



## Balochis take on Pak army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Karachi/ Islamabad

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

The Pakistan media earlier reported intense firing and explosion near the tunnel, where the militants hijacked the train. The insurgents claimed that they freed women and children. However, their claim was contested by officials, with Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry saying the hostages were rescued by the security forces.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BJP sweeps Haryana local polls

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Chandigarh

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

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

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

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

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

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

The results have dealt another blow to the

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

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

"The results prove that people of Haryana want development and they have given their vote for good governance," Saini said. In Manesar, Independent candidate Inderjeet Yadav defeated her nearest BJP rival Sunder Lal by a margin of 2,293 votes to become the corporation's first-ever mayor. Nikhil Madaan was the outgoing Sonapat mayor and a Congress leader. Ahead of the 2024 Assembly polls, he joined the BJP and won the Sonapat Assembly seat. Senior BJP leader Rajiv Jain won from Sonapat this time.

## Delhi under reporting pollution: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

tion is most severe, the researchers said.

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

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

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

## Nitish Kumar gets a taste of Rabri from Tejashwi Yadav

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Patna

Bihar legislative Assembly on Wednesday witnessed an unprecedented spat between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and his predecessor Rabri Devi as the two septuagenarians engaged in a no-holds-barred attack against each other to be joined by an aggressive Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav. While Rabri accused the chief minister of having come to the House after consuming "bhang" (cannabis), Tejashwi, a former deputy CM under Nitish, demanded the resignation of the JDU leader whom he charged with "gesticulating at female legislators". Trouble began when Shashi

**Nitish Kumar comes to the Assembly under the influence of bhang and misbehaves with women. Today, he has insulted me for the second time.**

— RABRI DEVI, FORMER CM OF BIHAR

Yadav, an MLC of the CPI(M), an RJD ally, rose in her chair to submit before the House that she was not satisfied with the government's reply to her question. Nitish Kumar, who is also a MLC, reacted and remarked the NDA government led by him is doing so much as compared to earlier governments which did nothing.

Rabri, the leader of the opposition in legislative council, intervened saying "You claim no work was done before you took over. Please summon the records of that period. You will understand better."

Nitish, who had demonstrated his quick temper before the House earlier this week, sprang to his feet and vehement-

ly began to reiterate his point. Rabri Devi reacted with the taunt, "According to you, women did not even wear clothes before 2005, when you became the chief minister." The allusion was to a faux pas made by the JD(U) president more than once in recent past, while trying to underscore his push for empowering women.

Bihar CM, however, dug in his heels, dismissed the charge by the opposition that he was disrespectful towards women.

"Never before have women got so much of respect as they are getting now and pointed towards Rabri Devi with the remark, 'What did they do for women? Her husband made her the chief minister when he ran into trouble.'"

Notably, Rabri Devi first became the chief minister in 1997 when her husband Lalu Prasad, the RJD president, had to resign, following a CBI charge-sheet in the fodder scam. The heated exchange caused Chairman Awadhesh Narain Singh to rise and appeal to the opposition to let the House run.

However, the opposition led by Rabri Devi staged a walkout, even as Nitish continued with a brief monologue, accusing the RJD of having been soft on perpetrators of Hindu-Muslim riots because of caste affinity.

He also regretted having tied up with RJD twice and said, "I am back with my old partners (BJP). Now we shall remain together and continue with our good work." Speaking to reporters outside the House, Rabri Devi alleged, "Nitish Kumar comes to the assembly under the influence of 'bhang'. He misbehaves with women. Today, he has insulted me for the second time."

## Ukraine says it is open to 30 day ceasefire

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Jeddah

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## CM seeks margdarshan



CM meets former Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani

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# Jal Sansthan gears up for smooth water supply on Holi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan claimed to have taken all steps to ensure a smooth and regular water supply for the Holi celebrations. "Let me assure the people that there will be no disruption in water supply on the festive day," averred the secretary (appraisal) of UJS Maneesh Semwal.

officials to supply water in the afternoon as well," he said, adding that there would be an additional water supply from 1 PM to 2 PM.

