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PRASANNA SINGH GUEST REPORTER

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

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

their peaks, the mid cap and small cap indices are down 21 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Of course, the correction in many hyped stocks is even worse. For crores of retail investors who had piled into stocks after watching a breathless post-COVID rally that rarely stuttered, it has been agonising, watching their

'wealth' evaporate. Especially when

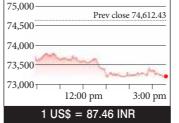
we consider how even at the peak,

many complained that the rise has been driven by a few, select stocks disproportionately. Leaving only index fund holders uniformly happy. SO WHY DID THE MARKETS

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

global markets bar the still frothy US markets. A premium, most foreign investors seem to have





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

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

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

India's growth prospects have become almost mythical now, in how there is a bull case for 10 per cent GDP growth, yet, we always find our economy overheating at the first signs of a sustained period of 8 per cent growth or even less. Brought down by rising inflation, corruption scandals, or yet another election or oil price spike. The recent trend towards giveaways without a funding plan has not

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

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

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

41 trapped in Uttarakhand avalanche

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE DEHRADUN/NEW DELHI

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

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

escue operation underway after BRO labourers got trapped under an avalanche, ir Chamoli district of Uttarakhand

tough terrain, heavy snow and the last village on the Indiarain to rescue the workers, Tibet border at a height of sources said. Mana, three 3,200 metres. kilometres from Badrinath, is It was also learnt rescue

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

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

HM directs Delhi Govt, Police to act tough on Bangladeshis

PTI

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

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

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



Bureaucrat back at SEBI, after stormy Buch era

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Heatwave days ahead in March

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

India is likely to witness above-normal maximum temperatures in most parts between March and May. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), more heatwave days are also likely to be witnessed across most parts of the country during e months IMD data shows India also recorded its warmest February in 124 years with an average temperature of more than 22°C. For the first time, the average minimum temperature across the country was recorded at over 15°C, which is the warmest, recorded ever. In terms of the average maximum temperature, February 2025 has been the second warmest. just behind the corresponding month in 2023. In terms of the average maximum temperature, February 2025 has been the second warmest, just behind the corresponding month in 2023. The reverse happened in 2022. April of that year in north India was the hottest on record, while temperatures in Feb were close

WEATHER



Northwest India and South 121 Peninsula, where normal 25°C(-1) minimum temperatures are most likely," the IMD said. According to IMD, abovenormal heatwave days are

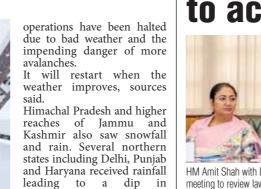
except

most parts of the country

parts

some

when the maximum is over likely over most parts of 40°C in the plains, and also the central India and adjoining temperature is 4.5°C or more northern parts of South Penincula some at northwest and east India. Analysis of IMD's centurylong temperature data shows the October-December postmonsoon season is warming at a rate of 1.01°C per century, followed by the January-February winter months at 0.73°C. Pre-monsoon (March-May) and monsoon (June-September) seasons are warming at relatively slower rates of 0.62°C and 0.45°C respectively. Delhi recorded its warmest February night in 74 years, with the minimum temperature at Safdarjung reaching 19.5°C on Thursday - the highest for the month in the period between 1951to 2025, according to the IMD. Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) said, "Delhi recorded below normal maximum temperatures are likely. During this period the above normal monthly minimum during January - February in last three years since 2023."



अभित शाह HM Amit Shah with Delhi CM Rekha Gupta chairs a meeting to review law and order situation in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR MINEW DELHI

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

to normal The IMD attributed the unusual rise in temperature to a presence of strong easterly winds, which they said were blocking the cool sea breeze. The IMD declares a heatwave The IMD said during the upcoming hot weather season (March to May (MAM)), above-normal maximum temperatures are most likely over most parts of the country, except over southern parts of Peninsular India, and isolated pockets of Northeast India where normal to belownormal maximum temperatures are likely. The above-normal minimum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country isolated except some southernmost regions of Peninsular India where normal minimum temperatures are

likely. "Monthly maximum temperatures for March are likely to be above normal over most parts of India, except over some southernmost parts

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

Delhi Speaker, Atishi engage in letter war

RAJESH KUMAR NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

mostly held by bureaucrats.

