a deficit of confidence," Silva said in response to a question from PTI.

Developed countries, historically responsible for most of the greenhouse-gas

However, they offered a paltry USD 300 billion by 2035, a mere fraction of the at least USD 1.3 Trillion needed annually from 2025, leaving many developing countries

change, were required to

deliver a new and ambitious

financial package to support

climate action in the developing world at the UN

climate conference in Baku,

deeply disappointed. Silva said multilateralism is not being able to "fully handle" global challenges. However, "there is no effective solution outside multilateralism (either). Multilateralism is the only way forward," she said, stressing that Brazil remains committed to strengthening

Calling for reforms in the UN system for global governance, Silva said changes are needed to make it more effective and adaptable. "Our reality is not static. We need swifter processes and swifter structures to deal with climate change.

Asked whether the US decision to leave the Paris Agreement would affect COP30, Silva said, "We cannot be denialists to not acknowledge that.'

to the BJP in Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) elections. The BJP has won two out of three MLC seats there. Elections were held on February 27.

'I thank the people of Telangana for blessing @BJP4Telangana with such phenomenal support in the MLC elections. Congratulations to our newly elected candidates," Modi said in a social media post. "I am very proud of our party Karyakartas working among the people with great diligence," he said.

In another post, Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the victory of Democratic National Alliance (NDA) candidates in the graduate MLC elections in Andhra Pradesh.

"Congratulations to the winning candidates. The NDA governments at the Centre and in Andhra Pradesh will keep serving the people of the state and take the state's development

Prasad and P Rajasekharam won the graduate MLC elections Andhra in Pradesh. while an independent candidate secured victory in the teachers' constituency MLC poll.

Home Minister Amit Shah expressed gratitude to the people of Telangana for blessing the BJP with a thumping victory in the election to the state's legislative council.

'Gratitude to the people of Telangana for blessing the BJP with a thumping victory in the MLC election. Your trust inspires us to serve even harder," Shah said in a social media post.

The home minister said this is a triumph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's untiring efforts to develop Telangana.

"Heartiest congratulations to Telangana BJP President @kishanreddybjp Ji along with the Karyakartas of the party for all the hard work,' he said.

trends

Directorate (ED)ed nationwide searches on Thursday as part of a money laundering investigation against the SDPI, the political outfit of the banned Popular

Front of India (PFI). The searches come after the federal probe agency arrested Social Democratic Party of

(SDPI) national India president MK Faizy on March 3 at the Delhi airport. He is currently in ED custody.

The searches were carried out at two locations in Delhi, including the SDPI headquarters in Nizamuddin West, Thiruvananthapuram and Malappuram in Kerala, Nandyal in Andhra Pradesh, Pakur in Jharkhand, Thane in Maharashtra, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Lucknow and Jaipur, said officials. The ED said, after the arrest of Faizy, that there was an 'organic" relationship between the two outfits and that the PFI (Popular Front of India) was carrying out its criminal

activities through the SDPI. The PFI was banned by the Union government September 2022, calling it an unlawful association and accusing it of indulging in terrorist activities. Multiagency searches by the ED, NIA and various state police organisations preceded the PFI ban. The SDPI was founded in 2009 and is also registered as a political party with the Election Commission of India. The ED told the court, while seeking Faizy's remand earlier this week, that PFI and SDPI were "organically" linked and that SDPI was nothing but the "political front" of PFI and was "funded and controlled" by the latter. The anti-money laundering agency said that it had evidence to state that there was a "deep-rooted" nexus between the two organisations, as there was "overlapping" membership of their cadres, involvement of PFI office bearers in the founding of SDPI, and the utilisation of each other's assets.

### **CREA** report highlights severity of winter air pollution in India

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) in its report, highlighted the severity of winter air pollution in India, revealing that 173 out of 238 cities recorded PM2.5 levels exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 40 µg/m . Aizawl, Mizoram recorded the lowest winteraverage PM2.5 level at 7  $\mu\text{g/m}$  , making it the cleanest city in the analysis. Not a single city met the World Health Organisation (WHO) guideline of 5  $\mu$ g/m , underscoring the widespread

said. According to the report,

air quality crisis, the report

city in India during winter 2024-25, with an average PM2.5 concentration of 159  $\mu$ g/m throughout the season. During the previous winter (2023-24), Delhi also topped the list with a higher average of  $171 \,\mu g/m$  . Byrnihat in Meghalaya

Delhi was the most polluted

followed closely in winter 2024-25, recording a PM2.5 concentration of 157  $\mu g/m$  . Other cities among the top 10 most polluted included Hajipur, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Noida, Patna, Asansol, Durgapur, and Charkhi Dadri. The top 10 most polluted cities are located in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, and Assam along with Delhi.

Moreover, none of the 238

cities analysed met the World Organisation's Health (WHO) guideline of  $5 \mu g/m$ , emphasising the scale of air quality challenges. Winter refers to the period from October 1, 2024, to February 28, 2025 (winter 2024-25).

On a broader state level, Rajasthan (34 cities), Bihar (24 cities), and West Bengal (7 cities) had all monitored cities exceeding NAAQS. Similarly, Maharashtra (30 out of 31 cities), Odisha (15 out of 16 cities), and Uttar Pradesh (15 out of 20 cities) had a high proportion of cities with winter PM2.5 levels above the national standard. The report said over the 151-

day winter period, 100 cities featured in the top 10 most polluted cities are listed at



India Gate

least once. Of these, 44 cities appeared at least 10 times. Byrnihat had the highest recurrence (111 days), followed by Delhi (105 days), Hajipur (80 days), Ghaziabad

(52 days), and Bahadurgarh (47 days). Aizawl, Mizoram recorded the lowest winteraverage PM2.5 level at 7  $\mu g/m$ , making it the cleanest city in the analysis. The top 10

least polluted cities included six cities from Karnataka, three from Tamil Nadu, and one from Mizoram.

Among the 98 (National Clean NCAP Clean Air Programme) cities with Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) data, 78 recorded winter-average PM2.5 levels above NAAQS, while all 98 WHO's exceeded the recommended limit. Similarly, in 140 non-NCAP cities, 95 surpassed NAAQS, and all remained above WHO guidelines. This highlights that air pollution is not limited to NCAP cities but extends to a wider set of urban areas.

"Data gaps remain a challenge in assessing air pollution

comprehensively. During winter 2024-25, no CAAQMS data was available for any day from stations in Darbhanga, Ernakulam, Hosur, Kochi, Kozhikode, Pathardih, and Thoothukudi. Additionally, 44 cities had less than 80 per cent data coverage, including 21 cities in Haryana. While all 24 cities in Haryana initially had data available at the start of winter, several monitoring stations stopped reporting by December. By the end of the season, only Charkhi Dadri, Faridabad, and Gurgaon met the 80 per cent data coverage threshold, while data from the remaining 21 cities, crucial for assessing winter pollution, was unavailable,' the report said.



## **Global economies grappling with** population crisis: Chandrababu

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday stated that the world's leading economies are grappling with a population crisis

Speaking at a book launch, Naidu emphasised that while these countries possess advanced resources such as Artificial Intelligence (AI) and cutting-edge technolo-gies, they lack a sufficient workforce to operate them.

"All top countries in the world are struggling. There is no population. AI and technology exist, but there are no people to operate them," he said.

Citing examples of Europe, China and Japan, Naidu noted that ageing populations have become a significant challenge for these economies. However, he suggested that

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Disabilities (PwDs).

Samman Yojana'.

walk-out.

years.

BJP legislators on Thursday Dcreated a ruckus in the Jharkhand assembly, demand-ing an increase in the pension of widows and Persons With

The saffron party MLAs demanded a hike in the pen-sion so that these people get

financial assistance at par with beneficiaries of the 'Maiyan

Samman Yojana. The BJP legislators trooped into the well of the House, seeking a reply from the JMM-led government to their demand, and later staged a

They asked the government

whether it intended to raise

the pension amount of wid-

ows, physically challenged persons and elderly people at

par with the beneficiaries of

month to women beneficiaries

in the age group of 18 and 50

The government assured the

agitating members that it

would consider the demand.

BJP MLA Satyendra Nath

Tiwary first raised the issue

during question hour.

'Maiyan Samman Yojana'. Under this scheme, the gov-ernment provides ₹2,500 per

RANCHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Andhra Pradesh CM N Chandrababu Naidu during book launch of World History written by former Minister Daggubati Venkateswara Rao in Visakhapatnam PTI

India remains largely unaffected by this issue. Over the past few months, the TDP supremo has urged the people of Andhra Pradesh to have more children to counter

demands higher pensions for widows, PwDs

the declining population trend. Naidu also highlighted that India is at a pivotal moment in history Recalling the Liberalisation,

Privatisation. and Globalisation (LPG) reforms introduced in the early 1990s under the Congress government, he said India gained a "first-mover" advantage in the

### Information Technology sec-

tor. Expressing confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, Naidu asserted that Andhra Pradesh would achieve similar progress through its Swarna Andhra 2047 initiative. Despite Andhra Pradesh fac-

ing multiple challenges, Naidu reaffirmed his determination to navigate them, envisioning the Telugu people as a global-ly leading community. Comparing the state's current situation to being on a "ven-tilator," he stated that he reg-

ularly seeks support from the central government to address its issues. On Thursday, he also request-ed assistance from Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The event in the port city was attended by former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Sitharaman.

### School paint sparks allegations of saffronisation in Odisha

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BHUBANESWAR

The BJP government in Odisha has decided to paint all government school build-ings with a shade of orange, prompting the Opposition Biju Janata Dal (BJD) to allege that it is part of the ruling party's attempt at saffronisation of education.

education. The BJP, on the other hand, asserted that the BJD, during its 24-year rule till June 2024, had painted school buildings green and student uniforms were green and white, similar to the party's colour code. The Odisha State Education Programme Authority

Programme Authority (OSEPA) has recently issued an instruction to all district collectors about painting school buildings with 'Orange Tan-N' colour.

"The government has been pleased to approve the new colour code. In this context, it is requested to issue suitable instructions to concerned field

functionaries for adoption of the approved colour code in all government schools, including PM SHRI schools, during construction, repair and renova-tion works," OSEPA state project director Ananya Das wrote to all collectors, who are the chairpersons of Samagra Shiksha in districts.

This order would be in supersession of all previous instructions related to the colour code of school buildings, she said. Responding to the develop-ment, senior BJD leader Prasanna Acharya said it is "sheer politics and con-dompable" demnable"

"It is a peculiar psychology. I don't understand why this government is making such bogus decisions. What is the purpose? Can you change the education system by changing the colours? Can you infuse more energy among the children by changing the colour?" he asked. Alleging that the BJP is trying to infuse politics in the minds

Acharya claimed that nothing positive would be achieved by such a decision which involved crores of rupees of from the state exchequer.

state exchequer. In his reaction, School and Mass Education Minister Nityananda Gond said the pre-vious BJD government had changed the colour of the schools and painted them with their next colour code their party colour code. "We are not changing the

colour of the school buildings. It was the BJD government which had changed the colours of school uniforms to buildings. The decision will create a good environment and the schools will look attractive,'

Gond said. In October last year, the BJP government changed the colour of the school uniforms of students studying in classes nine and 10 of government and aided schools.

cent in the near future, he

Highlighting the Haryana gov-

ernment's commitment to

strengthening security forces, the Chief Minister said that

special attention has been given to technical upgrades,

resource enhancement, and the expansion of training facil-

ities to better equip police force for any challenges they

The new uniforms have a combination of light brown, chocolate and clay-baked yellow of schoolboys and girls, colours.

added.

may face.

### BJP brawls, walks out in Jharkhand Assembly, Haryana CM urges CRPF trainees to serve impartially

#### PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini called upon the trainee officers of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) to take a pledge to carry out their duties imporcarry out their duties impar-tially and fearlessly.

He also urged them to always be ready to protect the law and the Constitution, safeguard the rights of the people with sensitivity and stand firm in their commitment to truth, honesty and dedication, regardless of the circum-

The Chief Minister was speaking as chief guest at the passing out parade ceremony of 55th batch of directly appointed Gazetted Officers of the CRPF in Gurugram on

Thursday. A total of 39 trainee officers, including two women offi-cers, passed from the CRPF academy after completing a rigorous training program. He expressed confidence that these 39 trainee officers would discharge their responsibilities

tion, contributing to the integrity, unity, and sovereignty of the nation in line with the proud legacy of the CRPF. Commending the CRPF for its

with utmost honesty and devo-

country's internal security, the Chief Minister described the force as the backbone of country's security.

He also commended the CRPF for adopting modern tech-nologies and training tech-niques, which are helping to develop professional and capa-ble officers prepared to face any challenges in the field. The Chief Minister further encouraged the newly passing out officers to engage in con-

He highlighted that the CRPF

Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini during the passing out parade of the 55th batch of DAGOs at CRPF Academy in Gurugram Pioneer Photo

He thanked the Prime Minister for this initiative, which has led to the recruitment of many women in the Armed Forces. "The Haryana Government has also encouraged women to serve in the police force, with women currently making up 10 percent of the state police. The State government aims to increase this figure to 15 per"In addition, the state has established a dedicated Sainik and Ardh-Sainik Welfare Department to support exservicemen and paramilitary forces. In cases of martyrdom, families of Haryana soldiers serving in the armed forces and paramilitary forces receive a financial assistance of ₹1 Crore, along with a government job for one family mem-ber. To date, 415 dependents have been provided with jobs," he informed.

Director General CRPF Gyanendra Pratap Singh, Director CRPF Academy Sunil Kumar Jha and others dignitaries were also present on this occasion.

'I want to ask the government

tary affairs minister Radha Krishna Kishore said that they would study the pension sys-tem of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Chandigarh and then will consider the demand.

BJP legislators sought a specific reply from the government if it would increase the pen-

stances.

Tiwary said the population of widows in Jharkhand is around 2.85 lakh, while the number of physically challenged persons is around

72,000. "They receive only ₹1,000 a month, while 'Maiyan Samman' Yajana beneficiaries monthly receive ₹2,500. Interestingly, cooks in schools and health sahiyas (assistants) get monthly remuneration of ₹2,000, which is lower than the benefit of Maiyan Samman scheme," Tiwary said. Congress MLA Rameshwar

Replying to this, scheduled Oraon also urged the governcaste, tribe and backward class minister Chamr ment to a Linda said 'Maiyan Samman' disparity. and pension are two different programmes. "Maiyan Samman is a government's women empowerment programme, while the pension scheme is run under the Centre-state share arrrangement. There are complications in increasing the pension amount. If the Centre increas-BJP es its share, we will also hike our share," Linda said.



Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren with his wife and JMM MLA Kalpana Soren during the Budget session of the state Assembly in Ranchi

should get a pension, which should be at par with the benefits of 'Maiyan Samman Yoajana'

if it is in favour or not of the pension hike

Replying to this, parliamen-

NHRC takes cognisance of alleged discrimination in TN | JU fracas: FIR lodged against

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

quoting reports. against their alleged The NHRC has taken "suo the statement said. the men ers of a

against their alleged ostracism, motu cognisance of a media The Commission has observed National Human Rights report that a village chief that the content of the news report if true raise a seriou

# Bengal education minister

### SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

some students were injured in the incident leading to a statewide

invaluable contribution to the He also commended the CRPF

out officers to engage in con-

stant learning, stressing that ongoing education and re-learning are essential for success

is progressing towards modernisation and empowerment, ensuring that the force remains equipped to tackle evolving

security challenges. "Congratulating the trainee officers, their families, and the entire CRPF, the Chief

allow women in the Armed

dence that these officers would make significant contributions to the country's internal securitv and nation-building," he said. Saini also recalled the his-toric decision of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi to

Forces, recognising the power of half the nation's population.

Minister expressed his confi-

State minister Sudivya Kumar said that the government would soon increase the remuneration of cooks and health sahiyas to ₹3,000.

BJP MLA Shatrughan Mahto again brought up the issue in a starred question. Dhanwar MLA and Jharkhand

president Babulal Marandi said widows and physically challenged persons

physically challenged persons. Subsequently, they trooped into the well of the House and raised slogans against the government. Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato urged them to go back to their seats as the government assured them to consider the matter.

illeger

The BJP legislators, however, continued to create a ruckus in the Assembly and then walked out of the House.

Thursday said it has taken suo motu cognisance of the reports alleging ostracisation of 30 people of eight families by a village chief over a land dispute in Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu, and issued a notice to its district collector.

These families were "barred from accessing" local stores, other facilities, and communicating with other residents, NHRC said in a statement,

family when they initiated a legal battle against a man over land encroachment in Sambavarvadakarai town in Tenkasi district, Tamil Nadu", it said.

Seven other families were also allegedly ostracised when they supported this family. Reportedly, the police arrested

30 people of eight families when they protested in front of the office of the District Collector

Following a Calcutta High PCourt order, the Kolkata police on Thursday filed FIRs issue of violation of human rights of the victim families. Therefore, it has issued notice to the District Collector, against Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu and sever-Tenkasi, Tamil Nadu calling al others including senior for a detailed report within Trinamool Congress leader and two weeks," the statement said. According to the media report, professor Om Prakash Mishra in carried on February 20, "the victhe case of protest and clashes that rocked the campus last tim families were barred from accessing local stores, other Saturday inside the Jadavpur facilities, and communicating University. with other residents?

wing students' unions on Monday.

Expressing concern at the intelligence failure on the part of the police regarding a built up inside the campus Justice Tirthankar Ghosh on Wednesday rapped the police administration and wondered why only one-sided FIRs had been registered. The Court also directed the administration to file a comprehensive report regarding the incident.

Quite a few people including

### Congress to challenge BJP on key issues in Haryana Assembly

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CHANDIGARH

¬he budget session of Haryana Assembly, which will begin here on Friday, is likely to be a stormy as the Opposition Congress will likely corner the ruling BJP over a host of issues, including unemployment, paper leak, rising debt, law and order and farmers' plight.