Further, directives have been issued to the officials concerned to see to it that all tube wells, pumping stations and pipelines are operational on the festive day. "We have directed officials to thoroughly check all tube wells and mini tube wells. If any defects are found, branch officers must immediately inform the superintending engineer. Continuous and smooth chlorination of water will be ensured and those working at reservoirs and tube wells need to be present

throughout the day," he said.

He said they have also instructed Home Guards, PRD or other security personnel deployed to ensure that the gates of all reservoirs are locked. "It is vital that no manholes of the sewer lines remain open and if any of them is damaged, it should be replaced immediately," he said.

"Further, to take on any emergency, departmental and private tankers have been asked to be ready with fuel and drivers," Semwal said. He also urged the people to refrain from wasting water in any form on the pretext of celebrating Holi.

# 62nd Shastra Competition to start on March 18

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Haridwar

The 62nd All India Shastra Competition will be organised from March 18 to 21 under the joint aegis of Central

University and head of the department of Humanities and Oriental Studies, Sadhvi Devpriya.

is to promote the classical study and discussion of Sanskrit. This event will not only provide an intellectual



Sanskrit University, New Delhi and Patanjali University, Haridwar. A meeting was held to review preparations chaired by the dean of Patanjali

She, in her address, said that the Shastra competition is meant to preserve and promote the Indian knowledge tradition. "Our main objective

platform for scholars and researchers, but strengthen our cultural heritage," she added.

# Harassment in Holi guise: many girls prefer to stay indoors

MANSI BHAMBRI ■ Dehradun

Some women and young girls The Pioneer spoke to say they fear to venture out of homes during the Holi period lest they be harassed by the unruly elements who behave inappropriately in the guise of festivities. They say that their experiences in the past are not good.

A college student Khushi Kumari voiced the same despair and apprehension when asked whether she would venture out of home to celebrate the Holi with others. "Being a college student, I routinely go to campus for my classes. However, with barely a couple of days left until Holi, my parents are advising me to be

ence last year. "Just ahead of the festival, when I was riding my two-wheeler to a market two young boys sped past me and threw an egg at me while shouting 'bura na mano Holi hai'. This upset me greatly and since then, I make it a point to remain indoors for two days till Holi," she added. A parent, Vinay, expressed his con-



Holi outside our homes with our neighbours and friends we feel insecure. This is no longer a peaceful festival," said a 30-year-old Monica Bindra. "Some youngsters, perhaps inebriated, are inclined to throw water balloons and even engage in inappropriate behaviour. It is sad that the festival is increasingly becoming a male festival, leaving us out of it," Bindra added.

cautious when heading to college. Their concern is quite justified, given our experiences of some people being out to use this opportunity to tease and harass women and young girls. To avoid such unpleasant experiences, I will limit my outings from home on the day of Holi. My mother will also do the same," she said.

cerns about the increase in inappropriate behaviours incidents during the Holi festival each year. In light of this, he advises his daughter to avoid leaving the house unnecessarily in the week leading up to and during the Holi celebrations. He said that during this time, cases of inappropriate behaviours tend to rise among certain individuals under the guise of Holi festivities.

Another woman, Garima, recounted her Holi experi-

# Bansal to hold multi-purpose camp in Tyuni on March 20

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Dehradun District Magistrate Savin Bansal will hold a multi-purpose camp in Tyuni on March 20 to ensure that government welfare schemes reach rural and remote areas of the district. This initiative will allow local residents to benefit from various ser-

Hanol temple premises and engage with locals and priests to discuss the master plan and expansion proposals for the temple.

He will also attend a conclave of 200 newly established forest panchayats in Koti Kanasar.



vices, including pension distribution, health check-ups and the issuance of essential certificates.

The multi-purpose camp will streamline applications and processes for various welfare schemes, including Ayushman cards, pension schemes, income certificates, farmer credit cards, and employment-oriented training, all under one roof. Bansal has directed all departmental officials to attend the camp fully prepared to provide on-the-spot services to residents. He stated that any negligence in this effort will not be tolerated. He stated that the administration aims to bridge the gap between the government and remote villages, ensuring that essential services reach even the most inaccessible areas.