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

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

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

home preserved to keep identity alive

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ITANAGAR

 \ensuremath{In} a fast-changing world, where traditions are often forgotten, a young woman is ensuring her community's heritage lives on-not in books or behind glass, but within the very walls of her home.

Leike Chomu, a 24-year-old from the Monpa community in western Arunachal Pradesh, has turned her 200-year-old ancestral house into a living museum.

More than just a collection of artefacts, the museum itself is a piece of history-built using ancient Monpa techniques with mud and stone. "It's about keeping our cultural

identity alive," Chomu said. The idea was mooted by WWF India as part of its efforts to safeguard the unique heritage of the Monpa community. However, the transformation of the house into a museum was something she took on personally.

From restoring the structure, conserving artefacts and setting up the space to make it accessible to visitors, Chomu has been actively involved in every step.

"For me, this is more than just a project. It is my family's legacy," she added

modernisation rapidly With changing traditional lifestyles, she to safeguard Monpa wanted knowledge and everyday practices before they faded away.

Instead of creating a conventional museum with only artefacts, this initiative preserves the house itself, showcasing Monpa architecture, lifestyle, and traditions, Chomu said. Visitors don't just see historical objects. They can experience how the Monpa people lived centuries ago, she added.

After months of dedication, the museum was formally launched on October 5 last year. Since then, many tourists and culture enthusiasts have



Artifacts displayed inside the museum that Leiki Chomu, a 24-year-old woman from the Monpa community, created after transforming her 200-year-old ancestral home, at Chug Valley in the PT Dirang area of West Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh

visited

'They are amazed that the museum isn't just about objects but the house itself, its architecture, the way of life, and the stories it holds. Visitors appreciate the authenticity, often describing it as a rare and immersive experience that feels like stepping back in time," Chomu added.

Some have even mentioned that walking through the house gives them a deep sense of connection to

the Monpa heritage. Originally from Chug Valley under Dirang in West Kameng district of the northeastern state, Chomu holds a BSc degree in agriculture with a background in agroecology. Her deep connection to the land and traditional knowledge has fueled her passion for heritage preservation.

The museum is my ancestral house. I have worked to preserve and transform it into a living museum," she explained.

Chess colossus, Boris Spassky dies at 88

PTI MOSCOW

 $B^{\rm oris}$ Spassky, a Soviet-era world chess champion who lost his title to American Bobby Fischer in a legendary 1972 match that became a proxy for Cold War rivalries, died Thursday in Moscow. He was 88.

The death of the one-time chess prodigy was announced by the International Chess Federation, the game's governing body. No cause was given. Spassky was "one of the greatest players of all time," the group said on the social platform X. He "left an indelible mark on the game." The televised 1972 match with Fischer, at the height of the Cold War, became an

international sensation and was known as the "Match of the Century."

When Fischer won the international chess crown in Reykjavik, Iceland, the then-29-year-old chess genius from Brooklyn, New York, brought the US its first world chess title Fischer, known to be testy and difficult, died in 2008. After his victory of Spassky, he later forfeited the title by refusing to defend it.

Former world champion Garry Kasparov wrote on X that Spassky "was never above befriending and mentoring the next generation, especially those of us who, like him, didn't fit comfortably into the Soviet machine."



Jharkhand 02

Online attendance mandatory for students and teachers in residential schools

PNS Jamshedpur

n a comprehensive review meeting held at the Collectorate Auditorium, Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal evaluated the functioning of residential schools managed by the Education and Welfare Departments. The meeting was attended by Deputy Development Commissioner Aniket Sachan and other depart-mental officials. The review covered various aspects, including student enrollment, online attendance of teachers and students, performance in Matriculation and Intermediate Pre-Board exams, availability of basic facilities, and infrastructure requirements in residential schools.