According to the tentative schedule of the Budget session, the ses-sion will begin with the Governor's Address on Friday. There will be general discussion in the House on the Governor's Address on March 10, 11 and 12. The Budget estimates for 2025-26 will be presented on March 13 by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, who also holds the Finance portfolio while general discussion on the budget will take place on March 17 and 18.

As per the tentative schedule, the Budget session will continue till March 25. Congress leader and former Haryana chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda has said his party will strongly raise the issues including "paper leak, unemployment, law and order and corruption"

"It has become clear to the entire state that the BJP is protecting the paper leak mafia, because one paper after another is getting leaked and there have been scams in every paper from the state board exams to recruitment under this government," Hooda said recently.

"One after the other, scams, including those related to mining, are being exposed. Corruption, unemployment and crime are continuously increasing in the state," Hooda alleged. The damage to farmers' crops because of recent heavy rain, said "deteriorating law and order, rising debt" and other issues will also be raised by the party, he said. Indian National Lok Dal has

said the party will prominently raise various issues related to public interest during the Budget session. Meanwhile, with the Assembly session beginning Friday, the Congress party is yet to name the Congress Legislative Party (CLP) leader. After BJP rode to power for a third consecutive term in Haryana in last year's Assembly polls, the Congress MLAs have attended three sittings of the Assembly without a Leader of Opposition. Meanwhile, during the Budget session, the government is going to bring a fresh version of the bill on the regulation of travel agents. Chief Minister Saini had recently said the travel agents involved in sending the state youth abroad through illegal routes are being identified and strict action will be

taken against them. Saini had also said the government has made full planning to implement the 'Lado Lakshmi Yojana'

Ahead of the October 2024 Haryana polls, the BJP had promised ₹2,100 to women as monthly financial assistance for the women under this scheme if the party returned to power.

The Budget session is coming up and we will be making the pro-vision of its budget, Saini had Meanwhile, ahead of the presen-

tation of the Budget, Saini, in recent weeks, held pre-budget consultations with diverse groups to gather valuable suggestions. He also sought suggestions from ruling and opposition MLAs. Saini had on Tuesday said that the state budget for 2025-26 will be growth-oriented, with a special focus on sectors such as agriculture, education, health, sports, infrastructure, and women empowerment. He emphasised that the budget will lay a strong foundation for the state's progress and contribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) by 2047.

"Our goal is to present a budget that drives prosperity for every citizen of the state," he added. Saini said the state government is working to improve the lives of people through various reforms. The state government has brought about a revolutionary change in governance over the past 10 years, marking the most significant transformation in over a decade, Saini added.

### SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

Amid speculations of an Awidening crevice between Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek who is also the Trinamool Congress (TMC) general secretary the latter on Thursday remained conspicuous by his absence in the crucial core committee meeting of the party that the Bengal Chief Minister had constituted last week to deal with the alleged permeation of electoral rolls with "ghost voters" - as an alleged "part of BJP's ploy to win the next year's State elections.

The leaders of the core committee - comprising Firhad Hakim, Subrata Bakshi, Arup Biswas among others considered close to the Chief Minister — met on Thursday to discuss the issue of "spurious" electoral rolls.

According to sources close to the junior Banerjee he would hold a separate meeting on March 15 where he is likely to call all district and block level leaders. Though sources in the TMC said that much should not be read about Abishek Banerjee's Thursday's developments there was hushed talks about his absence from the meeting. The junior Banerjee who is also

an MP from Diamond Harbour constituency is reportedly unhap-py with the way his own coterie being marginalised in the party. Incidentally the issue became public recently when Abhishek



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee

himself clarified his stand from

a public platform. He told a party organisation meeting called by the Chief Minister at Netaji Indoor Stadium that rumors were being fanned that he was moving away from the party which he vowed to be untrue.

"There is a propaganda in the social media that I am quitting the party. This is being done by the vested interests in the BJP. But I must say that I am not a traitor like Suvendu Adhikari or Mukul Roy. I had identified them as traitors who were betraying the party. I will not join the BJP come what may even if they cut my throat. I will still shout 'Mamata

Banerjee Zindabad. I will not join BJP. I will not betray the TMC or Mamata Banerjee," Abhishek had told the party members in presence of the Chief Minister Meanwhile, in a related develop-ment senior TMC leaders including Subrata Bakshi, Firhad Hakim, Arup Biswas, Chandrima Bhattacharya and Ritabrata Banerjee on Thursday met the Chief Electoral Officer to discuss the permeation of fake voters in the electoral rolls.

'We have alerted our leaders down the line and a statewide scrutiny is on. Hundreds of fake names are appearing that have been included in the voters' list. Many of these people live outside

Bengal and have different EPIC numbers in some cases they have the same EPIC numbers. This is a big scam and we have alerted the CEO about this and scrutiny will continue," said Bhattacharva

PTI

Earlier the Chief Minister had alleged that the BJP was filling the voters' list with ghost voters in order to win the 2026 Assembly elections like they allegedly did in Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi.

"The leaders in Haryana, Maharashtra and Delhi could not catch this trick but here we have caught it and will purge all the voters' lists clean. We will defeat the BJP once again," she said.

### Army hosts 'Arunachal Pradesh -India Centric Geospace' seminar

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DIBRUGARH

The Indian Army hosted a two-day seminar titled 'Arunachal Pradesh — India Centric Geospace' in Assam's Dibrugarh district, an official release said on Thursday. The two-day seminar, which began on Wednesday at Dinjan Military Station, was attended by senior military officials, policymakers and

scholars. It provided valuable insights into the region's geopolitical, economic and development aspects, it added.

Leading scholar and commentator on transboundary rivers, climate change and the Arctic, Uttam Kumar Sinha, emphasised the need for India to enhance its river management capabilities independently rather than reacting to China's activities.

He stressed a scientific, sustainable and people-centric approach to infrastructure development.

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | MARCH 7, 2025

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### -PAPER WITH PASSION-

## A game changer

The strengthening of EU-India ties offers a promising path towards stability, prosperity and technological advancement

he European Union's outreach to India has gained significant momentum, marking a new chapter in their strategic relationship. In the wake of global disruptions, including the shifting stance of the United States under Donald Trump-characterised by tariffs, the withdrawal of support for Ukraine, and disengagement from Gaza-the strengthening of EU-India ties emerges as a stabilising force in global geopolitics. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen's recent visit to India underscores the EU's commitment to deepening ties with New Delhi. Meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Hyderabad House, von der Leyen expressed the EU's high regard for India as a partner. She emphasised that as the two enter the third decade of their strategic partnership, "the best is yet to come." This sentiment reflects the EU's vision of India as a key player in shaping global economic and political landscapes. A focal point of their discussions was the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), a crucial initia-



tive aimed at boosting connectivity, trade and energy cooperation.

Given the evolving geopolitical dynamics, this corridor could serve as a counterbalance to China's Belt and Road Initiative, ensuring a more diversified and resilient global supply chain. A significant highlight of the India-EU partnership is its deepening engagement in digital and technological arenas. With India emerging as a technological powerhouse and the EU striving for digital sovereignty, collaboration in these areas can create a formidable synergy. The EU's focus on clean energy aligns with India's ambitious renewable energy goals. Such initiatives can help India and the

EU lead the global transition towards a sustainable future. Beyond technology and energy, trade remains a cornerstone of EU-India ties. Both sides are actively negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that could unlock significant economic potential. The EU is India's second-largest trading partner and a comprehensive trade agreement would not only boost exports but also enhance supply chain resilience, particularly in a world grappling with economic volatility. With Trump's protectionist policies disrupting global trade, an EU-India trade pact could serve as a counterweight, ensuring that both economies remain competitive and open to global commerce. The collaboration on supply chain resilience will also be crucial in mitigating risks associated with overdependence on specific markets. With Trump's policies creating uncertainty in trans-Atlantic relations and global trade, the EU's pivot towards India reflects a strategic recalibration. The EU recognises India's growing role as a stabilising force in global affairs-both as a democratic counterweight to authoritarian regimes and as a crucial player in maintaining a rules-based international order. The EU-India partnership stands at a defining moment. With digital collaboration, green energy initiatives, and robust trade negotiations at the forefront, this relationship could reshape global economic and political alignments.



# When no solution is the only solution



Whether due to ego or rivalry, certain disputes become intractable, spanning generations. The irony is that winning does not always make one a winner

ne of the bigger challenges in life is to find an answer to a question dealing with life itself. The glib belief is that every problem has a solution. A wisecrack has rightly commented that every problem has a solution but the solution creates a problem of its own. If it were a simple, straightforward dimension, such as that, there would be nothing to worry about because problems and solutions would be in a dyadic relationship.

The problem arises when a problem is not solvable because two sides want a solution on their terms or indeed have no solution at all. This need not necessarily be an act of mischief, but it may be a simple case of jealousy/envy or indeed a bitter competitiveness that brooks no solution at all. The first exposure to such an intractable jungle-like situation today is that the two parties concerned themselves do not see a solution worth pursuing. This may be because of many reasons, one of them being that the person concerned may genuinely believe he has an upper hand and that he is not going to lose that advantage. Very often, this gets intertwined with ego, worth, or dislike.

If there are stakeholders beyond this, of a variety which see an advantage in the contending parties being maintained as contending parties, or there is a personal dislike between the two people concerned, then also a solution becomes well-nigh impossible. Thus, it is that certain problems have subsisted beyond generations and led to devastating wars which ultimately wiped out both parties, and there was nothing for the winner to take away at all.

The story of the Mahabharata is a telltale story of the winners sort out the situation may be ultimately having nothing to the only route forward. gain, at least for the generation Other factors prevent a in play. In more recent times, World War I and World War II world War I and World War II did not produce any obvious dimension and another as winners, and the world went sibling rivalry. Be that as it

back to a full circle. The better-known cases of history have similar dots on a lesser scale and indeed, this can be true also in personal lives

The long and short of it is, it takes more than a 'win' to become a winner. At a different scale altogether, personal dislikes and prejudices can be so large that one adopts an attitude where one concludes that, irrespective of the nuances, one will simply not work towards a solution. Here again, the resolution of the conflict becomes difficult. Hence, it is a fortunate situation where both sides want a situation of solution and therefore are open to it. This is so often a given in this set of circumstances that to pray for it would be to hope for the

near impossible. To expect divine grace to



THUS, IT IS THAT **CERTAIN PROBLEMS** HAVE SUBSISTED BEYOND **GENERATIONS** 

AND LED TO DEVASTATING WARS WHICH ULTIMATELY WIPED OUT BOTH PARTIES AND THERE WAS NOTHING FOR THE may, it is necessary to recognise that no conflict can be eternal either. While it is true that generations have transferred the conflict from one to another, the nature of the conflict itself became an impediment to solutions, and if nothing else, the ego factor may become a primary determinant of the way forward. Under such circumstances,

the generational transformation of the rivals involved alters the nature of the solution that is feasible. Indeed, no solution is feasible unless it is doable and sustainable. People often align together because of their own needs and then find arguments to sustain their position. In many cases, logic gives way to simple impulses and a nonthinking solution takes hold of the operationally powerful. The operationally pow-

erful impose their solution,

flowing out of the conflict was not met. Under such circumstances, it may be useful to suspend the conflict and learn to live with it rather than solve the problem. Avoiding a problem or indeed learning to live with it may at times be a solution. This can follow many routes including not letting the problem escalate.

The enigmatic context is that very often, as the needs of the combatants change, the search for solutions also becomes elusive. This is because one has no use for "the solutions".

The times have changed, and the solutions are passive because there is nothing left to enjoy in becoming a winner. It is therefore important to realise, in many cases, that a solution is only a solution if it makes winners of all concerned. However, that may be another matter altogether.

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



WINNER and the predictable hap-TO TAKE AWAY pens. The flawed solution is subverted by the party whose basic need for advantage AT ALL

An Indian myna perches on a red silk-cotton tree (Bombax ceiba), in Nadia

## A parent's reflection on society and the next generation



I was raised with the values of respect, resilience and financial prudence principles. yet, I sometimes wonder if these values still carry the same significance

was born in a middle-class family 66 years back, less than 12 years after independence. My father was an engineer in a state government department. I came across my mother's diary a few years back. She had spent her life painstakingly balancing a low government income against the rising expenses of bringing up three children. My parents inculcated in us the value of money.

Another value that was deeply ingrained into our psyche by them was to respect everyone. I was taught that relationships were more important. A look festival. of reproach from my mother

was enough for me to realise my mistake if I was disrespectful. This is what I tried to pass on

to my children. I often look at them with pride. Having lived a better part of my life trying to hold on to these values, I now find myself at crossroads. Rapid urbanisation has resulted in concentration of bigger population in apartments. Technology has evolved like

never before to provide faster modes of communication. Society WhatsApp group is unfortunately used by a few people at the expense of harin the murky world of society



politics. It does not matter to

them if their actions are

The condominium seems to

be mirroring the happenings

beyond the residential com-

lady was left with only four

derogatory.

monious relationships Recently, I found myself at the

receiving end of a vitriolic diatribe. My fault was that I had taken the initiative of organising a cultural and literature

plex. I am left wondering that I sincerely believe that our politics and religion, the two factors that should create a youngsters need more exposure to the arts to navigate an unified society, are used to increasingly fast-paced and divide. more stressful world than It is at times like these that I what we grew up in. The lanstart doubting the values guage used by a few of these inculcated by my parents, persons, who have claimed to and that in turn, I expect my be my good friends and children to follow. I talked to neighbours over the past eight many other residents working years, left me nonplussed at best and painfully hurt at with me for the festival. They were also indignant and sad worst. It should not have surabout the way things were prised me. These very people turning out to be. have been habitually doing They had their own stories to the same followed by profuse narrate. One lady was rudely apologies as it suits them. It told to curb her flair for takjust seems expedient to them ing good initiative. Another

other friends when it was time to pitch in. The majority suffers in silence at the hands of the minority. It made me rethink if our parents were wrong in turning us what many may call timid to suffer mental anguish. I also debated if we passed the right values to our children. We were unanimous in our

shared belief. I derived strength as I looked around, and talked to these parents, many of whom were younger. We have been right in teaching our children to be better humans

Our children are better than us. They are putting the same technology to better use. #Me Too, Girls' Right to Education, Let's Talk, Good Touch Bad Touch are only a few of the initiatives that they are pursuing with single-minded devotion to make this a better world. I am confident that they will set better examples for the next generations to raise their voices and not suffer in silence against the bullies

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

### THE EDITOR ERS I (O)

### **BLUE ECONOMY NEEDS PROTECTION**

Madam — Kudos for 'Balancing growth and conservation' (March 6) for highlighting the most sensitive issue of conservation at Kerala's Quilon fish bank. This is only one of the several aspects of conservation, and its ignorance has a massive, devastating effect on the blue economy and fishing community. Fiftysix percent of our coastal population is directly and indirectly dependent on the blue economy. The conservation aspect of sustainable growth and development has long been ignored by the policymakers. The political ecosystem is insensitive to conservation. In fact, extensive conservation projects need to be conceived and implemented on all river fronts, particularly in the hilly areas. In the absence of geological studies and research and conservation, mass destruction of life and property in hills is caused by torrential rains and floods.

Several rivers are disappearing fast, causing mass annihilation of flora and fauna as well as cultivation. The Geological Survey of India should carry out wideranging and widespread surveys and research in hills, riverbeds, and coastal regions to ascertain and fetch fresh data. The Archaeological Survey of India should engage conservation architects for carrying out conservation of excavation sites, historic places and buildings, ancient temples, river fronts, and coastal regions. Against all beliefs and perceptions, the conservation projects are potential employers and sources of revenue. Unfortunately, our engineering colleges are producing fewer conservation architects. Urban development is incomplete without conservation. Oceanic studies and research institutions should be established in all potential regions for sustainable growth and development.

Vinod Johri | Delhi

### **US IMPOSES HEAVY TARIFF**

Madam— US President Trump launched trade war against America's three biggest trade partners, drawing immediate retal- Canada also had initiated disruptive

### Modi inaugurates Vantara



he recent visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the inauguration of Vantara – Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre in Gujarat's Jamnagar has hit the headlines with heart warming pictures of the PM spending happy moments with the animals there. Spread over 3,000 acres, Vantara- a brain child of Anant Ambani of the Reliance group is all set to become the world's largest zoo and

iation from Mexico, Canada and China. Trump's government has imposed 25 per cent tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports though Trump limited the levy to 10 per cent on Canadian energy. He also doubled the tariffs he slapped last month on Chinese products to 20 per cent. China retaliated with tariffs of upto 15 per cent on a wide array of US farm exports. It has also expanded the number of US companies subject to export controls and other restrictions by about two dozens. Canadian PM has said that his country would plaster tariffs on more than 100 billion dollars of American goods over the course of 21 days.

Mexican President has said that Mexico would respond to the new taxes with its own retaliatory tariffs. Trump has said that tariffs are intended to address drug trafficking and illegal immigration. He has also announced that the tariffs will come down only if the US trade deficit narrows. China has filed complaint with the WTO against US in response to Trump's tariff hikes on Chinese goods.

rehabilitation centre. The world class rehabilitation centre is equipped with modern veterinary technology, including ICU, MRI, CT scan, X-ray, dialysis, ultrasound and endoscopy units, besides research institutions and academic hubs

Vantara which received the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' national award focusses on rescue, rehabilitation and protection of animals globally. The facility has through its various operations rescued abused, injured and endangered animals from different parts of the globe. The rehabilitation center has been designed to recreate a natural and nurturing environment akin to the lush habitats from which the rescued animals hail from.