# UGB hosts Customer Holi Milan Programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

Uttarakhand Gramin Bank organised Customer Holi Milan Programme 2025 here on Wednesday which featured a special presentation of

On this occasion, Patnaik reaffirmed the bank's commitment to providing superior banking services and strengthening customer relationships in the



Uttarakhand's Kumaoni Holi. Among those present were the chairman, UGB, Harihar Patnaik; chief general manager, NABARD, Pankaj Yadav and deputy general manager, NABARD, Nirmal Kumar. A large number of the bank's customers were also present. Additionally, the Customer Holi Milan Programmes were organised at other regional offices of UGB where local customers and bank officials participated.

future. He said that despite contesting elections without the support of major parties, independent candidates had received significant public support. He said that people had sent a message through local elections, where several independent candidates won. Panwar claimed that those thinking about the State's issues had decided to come together on a single platform. He also warned that there could be attempts to break the organisation but the commitment remains to provide an alternative for

# Various organisations unite to address Uttarakhand's issues

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Dehradun

The president of Uttarakhand Berozgar Sangh Bobby Panwar along with various activists and organisations, has announced the formation of Uttarakhand Swabhiman Manch. Panwar described it as an alternative to political parties that have not been able to address the State's issues. In a Press conference in Uttarakhand Press Club on Wednesday, Panwar stated that activists across the State will now work together under this platform and make efforts to

Uttarakhand. He announced that after Holi, they will hold discussions in 11 districts for 11 days to raise

awareness. The first gathering will be held in Uttarkashi on March 16, he said.

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We would like to inform all Stake Holders that the Udyogamandal Unit in Kerala and Bathinda Unit in Punjab of M/s. HIL (INDIA) LIMITED, New Delhi (formerly known as Hindustan Insecticides Limited) is currently undergoing closure. As of 10<sup>th</sup> October 2023, all operation at this Unit has been ceased.

**Any claim which is due and payable by HIL to claimant should be made within 15 days from the date of this advertisement, otherwise the claim will be deemed void and invalid.**

May please contact for Udyogamandal Unit : Bathinda Unit:  
Name : Santhosh M K Name : Abhishek Kaushik  
Designation : Unit Head Designation : Unit Head  
Mobile : 9446045121 Mobile : 9888236713  
Mail : uhudyogamandal@hil.gov.in E Mail : uhbathinda@hil.gov.in  
CBC - 02101/11/0009/2425

**PAUL MERCHANTS FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED**

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned, that Gold ornaments pledged with the under mentioned branches of the company under respective loan numbers, which were overdue for redemption and which have not been redeemed by the concerned customers so far in spite of repeated notices by the company, will be auctioned at the concerned branch offices of the company on **Tuesday 25th March, 2025** as per the following details:-