During the review, it was observed that teachers in many residential schools were not consistently marking their online attendance. Taking serious note of this issue, the Deputy Commissioner instructed that

PANKAJ Dhanbad

pending dues of Energy Mitras under JBHNL as well

as that of non-receipt of elec-

tricity bills to consumers in

different areas of Dhanbad

since last several months during the assembly session

in a strong manner. The MLA said that about

500 Urja Mitras whose salary dues have reached

about Rs. 4 crores as they have not received their due salary since the last 12 months. He told the House

that on one hand the Chief

Minister of Jharkhand and

the State Government claim

to provide employment and

on the other hand the Urja

Mitras are not getting paid. He informed the House that

the Urja Mitras are forced to

beg for livelihood He also

hanbad MLA Raj Sinha on Thursday raised the issue of



teachers' salaries would be disbursed strictly according to their online attendance records. Furthermore, the school management was directed to ensure mandatory online attendance for both students and teachers and

consumers in coal capital and

demanded to resolve both issues at the earliest. Sinha

said that in the reply relating to the matter he raised in

Assembly regarding both questions the department has

partial affirmative or accept-

ance is written. However,

despite accepting both the

answers remain unclear as the department has failed to

redress reasons relating to

both issues and by what time

both would be resolved as

both relate to common man .

He demanded inquiry on both issues in larger public

Sinha also put forth his views in detail in the House regard-ing Dhanbad Dairy during

the zero hour of the Assembly. He demanded to develop the dairy plant of Dhanbad into a 50000 litre

capacity plant. Sinha said in

the House that a chilled dairy

to submit these reports promptly the district office. to Additionally, instructions were given to conduct regular health checkups for children in all residential schools.

The meeting also highlighted the

need for infrastructure development and improvement of basic amenities in several schools. Proposals included the construction of additional classrooms at KGBV Jamshedpur, a boundary wall at KGBV Chakulia, expansion of hostel capacity at KGBV Ghatsila, construction of dormitories at KGBV Baharagora, Gudabanda, and safety enhance-ments at KGBV Dhalbhumgarh, including the installation of lightning conductors. The availability of drinking water in all schools was also reviewed to ensure adequate supply. Addressing the attendees,

Deputy Commissioner Ananya Mittal emphasized that the district administration is committed to ensuring the availability of basic facilities in schools as per state government guidelines. He stressed the importance of not only providing facilities but also enhancing the students' interest in academics and extracurricular activities. He urged the schools

to make optimal use of available sports resources and playgrounds to promote physical fitness and overall development. During the review of enrollment status in the three Chief Minister Utkrishta Vidyalayas of the district, the Deputy Commissioner directed that no seat should remain vacant. He highlighted that this is an ambitious scheme by the state government aimed at providing quality education through the CBSE board, similar to private schools. He assured the enrollment process that would be conducted transparently to maintain credibility and inclusivity.

The meeting was attended by District Welfare Officer District Shankaracharya Samad, District Planning Officer Mrityunjay Kumar, District Education Officer Manoj Kumar, District District Education Superintendent Education Ashish Pandey, along with prin-cipals, wardens, and other stakeholders of residential schools.

Potka MLA demands ESI facility for contract labourers

PNS Jamshedpur

uring the budget ses-Dision of the Assembly, Potka MLA Sanjeev Sardar raised the pressing issue of medical facilities for contract labourers working in underground mines. He demanded the implementation of the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme for hundreds of labourers employed in the uranium mines at Jadugora, Narwa, Turamdih, Bhatin, and Banduhudang in East

Singhbhum district. MLA Sardar pointed out that the Uranium of India Corporation Limited (UCIL), which operates these mines, does not provide essential ESI medical coverage to contract labourers, leaving them vulnerable to severe health risks due to the hazardous nature of their work. He emphasized the urgency of this matter, urging the state government to intervene and ensure health safety measures for these workers.