M Pradyu | Kannur

proceedings against US at the WTO on the additional tariffs. Trump's new tariff Imposition will certainly rattle financial markets, raising concern about renewal inflation and business uncertainty in US and abroad.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

#### **CONG LEADER COURTS CONTROVERSY**

Madam - Congress spokesperson Sharma Mohamed stirred controversy by calling Rohit Sharma "fat for a sportsman" and the "most unimpressive" captain India has had. Congress is already losing deposits and the recent debacle at Delhi elections proved their worth and the high command must have decent control over the cadres by teaching them how to talk on a public platform. In a historic achievement, India captain Rohit has become the first captain to lead his team to the final in all four major Men's ICC tournaments

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | MARCH 7, 2025

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## **FIRSTCOLUMN**

### THE RISE OF EU-INDIA **DIGITAL COOPERATION**

The EU and India are strengthening ties in digital governance, AI and semiconductor resilience



### KUMARDEEP BANERJEEE

ven as President Trump of the USA was busy being the world's most popular content creator, the global forces were turning the gears of a strategic realignment. After the televised, admonishment of Ukrainian President Zelensky by US President Trump and his VP JD Vance, the former was seen with several leaders of the European Union. As the case may be European leaders didn't have much to offer to Ukraine, except a subtle message to make peace with the US President. It may be a matter of time, before, Ukrainian President Zelensky has to evacuate his bunker office in Kyiv and perhaps make way for a more, current US head of state worldview representative. The message for the world was clear, the US would no longer be happy to bankroll, what it considers vague political narratives, potentially considered to be the hallmark of a free liberal world order.

This world order, incidentally a post-World War creation, by the US, ensured free fair open markets, meant for the prosperity of all. What this free world order has achieved in the past many decades can be debated, however, it has ensured the US retains its supremacy in the economic prosperity index and so have many of the aligned nations including India (since the 1990s). Just before the US and Ukraine visible splat, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen led a large delegation of senior ministers to Delhi to re-establish the highlevel EU India Trade and Technology Council conversations. Given the current geo-political landscape, one of the major focus areas was Digital Economy and Governance.

The European Union (EU) and India reaffirmed their commitment to deepening digital cooperation, emphasising shared values through their Working Group 1 on Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance, and Digital Connectivity. Both sides pledged to accelerate human-centric



digital transformation and advance key technologies, including AI, semiconductors, High-Performance Computing and 6G, to benefit both economies and societies. The two parties agreed to enhance research and innovation to improve competitiveness and economic security while promoting a cyber-secure global digital ecosystem. They also stressed the importance of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in fostering inclusive digital economies. Both sides committed to ensuring interoperability between their respective DPIs, safeguarding human rights, and protecting personal data and intellectual property. They also discussed mutual recognition of e-signatures to facilitate cross-border digital transactions On semiconductor collaboration, the EU and India focused on strengthening the resilience of supply chains and expanding joint research in areas such as chip design and sustainable technologies. The two sides underscored their shared commitment to the responsible development of AI, agreeing to further cooperation through joint projects and the development of frameworks for ethical AI. They also plan to enhance cooperation on large language models and Al applications in sectors like climate change and bioinformatics. They also committed to implementing the Global Digital Compact, which was endorsed at the UN General Assembly in September 2024, and ensuring continued global support for multi-stakeholder internet governance at the upcoming World Summit on Information Society +20. It may be the right click for both the EU and India. The EU and India are seizing the opportunity to strengthen their digital and technological ties. Their renewed partnership signals a commitment to fostering a resilient, secure, and inclusive digital future, underpinned by shared values and mutual economic interests. As old alliances shift, new partnerships may define the contours of the evolving world order.

# Namaste at Oscars: Indian cinema has arrived



analys \$ 07

Indian storytelling captivates and inspire audiences worldwide. With the right strategy, this moment can shape the future of Indian cinema



he Namaste at the Oscars 2025 has reinforced the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: "The world is one family," a vision that transcends borders yet thrives on respect, mutual interdependence and a shared spirit of creativity. This symbolic gesture was not merely a greeting but a powerful moment of inclusivity, reflecting cinema's unique ability to bring together artists, audiences and creators from across the globe.

This moment at the Academy Awards highlights how soft power is no longer confined to diplomacy alone; it now permeates events, institutions, and cultural exchanges. Cinema, often regarded as the perfect brand platform for fostering relationships, stood at the centre of this phenomenon.

The Namaste was a gateway, introducing the legacy of Indian storytelling to a diverse global audience and reinforcing

came close, and Slumdog Millionaire (2008) swept the Academy Awards, yet these narratives were largely shaped by Western filmmakers. The paradigm began to shift with R (2022), which not only won an Oscar for Naatu Naatu but also forced global audiences to acknowledge the unapologetic, high-energy story-telling of Indian filtmakers. This shift was further cemented A SIMPLE,

WELL-TIMED when Payal Kapadia's All We NAMASTE Imagine as Light (2024) won the HAS GIVEN Grand Prix at Cannes, a rare honour for Indian cinema. Films like Chaitanya Tamhane's The Disciple (2020), Rima Das's INCREDIBLE

INDIA A Village Rockstars (2017), and RENEWED Nandita Das's Manto (2018) have been steadily breaking barriers, proving that Indian cinema is no GLOBAL longer defined by stereotypes but IDENTITY.

not just participating but actively shaping the conversation. One powerful example of how such moments create ripples is Life of Pi (2012). When director Ang Lee won the Oscar for Best Director, he greeted the audience with a Namaste, acknowledging the deep Indian cultural influence on the film.

That moment reinforced India's storytelling traditions, but the Namaste at the Oscars 2025 is even more significant; it wasn't just about one film, it was about the entire Indian cinematic move-

ment. India must now leverage this momentum through platforms like WAVES, the country's film export initiative. WAVES has the potential to push Indian cinema into untapped markets, ensuring a land of fantasy to a nation of action. It is no longer a question of whether Indian films will win the Oscar; it is now a matter of when and how often. India is no longer a guest at the global film table-it is a host, a creator, and an influencer.

The Namaste was not just a greeting; it was an invitation for the world to recognise Indian cinema's true potential. The time to capitalise on this moment is now. With the right vision and action, this could be the defining decade when Indian cinema not only participates in global storytelling but leads it.

The world has acknowledged India. Now, Indian cinema must ensure that every frame, every story, and every festival presence echoes the power of that Namaste. The Namaste at the Oscars 2025 was more than a greeting-it was a defining moment for Indian cinema on the global stage. It symbolised India's growing influence in storytelling, marking a shift from sporadic recognition to strategic presence. To sustain this momentum,

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)

the deep cultural interconnect between nations through the lens of cinema. Beyond its immediate impact, this gesture has set the stage for the future of the Oscars and similar global platforms. It paves the way for cultural ethos to play a larger role in how nations and their creative industries collaborate and connect. A simple, well-timed Namaste has given Incredible India a renewed global identity, transforming its participation in world cinema from occasional recognition to strategic influence. Conan O'Brien's decision to open the

Oscars with Namaste was not accidental. It was a statement, an acknowledgement that Indian cinema is no longer at the periphery of global storytelling. This was not a token mention of India, nor was it a cursory reference to its billion-strong audience.

This was a recognition of India's growing cinematic legacy and influence. India has long been part of Oscar history, but often through an external gaze. Films like Gandhi (1982) won big, Lagaan (2001)

by diverse, powerful narratives. The power of this Namaste must be harnessed beyond the Oscars. As India gears up for Cannes TRANSFORMING ITS

2025, this moment should serve PARTICIPATION as a launching pad for stronger positioning. India's representation at global film festivals must be strategic; ensuring that films sent IN WORLD **CINEMA FROM** OCCASIONAL to these platforms reflect the depth, diversity, and dynamism of RECOGNITION Indian storytelling. The Cannes Film Festival has

TO STRATEGIC already been a crucial stepping INFLUENCE. stone for Indian cinema. From

Neecha Nagar (1946) winning the Palme d'Or to Masaan (2015) winning the Un Certain Regard prize, India's legacy at Cannes has been long-standing. However, now is the time to transition from isolated wins to sustained influence.

The government and industry stakeholders must work together to ensure that Indian cinema is

that films from independent, regional, and mainstream creators reach wider international audiences

By riding the wave of this Namaste moment, WAVES can position Indian cinema not just as entertainment, but as a formidable cultural force. Strategic collaborations, international distribution networks, and dedicated Oscar campaigns must now be part of the plan.

If South Korea could orchestrate a global push for Parasite (2019), resulting in its historic Oscar win, India must now do the same, systematically pushing its best films into the international awards circuit.

This is not just about recognition; it's about claiming a rightful place in world cinema. The Namaste at the Oscars 2025 should serve as a wake-up call, a reminder that Indian cinema has evolved from

India must leverage platforms like WAVES, push for global collaborations, and ensure strong representation at festivals. The world has acknowledged India's cinematic potential; now, it is time for Indian cinema to lead. With the right strategy, this moment can shape the future, ensuring that Indian storytelling continues to captivate and inspire audiences worldwide.

(The writer is former civil servant writes on cinema and strategic communication. Inputs provided by Zoya Ahmad and Vaishnavi Srinivasan)

# Ganges dolphin resurfaces in Charikadia river after 25 years

The conservation of the Gangetic dolphin is not just about protecting a single species; it is intrinsically linked to keeping the Ganga clean

he recent sighting of the endangered Ganges dol-phin (Platanista gangetica) in Assam's Charikadia River at Dhakuakhana, Lakhimpur district, has sparked immense interest. Locally known as Sihu, this marks the first recorded presence of the species in the river since 1998, ending a 25-year absence. The prolonged disappearance of the Ganges dolphin from this waterway had fueled concerns over its dwindling numbers and possible extinction.

The disappearance of the species from the Charikadia River has been attributed to several factors, including hunting, habitat destruction, and depletion of food sources. Historically, Ganges dolphins thrived across major river sys



RAJESH KUMAR SINGH

ments.

tems in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, including the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems. However, their population has now become fragmented, with significant numbers surviving only in isolated sections of these river systems.The Ganges dolphin is a

on echolocation to hunt. on dolphin behavior, survival, Despite its remarkable adaptaand threats. tions, the species faces severe threats, primarily due to habi-

It also provides training to fishermen, equipping them with conservation techniques to tat degradation from largescale development projects, including dam construction, protect dolphins during fishing activities. Despite conservadrainage works, and embanktion efforts, human infrastructure projects continue to pose Pollution further exacerbates significant challenges. The colthe risks to their survival. lapse of a four-lane bridge Recognizing the urgent need under construction over the for conservation, India has Ganga River at Sultanganjtaken steps to protect the Ganges dolphin. The National Agwani in Bihar for the third time has drawn attention to the Dolphin Research Centre environmental impact of such (NDRC), the country's first developments. In 1990, the Bihar government declared a 60-km stretch of the Ganga dedicated research facility for this species, was inaugurated on March 4, 2024, in Patna, River from Sultanganj to Bihar. Located on the Patna Kahalgaon as the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary, University campus, near the aiming to protect the species Ganges River, the center spans unique freshwater species that 4,400 square meters and aims is functionally blind and relies to conduct in-depth research while promoting eco-tourism. Recognizing the ecological



significance of the Ganges dolphin, the Government of India designated it as the national aquatic animal in October 2009 during the inaugural meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA), chaired by then-Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Vikramshila Gangetic

Dolphin Sanctuary currently hosts approximately 250 dol-phins, frequently observed between Shankar Talkies and

Manik Sarkar Ghat. While government agencies have made efforts to protect the species, conservationists emphasize that illegal sand mining must be curbed to ensure its survival. Large-scale sand extraction disrupts river ecosystems by altering water flow and destroying the dolphins' habitat and food sources, such as small fish. Mechanized sand mining further exacerbates environmental damage, creating deep trenches that negatively impact

river health. Experts warn that unless illegal activities are controlled, the already fragile dolphin population will continue to decline. On a more optimistic note, Union Water Resources Minister C.R. Patil has stated that the Namami Gange Mission-a large-scale initiative aimed at rejuvenating the Ganga-has contributed to a rise in the dolphin population. Experts view this as an encouraging sign of improving environmental conditions. According to the Wildlife Institute of India, approximately 4,000 Gangetic dolphins currently inhabit the Ganga and its tributaries, with nearly 2,000 residing in Uttar Pradesh alone. In response, the Uttar Pradesh government has introduced a tourism policy designating a dolphin sanctuary within the Chambal Sanctuary to bolster conservation efforts.Prime Minister Narendra Modi's launch of Project Dolphin has significantly increased public awareness of the species. This initiative strengthens conservation measures while promoting the ecological health of the Ganga River. Further empha-sizing its commitment to protecting the species, the Standing Committee of the National Board for Wildlife has designated October 5 as National Dolphin Day. With increasing awareness and conservation initiatives, there is renewed hope that these remarkable creatures will continue to thrive in their natural habitat. (The writer is a senior jour-

nalist; views are personal)



### EU leaders open emergency summit on defence and Ukraine aid PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PARIS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BRUSSELS

Received a day of emergency launched a day of emergency talks Thursday in a bid to beef up their own security and ensure that Ukraine will still be properly protected.

Friedrich Merz, the likely next chancellor of Germany, and summit chairman Antonio Costa discussed over breakfast in Brussels ways to fortify Europe's defences on a short deadline.

Merz pushed plans this week to loosen the nation's rules on run-ning up debt to allow for higher defence spending. Meanwhile, the 27-nation bloc

was waking up to news that French President Emmanuel Macron would confer with EU leaders about the possibility of using France's nuclear deterrent to protect the continent from Russian threats.

It all underscored the sea change that has taken place in the two months since Trump took office and immediately started questioning the cornerstones of cooperation between the United States and Europe that had been the bedrock of Western security since World War II.

"Given these profound shifts in US policy, and the existential threat of another war on the continent, Europe must manage its essential defence tasks," the European Policy Center think tank said in a commentary.

The bloc will "take decisive steps forward," Macron told the French nation Wednesday evening. "Member states will be able to increase their military



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy meets French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of the European Council to discuss continued support for Ukraine and European defense, in Brussels on Thursday. PRESS TRUS OF INDIA

France is struggling to reduce

an excessive annual budget deficit of 5% of GDP, after run-

relief for businesses and con-sumers during the COVID-19

pandemic and the energy cri-sis that followed Russia's inva-

sion of Ukraine

military equipment.

debt.

spending" and "massive joint Her proposal is underpinned by funding will be provided to buy and produce some of the most innovative munitions, tanks, weapons and equipment in Europe," he said.

Adding to the ebullient mes-sage, he said that "Europe's future does not have to be decided in Washington or Moscow." Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is taking part in the summit. ning up its total debt burden to 112% of GDP with spending on

Limited room to increase **spending:** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has proposed a plan to loosen budget rules so countries that are willing can spend much more on defense.

Five other countries using the euro currency have debt levels over 100% of GDP: Belgium, 150 billion euros (\$162 billion) worth of loans to buy priority Greece, Spain, Italy and Portugal. Europe's largest econ-omy, Germany, has more room to borrow, with a debt level of Most of the increased defense spending would have to come from national budgets at a time 62% of GDP. when many countries are already overburdened with

62% of GDP. **Pressing security needs:** Part of any security plan is also to protect the increasingly belea-guered position of Ukraine. A Russian missile killed four people staying at a hotel in Zelenskyy's hometown

Zelenskyy's Zelenskyy's hometown overnight. He said that a humanitarian organisation's volunteers had moved into the hotel in Kryvyi Rih, in central Ukraine, just before the strike.

The volunteers included Ukrainian, American and British nationals, but it wasn't clear whether those people were among the 31 injured. to Ukraine as he sought to press Zelenskyy to engage in negoti-ations to end the war with Russia, bringing fresh urgency sharing with Ukraine, cutting to Thursday's summit. Thursday's meeting is unlike-ly to address Ukraine's most

pressing needs. It is not aimed at urgently drumming up more arms and ammunition to fill any supply vacuum created by the US freeze. Nor will all nations agree to unblock the estimated 183 billion euros (\$196 billion) in frozen Russian assets held in a Belgian clearing house, a pot of ready cash that could be seized. **PRESS TRUST OF INDIA** Still, the Europeans under-

lined the importance of the moment. "Europe faces a clear and pre-

sent danger on a scale that none of us have seen in our adult lifetime. Some of our fundamental assumptions are being undermined to their very core? von der Leven warned in a letter to the leaders ahead of their meeting

But perhaps the biggest chal-lenge for the EU will be to take a united stance at a moment : Russia as a "threat to France and when it's fractured, since much : Europe," and said he had decidof what the bloc does requires ed "to open the strategic debate unanimous support. Hungary is threatening to veto part of the summit statement on Ukraine. Even if the challenges are so isaid the use of France's nuclear daunting, Thursday's summit is unlikely to produce immediate the hands of the French presidecisions on spending for Ukraine or its own defenses. Macron's move comes in Another EU summit where the real contours of decisions election winner Friedrich Merz, would be much clearer is set for who recently called for a discus-March 20-21.

France is providing military intelligence to Ukraine after Washington announced it was freezing the sharing of Early this week, Trump ordered information with Kyiv, French a pause to US military supplies defence Minister Sebastien : Lecornu said Thursday. The US said Wednesday it

> off the flow of vital information that has helped the wartorn nation target Russian invaders, but Trump admin-

istration officials have said that positive talks between Washington and Kyiv mean it may only be a short suspension. American intelligence is vital for Ukraine to track Russian troop movements and select targets.

on Thursday, Lecornu said France is continuing its intelligence sharing.

"Our intelligence is sover-eign," Lecornu said. "We have intelligence that we allow Ukraine to benefit from."

the US decision to suspend all military aid to Ukraine, French President Emmanuel

Speaking to France Inter radio

Lecornu added that following

Macron asked him to "accelerate the various French aid packages" to make up for the lack of American assistance. Lecornu said that in the wake of the US decision, ship-ments of Ukraine-bound aid

departing from Poland had been suspended, adding however that "Ukrainians, unfortunately, have learned to fight this war for three years now and know how to stockpile."

### Macron offers French nuclear deterrence to protect Europe

 $F_{\text{Macron said Wednesday he}}^{\text{rench President Emmanuel}}$  will discuss with European allies the possibility of using France's nuclear deterrent to protect the continent from Russian threats, amid concerns over potential US disengagement. France is the only nuclear power in the European Union. Macron, in a televised address ahead of a special European summit Thursday, described on the protection of our allies on the European continent by our (nuclear) deterrent." He weapons would remain only in dent.

response to a push by German sion on "nuclear sharing" with

France. EU leaders are set to address the issue of nuclear deterrence, among other topics, during the Thursday summit in Brussels focusing on support for Ukraine and European defense. European NATO allies have for decades counted on the powerful US deterrent.