- Bazpur Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, Ground Floor, Dajjeet Complex, Ward No. 2, Rampur-Nainital Highway, Bazpur, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand. Pin code - 262401. Phone - 9778355545 Loan Number - 172210000001437, 172210000002285 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Dehradun Rajpura Road Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, #56, Rajpura Road, Opp. Hotel Madhuban, Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Pin code - 248001. Phone - 9065344444 Loan Number - 166210000000488, 166210000000492, 1662100000005125, 1662100000005156, 1672100000005151 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Haldwani Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, Near Gurugobind Singh Tower, Bareilly - Nainital Road, Tikonia Churah, Haldwani, Uttarakhand. Pin code - 263139. Phone - 9427566678 Loan Number - 207210000000310, 207210000000241, 207210000000253, 207210000000266, 207210000000267, 207210000000278, 207210000000280 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Haridwar Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, Jora Market, Opp. New Market, Loda Mandi, Gurudwara Road, Jwalapur, Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Pin code - 249407. Phone - 9875942899 Loan Number - 1592100000004047, 1592100000004051, 1592100000004072, 1592100000004122, 1592100000004158, 1592100000004184, 1592100000004206, 1592100000004208, 1592100000004214, 1592100000004223, 1592100000004234, 1592100000005376, 1592100000005844 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Kashipur Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, Ground Floor, Radheshyam Building, Station Road, Opp. Shiv Mandir, Maheshpura, Kashipur, Udham Singh Nagar (Dist.) Uttarakhand. Pin code - 244713. Phone - 9779155545 Loan Number - 182210000002228 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Kichha Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, Ground Floor, Near Govt. Girls Intercollege Gate, Barailly Road, Kichha, Udham Singh Nagar (Dist.) Uttarakhand. Pin code - 263348. Phone - 9875906394 Loan Number - 183210000002368 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Rishikesh Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, #219, Ground Floor, Dehradun Road, Rishikesh, Dehradun-Uttarakhand. Pin code - 249201. Phone - 8898944444 Loan Number - 170210000000738 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Roorkee Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, #1535/2A, Ground Floor, Paschim Amber Talab, Main Dehradun Highway, Near Hotel Sidharth, Roorkee, Dist. Haridwar, Uttarakhand. Pin code - 247687. Phone - 9875942899 Loan Number - 1602100000004908, 1602100000004706, 1602100000004711, 1602100000004716, 1602100000004754, 1602100000004760, 1602100000004764, 1602100000004805, 1602100000004806, 1602100000004851, 1602100000004855, 1602100000004873, 1602100000004874, 1602100000004895, 1602100000004900, 1602100000004930, 1602100000004948 (Time 11:00 AM).
- Rudrapur Branch** - Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd, Ground Floor, P-14, Nainital Road, Opp. P.A.C. 2nd Gate, Awas Vikas, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar (Dist.) Uttarakhand. Pin code - 263153. Phone - 9875906392 Loan Number - 185210000002542, 185210000002558, 185210000002575, 185210000002606, 185210000002612, 185210000002638 (Time 11:00 AM).

It may please be noted that if the auction does not get completed on the above stated day due to any reason, the same will be conducted on **04th April 2025** at the same place and time without any further notice.

Note: Concerned customers can get the ornaments released before the auction date.

Note: Paul Merchants Finance Private Limited, on its sole discretion has the authority to remove any of the ornaments under any loan account from the auction list prior information.

Note: Bidders are requested to provide Identity Card, PAN Card & TIN Number in case of registered dealers. Successful bidder shall be requested to transfer the full auction amount to the company by RTGS/any other permitted mode immediately.

Sd/-  
Authorized Signatory  
Paul Merchants Finance Pvt. Ltd.

For any clarification regarding the above notice, please contact at 0172-5041777 or the concerned branch  
Date: 13.03.2025 Place: Chandigarh

**THE JUSTICE (RETD.) R.M.LODHA COMMITTEE (IN THE MATTER OF PACL LTD.)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**E-AUCTION OF PROPERTIES OF PACL LTD. IN 6 DISTRICT(S), 2 STATE(S), 1 UNION TERRITORY**

1. The Justice (Retd.) R.M.Lodha Committee (In the matter of PACL LTD.), constituted by and under the order dated February 02, 2016, passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Civil Appeal No. 13301/2015 titled Subrata Bhattacharya Vs. SEBI and Ors. with connected matters, for disposing of the land purchased by PACL LTD. so that the sale proceeds can be paid to its investors, has in compliance with order dated August 08, 2024, passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the above mentioned matter, decided to initiate e-auction of 11 properties located in 6 District(s) of 2 State(s) and 1 Union Territory and consequently issued Request for Proposals (RFP) which can be accessed at: <https://www.sebi.gov.in/notice-for-eoi-proposals.html>

2. The property documents can be accessed at: <https://sebiacpproperties.com>

3. Details for participation in e-auction are available in RFP. Key dates of RFP are as follows:-

- Date of Publication of RFP— March 13, 2025
- Start Date of Submission of Bids — March 13, 2025
- Bid Due Date and Time—04:00 PM of April 07, 2025
- Start Date of e-Auction—11:00 AM of April 21, 2025

**APPLICABLE CONDITIONS:**

4. All properties will be sold on an "as is, where is, whatever is" basis and the purchaser will be responsible for all claims, liabilities and/ or encumbrances relating thereto.