Highlighting the harsh rights.

working conditions faced

by the labourers, Sardar stressed that access to ESI facilities is a basic right that must be provided to safeguard their well-being. He further stated that ensuring these medical benefits would not only improve health security but also boost morale and productivity among the workforce. This demand from the Potka MLA has sparked hope among the contract labourers, who have long been struggling for ade-quate medical facilities. The labor community is now looking forward to the government's response, anticipating a positive change in their healthcare

Bokaro DC expresses concern over low PM Kusum applications



PNS BOKARO

review meeting of the district-level A the distriction on PM committee on PM Kusum Yojana was held at the collectorate office under the chairmanship of deputy Vijaya commissioner Jadhav. The meeting was attended by superintendent of police Manoj Swargiary, district welfare officer N. S. Kujur, executive engineer (electricity) S. Tiwari, nodal officer Shakti Kumar, and other officials. During the meeting, the nodal officer informed that under the scheme, solar pump sets would be prosion on the scheme's vided to farmers at subsiprogress, with necessary

dissatisfaction over the low number of applications from Chas, ChandanKiyari, Jaridih, and Bermo blocks and directed the district agriculture officer to pro-

vide an explanation. A total of 542 applications were received, out of which 481 have been approved. The deputy commissioner instructed that physical verification must involve the BDO and village head and directed officials to send the approved farmers' list to JEDA, Ranchi, for further action. The meeting also included a detailed discus-

Fashion Market Places in India: Unlocking the Potential of Online Sales Dhanbad MLA seeks inquiry into nonreceipt of electricity bills to consumers

By Rachna Tiwari

The Indian fashion industry is at a tipsavy population and increasing inter-net penetration. The market, projected to reach \$110 billion by 2025, is diverse and dynamic, presenting unparalleled opportuni-ties for fashion brands. E-commerce platforms have become vital conduits for connecting with this expansive consumer base. For entrepreneurs and fashion brands looking to thrive in this space, selecting the right online platform can be the difference between exponential growth and missed opportunities.

Below is a closer look at the leading market places or e-commerce platforms in India and how they cater to the specific needs of fashion brands

Leading market places or E-Commerce Platforms for Fashion Brands

1. Flipkart Flipkart has established itself as a power-house in Indian e-commerce. With a user base of over 400 million, it provides brands with a robust logistics network and multiple selling models. The platform's festive sales, such as the Big Billion Days, drive high vol-umes, especially in the fashion category. For startups, Flipkart offers onboarding support, access to analytics tools, and options to par-

ticipate in promotional campaigns that increase visibility. Who Should Sell Here: Brands targeting middle-class and upper-middle-class audi-ences with a broad range of products.

Amazon India Known for its global reach and customer trust, Amazon India offers fashion brands unmatched exposure. The platform's Fulfilled by Amazon (FBA) service allows businesses to leverage Amazon's logistics infrastructure, ensuring quick and reliable deliveries. Additionally, its advertising tools, such as sponsored product listings, provide opportunities for brands to increase discoverability.

Unique Advantage: With its seamless integration of global marketplaces, Amazon India is ideal for brands considering international expansion. Myntra

Myntra is synonymous with online fashion in India. The platform specializes in apparel, footwear, and accessories and is a trendsetter, curating collections that appeal to style-conscious consumers. Myntra's association with popular events, such as the End of



Reason Sale (EORS), draws millions of shoppers annually. Its focus on quality and exclusivity makes it an excellent choice for mid-tier and premium fashion brands.

Tip for Sellers: Ensure your brand aligns with Myntra's high aesthetic standards, as the platform emphasizes trendy and curated products. Ajio

Ajio, owned by Reliance Retail, has quickly gained traction for its focus on Indian designers and homegrown brands. With its curated approach, the platform provides smaller brands an opportunity to shine alongside established names. Ajio also offers extensive customer support, making it a consumer-friendly choice.

urban customers who value Indian craftsmanship.

Building on its reputation in beauty and wellness, Nykaa has made an impressive entry into the fashion space. With a loyal base of urban, millennial women, Nykaa Fashion provides a highly targeted audience for brands in the apparel, footwear, and accessories segments. Its emphasis on curated collections and influencer-driven marketing adds to its appeal. **Pro Tip: Brands can benefit by aligning**

with Nykaa's collaborations with influencers to boost visibility.