"Europe's future does not have to be decided in Washington or Moscow," Macron said, insist-ing that "the innocence of the last 30 years" which followed the 1989 fall of the Berlin Wall, is "now over."

Macron said Russia is now spending 40% of its state budget in military spending, with plans to expand its army by 2030 with 300,000 additional soldiers, 3,000 tanks and 300 jet fighters. "Who can believe that today's Russia will stop at Ukraine?" Macron asked.

Allies need to make sure Russia would not invade Ukraine again after a potential peace deal is signed, Macron said. This means providing "long-term

support for the Ukrainian army" and possibly deploying European forces, he said. Those forces "would not fight on the front line, but they would be there, on the contrary, once peace has been signed, to guarantee that it is fully respected," Macron detailed. He said that a meeting of army chiefs of staff of European nations will-ing to be involved is to be held

in Paris next week. US President Donald Trump has pushed for Europe to carry more of the burden of protecting the continent, and Trump administration officials have indicated that the current US level of engagement may not be forever.

Macron also said he hoped to convince Trump not to impose tariffs on imports from Europe. Trump has threatened to impose 25% tariffs on European goods, arguing that the European Union has deliberately undermined trade with the ÚS, which EU leaders have denied.

### **S Korean fighter jets accidentally** drop bombs, injuring 8 people

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SEOUL

Two South Korean fighter jets accidentally dropped eight bombs on a civilian area during a joint live-fire exercise with the US military on Thursday, injuring eight people, officials said

The MK-82 bombs released by the KF-16 fighter jets fell outside a firing range, the air force said in a statement. It apologised and expressed hopes for a speedy recovery of the injured and said it would offer compensation and take other necessary

with the US military in Pocheon, a

city close to the heavily armed border with North Korea. The air force also said a committee would investigate the accident and examine the scale of the damage inflicted.

An unidentified air force official told local reporters that a pilot of one of the KF-16s had entered wrong coordinates for a bombing site. An unidentified Defence Ministry official told reporters that further investigation was needed to determine why the secfear. 16 also dropped The n bombs on a civilian area.

Mayor Paek Young Hyeun called the bombings "awful" and urged the military to halt drills in the city until it formulates reliable steps that can prevent a recurrence. He said that Pocheon, a city of 140,000 people, provides three major firing ranges for the South Korean and US militaries Park Seong-sook, a 70-year-old eyewitness who was not hurt in the bombing, said she thought "a war has broken out." "It was such a loud sound," she said,

adding that it left her trembling with arv said later Thursday i

### Russian missile kills 4 in Zelenskyy's hometown hotel

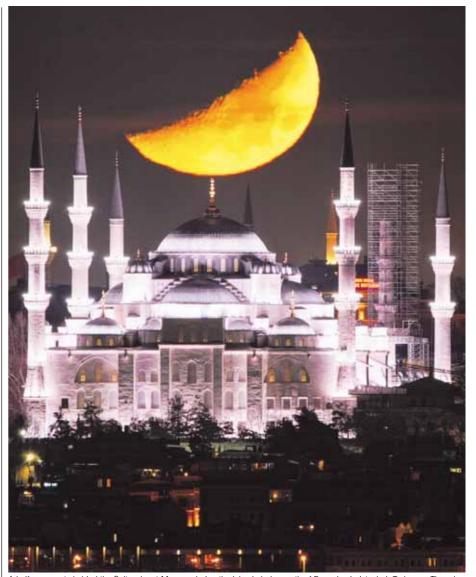
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

In Ukraine, a Russian ballistic missile killed four people staying at a hotel in President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's hometown during the night.

Zelenskyy said a humanitarian organisation's volunteers had moved into the hotel in Kryvyi Rih, in central Ukraine, just before the strike, including Ukrainian, American and British nationals.

He didn't say whether those people were among the 31 injured.

Russia fired 112 Shahed and decov drones



The air force said the fighter jets were taking part in the one-day firing drill In a televised briefing, Pocheon

has decided to suspend all live-fire drills across South Korea

well as two ballistic Iskander missiles, at Ukraine overnight, the Ukrainian air force said.

## diplomat in London loses his job over Trump remarks

they can easily buy all their fer-

tilizer ahead of time. And con-

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WELLINGTON (NFW 7FAI AND)

New Zealand's most senior envoy to the United Kingdom has lost his job over remarks he made about US President Donald Trump at an event in London this week, New Zealand's foreign minister said Thursday.

Phil Goff, who is New Zealand's High Commissioner to the UK, made the comments at an event held by the international affairs think tank Chatham House in London on Tuesday

Goff asked a question from the audience of the guest speaker, Finland's Foreign Minister Elina Valtonen, in which he said he had been re-reading a famous speech

by former British wartime leader Winston Churchill from 1938, when Churchill was a lawmaker in the government of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. Churchill's speech rebuked Britain's signing of the Munich Agreement with Adolf Hitler, allowing Germany to annex part of Czechoslovakia. Goff quoted Churchill as saying to Chamberlain, "You had the choice between war and dishonour. You chose dishonour, yet you will have war." Goff then asked Valtonen: "President Trump has restored the bust of Churchill to the Oval Office. But do you think he

really understands history? As the audience chuckled at the New Zealand envoy's question, Valtonen said she would "limit myself" to saying that

Churchill "has made very timeless remarks," according to video of the event published by New Zealand news outlets. Valtonen's speech on Tuesday was billed as covering Finland's approach to European security at an event entitled Keeping the peace on NATO's longest border with Russia.

In response to questions from reporters, Foreign Minister Winston Peters said that Goff's remarks were "disappointing" and made the envoy's position "unten able

"We have asked the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Bede Corry, to now work through with Mr. Goff the upcoming leadership transition at the New Zealand High Commission in London,"

Peters said in a written statement. Goff has been New Zealand's envoy to the UK since January 2023. He did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Ófficials were "in discussion with High Commissioner Goff about his return to New Zealand," according to a written statement from New Zealand's foreign minister, which did not divulge more detail.

Former Prime Minister Helen Clark who was Goff's boss during his time as a lawmaker — denounced his sacking in a post on X, where she wrote the episode was "a very thin excuse" for removing a "highly respected" former foreign minister from his diplomatic role

A half-moon sets behind the Sultanahmet Mosque during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan in Istanbul, Turkey on Thursday PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

# 'Bear with me', Trump says as both farmers, consumers brace for tariff effects

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA OMAHA (US)

 $F^{\rm armers \ and \ meat \ producers}_{\rm across \ the \ US \ can \ expect \ the}$ new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China and the retaliatory action from those countries to hurt their bottom lines by billions of dollars if they stay in place a while, and consumers could quickly see higher prices for produce and ground beef. But some of the impact on farmers might not be felt until the next harvest and some products might actually get cheaper in the short run for consumers if exports suffer. And the price of corn, wheat and soybeans accounts for relatively little of the price of most

products. Plus, President Donald Trump could offer farmers significant aid pay-ments, as he did during the trade war with China during his first administration, to offset some of the losses.

In his address to Congress

Tuesday night, Trump argued omist at Kansas State that agricultural imports hurt University. The situation has some farmers American farmers and asked them to "bear with me again" as stocking up on equipment and he seeks to protect them. He supplies in preparation for

didn't mention any additional prices to go up, but it's not like aid. "I love the farmer," he said. If the tariffs make farmers sumers might have a hard time stockpiling perishable products uneasy about investing in expensive tractors and con-

like avocados and ground beef. sumers worry so much about The details of how the tariffs are groceries that they cut other implemented and whether any products are excluded will also spending, that would hurt the economy overall and could matter. How will farmers be hurt?: even lead to a recession. And consumers were already worried Corn and soybean prices for this about record egg prices amid a year's harvest already fell roughbird flu outbreak

"Exactly how strong our economy is over time has a lot to do with US consumers' comfort with continuing to go out to restaurants and continuing to buy washers and dryers and just that general activity. And a lot of what we're talking about here is probably going to slow some of that," said Glynn home "at best tone deaf." Tonsor, an agricultural econfor the amount of corn, soybeans, wheat, and other agricultural products that we now export in significant quantities," he said.

Meanwhile, as crop prices decline, farmers might see their fertilizer bill jump because 85% of the potash American farmers use in fertilizer comes from Canada, which also supplies some nitrogen fertilizer as well. The Fertilizer Institute President and CEO Corey Rosenbusch said "an open, fair, predictable and transparent trade environment between the U.S. and Canada is vital?

Ív 10% since the tariffs were first "We need potash to raise healthier crops," said Minnesota announced a couple of weeks farmer Danny Lundell, who Joe Janzen, an agricultural econhosted Gov. Tim Walz on his omist with the University of corn and soybean farm near Cannon Falls on Tuesday. "And Illinois, said that has "snuffed out" any profitability in those it doesn't matter if you're big, crops. He called Trump's commedium or small, it's going to ments that farmers may be able affect you?

But Iowa State agricultural to sell more of their products at economist Chad Hart said many "There is no domestic market farmers applied fertilizer to

their fields last fall and may not have to pay the higher fertilizer bills until later.

What about meat prices?: The United States imports a lot of lean beef to mix with fattier beef produced at American plants to make hamburger, and that imported beef will get more expensive because nearly half of it comes from Canada and Mexico. That's likely to show up in grocery stores in six to eight weeks. America exported more than

\$1.8 billion worth of chicken and another \$8.4 billion in red meat to Mexico, Canada and China. These tariffs could easily lead to a 10% drop in exports, Tonsor said.

If farmers aren't able to move that much meat overseas because of tariffs, they can seek to sell more domestically - but they'll likely have to discount prices. Bad for farmers, but potentially good for consumers.

The impact will vary by prod-

uct. For instance, demand for steaks and bacon may remain relatively steady because little of that is exported, but the price of hams could drop in the US because Mexico is a major buyer of those. The price of specialty cuts like beef tongue that are almost entirely exported will plummet.

Livestock producers will see a bit of relief because the cost of the feed they use will decline, but Tonsor said they will still lose money overall.

How do farmers feel about this?: "Farmers are very concerned," said Steve Kuiper, a director at the Iowa Corn Growers Association. "People just aren't buying stuff," he said, which is hitting big companies like John Deere and local suppliers that sell their equipment.

That's the case for farmers who grow table crops as well as commodities. Katy Rogers, who manages an organic farm out-side Indianapolis, said that as

soon as Trump started talking about tariffs she bought everything she thought would see a price hike in the coming months

Kuiper hopes that the impacts of tariffs can be mitigated and eventually lead to a more level playing field that benefits farmers. He wants to see trade open with more countries. For instance, he said that for corn, China had already been favoring trade with Brazil, so he instead sees opportunity in places like India

But Trump has threatened additional reciprocal tariffs on other countries on April 2, which could make it harder for farmers to shift their exports to other countries

What is the lasting impact?: Trump can do a lot to ease farmers' pain with aid pay-ments. He gave them more than \$22 billion in aid payments in 2019 and nearly \$46 billion in 2020 though that year also in 2020, though that year also included aid related to the pan-

demic But Janzen notes that Trump is working to drastically slash spending across the federal overnment.

Walz, who lost his bid to become vice president last fall, said the tariffs will hurt trading relationships and prompt buyers in China, Mexico and Canada to look elsewhere.

Some trade experts question how long Trump's tariffs will last as they boost prices for American consumers, including his base voters, who have long complained about inflation and rising food prices.

"It is going to do nothing to help with the food inflation in the US," said Timothy Wise, author of "Eating Tomorrow" and expert on agricultural trade between Mexico and the US "I don't see it as sustainable. I don't find it plausible that corporate folks who surround Trump are going to sit back and allow him to destroy their foreign markets?



with impacts on both the eco-

nomic and military rivalry

Trump made no mention of

technology except to say that it

would help build "a golden

dome" missile defense shield

over the U.S. He declared his

focus as commander-in-chief to

be "building the most powerful

military of the future." One mea-

sure, he said, was to resurrect the American shipbuilding industry.

between the two.

### China's premier & American president: Two leaders, two speeches, two differing world visions

#### AP BEIJING

Their words came just an hour apart this week — two major speeches by two of the world's most powerful leaders, delivered on opposite sides of the planet. Together, they illustrate the very different approaches the world's 21st-century powers are taking to achieve their respective national ambitions.

For China, it was a call for unity to overcome obstacles through innovation and "opening up" a time-honoured phrase in Chinese politics — to eventually accomplish national rejuvenation. It came from Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing as he delivered an annual work report to the National People's Congress, nearly 3,000 representatives from a nation of 1.4 billion people.

Seven thousand miles away and an hour later, at 9 p.m. in Washington, President Donald Trump addressed both chambers of the U.S. Congress, more than 500 lawmakers representing a nation of 340 million, as he vowed to levy tariffs on imports and defeat inflation to "make America great again" - an equally resonant phrase for many in the United States

From setting to speaking style, the speeches were an ocean apart. Yet they struck a similar tone — that of a desire for greatness at a moment when the reigning superpower and its biggest challenger are seeing their interests increasingly at odds.

The paths their leaders choose will shape both countries' futures and the rest of the world's, too. Divided democracy vs. authoritarian unity: Li's speech was a set piece delivered to a loyal audience. For 55 minutes, he read a condensed version of a mostly dry and laudatory report on the

**PUBLIC NOTICE** PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that the Sal Deed executed between Subhash Chander Suma and M/s Nothern Strips Ltd through its Direct Praveen Barsal is registered for the residential property bearing no.106 for land measuring 13.1/2Biswa out of Khasra no. 144/106 (00.13.1/2 in the extended Lal Dora of Wilage Kanjhawala, Delh having registration no. 2831, book no.1 volume no 153 page no. 23-33 dated 03.10.2013 before Sul Ponietras SV D Denbin Lobih bac bage lact L B Mo Registrar SR VI D Rohini Delhi has been lost. LR No 2635636/2025 dt. 03-03-2024 is lodged in P.S Crime Branch, Delhi. If found kindly inform th undersigned in writing on the below mentione

dress. M/s Nothern Strips Ltd, Mob.-9555223323

PUBLIC NOTICE tice is hereby given to the Public that the Sale Deed ecuted between Jagdish Chander Sethi and M/s Nothern Strips Ltd through its Director Praveen Bans gistered for the residential property bearing no.10 or land measuring 13.1/2Biswa out of Khasra no 144/106 (00.13.1/2) in the extended Lat Dora o /illage Kanjhawala, Delhi-110081 having Registratio no. 2832. Book no.1 volume no. 153 page no. 34-44 dated 03.10.2013 before Sub Registrar SR VI D Rohin Delhi has been lost.LR No. 2635625/2025 dt. 03-03-2024 is lodged in P.S. Crime Branch. Delhi. If found

in the cheerleading way of government's performance last American politicians pumping up support for their policies. He year and its plans for 2025. He spoke from the stage of a grand, theatre-like chamber in promised steps - including cutthe Great Hall of the People, a ting energy costs - to defeat inflation, a pain point for many monumental, communist-era edifice on Beijing's renowned Americans. And he pledged to Tiananmen Square. China's top put more tariffs on imports, a

like never seen. That's a combi-

nation of the election win and tar-

iffs. It's a beautiful word, isn't it?"

China is more worried about

PUBLIC NOTICE

as lost/misplaced all original documents i.e

has lost/misplaced all original documents i.e. allotment letter, possession letter, share pertificate, Conveyance Deed and Related Payment receipt etc. of his Flat No. B-33, Mount Everest CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 17, Sector-19, Dwarka, New Delhi. In this regard, IR/NCR has been lodged on Delhi Police online portal vide LR No:2639431/2025 dated 04/03/2025. The finder may please contact me and return the documents within 15 days of this notice to the address given below. He shall be suitably rewarded. Any misuse of any of the above documents shall be treated as an offence and the person concerred shall be proceeded against as per the Law. If the above-mentioned documents are not found/recewents shall

thin 15 days of notice, these documents sha

ASSIFIED

PUSHPENDER KUMAP

Ch. No.739, Dwarka, Courts New Delhi-110075

e treated as invalid in all respects

Notary Public Delhi.

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Trump said.

ny liabilities

leader, Xi Jinping, sat on the dais behind him. The thousands of delegates arrayed before them politely applauded at the appropriate junctures. dependent economy. Trump's address, which clocked

at about an hour and 40 minutes, took place in the white-domed Capitol on the eastern end of the National Mall, dotted with national monuments. With his vice president and the Republican House speaker behind him, Trump delivered a longer, more theatrical speech to a divided Congress reflecting a divided nation.

Republicans clapped and cheered robustly at times. Democrats mostly sat in stony silence and occasionally shouted in protest. One, Rep. Al Green of Texas, was ejected from the chamber early on after he stood up and interrupted the president.

Such unscripted moments - and the high emotions visible behind them — are rare in China. It is a one-party state, and the Communist Party brooks no dissent in public. It strives to present a facade of unity. In his remarks, Li praised unity and urged the country to "rally more closely" around Xi's leadership. In Washington, Trump lamented that "there is absolutely nothing I can say to make" Democrats "happy or to make them stand or smile or applaud" and called his Democratic predecessor, Joe Biden, "the worst president in American history Tariffs vs. globalisation: Trump

was upbeat about the economy



deflation than inflation. But Li acknowledged the other challenges the economy faces, chiefly falling real estate prices and depressed consumer spending.