5. The details of the Properties as stated in this Notice and the RFP under this Tender Document are as per the details made available to the Seller and neither the Seller nor the Agency shall, in any way, be responsible for any variation in the extent of the Properties due to any reason.

The Committee will in no manner be responsible for any discrepancy in the properties /their title deeds and bidders are requested to submit their bids only after conducting their own independent due diligence exercise with respect to the title to the Properties.

CBC 15204/11/0232/2425

**पंजाब नैशनल बैंक Punjab National Bank**  
Branch Office  
Raja Road, Dehradun

We would like to inform the General Public that Original Sale deed dated 21/10/2010 and 31/05/2010 of IP situated Municipal no 67/49/1 at Mauza Dehrakhas, Distt Dehradun bearing Khata no 3098 Khasra no 897 new khasra no 386 area measuring 125.42 sq mtr bounded as under: East: Property of JI Malhotra SM 30th West: 15 ft wide road SM 30th North: Property of Other SM 45th South: Property of Other SM 45th registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Dehradun in Book No. 1, Vol. 3367, Page 119 to 136, document no 7708 on 21/10/2010 in favour of Kavita Sinha W/o Sh. Shashi Bhushan Sinha and Original Sale deed dated 31/05/2010 registered in the office of Sub Registrar, Dehradun in Book No. 1, Vol. 3390, Page 353 to 374, document no 4778 on 31/05/2010 in favour of Rohan Mittal S/o Rakesh Mittal and Usha Mittal W/o Rakesh Mittal and Registered Agreement to sale dated 04/01/1990 duly registered in sub registrar 1 in book no 01 vol 3527 pages 43, ADF book no 01 vol 3810 pages 15 to 22 as doc no 136 on 12/01/1990 in favour of Meena Bakshi have been lost and untraceable Further, Punjab National Bank, Branch Office Raja Road, Dehradun, intends to mortgage the above property. If any person finds it or claims any interest or title in the property is requested to contact Punjab National Bank, Branch Office Raja Road within 7 days from the date of this publication.

**NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE**

SR.DEN/MB acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders. Closing date & time are mentioned against each tender. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money **only through online payment modes** available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	328-DRM-MB-24-25
Date	Dated 12.02.2025
Name of Work	Construction of Boundary wall and road infrastructure at Oak Grove School, Jharipani under ADEN/HW
Type of Contract	Works
Advertised Value (Rs.)	4.41,33,038.01
Earnest Money (Rs.)	3,70,700.00
Tender Closing Date, Time	03.04.2025, 16:00 hrs.
Bidding Start Date	20.03.2025
Validity of Offer (Days)	60 Days
Period of Completion	12 Months
Tender No.:	74/W/2/3/WA/Publication Dated: 12.03.2025 789/2025

**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**



**Editor's TAKE**

## Mark Carney to take on Voldemort

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

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

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

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

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

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

NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

### Leaderspeak



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## Delhi's bold step towards sustainability

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



SATENDRA SINGH

## The delicate strength of relationships

**SECOND Opinion**



SANJAY CHANDRA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Letters to the Editor

### From Goddesses to Subjugation

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

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

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

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

AG RAJMOHAN | ANANTAPUR

### India Fights Cancer

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

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

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

P VICTOR SELVARAJ | TIRUNELVELI

### Self-Defence or Self-Reliance?

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

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

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

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

KIRTI WADHAWAN | KANPUR

### SUPREME COURT MOOTS FOR DISABLED FRIENDLY PRISONS

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

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

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

YASH PAL RALHAN | JALANDHAR

## Logistics is holding back north India's growth

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

**FIRST  
Column**

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

### Logistics: A Key Driver of Industrial Inequality

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

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

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



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

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

### Seaport-Led Industrialisation: A Global Perspective

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



AS MITTAL

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

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

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

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

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

### How freight subsidy could be re-structured

Based on previous initiatives, a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program could be a game changer and might be structured as follows: Subsidised Rail Freight Rates:

1. Offering up to a 30-40 per cent subsidy on goods transported from northern dry ports to major coastal hubs.

2-Expanding Empty Flow Rebates: Extending TEFD rebates to northern states to make backhaul freight more economical.