ShopClues ShopClues caters to the value-conscious segment of the Indian market. With its focus on affordability, the platform is well-suited for budget fashion brands looking to tap Tier II and Tier III cities. While it lacks the poling and accessibility make it a viable choice for brands targeting price-sensitive cus-

tomers. Advice: Emphasize price advantages and discounts to attract buyers on this platform.

Meesho

As a pioneer in social commerce, Meesho enables small businesses and resellers to market products through social platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook. This decentralized approach has brought millions of new shoppers online. For fashion brands, Meesho offers a unique opportunity to tap into non-urban and semi-urban audiences while keeping costs low. Perfect For: Brands that want to leverage

the reseller model and expand their reach beyond traditional e-commerce audiences. Key Factors to Consider When **Choosing an Online Platform**

Target Audience Alignment Your brand's positioning should guide your platform choice. For example, if your products cater to urban millennials, Myntra or Nykaa Fashion may be more effective. On the other hand, for ethnic or budget-friendly collections, Ajio, Meesho, or ShopClues might be better fits.

Fee Structure and Profit Margins Each platform has its own fee structure, ranging from listing fees to commissions and fulfillment costs. Evaluate these costs to ensure they align with your pricing and profitability goals. For instance, platforms like Amazon charge higher fees but offer greater scalability. Marketing and Visibility

Platforms that offer robust advertising options can help brands gain visibility in a competitive market. Flipkart and Amazon, for example, allow brands to bid for spon-sored placements. On Myntra and Ajio, participation in seasonal sales can significantly boost your brand's reach. Logistics and Fulfillment

Efficient delivery is crucial in the e-commerce landscape. Opt for platforms like Amazon and Flipkart if you need advanced logistics support. Alternatively, platforms like Meesho enable businesses to rely on local resellers for last-mile delivery. **Customer Experience**

Platforms that focus on enhancing the customer journey—such as Myntra's personalized recommendations or Ajio's curated collections—can give your brand an edge.

Best For: Emerging designers and ethnic fashion brands seeking to target modern, Nykaa Fashion

farewell to retiring employees PNS Bokaro

okaro Steel Blant organ-ized a farewell ceremony for employees retiring in February 2025 at the HR Learning & Development Department's main auditorium. The event was attended v executive director (Finance & accounts) Suresh Rangani and executive director (HR) Rajshree Banerjee as chief guests. Assistant general manager (HR) Dr. Nanda Priyadarshini welcomed the retirees and provided information on final settlements. The executive directors expressed gratitude for the refirees' dedicated service, presented service certificates and mementos, and extended best wishes for their future. A total of 07

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plant of 5000 capacity is established in Dhanbad raised the non delivery of the electricity bills of the headquarters. **Bokaro Steel Plant bids**

interest.



executives and 47 nonexecutive employees are retiring this month. In a separate event, chief general manager (computers & IT) Iban Bankira was honored by executive director-in-charge C.R. Mahapatra, along with senior officials from various departments. Mahapatra presented a memento. appreciating Bankira's con-

tributions, while colleagues extended their best wishes for his future endeavors DECLARATION FORM IV (SEE RULE 8) 304, Radha Kunj, Behind Reliance Mart, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834 008 (Jharkhand) Daily Shobori Ganguli Yes H-33A, Sainik Farms, Lane W 10C, New Delhi-110062 Shobori Ganguli H-33A, Sainik Farms, Lane W 10C, New Delhi-110062 Shobori Ganguli Yes H-33A, Sainik Farms, Lane W 10C, New Delhi-110062 Anupam Sheshani 103. Virendra Sudha Aptt. Near SBI Colony, Burdwan Compound, Ranchi-834001 Name and address of Individuals (1) IDBI Indian Red Cross Building Society who own the newspaper and 1, Red Cross Road New Delhi-110001 partners or shareholders holding more than 1% of the total capital

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, Shobori Ganguli, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief Shobori Ganguli

Place: Ranchi Dated: March 1st, 2025 reputation.