PUBLIC NOTICE To be known to all that I, Pushp Lata Vig W/o Late Sh.Ashok Kumar Vig R/o House No.B-22/ 1401,Tulip Violet,Sector-69,Gurugram, Haryana-122102 mutattee/owner of Flat bearing No.61-F, Second Floor, under LiG category. Pocket K, situated at Sheikh Sarai-II, New Delhi-110017. The original documents i.e. Allotment-cum-demand Letter of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch in vide G.O.3.2025. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents, may write/ contact with above named person at above address/phone No.9319706393 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy.Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan JNA,New Delhi. PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE My Clinets Ramniwas S/o late Sh. Rajpal & Sunita W/o Ramniwas R/o H.No.-603 Village Tahirpur Saria Delhi-110095 be at know to publicat largs lebarred sever- relations with his son Sawan and his wife Pooia from movable-immovable properties due to their misconduct. My clients will not be responsible for their illegal acts and MANISH KUMAR (Advocate) Ch. No.-D Block-625 Karkardooma Court, Delhi-110092 It is brought to the notice of the Public in general that my client Devesh Gupta son of Shri Deepak Gupta resident of KH-88 Block-H, Kavi Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201002

MAX

Healthcare

### PUBLIC NOTICE

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#### DESTRUCTION OF MEDICAL RECORD OF PATIENTS

Notice is hereby given that Max Mult Speciality Centre, Panchsheel Park Max Institute of Cancer Care, Lajpa Nagar will be destroying medica records related to the treatment and/or test performed of its patient at the Centre pertaining to the perio January - 2021 to December - 2021.

Any patient who wishes to acquire

the

THE PIONEER ( Certified True Copy of his/her Medical Records pertaining to above stated period may request in writing to the contact person mentioned in the table below, between 10.00 am 5.00 pm (Monday to Saturday). All CHANGE OF NAME such request applications must reach the concerned person as mentioned I, No.15432404W Hav (Clk Sd) below, within 3 (three) month from the date of publication of this notice Ashish Kumar Singh, R/o- Vill-The request for medical records Ainy Hatinsi, PO & Tehshould be submitted in Kaiserganj, Dist- Bahraich, prescribed format along with the U.P.- 271903, have changed my self-attested copy of the photo identity proof of the patient The son's name from Aarav Singh to patient can also authorise someone Raghuveer Singh, vide affidavit else to apply for and/or collect the dated 06/03/2025 before Medical Records on his/her behal with a valid authority letter/power of PD(1635)C attorney. The authorised person should submit self-attested copy of I. Nirmala, Mother ofphoto and signature proof for the No.14868601F Nk Mahadik patient and himself/herself. In case of A/P deceased patients, the attendant Dhumalwadi, Tal- Koregaon, recorded in the Medical Records may apply/authorize someone to apply for Dist- Satara, Maharashtrathe same. Please note that standard 415010, have changed my charges shall be applicable for

kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below my client shall not liable for the same.	name nom nimala to nimilaia	L cuppluine a	cuch records	I								
mentioned address. Mehul Gupta (Advocate) 32A DDA Flats,	Dadaso Mahadik, vide affidavit	subhind a	such records.			822 Bhagat Ki Kothi-Haridwar Jr		08 14:2	20 14:50	Varanasi Jn.	14:2	0 14:50
M/s Nothern Strips Ltd, Mob9555223323. Satyawati Colony, Ashok Vihar P-11, Delhi-11005	<sup>2</sup> dated 06/03/2025 before	Name of the	e Contact	Date of	Bha	gat Ki Kothi Holi Special Tra n	Tri	ips 19:0	00	Chhapra		22:15
NORTHERN BAILWAY	Notary Public Delhi.	Hospital	person n	medical	Train No.: 0482		Train No.: 04	1822 DATE	OF RUN: 08	863 Ex Gondia Jn. on 12.	03.2025 (Wed	nesday) and
TENDER NOTICE	PD(1636)C			records to	ARR. DEP.		ARR. DE	EP. 08864	Ex Chhapra	on 14.03.2025 (Friday).		
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Delhi, DRM Office, New Delhi-	I, JC-733683L Sub Sudhir				08:30	Bhagat Ki Kothi	23:55			ngargarh, Raj Nandgaon, Du		
110055 invites e-tender for the under noted work:	Kumar, R/o-Vill- Dabadua, PO-	Max Multi		PNDT				Uslap	Uslapur, Pendra Road, Anuppur Jn., Shahdol, Umaria, Katni, M			
1 Name Electrical work in connection to (A) Sahibabad-Ghaziabad: Replacement	Daulatpur (Baldeo), Teh-	Speciality		Documents		Haridwar Jn.	05:					
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and its Sarai Rohilla - Replacement of signalling gears with Electronic location Interlocking (C) Replacement of signalling gear on age cum conditional	281301, have changed my son's	Park, N-110,		OPD & IPD		day) and 04822 Ex Haridwar Jn.	on 11.03.202	25 to	04280	) Lucknow JnSabarmati	Jn.	01
basis with El at 6 stations i.e. GRA, BZJT, KUN, BZK, SHDM & MOY	name from Rahul Kumar to	Panchshee Park.		Documents	01.04.2025 (Tues	day).				Holi Special Train		Trip
2 Tender Notice No. 24-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25	Rahul Deshwar for all future	New Delhi	- com D	Dec 2021	STOPPAGES: J	odhpur Jn., Gotan, Merta Road Jn.,	Degana Jn., C	Choti		STATIONS	Train	No.: 04280
3 Earnest Money (to be deposited Online) ₹48,200.00	purposes vide affidavit dated	110017	MOB: 9811298534			Ladnun, Sujangarh, Ratangarh Jn		· · · · ·		STATIONS	ARR	. DEP.
4 Approximate cost of work ₹ 24,09,040.00/-	06/03/2025 before Executive		OFFICE:			Jn., Sunam Udham Singh Wala,		itiala,		Lucknow Jn.		12:10
5 Date & Time for Tenders uploaded on date 07.03.2025 on IREPS website i.e.,	Magistrate, Delhi Cantt.		011-			ala Cantt. Jn., Saharanpur & Roork				Sabarmati Jn.	11:4	5
submission of www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the	PD(1637)C		46097200		ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.					04280 Ex Lucknow Jn. on		
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6 Detailed The detailed e-Tender notice is available on Northern Railway Tender website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is	Kumar Singh, R/o Vill- Sahari	Care	E Mail -		Train No.: 06073		Train No.: 06	8075 Road	, Palanpur Jn	. & Mahesana Jn. stations.		
Notice & available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be	Chak, PO- Hardi Chak, Dist-	26A, 2nd	rakesh.shar			STATIONS		ACC	OMMODATIO	DN: Sleeper & General.		
Tender available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	Gorakhpur, U.P. have changed	Floor, Ring Road,	ma@maxhe althcare.		ARR. DEP.		ARR. DE	EP.	04:	382 Bareilly-Sabarmati Jn		01
Document from 14.03.2025 to 28.03.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The	my name from Kaushalya	Lajpat	com		14:15	Trivandrum North	14:15			Holi Special Train		Trip
detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the	Singh to Kaushalya Devi, vide	Nagar,	MOB:		20:40	Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn.	04:	:10			Train	No.: 04382
above office.	affidavit dated 06/03/2025	New Delhi -110024	9811298534 OFFICE:		DATE OF BUN	06073 Ex Trivandrum North	on 07 03 202	25 to		STATIONS		DEP.
No. 24-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25 Dated: 05.03.2025	before Notary Public Delhi.		O11-			av) and 06075 Ex Hazrat Niz				Bareilly		
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1 <sup>st</sup> Circle, Public V	Varke Donartm	ont	Alma			n., Salem Jn., Jolarpettai Jn., Ka	,	13101		Bandikui Jn., Jaipur Jn., Pł		
Gree, Public V	vorks Departin	ent,	AIIII			a Jn., Gudur Jn., Nellore, Vijayawa		, j on., e		. & Mahesana Jn. stations.	alera oni, Agr	
Phone/Fax: 05962-2302	295 Email: sepwdalm@re	diffmail	.com		Balharshah, Nagp	ur Jn., Rani Kamalapati, Bina Jn., Vir	angana Lakshn	mibai ACC	OMMODATIO	DN: General.		
			Dated : 05/0	2/2025	Jhansi, Gwalior Jr	., Agra Cantt Jn. & Mathura Jn. Stat	ions.		046	80 Amritsar JnKatihar Jr	h	01
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on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for fe		ation will	be available	le from	ARR. DEP.		ARR. DE					-
dated 07/03/2025 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in					14:40	Gorakhpur Jn.	08:00			04680 Ex Amritsar Jn. on (	(	.,
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He reaffirmed Beijing's "unswerving commitment" to opening up. "Regardless of changes in the external environment, we should remain steadfast in our commitment to opening up," Li said. "We

administration's environmental restrictions and (incorrectly) its electric vehicle mandate, "saving KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! → **MORE HOLI FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2025** 

technology'

will continue to expand our

globally oriented network of

high-standard free trade areas'

In a statement that no doubt

referred in large part to the

United States, he cautioned that

"an increasingly complex and

severe external environment may

exert a greater impact on China

in areas such as trade, science and

Leaving climate accord vs. green

transition: Trump touted his

move to withdraw from the

Paris Climate Accord and

described his energy policy with the moniker "drill, baby, drill." He

boasted of ending the previous

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during the upcoming Holi Festival, Railways have decided to run the following additional Holi Festival Special Trains as per details given below :-

it, in ≘∕	· · · · ·	hi n	22 Trips						
ve vs	Train N	lo.: 02436						Train No	.: 02435
ys 1e 1s	ARR.	DEP.	•	STATIONS		ARR.	DEP.		
ns Iy or		08:30		New Delhi		20:10			
in	20:10			Patna Jn.		08:30			
-1	DATE OF RUN: 02436 Ex New Delhi on 08.03.2025 to 20.03.2025								

(Except Monday) and 02435 Ex Patna Jn. on 09.03.2025 & 21.03.2025 (Except Tuesday).

STOPPAGES: Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara Jn. stations.

ACCOMMODATION: Executive & Chair Car.

09425/09426 Sabarmati JnHaridwar JnSabarmati Jn. Holi Special Train						
Train N	o.: 09425	STATIONS		•	Train No	.: 09426
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	17:20		Sabarmati Jn.		22:30	
17:00			Haridwar Jn.			21:00
DATE OF RUN: 09425 Ex Sabarmati Jn. on 09 13 16 20 23 27 8						

30.03.2025 (Thursday & Sunday) and 09426 Ex Haridwar Jn. on 10, 14, 17, 21, 24, 28 & 31.03.2025 (Friday & Monday).

STOPPAGES: Mahesana Jn., Palanpur Jn., Abu Road, Pindwara, Falna. Marwar Jn., Beawar, Ajmer Jn., Madar Jn., Kishangarh, Jaipur Jn. Gandhi Nagar Jaipur, Bandikui Jn., Alwar, Rewari, Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt. Delhi Jn., Ghaziabad, Meerut City, Muzaffarnagar & Roorkee stations. 

CCOMMODATION: A	40-3	i ier,	Sleeper	ŏ.	General.

048	04829/04830 Jodhpur JnGorakhpur JnJodhpur Jn. Holi Special Train						
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	16:15		Jodhpur Jn.		04:00		
04:30	04:45		Delhi Jn.		14:00	14:10	
20:50	Gorakhpur Jn.				23:25		

DATE OF RUN: 04829 Ex Jodhpur Jn. on upto 27.03.2025 (Thursday) and 04830 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. on 07.03.2025 to 28.03.2025 (Friday).

STOPPAGES: Merta Road Jn., Degana Jn., Choti Khatu, Didwana, Ladnun, Sujangarh, Ratangarh Jn., Churu Jn., Sadulpur Jn., Loharu, Mahendragarh, Rewari, Gurgaon, Delhi Cantt., Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Avodhya Cantt., Avodhya Dham Jn., Mankapur Jn., Basti & Khalilabad stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General

2024 is lodged in P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi. If found kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below my client shall not liable for the same.	name from Nirmala to Nirmal		shall be applical	ible for	ACCOMMODATI	UN: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper	& General.		17:00 Go	ndia Jn.	23:45	
mentioned address. Mehul Gupta (Advocate) 32A DDA Flats,	Dadaso Mahadik, vide affidavi	i subbivina	such records.		04821/048	822 Bhagat Ki Kothi-Haridwar Jr	n 08	14:20	14:50 Var	anasi Jn.	14:20	14:50
M/s Nothern Strips Ltd, Mob9555223323. Satyawati Colony, Ashok Vihar P-II, Delhi-11005	<sup>2</sup> dated 06/03/2025 befor	e Name of ti	he Contact Date	e of	Bhag	at Ki Kothi Holi Special Tra n	Trips	19:00	C	hhapra		22:15
NORTHERN BAILWAY	Notary Public Delhi.	Hospital		dical	Train No.: 04821		Train No.: 04822	DATE OF	RUN: 08863 Ex Gond	ia Jn. on 12.03.20	25 (Wedne	sday) and
TENDER NOTICE	PD(1636)	C		ords to destroved	ARR. DEP.	▼ STATIONS	ARR. DEP.	08864 Ex	Chhapra on 14.03.2025	(Friday).		
The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Delhi, DRM Office, New Delhi-	I, JC-733683L Sub Sudhi			,	08:30	Bhagat Ki Kothi	23:55		GES: Dongargarh, Raj I			
110055 invites e-tender for the under noted work:	Kumar, R/o-Vill-Dabadua, PO	Coociality	Mr. Rakesh PND Kumar Doci	cuments	04:15	Haridwar Jn.	05:15		Pendra Road, Anuppur			
1 Name Electrical work in connection to (A) Sahibabad-Ghaziabad: Replacement	Daulatpur (Baldeo), Teh	- Centre	Sharma Jan J	2021 to							,	
of work of automatic section with Distributed Electronic Interlocking (B) Delhi and its Sarai Rohilla - Replacement of signalling gears with Electronic	Mahawan, Dist- Mathura U.P.					04821 Ex Bhagat Ki Kothi			-		a General	
location Interlocking (C) Replacement of signalling gear on age cum conditional	281301, have changed my son' name from Rahul Kumar to	°   0 - 1 - 1 - 1	·		01.04.2025 (Wond	lay) and <b>04822 Ex Haridwar Jn</b> .	. on 11.03.2025 to		04280 Lucknow Jn Holi Speci			01 Trip
basis with EI at 6 stations i.e. GRA, BZJT, KUN, BZK, SHDM & MOY	Rahul Deshwar for all futur			2021 to		,,	Desena la Chati		ноп эрест		Train No.	· ·
2 Tender Notice No. 24-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25	purposes vide affidavit date		i - com Dec MOB:			dhpur Jn., Gotan, Merta Road Jn., ₋adnun, Sujangarh, Ratangarh Jn	<b>.</b>		STATIONS		Train No	
3 Earnest Money (to be deposited Online) ₹48,200.00	06/03/2025 before Executive	u   ···	9811298534			Jn., Sunam Udham Singh Wala,				•	ARR.	DEP.
4 Approximate cost of work ₹ 24,09,040.00/-	Magistrate, Delhi Cantt.		OFFICE:		, ,	la Cantt. Jn., Saharanpur & Roork	, ,		Lucknow Jn	-		12:10
5 Date & Time for Tenders uploaded on date 07.03.2025 on IREPS website i.e.,	PD(1637)		46097200			ON: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper			Sabarmati Jn		11:45	
submission of www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-Tender and e-Tender. The tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs on	I, Kaushalya Singh, Mother of	·	Mr. Dalvash	- 2021		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			OF RUN: 04280 Ex Luc		· ·	.,
opening of tender 28.03.2025.	No.15801804P NK(GNR) Rohi					Trivandrum North-Hazrat Nizamu			GES: Kanpur Central,			
6 Detailed The detailed e-Tender notice is available on Northern Railway	Kumar Singh, R/o Vill- Sahar	ri Cancer	Sharma 2021	1		drum North Holi Special Train	Trips		r Jn., Bandikui Jn., Ja Ianpur Jn. & Mahesana		Jn., Ajmer	Jn., Abu
Tender website i.e. www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is	Chak, PO- Hardi Chak, Dist	- Care 26A, 2nd	E Mail - rakesh.shar		Train No.: 06073		Train No.: 06075		MODATION: Sleeper &			
Notice & available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be Tender available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	Gorakhpur, U.P. have change				ARR. DEP.		ARR. DEP.	Accom				
Document from 14.03.2025 to 28.03.2025. All other terms and conditions in	my name from Kaushaly	a Road,	althcare.		14:15	Trivandrum North	14:15		04382 Bareilly-S			01 Trip
respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the	Singh to Kaushalya Devi, vid	e Lajpat Nagar,	com MOB:		20:40	Hazrat Nizamuddin Jn.	04:10		Holi Speci		Train No	· ·
above office.	affidavit dated 06/03/202								STATIONS			
No. 24-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25 Dated: 05.03.2025	before Notary Public Delhi.	-110024	OFFICE:			06073 Ex Trivandrum North				•	ARR.	DEP.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 729/25	PD(1638)	C	46097200			ay) and 06075 Ex Hazrat Niz	amuddin Jn. on		Bareilly			08:30
		L			10.03.2025 to 17.0	( ))			Sabarmati Jn	ı.	06:00	
Office of the S	Superintending E	nainee	r			ollam Jn., Kayankulam Jn., Che		DAIESC	OF RUN: 04382 Ex Bare			
Ast Atrala Dublic I	Varia Danari				Kottayam, Ernakulam Town, Aluva, Thrissur, Palakkad Jn., Podanur Jn., Tiruppur, Erode Jn., Salem Jn., Jolarpettai Jn., Katpadi Jn., Chittoor, Jn., Bharatour Jn., Bandikui Jn., Jaipur Jn., Phulera Jn., Aimer Jn.							
1 <sup>st</sup> Circle, Public	vorks Departi	nent.	AIMO	C		a Jn., Gudur Jn., Nellore, Vijayawa	• • •		atpur Jn., Bandikui Jn., Ilanpur Jn. & Mahesana		Jn., Ajmer	r Jn., Abu
	295 Email: sepwdalm@i					ir Jn., Rani Kamalapati, Bina Jn., Vir			MODATION: General.	on. stations.		
	se Entan. sepwaann@i	camman		0005		, Agra Cantt Jn. & Mathura Jn. Stat	0		04680 Amritsar J	nKatihar.In		01
Letter No. : 934(i)/ Nivida-01/2024-25		a a	Dated : 05/03/2	2025		ON: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper			Holi Speci			Trip
NATIONAL COMPETITIN	/E BIDDING (E-Te	nderin	a)								Train No	o.: 04680
			<b></b>		05007/05008 Go	rakhpur JnAmritsar JnGorakl Holi Special Train	Trips		STATIONS		ARR.	DEP.
					Train No.: 05007		Train No.: 05008		Amritsar Jn.			20:10
The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Alm						STATIONS			Katihar Jn.		10:30	
on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for f		mation will	be available f	from	ARR. DEP.	•	ARR. DEP.		DF RUN: 04680 Ex Amr	itear In on 07.02		
dated 07/03/2025 & onwards on website http://www.uk		14:40	Gorakhpur Jn.	08:00		GES: Beas Jn., Jaland			.,			
SI. Name of Work Cost of	Earnest Validity Ti	me of	Contractor	's	09:30	Amritsar Jn.	11:10	1	Cantt. Jn., Saharanpur,		,	
No. Tender		pletion	Category of		DATE OF RUN:	05007 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. o	on 08.03.2025 to	Hardoi, L	ucknow Jn., Rae Bare	eli Jn., Ma Belhad	evi Pratap	garh Jn.,
Form	(Rupee in Tender		Registratio		29.03.2025 (Satur	day) and 05008 Ex Amritsar J	In. on 09.03.2025		Jn., Ghazipur City, B			, ,
	lakh)		for tenderin		to 30.03.2025 (Sur	nday).			uni Jn., Begu Sarai, K khi Jn. & Purnia Jn. stati		i Jn., Sah	narsa Jn.,
1 Banawal work by SDBC in Km 20 to 21 =	₹ 2.00 400 00	Manth (			STOPPAGES: K	halilabad, Basti, Gonda Jn., Bur	hwal, Sitapur Jn.,	Dannalla	an Ji. & Fullia Ji. stat	0113.		

our auto workers and companies from economic destruction."