3-Infrastructure Development: Investing in multimodal logistics parks and dedicated freight corridors in the northern states.

### The Way Forward:

The central government must not overlook its landlocked northern states to achieve inclusive industrial growth. Rail freight subsidies will support micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), attract new investments, and create jobs.

While global trade regulations often scrutinise subsidies, the pricing autonomy of Indian Railways allows for strategic adjustments in freight costs without breaching World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. By revising freight structures, northern manufacturers can enhance their global competitiveness. If we aspire for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), it is essential to ensure balanced industrial progress. To conclude, India's industrial growth is marked by stark regional disparities, with southern states while northern states lag behind. A key driver of this imbalance is logistics, as landlocked states face high freight costs that hinder competitiveness and discourage investment.

Proximity to seaports has enabled coastal states to dominate exports, attract foreign direct investment, and develop thriving industrial sectors. To bridge this gap, India must implement a targeted Northern States Freight Subsidy Program, including subsidised rail freight rates, expanded empty flow rebates, and enhanced logistics infrastructure.

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

## Explore the role of foreign investments for economic stability

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

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

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

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

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

### Transformative Impact Across Key Sectors

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

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

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

### Strategic Reforms Boost Self-Reliance

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

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

### Self-Reliant Growth

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

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

### Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The silent crisis in education: teacher burnout

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Conclusion

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

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

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

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



MONICA B SOOD



SAKSHI SETHI











# Rohit is clear about his goals: Ponting



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dubai

mind of playing in the next (50-over) World Cup (in 2027), Ponting stated.

Handed the responsibility of captaincy in 2021 at the age of 34, Rohit on Sunday clinched his second ICC title following the T20 World Cup win last year as India defeated New Zealand by four wickets to win the Champions Trophy here.

Chasing 252, Rohit, 38, led from the front with an 83-ball 76 at the top to set the platform for a comfortable win.

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

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

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

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

"I think probably the fact that they (India) lost the last one and he was captain, that might be the thing that's playing on the back of his mind," the Australian said. "Just have one more crack at trying to win the T20 World Cup, the Champions Trophy, and the ODI World Cup. "I mean when you see him play like he played in the Champions Trophy final, you wouldn't say that his time is up just yet," Ponting added.

**आप सभी को होली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं**

**आजाद पोखरियाल**  
युवा समाजसेवी गेंडीखाता  
श्यामपुर हरिद्वार

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

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

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

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

"And I think, the fact that he said that, to me, it means that he must have that goal in

# आप सभी को होली की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

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



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ponte Vedra Beach

It's hard to win on the PGA Tour, a sentiment usually heard from players when they are sitting next to the trophy and realise what it took to get there.

Collin Morikawa keeps getting reminded after some painful losses.

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

**Small consolation**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Morikawa had made only three bogeys in the previous 58 holes at that point. It wasn't a matter of what went wrong as much as it went right, a lot, for Russell Henley. There was

a two-shot swing on the par-3 14th, the toughest hole Sunday at Bay Hill, which at that point had yielded only one birdie. Morikawa missed the green and made bogey. Henley made his best swing of the tournament with a 5-iron to 10 feet for birdie. And then came the breaks that win tournaments. Morikawa found a bunker off the tee at the par-5 16th (the easiest hole of the final round) and had to lay up and hit wedge to a front pin, no easy task. Henley went just over the green in rough so thick he could only see his golf ball by standing over it.

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

Instead, he had an eagle and the lead for the first time when Morikawa made par.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**कैलाश रिवर बेड मिनरल्स एल.एल.पी. की ओर से**

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