Ensure your products meet their quality and return standards to maintain a positive

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

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dized rates. The deputy guidelines issued for effeccommissioner expressed tive implementation

BARHI

BRANCH

Jamshedpur illuminates to celebrate 186th Birth Anniversary of J N Tata PNS Jamshedpur Special rangoli tribute to Ratan Tata

The city is all set to celebrate the 186th birth anniversary of its Jamsetji founder, Tata, on Nusserwanji March 3, with the theme "Leadership in Market, Technology, and Cost." This year's celebrations will emphasize Tata Steel's commitment to prioritizing customer needs and lever-

aging technology to achieve global cost leadership. The annual Founder's Day celebration pays tribute to J N Tata's vision of an industrial future that integrates community welfare. His pioneering spirit inspired India's steel and power industry, set the foundation for technical education, and propelled the nation towards industrialization. Addressing a press meet, Chanakya Chaudhary, vice president, corporate services, Tata Steel and Ritu Raj Sinha, managing director, Tata Steel UISL, said that as part of the festivities, Tata Steel UISL will illuminate five parks and 26 roundabouts across Jamshedpur, transforming the city into a vibrant spectacle. Landmarks including Jubilee Park, Dorabji Tata Park, and various heritage buildings such as the Tata Workers' Union Office, Golmuri Clock Tower, and Tatanagar Railway Station will be decorated with colorful lights. As part of the celebration on March 1, the new Prem Jyoti Prangan School with modern infrastructure, funded by Tata Steel Foundation, will be inaugu-

rated, offering a sustainable

environment.

learning environment. Jamshedpur's first pet cre-

Jamshedpur: As part of the 186th Founder's Day celebrations, a magnificent Rangoli has been created inside Jubilee Park to pay tribute to Ratan Tata, the visionary leader and former Chairman of Tata Sons. The vibrant Rangoli, crafted by local artists, beautifully depicted Ratan Tata's inspiring journey and his contributions to the Tata Group and society. This special homage to Ratan Tata reflects the deep appreciation and love the people of Jamshedpur hold for his legacy and values. Chanakya Chaudhary, vice president, corporate services, Tata Steel, the citizens can pay homage to Ratan Tata, while visiting the park.



matorium, aimed at providing a dignified and environmentally responsible solution for pet owners, will also be inaugurated on March 1.

Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Sons, will pay homage at Jubilee Park on March 2. The park will be open to the public from March 3-5, with pedestrian access from 5 pm to 10 pm and vehicular movement allowed for viewing illumination from 10 pm to 11 pm. A laser show will be showcased daily from March 3 to March 5 with three shows each evening. On March 4, Tata Main Hospital (TMH) will dedicate a dedicated Spine

Clinic and a Stroke Unit, designed for comprehensive management of spinal problems and rapid stroke assessment, respectively. Founder's Day Sports: Scheduled for March 2 and 3 at JRD Tata Sports Complex, the event will see 350 participants com-peting in 31 diverse events, including activities for transpersons, specially-abled children, and corporate executives. TV Narendran, CEO & MD of Tata Steel will be the Chief Guest at the closing

the band from Prem Jyoti

School.

ceremony, which will fea-ture a March Past by trainees accompanied by

(For Immovable Property) Whereas. The undersigned being the authorised officer of the UCO Bank, Barhi Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 16.12.2024 calling upon the Borrower Mrs. Hasina Khatun, W/o Taj Mohammad to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 19,00,101.33 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh One Hundred One and Paise Thirty Three Only) as on 26.08.2014 (with interest up to 30.04.2024) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said otice.

POSSESSION NOTICE

UCO BANK

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)

Honours Your Trust

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has take possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him U/S 13(4) of Act read with Rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this the 25th Day of February 2025.

The borrower in particular and the public in general in hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the UCO Bank, Barhi Branch for an amount of Rs. 19,00,101.33 (Rupees Nineteen Lakh One Hundred One and Paise Thirty Three Only) as on 26.08.2014 (with interest up to 30.04.2024) and interest thereon

The Borrower's attention is invited to the provision of Sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured asssets.