Beijing, on the contrary, is betting on a greener economy. Li said it would be a priority to accelerate "green transition" for "all areas of economic and social development". China already has the world's largest electric vehicle industry. Echoing earlier pledges by Xi, Li said China would "actively and prudently" work towards carbon peak and carbon neutrality.

Li stressed the importance of innovation and of developing the tech economy in China, including artificial intelligence. It's a push that many US policymakers worry could challenge America's lead in technology,

Li's report touched on defence only briefly but said China would "speed up the development of new combat capabilities? MAGA vs. Chinese rejuvenation': There's something in common, too: Both countries are

yearning for greatness again.

05045/05046 Lal Kuan-Rajkot Jn.-Lal Kuan 16 Holi Special Train Trips Train No.: 05045 Train No.: 05046 STATIONS ARR. DEP. ARR. DEP. 04:05 13:10 Lal Kuan 14:55 14:57 Bareilly 02:03 02:05 18:10 22:30 Rajkot Jn. --------

DATE OF RUN: 05045 Ex Lal Kuan on 09.03.2025 to 27.04.2025 (Sunday) and 05046 Ex Rajkot Jn. on 10.03.2025 to 28.04.2025 (Monday).

STOPPAGES: Kichha, Baheri, Bhoji Pura, Izzatnagar, Bareilly City, Bareilly Jn., Badaun, Soron Shukar, Kasganj, Hathras City, Mathura Cantt., Mathura Jn., Bharatpur, Dausa, Jaipur Jn. Phulera Jn., Nawa City, Kuchaman City, Makrana Jn., Degana Jn., Merta Road Jn., Gotan Jodhpur Jn., Luni, Samdhari Jn., Mokalsar, Jalor, Modran, Marwar Bhinmal, Raniwara, Dhanera, Bhildi Jn., Patan, Mahesana Jn. Viramgan Jn., Surendranagar & Wankaner Jn. stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-2	Tier, AC-3 Ti	ier, Sleeper a	s General.

05193/05194 Chhapra-Mtyr Captain Tushar Mahajan- Chhapra Holi Special Train							
Frain N	o.: 05193		Train No	.: 05194			
ARR.	DEP.	▼ STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.			
	14:00	Chhapra	08:00				
08:42	08:47	Moradabad	14:20	14:30			
23:05		Mtyr Captain Tushar Mahajan		00:10			

DATE OF RUN: 05193 Ex Chhapra on 10.03.2025 to 31.03.2025 (Monday) and 05194 Ex Mtyr Captain Tushar Mahajan on 12.03.2025 to 02.04.2025 (Wednesday).

STOPPAGES: Chhapra Kacheri, Masrakh, Dighwa Dubauli, Thawe Jn Tamkuhi Road, Padrauna, Kaptanganj Jn., Gorakhpur Jn., Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda Jn., Burhwal, Sitapur, Sitapur City, Shahjehanpur, Bareilly, Moradabad, Laksar Jn., Roorkee, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri Ambala Cant Jn., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar Cantt., Pathankot Cantt. Kathua & Jammu Tawi Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General

08895/08896 Gondia JnChhapra-Gondia Jn. Holi Special Train									
Train N	o.: 08895				Train N			Train No	.: 08896
ARR.	DEP.	•	STATIONS		ARR.	DEP.			
	17:00		Gondia Jn.	23:45					
14:20	14:50		Varanasi Jn.	02:40	03:10				
19:00				22:15					
DATE OF RUN: 08895 Fx Gondia .In on 11.03.2025 (Tuesday) and									

08896 Ex Chhapra on 13.03.2025 (Thursday).

STOPPAGES: Dongargarh, Raj Nandgaon, Durg, Raipur Jn., Bhatapara, Uslapur, Pendra Road, Anuppur Jn., Shahdol, Umaria, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur Jn., Prayagraj Chheoki, Ghazipur City & Ballia stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC-2 Tier, AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

08863/08864 Gondia JnChhapra-Gondia Jn. Holi Special Train									
Train N	lo.: 08863				Train No.		.: 08864		
ARR.	DEP.	♥	STATIONS		ARR.	DEP.			
	17:00		Gondia Jn.		23:45				
14:20	14:50		Varanasi Jn.		14:20	14:50			
19:00			Chhapra		22:15				

It is to inform that certain individuals are misusing the stamp of Advocate SHALU Enrollment No. D/267/2012 and representing wrongfully before District Court at Gautam Buddh Nagar. Everyone is requested to check the Delhi Bar Council Identit Card before signing any **Document** Affidavit / Vakalatnama. Sd./

SHALU (Advocate) Enrollment No. D/267/201 Mob.: 9711445353

### PUBLIC NOTICE

May it be known that my client(s), Sunil k Gupta & Veena Gupta, R/o House No. 32 First Floor Pocket-9 Sector-22 Bohin Delhi-86 do hereby cut, sever all their tie with Archit Gupta (Son), Twinkle Gard (Daughter in Law), Sovika Gupta (Grand Daughter). We disown them & declare that they shall not get any share in our moveabl & immovable property. Whosoever deals with them shall do so at their own risk and

SI. No.	Name of Work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (Rupee in Iakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1	Renewal work by SDBC in Km 30 to 34 and Km 45 to 48 of Bageshwar - Girichhina - Someshwar - Dwarahat- Vimandeshwar- Ida- Ranikhet-Motor Road (Binta - Someshwar-Girichhina Section) under Annual Repair 2025-26.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.80 Lakh	120 Days	09 Month (including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.
2	Renewal work by BC in Km 18 to 34 of Kosi - Daulaghat - Korichina - Bagwalipokhar - Binta Motor Road (Korichina Bagwalipokhar Section) under Annual Repair 2025-26.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 7.35 Lakh	120 Days	09 Month (including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "A" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.
3	Renewal work by SDBC in Km 01 to 09 of Dhauladevi - Kheti Jateshwar- Dhuragaon - Seraghat Motor Road under Annual Repair 2025-26.	₹ 5000.00 + 18% GST	₹ 3.14 Lakh	120 Days	09 Month (including Rainy Season and Winter Season)	Class "B" & Higher in Road work in Central Govt./ Any state Govt./ Any Govt. Undertaking.

STOPPAGES: Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda Jn., Burhwal, Sitapur Jn., ACCOMMODATION: Sleeper & General. Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur Jn., Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cantt., Dhandari Kalan, Jalandhar City & Beas stations. ACCOMMODATION: AC-3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

04380 Yog Nagari Rishikesh-Ahmedabad Jn. Holi Special Train						
	Train No	.: 04380				
	ARR.	DEP.				
Yog Nagari Rishikesh		08:10				
Ahmedabad Jn.	10:50					
TES OF RUN: 04380 Ex Yog Nagari Rishikesh on 07.03.2025 (Fri).						

Fri). DA STOPPAGES: Haridwar Jn., Roorkee, Tapri Jn., Meerut City, Ghaziabad Jn., Mathura Jn., Kota Jn., Nagda Jn., Ratlam Jn. & Godhra Jn. stations. ACCOMMODATION: General.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.govin or NTES App.

sit RailMadad Website :- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad ap

05060 Azamgarh-Secunderabad Jn. Holi Special Train		01 Trip
STATIONS	Train No.: 05060	
	ARR.	DEP.
Azamgarh		04:45
Lucknow	15:45	15:55
Secunderabad Jn.	21:00	

DATES OF RUN: 05060 Ex Azamgarh on 07.03.2025 (Friday).

STOPPAGES: Mau Jn., Belthara Road, Salempur Jn., Bhatni Jn, Deoria Sadar, Gorakhpur Jn., Basti, Mankapur Jn., Ayodhya Dham Jn., Ayodhya Cantt., Lucknow, Kanpur Central, Orai, Virangna Lakshmibai Jhansi Jn. Lalitpur, Bina Jn., Bhopal Jn., Itarsi Jn., Betul, Nagpur, Chandrapur, Balharshah, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Kazipet Jn. & Kacheguda Stations. ACCOMMODATION: Sleeper & General.





# **GST Council reconstitutes GoM on GST revenue analysis**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The GST Council has reconstituted the Group of Ministers on GST revenue analysis which will suggest sector-specific issues that need policy intervention, and the feasibility of a unified enforcement platform to check tax evasion.

The GST Council, in its 55th meeting on December 21, 2024, had decided to reconstitute the Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST revenue analysis with a revised ToR. The GoM was first set up in 2019.

The reconstituted GoM on 'Analysis of Revenue from GST' under Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, would have nine members including from the states of Bihar (Samrat Chaudhary),

Chhattisgarh Choudhary).

Pradesh

(P

revenues, challenges faced by Gujarat agrarian and smaller states, (Kanubhai Desai), Andhra and analyse the impact of Keshav), amendments made in GST Maharashtra (Ajit Pawar), acts and rules. Goods and Services Tax Singh

(Harpal Punjab (GST) was rolled out on July 1, Cheema). Tamil Nadu (Thangam Thennarasu) and 2017. Since then the Act and Telangana (M B Vikramarka). its rules have been amended As per the expanded ToR, the GoM would analyse the stateto make it easier for businesses after approval of wise revenue collection trend, the GST Council, chaired by including the identification of Union Finance Minister and revenue patterns sectors and regions. across comprising state counterparts The GOM would "review and It would also review details of recommend harmonisation of revenue from the inter-state anti-evasion, audit, scrutiny

tools developed by various outward supply. It would also agencies conduct a review of sector-DGARM, state governments) wise analysis and identify sector-specific issues that to create enforcement and compliance need policy intervention or enforcement measures. platform". It would also suggest suitable The GoM would also analyse the effect of macroeconomic measures/policy intervention policy changes and for course correction for geographical factors on GST

particularly for high revenue suffering shortfall.

The expanded ToR of the GoM comes at a time when another GoM, under Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary, is already working on rationalisation of GST rates and slabs.

Besides, there is another GoM, under Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide on the fate of compensation cess and taxation proposal to replace it once it ends on March 31, 2026. Gross GST collections from

April-February this fiscal has grown 9.4 per cent to about ₹20.13 Lakh Crore.

After adjusting for refunds, the collections grew 8.6 per cent to ₹17.79 Lakh Crore on net basis between April-February.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

### Ashwini Vaishnaw launches IndiaAl compute portal, dataset platform AlKosha

foundational

foundation

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA 📕 NEW DELHI

Marking a year of the IndiaAI Mission, Union model IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday launched the models IndiaAI compute portal and dataset platform AIKosha, among a slew of other initiatives under the IndiaAI Mission, aimed at improving access to AI and fostering innovation.

The compute portal will provide access to compute more than 18,000 GPUs, received. cloud storage and other AI services to students, startups, researchers, academia, and government departments. platform aims to The

streamline access to highquality non-personal datasets for AI innovation. cost of what other countries The Minister for Electronics are doing it.

In 3-4 years, India should have and IT also launched AIKosha its own GPUs competing at the global stage, Vaishnaw an all-in-one dataset platform providing resources, tools, and expert mentorship said, adding that the cost of

to help transform potential ideas into industry solutions. using these GPUs is historically low at less than ₹100/hour. Datasets will be available for MeitY Secretary S Krishnan builders and said the launch of the compute developers to work with and

model

launch India-specific AI portal will enhance the way AI gets rolled out The compute portal will be implemented across used to develop India's own country The AI Compute Portal is the model, Vaishnaw said, adding that the

largest component of the India AI mission. Almost preparedness for India's own about 45 per cent of funds (of India AI Mission) are is progressing well and as many as 67 applications have been earmarked for that particular area," Krishnan said. Citing India's mission to the

and

the

Technology, specially AI, can be an enabling factor in achieving the 2047 Viksit moon, he said the mission was conducted at a fraction of the Bharat dream, he added. cost of other countries' moon missions and the same model Further, MeitY launched a will be followed for the competency framework for Al foundational model and India and public sector officials, and will build it at a fraction of the India AI Startups Global

Acceleration Programme. The ministry also awarded students under the India AI Fellowship programme, and recognised 30 selected AI applications.

higher with the BSE smallcap gauge climbing 1.63 per cent

and midcap index advancing

Among the BSE sectoral

indices, Energy, metal, Oil and

Gas, Commodities, Utilities,

Services, Power, healthcare,

FMCG and Industrials were the

Telecommunication and Realty

As many as 3,007 stocks advanced while 989 declined

and 107 remained unchanged on the BSE. The market

capitalisation of BSE-listed

firms climbed by ₹4,53,808.84

Crore to ₹3,97,57,850.59 Crore

momentum. Among sectors,

the Oil and Gas and Metal

indices rallied over 2 per cent

booking was observed in IT

and Realty stocks," Shrikant

Research at Kotak Securities

Mitalee Agrawal honoured

Head

intraday

their

indices

positive

profit

Equity

0.65 per cent.

gainers.

were the laggards.

(\$4.57 Trillion).

continued

whereas

Chouhan,

said.

'The benchmark

India Semicon Mission-2 in the works: IT Secretary

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA GANDHINAGAR

The government is ready with an outline of next ohase of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and discussions are on internally for its rollout, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Speaking at IESA Vision Summit, Ministry of Electronics and IT Secretary Krishnan said the government is also mulling supporting ambitious chip design projects in the well country as as semiconductor packaging designs.

"The next stage of ISM is in the works. We have had discussions, discussions with many of the stakeholders, including many amongst you, as to how to design the programme. The design and the outline is ready, and there's undergoing detailed discussions internally in the government," he said.

Krishnan in his virtual speech said that the second phase of ISM proposes to provide support for gases and other elements that are required for semiconductor production.

He said that the first phase of ISM had a total outlay of ₹76,000 Crore comprising ₹65,000 Crore for chip manufacturing and packaging units, ₹10,000 Crore for modernising semiconductor lab at Mohali and ₹1,000 Crore for the design-linked incentive

scheme. "We have committed more than ₹60,000 Crore to the five major units which are

currently under construction. In addition, we have a few more projects which are under evaluation and are expected to be awarded quickly," Krishnan said. He said there is a need to provide more support to make the fabless ecosystem work more efficiently.

## Sensex rallies 610 points to reclaim the 74,000 mark

### CitiCorp Investment Bank settle FPI rules violation case with SEBI

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELH

itiCorp Investment Bank (Singapore) Ltd on Thursday settled with SEBI a case relating to issuance of offshore derivative instruments to Symmetry Master Fund Ltd without completing the KYC norms, on payment of ₹36 Lakh.

This came after CitiCorp filed a settlement suo motu application with SEBI proposing to settle the alleged violation of FPI (Foreign Portfolio Investors) rules, "by neither admitting nor denying the findings of fact and conclusions of law" under settlement rules.

Acknowledging the settlement, the markets regulator in its order on Thursday said "any proceedings that may be initiated for the violations ...

applicant". It was alleged that the applicant issued an offshore derivative (ODI) instrument to Symmetry Master Fund Ltd on December 19, 2023 without complying with the Know Your Client (KYC) norms as required under the FPI Regulations.

The applicant mentioned that the onboarding and KYC checks with respect to the ODI subscriber —SMFL— was completed on January 10, 2024. There was also an alleged delay on the part of the applicant in depositing the regulatory fee collected from the subscriber of the ODI. The regulatory fee of \$800 corresponding to the ODI issued to SMFL on December 19. 2023 should have been deposited immediately with Sebi by the applicant. Instead, it was deposited with SEBI on

RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR \$

87.18

1 USD = 87.12 INR\*

Are settled in respect of the February 26, 2024 with a delay

revenue

of 69 days. These findings pointed to violations of FPI regulations. As per another separate settlement order, BCI Industries and its promoter and MD Rajinder Mittal settled with Sebi a case of violation of regulatory norms on payment of settlement amount. BCL Industries and Mittal remitted ₹14.30 Lakh and ₹28.6

(NIC,

GSTN,

unified

augmentation,

Lakh respectively. The two entities allegedly failed to disclose Manoj Finvest Private Ltd (MFPL) as part of the promoter group in terms of Sebi ICDR (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) rule. Also, Mittal allegedly failed to cover MFPL under code of conduct of BCL to regulate, monitor and report trading by the designated persons and their immediate relatives under

and Mexico.

 $B_{nearly\ 610\ points\ to\ reclaim}^{enchmark}$ the 74,000 mark while Nifty closed above 22,500 on Thursday following heavy buying in Reliance on easing crude oil prices and firm global trends after US President Donald Trump softened stand

on tariffs. Recovering from early losses, the 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 609.86 points or 0.83 per cent to settle at 74,340.09, marking its second straight day of gains. During the day, it surged 660.57 points or 0.89 per cent to hit a high of 74,390.80. The broader Nifty of NSE advanced 207.40 points or 0.93 per cent to close at 22,544.70. In the session, the 50-share barometer jumped 219.15 points or 0.98 per cent to hit an intraday high of 22,556.45. From the Sensex pack, Asian Reliance



Finserv, Hindustan Unilever, Sun Pharmaceuticals, Adani Ports and SEZ, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Titan and Bajaj Finance were the major gainers. Mahindra, Kotak Tech

Mahindra Bank, Zomato, Tata Motors, and IndusInd Bank were the laggards. "The Indian indices exhibited

resilience, owing to positive global cues following Trump's

this col

softened tariff stance on automakers from Canada and Mexico amidst the weakening dollar index," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services said.

A correction in crude oil prices, influenced by a slowdown in demand and further economic stimulus from China, ignited optimism in the energy and metals sectors, Nair added. Broader markets also closed

### Rupee falls six paise against US dollar NITI Aayog, India SME Forum launch 'A Million Women Arise' initiative

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

**¬**overnment think tank UNITI Aayog and the India SME Forum on Thursday launched a joint initiative, A said the rupee is Million trade

to create a cohesive support system through access to finance, markets, compliance support, skilling, mentorship,

and networking". Vinod Kumar, President India Mitalee SME Forum said, "Through poration with N



### Paints, NTPC, Industries, Tata Steel, Bajaj insider trading rules. four-month low as the US decided to

delay implementing higher tariffs on imports from Canada Choudhary further

uncertainty over trade tariffs and persistent foreign fund outflows. Forex traders said the depreciation in the Indian rupee was influenced by several factors, including the weakening of regional currencies,

PRESS TRUST OF

INDIA MUMBAI

The rupee snapped its three-day rally

and settled with a loss

of six paise at 87.12

against the US dollar

amic

Thursday

investors, and a recovery in global commodity prices, all of which put downward pressure on the local currency. While a positive equity market, weakness of the American currency in the overseas market and easing crude oil prices contained the losses for the local unit.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened stronger at 86.96 and touched the high of 86.88 against the greenback during the day. The unit later turned volatile and hit the day's low of 87.16

Mar 03 Mar 04 Mar 05 Mar 06 Feb 27 Feb 28 (Inverted Scale) selling pressure from foreign before ending the session at rupee. Traders may take cues

87.12 against the dollar, 6 paise lower from its previous closing level. On Wednesday, the rupee settled 13 paise higher at 87.06 against the US dollar, registering the third straight day of gain. In the preceding two sessions, the unit had gained 18 paise.

Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan, said the rupee lost initial gains and fell against the US dollar on selling pressure by FIIs, while the American currency fell to a

87.19 with a slight positive bias on domestic and weakness in the US dollar. However, FII outflows may cap sharp gains in the local unit. "Uncertainty over the trade tariff issue may

87.06 (+13p)

also weigh on the from weekly unemployment claims data from the US and ECB monetary policy decision. \$-₹ spot price is expected to trade in a range of 86.80 to 87.25," he added. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading lower by 0.31 per cent at 103.95.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.17 per cent but stayed at six-month low levels of \$69.42 per barrel in futures trade.

empower women

entrepreneurs across India. positive Addressing the launch event markets here, Ankita Pandey, Director, Ministry of MSME, said that women-owned enterprises make up 35 per cent of India's six crore registered MSMEs, yet they face unique challenges, including gender bias and limited access to markets.

"The Ministry of MSME is committed to addressing these gaps through initiatives that enhance formalisation. mentorship, capacity-building, and e-commerce integration, she shared.

Anna Roy, Principal Economic Advisor, NITI Aayog and Mission Director, WEP emphasised, "The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a public-private Platform partnership, bringing together key ministries, including MSME, to support women entrepreneurs. By integrating existing programmes, we aim

Aayog, we aim to extend WEP's initiatives to Millions of aspiring women entrepreneurs, providing them with the knowledge and support needed to build successful businesses". Besides, India SME Forum also formalised strategic а partnership with IndiGo, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the event for providing MSMEs with improved travel solutions, reinforcing their growth and

mobility. The partnership will offer the Forum members exclusive travel benefits, customised allowances, and seamless connectivity to support their business expansion. Through this initiative, IndiGo will introduce tailored travel solutions that will enhance accessibility, reduce costs, and foster growth opportunities for SMEs across India," a statement said.

corporate communication and strategic management, has been honored with the prestigious Grand Queen 2025 Corporate Communication Leader award by the Young Lions Club.

HYDERABAD

This accolade recognises her exemplary contributions to the field, spanning academia, corporate leadership, and community engagement.

'Every woman is born a princess ready to take charge of a Queen. Anyone who celebrates is a Celebrity," Mitalee remarked on her achievement.

With nearly 15 years of expertise, Agrawal has spearheaded strategic and operational initiatives at four premier institutions of importance national University of including Hyderabad, Central of University of Andhra Pradesh, IIT Hyderabad, and

Pioneer Photo IIIT Raichur. Agrawal's remarkable She has also led technocommercial operations for a USA-based multinational

company, packaging overseeing the publication of over 500 Safety, Installation, Maintenance, and Operational (SIMO) manuals and 300+ operation videos. Currently, she leads Business Development, MarCom, and Community Engagement at the Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CCoE) Hyderabad, an initiative of NASSCOM and the Government of Telangana.

journey has been recognised with multiple accolades, including the Chanakya Award by PRCI (twice) for Social Media and Relations Management, e4m 40 Under 40 Award for PR and Corporate Communication and the Dynamic Women Leadership Award in Communication. Further solidifying her stature as a multifaceted leader, she was recently crowned Mrs India Telangana 2025, adding to her legacy of excellence across diverse domains.

### Adani Foundation felicitates over 1,000 'Lakhpati Didis' ahead of International Women's Day

#### PIONEER NEWS SERVICE MUNDRA (GUJARAT)

Ahead of the upcoming International Women's Day on March 08, 2025, the Adani Foundation felicitated more than 1,000 'Lakhpati Didis' at an event in Mundra in Kutch, Gujarat. The Foundation has been working tirelessly in Kutch and beyond to empower women and make them self-reliant. By providing them with necessary support and guidance and facilitating their skill development and entrepreneurship opportunities, the Foundation is committed to enhancing their socio-economic

conditions and promoting their financial independence. Reiterating its commitment towards creating a genderinclusive workforce and society, the Foundation also celebrated the collective resilience of over

Solar on the occasion. The Foundation has played an

instrumental role in mobilising, encouraging and counselling the women to join Adani Solar across an array of job roles, including technical associates, engineering positions in Human Resources (HR). manufacturing and production departments. Moreover, the Foundation has also supported over 850 women become self-reliant by enhancing their entrepreneurial skills.

Ms Manisha Chandra (IAS), Commissioner of Rural Development and Secretary to Government of Gujarat, sent her wishes on the occasion. In a recorded video message, she applauded the Foundation's commitment towards creating an inclusive workforce, saying, "It's a matter of great pride to witness women shattering stereotypes and become financially independent. Such initiatives uplift women at 614 women working at Adani the grassroots and inspire



School, Mundra, also graced the event among other distinguished guests.

generations to come." Ms Ami CSR Head, Gujarat, Adani Shah, Director, Adani Public Foundation, emphasized the Foundation, emphasized the collective responsibility of society promoting gender "For women to truly towards gender equality.

community, and the corporate sector is essential. When women are empowered to balance their professional and personal lives, they not only excel in their careers but also drive a positive change within their families and society," she said.

At its business unit, Adani Solar boasts of dedicated facilities for women employees, showcasing its commitment of promoting gender inclusivity at workplaces. These include the availability of locker rooms, canteens and pink toilets, as well as transportation facilities with security personnel, thereby ensuring women's comfort and safety in the workplace.

Sharing her journey, Ms Gadhavi Sonal Ram, a Technical Associate at Adani Solar, says, "Today, I am financially independent and able to support my family, which is nothing short of a dream come true for me. Earlier, it was On the occasion, Ms Pankti Shah, progress, the support of family, unimaginable for girls in my

community to step out for work due to the unavailability of safe transportation. But with the Adani Solar's dedicated transport facility, I commute to my workplace comfortably, with my family assured about my safety." For nearly three decades, the Adani Foundation has been dedicated to empowering women across the country through a series of targeted interventions, as part of its Butterfly Effect framework. This unique framework has been specifically designed to address the evolving needs of women throughout their lives, right from infancy to old age. With a sharp focus on enabling economic activity, the Foundation is catalysing transformation for women in the core areas of education, healthcare, sustainable livelihoods and entrepreneurship, and community development

initiatives that empower them to

themselves and their families. Through its dedicated initiatives, the Foundation has positively transformed the lives of over two million girls and women across

the country. Since 1996, the Adani Foundation, social welfare and development arm of the Adani Group, has remained agile and deeply committed to making strategic social investments for sustainable outcomes across India. It is empowering and enriching the lives of children, women, youth, and marginalised communities in the core areas of education, health and nutrition, sustainable livelihoods, climate action, and community development. The strategies of the Foundation are integrated in national priorities and global Sustainable Development Goals. The Adani Foundation is currently operating in 6,769 villages across 19 states, positively make meaningful choices for impacting 9.1 Million lives.

BHUBANESWAR | FRIDAY | MARCH 7, 2025

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# ne pioneer



# THAT SHAPED THE WORLD

For centuries, women writers have challenged norms, reshaped narratives and transformed literature with their powerful voices, says SAKSHI PRIYA

### **THE ROAD AHEAD**

**TODAY, WOMEN WRITERS DOMINATE BESTSELLER** LISTS, WIN PRESTIGIOUS **AWARDS AND CONTINUE TO REDEFINE LITERATURE MARGARET ATWOOD'S** THE HANDMAID'S TALE **REMAINS RELEVANT IN DISCUSSIONS ON** WOMEN'S RIGHTS. **BERNARDINE EVARISTO BECAME THE FIRST BLACK** WOMAN TO WIN THE **BOOKER PRIZE, PROVING THAT DIVERSE VOICES CAN NO LONGER BE** SIDELINED. IN INDIA WRITERS LIKE MEENA **KANDASAMY, AVNI DOSHI** AND JANICE PARIAT ARE **PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF** STORYTELLING; **ENSURING WOMEN'S** NARRATIVES REMAIN AT THE FOREFRONT OF LITERARY DISCOURSE.

WHY WOMEN'S STORIES MATTER WOMEN'S LITERATURE IS NOT A NICHE; IT **IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF OUR COLLECTIVE HUMAN EXPERIENCE. IT CHALLENGES STEREOTYPES AND DEEPENS** EMPATHY. EVERY BOOK WRITTEN BY A WOMAN CARRIES WITHIN IT THE STRUGGLES, DREAMS AND HISTORIES OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE HER.

r centuries, women have used literature as a means of resistance, self-expression and transformation. Yet, history has often overlooked their contributions, celebrating male writers while marginalising women's voices. From medieval poets to contemporary literary powerhouses, women writers have not only broken barriers but also redefined storytelling, shaping cultural and social narratives across the world.

### The Struggle for Recognition

In earlier times, societal norms denied women access to education, making it difficult for them to enter the literary world. Many resorted to pseudonyms to get published. Mary Ann Evans wrote as George Eliot, while the Brontë sisters first published under the names Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell. Even Jane Austen's early works were signed "By a Lady." Despite these challenges, their narratives carried immense depth, challenging gender roles, class structures and moral dilemmas in ways that few male writers dared to explore.

In India, the struggle was even more pronounced. For centuries, women's stories remained within the oral tradition, passed down through generations but rarely written. It was only in the 19th century that writers like Toru Dutt and Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain began breaking societal constraints. Hossain's Sultana's Dream, published in 1905, imagined a world where women ruled and men were confined to their homes, questioning patriarchal norms in a way that was revolutionary for its time

The 20th century marked a turning point globally and in India. Women writers not only published under their real names but also dicconsciousness and tated literary trends. Virginia Woolf's A Room of One's Own questioned the systemic suppression of women's voices in

literature.



Nobel laureate Toni Morrison chronicled the Black female experience America with in unmatched brilliance. Meanwhile, Amrita Pritam became a literary icon with her evocative poetry on love and Partition, particularly Ajj Aakhaan Waris Shah Nu. Mahasweta Devi's writings on tribal commu-

oman.

Know

Vhy the

Sings

aged Bird

nities and marginalised women forced society to confront uncomfortable truths.

### Literature as Change

Women's literature has never been just about storytelling, it has also been a tool for activism. Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex laid the foundation for feminist thought. Maya Angelou's I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings exposed racism and misogyny with raw honesty. In India, Ismat

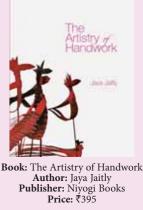
Chughtai's Lihaaf challenged conservative mindsets with its bold depiction of female desire. Kamala Das's poetry and autobiographical works fearlessly explored themes of identity, love and rebellion, inspiring generations women to embrace their truths. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's We Should

All Be Feminists reframed gender discussions for a new generation. In contemporary Indian literature, writers like Arundhati Roy, Jhumpa Lahiri and Perumal Murugan continue to challenge social norms, bringing stories of the unheard into

mainstream cultural

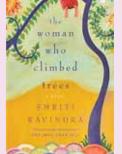
discourse.

Book: Legends and lore of Krishna's Braj Author: Juhi Sinha

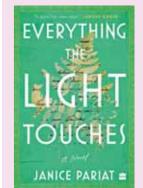


**THIS WOMEN'S** DAY, LET US NOT **ONLY CELEBRATE WOMEN** WRITERS BUT ALSO READ THEM, AMPLIFY THEIR VOICES **AND RECOGNISE THEIR ROLE** IN SHAPING OUR WORLD, **ONE STORY AT A TIME** 

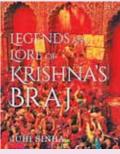
MARCH READS



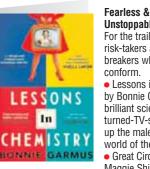
Book: Woman Who Climbed Trees Author: Smriti Ravindra Publisher: HarperCollins Price: ₹599



Book: Everything the light touches Author: Janice Pariat Publisher: HarperCollins Price: ₹599



Publisher: Niyogi Books Price: ₹1750



Unstoppable For the trailblazers risk-takers and rulebreakers who refuse to conform Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus - A brilliant scientistturned-TV-star shakes up the male-dominated world of the 1960s. Great Circle by Maggie Shipstead - A

JEORGE

daring female pilot battles societal constraints to chase her dream of flving

ith Women's Day approaching, we celebrate the resilience, strength and complexity of women through literature. From fearless heroines to deep explorations of sisterhood, identity and psychological suspense, these books capture the essence of being bold, unapologetic and true to oneself.

Stronger Together Because the women everything who stand by us, our know friends, sisters and chosen family, shape about who we become. parties, dates Everything | Know About Love by Dolly he, love Alderton - A raw witty memoir on dolly friendship. alderton 4 heartbreak and growing up

### **Unapologetically Herself**

For those embracing every part of who they are

- Open When by Julie Smith A heartfelt guide to self-care, resilience and mental well-being
- The Path to Self-Love by Ruby Dhal A warm, empowering roadmap to putting vourself first.
- The Book You Want Everyone You Love to Read by Philippa Perry - A witty and wise take on relationships, selfdiscovery and emotional well-being

Strength, Sisterhood & Survival Women on the Edge Complex heroines, unsettling twists and gripping suspense that will keep you hooked. Strange Sally self-love Diamond by Liz Nugent - A woman with a traumatic past unearths chilling family secrets. None of This Is True by Lisa



Jewell - A journalist's chance meeting with a mysterious woman spirals into a terrifying nightmare. The Crash by Freida McFadden - Trapped in a snowstorm, a pregnant woman realises her safe haven isn't what it seems. • The Wrong Sister

by Claire Douglas - A dark, twisted tale of sisterhood gone terribly wrong.

# **Books That Uplift and Inspire Women**

#### **BY TEAM VIVA**

ere's a specially curated list of books from Rupa and Aleph, celebrating the strength, L resilience and brilliance of women.

She Storms the

Norms - Anisha

Motwani &

Priyadarshini





Narendra

this book shares inspiring stories of women who have shattered

must-read for those who dare to challenge the status quo.

Anisha Motwani is a business leader, speaker and author of the bestselling Storm the Norm. She serves as an independent director on various boards and has been recognised among the '50 Most Powerful Women in Indian Business' by Business Today.

Priyadarshini Narendra is a marketing and strategy expert with decades of experience in advertising, consumer research and consulting. She has authored fiction books and contributes to discussions on women in the workplace.

#### 1700 in 70: A Walk for a Cause - Gita GITA BALAKRISHNAN **Balakrishnan**

Follow architect Gita Balakrishnan's extraordinary 1,700-km journey across India on foot, exploring design's impact on life and culture. A

story

Gita Balakrishnan is an architect and founder of the Ethos Foundation, which promotes design awareness. An avid marathon runner, she has embarked on multiple walking expeditions,

advocating for the role of design in everyday life.

### **Beyond the Bell: Preparing Students** for Life - Chitra

A transformative beyond acad emics, focusvalues and personal growth to help students thrive in a rapidly changing world.

0

#### About the Author

friends, jobs,

Chitra Prasad is an educationist with three decades of experience and head of the NSN Group of Schools. With a strong focus on values-based learning, she integrates spirituality into education to shape well-rounded individuals.

#### A Stitch in Time: The Biba Story -Meena Bindra

The inspiring journey of Meena Bindra, who built Biba from a home-based venture into a fashion empire A compelling story of passion, perseverance and the rise of India's fashion industry. About the Author

Meena Bindra, a pioneer in Indian fashion, founded Biba, transforming the

salwar kameez into a modern style statement From a small home-run business to a leading brand, her journey is a testament to innovation

These books offer wisdom, courage and motivation, perfect for Women's Day and beyond.

## A Story of True Friendship

A touching story celebrating the strength, trust and support found in women friendships across generations, says TEAM VIVA

Walt

Riends

**BOUT THE BOO** 

Book: The Wall Friends Club

Edited by: Varsha Seshan

Publisher: HarperCollins

Price: ₹175

Wb

s International Women's Day approaches, there is no better time to celebrate the power friendship, resilience and support. The Wall Friends Club by Varsha Seshan beautifully captures the essence of human connection, showing how even the most unexpected friendships can shape our lives in meaningful ways. Told through an epistolary for-

path

Ruby Dha

mat, the novel follows two young protagonists, Anandi and Sriya, who form an unlikely bond through letters slipped into a hidden gap in a wall. Despite never meeting, their relationship grows into something deeply special, proving that true friendship goes beyond physical presence.

Varsha Seshan, speaking about the book, shares, "I love letters, old-fashioned letters, not just emails. I also had several pen pals as a child, which made me wonder ... could two children who never meet grow to be the best of friends? An epistolary novel has always seemed an exciting genre to explore, so here is my first one: The Wall Friends Club.'

At its core, the story is about breaking barriers, embracing differences and finding comfort in the written word. Anandi and Sriya start as strangers, hesitant yet curious, unsure of who will find their letters. But as their exchanges continue, their letters become a refuge, a place where they can share their dreams, fears and small moments of joy. Their honest and heartfelt conversations reflect the beauty of friendships where trust

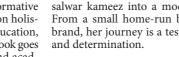
and support come naturally, unburdened by the complexities of adulthood.

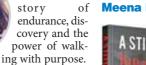
The Wall Friends Club truly special is its timeless message about women's friendships. It reminds readers, especially girls, of the importance of lifting each other up rather than competing or tearing each other down.

The characters, though young, face real struggles, doubts, insecurities and moments of selfreflection. Their journey resonates with anyone who has ever felt unsure about their place in the world or struggled to find their voice.

Since International Women's Day is around the corner, this book is a perfect fit as it carries a powerful message about kindness, connection and the importance of supporting one another.







About the Author

societal barriers and self-doubt to redefine success. A

### About the Authors



THE

### Prasad BEL

guide on holistic education, this book goes ing on life skills,



## sports 12

### We will play according to situation: Ravindra 300 women boxers to compete in national championship

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE

ashing New Zealand Rachin opener Ravindra feels adapting to the conditions will be key to succeed on an "unknown" Dubai surface in the Champions Trophy (CT) final against India on Sunday. Except the group match against India in Dubai, New Zealand have played all their games in Pakistan. The Kiwis had also played two games in Lahore during the preceding tri-series involving Pakistan and South Africa.

India, on the other, have played all their matches in Dubai and are familiar with the conditions.

"We do not quite know what the Dubai pitch is. We saw in our (group) game against India the ball turning but the other day didn't turn so much. We found ourselves adapting and playing according to situations, which we will need to do on Sunday again. "We will see in the next

couple of days and hopefully it's a good cricket wicket," said



time and continue to play well Ravindra after an emphatic 50-run win over South Africa in the semifinal here on for my team," he said. He is also aware about the Wednesday. expectations from the side in Ravindra scored only six any big ICC event. "Whenever you approach a

against India in the group, falling to Hardik Pandya tournament, you expect while going for an upper cut, but the left-hander hopes for hopefully to be among the top four teams and lucky enough we have been consistently a better outing in the final. "You get out pretty much every time you bat. Hopefully good over a period of time. We are happy with our

I can bat for a longer period of

the eyes on the prize," he

another global event. Last year, the Proteas lost the T20 World Cup final to India from

We could have handled the

last 10 overs (while bowling) a

'There was a period sort of in

Rachin (Ravindra) started to

from us a little bit.

early, we can see we are cooking reasonably well. Trust and ability around the group is great."

Ravindra (108) smashed his second century of the tournament on Wednesday and together with Kane Williamson (102) starred in New Zealand's win. Senior middle-order batter

Daryl Mitchell, who made 49 off 37 balls in the semifinal,

said the loss to India in the group stage is a thing of the past not and the final will be a new day

"The final is a new day and really excited to stuck into that challenge and adapt to whatever conditions and surfaces we get on the day and find wave to win moments find ways to win moments throughout that game. "Hopefully, we can put some pressure on them and walk

away with white jacket," he said

Mitchell is not interested in poking his nose in the talks surrounding an unfair advantage to India because of playing all their matches at one venue. "Just really happy with winning the game today and

moving onto the final, it's an exciting Mitchell said. opportunity,"

"That's the nature of international cricket. We do a lot of travelling and we are used to that. It's not for me to decided how the tournament should be planned. I am just excited to be in an ICC final and looking forward to play in a few days time?

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

As many as 300 pugilists will compete for glory at the 8th Elite Women's National Boxing

Championship in Greater Noida from March 21-27. Organised in association with the UP Boxing Association, the tournament returns to the venue that hosted its last edition in 2023

Held under the World Boxing and Boxing Federation of India (BFI) competition guidelines, the championship is open to boxers born between January 1, 1984, and December 31, 2005.

Each state unit can field a maximum of 10 boxers, with entries by numbers closing on March 10 and final name confirmation due by March 15. The action officially begins on March 20 with the arrivals. draw, and technical meeting. The opening rounds will take place from March 21 to 24, followed by the quarter-finals

on March 25 and the semifinals on March 26, leading up to the finals on March 27.

The tournament will follow a three-round format, with each bout consisting of threeminute rounds with a oneminute rest period. The tenpoint must-scoring system will be in place, and all matches will adhere to World Boxing Technical & Boxing Competition Rules.

Boxers will also be required to undergo a daily weigh-in throughout the competition. Beyond the 300 competing boxers, the championship will

but also improved their NRR

to 0.357 from -0.450, better than the third-placed

Mumbai Indians (0.166) with

whom they are tied on six

Additionally, with MI having

three more games left, the Giants will be keen to keep

their fate in their hands and

not depend on the outcomes

Giants' pacers, in particular, exploited the new ball and

points.

of other games.

also bring together over 100 coaches and support staff, along with 60 technical officials, ensuring a top-tier spectacle.

Defending champions Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) will be looking to retain their title after a dominant performance in the previous edition, where they clinched five gold medals, one silver, and two bronzes.

RSPB nudged Haryana by eight points, the latter finishing second with seven

medals, including three golds, three silvers, and a bronze. Gujarat Giants eye on WPL playoffs



### We are still evolving as a team: Rob Walter

added

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE

Yet another knockout stage heartbreak at yet another ICC event. But perennial bridesmaid South Africa remains on the right track two years before the ODI World Cup at home, feels the team's head coach Rob Walter after its semifinal exit from the Champions Trophy here.

a commanding position. "I don't think it was any one particular thing that resulted in the loss, probably a couple. Having topped their group, South Africa came up short in the second semifinal against New Zealand here on Wednesday night and went little bit better. They got away down by 50 runs in a chase of 362. Walter said there are the middle of the innings where Kane (Wiiliamson) and enough positives to take back home notwithstanding a

tough loss. rnow



### **PSG** lose to Liverpool in Champions League

The 2027 ODI World Cup will co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia. PARIS Walter was expectedly asked about South Africa going down in a knockout game of

 $P_{(\text{PSG})}^{aris} \begin{array}{c} \text{Saint-Germain's} \\ \text{wasteful finishing} \end{array}$ came back to haunt the French team in a 1-0 loss to Liverpool in the first leg of the Champions League round of

preparation, coming here

saved.

shot from the right of the penalty area in the 20th minute but the Georgia star's effort was ruled out for a razor-thin offside following a video review.

foul was given. Kvaratskhelia went close with a free kick early in the second half and had another low shot

Former England captain David Beckham was among the crowd at Parc des Prin

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LUCKNOW

With two consecutive bid for a spot in the Women's Premier League (WPL) playoffs, Gujarat Giants will look to carry forward the momentum in their top-of-the-table clash against Delhi Capitals here on Friday. Gujarat Giants were languishing at the bottom of the WPL points table but two big wins — by six wickets over Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Royal Challengers Bengaluru and by 81 runs against UP Warriorz — have propelled them to the second position in the five-team points table. On Friday, the second-ranked Giants, with six points in as many games, will have the perfect opportunity to put their recent ascent to test against a formidable Delhi Capitals, who sit atop the table with 10 points.

tally to 12 points and, in the



process, also better their net restricted the opponents to a mere 105 in pursuit of 187. run rate to seal their spot in The huge win not only lifted the Giants from the last spot the final.

It seems like things are falling in place at last for the Giants, who showed determination against all odds to beat RCB in a low-scoring thriller, with skipper Ashleigh Gardner (58 not out) and Phoebe Litchfield (30 not out) taking the side over the line.

The Giants then demolished UP Warriorz by 81 runs in their previous outing, riding on Beth Mooney's stunning 96 not out and a collective show from their bowlers to

conditions to good effect, blowing away UP Warriorz's batting after Mooney missed recording the first-ever ton by any player in this WPL. Their recent performances would surely fuel their fire but would surely fuel their fire but the Giants will have to be

wary of the all-round strength of the Delhi Capitals, who too would be keen for a win, for it would help them finish at the top and qualify directly for the final.

Currently, Delhi Capitals hold the top spot with 10 points from seven matches. They are in pole position to finish first, which would ensure direct entry into the title round.

The teams finishing second and third will face off in the Eliminator next week.

Meg Lanning has blown hot and cold this season but still remains dangerous, while India batter Shafali Verma (260 runs) has lit up the tournament with her aggressive stroke-play. Jess Jonassen has made all-round contributions for Delhi with 128 runs and joint secondhighest nine wickets.

Delhi Capitals, who have already booked a place in the playoffs, would be keen to record a win and take their

India have 'real clarity' on how they want to operate in Dubai: Williamson

scored with a brilliant curling

Harvey Elliott's late goal on Wednesday punished PSG at Parc des Princes. It was only Liverpool's second attempt on target compared to a whopping 28 for PSG.

Wasted chances galore hampered PSG during the group stage — where it lost to Arsenal, Atletico Madrid and Bayern Munich, scoring just one goal in those t

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

### VAR went in Liverpool's favour a second time minutes later, when referee Davide Massa checked for a red card

check to see whether Ibrahima Konaté had pushed Barcola in the back. But no

managed to put some significant partnerships together. We had guys contributing significantly with the bat. From a bowling point of view, I think our biggest development was our accuracy. We were able to be very accurate as a seam unit," said Walter in the post-match press conference.

And that's something that we have been working really hard on. Every game we play is a learning opportunity. We just keep trying to take the little lessons. Today is a hard lesson, you feel it a little bit more, because it's the end of a campaign.

"But we certainly continue to keep learning from things, little bits here and there, that we can do better. We're still evolving as a team; there's no doubt in my mind. Two and a half years to 2027 and that's

missed a few opportunities there," he explained. ...When we were batting. We

were just starting to get going and that partnership got broken and really slowed us down in the middle and obviously we saw Dave (Miller) play unbelievably well in the end to get a hundred...You know you're just one partnership away

from doing something special," said Walter. Williamson With and Ravindra easily manipulating the bowlers, it seemed South Africa ran out of ideas. However, Walter did not

agree to that. "No, I don't think that's entirely accurate. We certainly tried to change it up, we tried to change the pace. I think the ball wasn't really gripping at that stage in the early phases, so the ball kept sliding on."

But coach Luis Enrique's side had turned the corner in fine style with 40 goals scored in 10 straight wins before this game.

PSG had 12 attempts on goal in the first half alone where Liverpool could not cope with PSG's pace, movement and constant positional switches on a night where Liverpool's 30-goal top scorer Mohamed Salah was kept quiet.

Luckily goalkeeper Alisson was at his defiant best, however, making nine saves overall.

The imposing Brazilian twice denied Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and kept out attempts from Bradley Barcola and Ousmane Dembélé. There were also bad misses from Barcola and midfielder João Neves, who both shot over from good positions.

Kvaratskhelia thought he had

He played half a season for PSG after joining in 2013 during the start of the club's Galactico era and then retired.

It was turning into a night of frustration for this PSG side. A corner almost went in, until Liverpool midfielder Dominik Szoboszlai stuck a leg out on the line. Then, with the clock ticking,

Alisson made the save of the night when he somehow got both hands at full stretch to substitute Désiré Doué's bending shot from 20 meters. Luis Enrique said before the game that Liverpool were counterattack Europe's specialists and he was proved right.

The return leg is on next Tuesday at Anfield and the winner faces either Aston Villa or Club Brugge in the quarterfinals.

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA LAHORE

N<sup>ew</sup> Zealand mainstay Kane Williamson reckons India have "real clarity" on how they want to operate in Dubai, having played all their Champions Trophy (CT) games at the same venue but his team will also be reasonably wellprepared for the tournament finale due to its limited past

familiarity with conditions. Williamson did not specifically say that India had an advantage of playing at one venue, choosing to compare it to New Zealand's understanding of conditions in Lahore, where

they beat South Africa on Wednesday to set up a final clash against the Rohit Sharma-led side in Dubai on Sunday.

there's real clarity in how they want to operate," said Williamson when asked if India go into the final with an advantage of knowing the conditions. "A little bit like our opportunity

here, having played a number of times at this venue as well and I think that's part and parcel in cricket," he added. Having scored a hundred in the semifinal, Williamson is high on confidence and looking forward to the final. "It is what it is (India play all games in Dubai). Our focus is

"The conditions are different, so it's important that we try and take away some of those positives and be nice and clear in how we're trying to operate

they're all factors. Obviously,

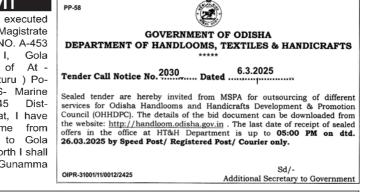
we played India once there," he

come two or three-days' time in the final," he said referring to New Zealand's loss to India in

the group stage. Both Williamson and Rachin Ravindra struck hundreds to fashion New Zealand's emphatic win.

Williamson called Ravindra, the next match, the location of who has score two hundreds in that match, the opposition, three games, a special talent.

said.



# Aravindh defeats Giri in Prague Masters

eye for tactical

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA PRAGUE

Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram crashed through the defenses of supersolid Ănish Giri to jump in to sole lead after the end of the seventh round of Prague Masters chess tournament now underway here.

It was Aravindh all the way while R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with preevent rating favourite Wei Yi of China. Aravindh took his tally to five points out of a possible seven and now enjoys a half point lead over Praggnanandhaa who needs to catch up.

With just two rounds to come, Sam Shankland of United States defeated Quang Leim Le of Vietnam. Interestingly, both Quang Leim and Giri had drawn the first six games and the axe fell on them at the same time.

In the other decisive game 16-



years old Gurel Ediz of Turkey battle lines are drawn between scored over local Nguyen Thai the two Indians only. Aravindh is a cool customer Dai Van to reach a fifty percent score while David in normal positions with a Navara of Czech Republic played out a draw with Vincent Keymer of Germany. Aravindh on five and Pragg on 4.5 are now followed by Wei Yi, Ediz, Keymer and Shankland on 3.5 points each and these four are a half point adrift of the trio of Giri, Navara and Le.Dai Van is alone at the bottom now with

deep complexities and a rare chance against Giri provided him to dismantle the king side and enter record books There are as many as five Indians in top 15 live world rankings and Viswanathan Anand stands at number 15. Aravindh at 14, entered the top fifteen for the first time 2.5 points in his kitty. The ever. It was a Queen's gambit

declined wherein Giri overestimated his chances and pushed his king side pawns in trying to secure a space advantage. Aravindh came up with a shocker on his 24th turn when he put his knight in front of a pawn and it was a one-way tide thereon. Black's attack was soon impossible to handle and Aravindh won in 39 moves.

Praggnanandhaa started with the English opening against Wei Yi and the game took shape in a Tarrasch defense wherein the Chinese was under some pressure but never really out of the game. The Indian won a pawn to reach a rook and pawns endgame and despite having a passed pawn deep outside the position was technically drawn. The game lasted 61 moves.

In the challengers' section, Jonas Buhl Bjerre added to the woes of lone Indian Divya Deshmukh who remained at Kourkoulous-Arditis (Gre, 3).

the last spot on 1.5 points from seven games. The lead in this section is

shared by Bjerre and Nodirbek Yakubboev of Bjerre and Uzbekistan on 5.5 points each. Results round 6: Quang Leim Le (Vie, 3) lost to Sam Shankland (Usa, 2.5); R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 4.5) drew with Wei Yi (Chn, 3.5); Anish Giri (Ned, 3) lost to Chithambaram Aravindh (Ind, 5); Gurel Ediz (Tur, 3.5) beat Nguyen Thai Dai Van (Cze, 2.5); David Navara (Cze, 3) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger, 3.5).

Richard Challengers: Stalmach (Cze, 3) drew with Finel Vaclav (Cze, 3); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1.5) lost to Jonas Buhl Bjerre (Den, 5.5); Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 5.5) beat Ivan Salgado Lopez (Esp, 3.5); Marc`andria Maurizzi (Fra, 4) beat Nemec Jychym (Cze, 2); Ma Qun (Chn, 4) drew with Stamatis

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for all purposes

New Zealand had played two games in Lahore during the receding tri-series involving Pakistan and South Africa.

"I suppose having played there on a number of occasions;

### AFFIDAVIT

By virtue of affidavit executed befor the Executive Magistrate Chatrapur vide SL .NO. A-453 04.03.2025. I, Gola dt. Gunamma resident of At -Sana Arjyapalli (katuru ) Po-Bada Arjyapalli PS- Marine thana Pin - 761045 Ganjam declare that, I have changed my name from Nanda Gunamma to Gola Gunamma . Henceforth I shall be known as Gola Gunamma

batting