Description of the Immovable Property

The land and building in the name of Mrs. Hasina Khatun, W/o Taj Mohammad, At Area 06 Decimals located at Mouza - Barhi (Tola Laskari), Thana No. 71, P.S. Barhi, Khata No. 544, Plot No. 2729, Sub-Registry Barhi, District - Hazaribagh, Iharkhand, vide Sale Deed No. 8687 dated 30.06.1995 and Area 1.75 Decimals located at Mouza - Barhi (Tola - Laskari), Thana NO. 71, P.S. Barhi, Khata No. 544, Plot No. 2730, Sub-Registry Barhi, District - Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, vide Sale Deed No. 2290/2272 dated 27.08.2018. Total Area 7.75 Decimal in the name of Mrs. Hasina Khatun, W/o Taj Mohammad. Plot bounded by : North - By Property of Rohan Kumar, South - By property of Nijam Minya and Ali Minya, East - By Vendee (plot no. 2729) and Jago Kumar, West - By Rasta and Nezamuddin and Taj Mohammad

Date : 25.02.2025 | Place : Barhi

Authorised Officer UCO Bank

सम्पदा न्यायालय, बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र, बोकारो आम सूचना

सम्पदा न्यायालय, बोकारो इस्पात संयंत्र, बोकारो द्वारा पारित आदेशों के आलोक में संदर्भित बेदखली आदेशों (Eviction Orders) के तहत अनाधिकृत दखलकारों को सूचित किया जाता है कि अनाधिकृत प्लॉट / भूमि एवं आवासों को शीघ्र खाली कर सम्पदा बकाया राशि का भूगतान कर दें, अन्यथा इन्हें बेदखली प्रक्रिया के तहत हटा दिया जाएगा और किसी भी तरह की क्षति के लिए वे स्वयं जिम्मेदार होंगे। इस संदर्भ में अनाधिकृत प्लॉट/भूमि एवं आवासों की सूचि पूर्व में ही दिनांक-12.01.2025 तथा 20.02.2025 को प्रमुख समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित की जा चुकी हैं।

अनाधिकृत प्लॉट/भूमि एवं आवासों को खाली कराने का कार्य दिनांक 03.03.2025 से प्रारम्भ होगा।

	आदेशानुसार
1	सम्पदा पदाधिकारी
	बोकारो स्टील सिर्ट

दिनांकः— 28.02.2025



Jharkhand 03

State witnesses stable GSDP growth at 7.7% annually in last 3 years

Growth rate estimated at 6.7 % in 2024-25 and projected at 7.5% in 2025-26

Pranav Pratyush Ranchi

ecovering steadily from the effects of Covid-19 and related economic meltdown, Jharkhand is now witnessing a stable economic growth. The GSDP of the state has grown at an average annual rate of 7.7 per cent at constant prices during the last three years (between 2021-22 and 2023-24). It will grow by 6.7 per cent in the current financial year (2024-25) and by 7.5 per cent at constant prices in the next financial year (2025 26) according to the cial year (2025-26), according to the Jharkhand Economic Survey report tabled in the State Legislative Assembly here on Friday.

As per the survey report the GSDP of Jharkhand, which was about Rs. 1,50,918 crores in the year 2011-12, the base year of the current series of national accounts statistics, is estimated to double at constant prices and more than three times at current prices by the end of this financial year (2024-25).

The GSDP at constant prices of the State thus is estimated to be Rs. 3,04,165 crores



at constant prices and Rs. 5.06,356 crores at current prices in the year 2024-25 and Rs.3,26,941 crores at constant prices and Rs. 5.56.286 crores at current prices in the year 2025-26, stated the report

The GSDP of Jharkhand as a percentage of the national GDP has improved in the last five years. The GSDP at constant prices of the state was 1.59 per cent of the real GDP of the country in the year 2919-20, which

increased to 1.64 per cent in the year 2023-24. The nominal GSDP of the state as a percentage of the nominal GDP of the country has also improved from 1.54 per cent in the year 2019-20 1.56 per cent in the year 2023-24.

The report suggests that the growth rate of Jharkhand has mostly been higher than that of the country in last five years The per capita income of the state was Rs.

51,464 at constant prices and Rs. 69963 at current prices in the year 2020-21. By the year 2022-23, they became Rs. 60.033 at year 2022-23, they became Rs. 60.033 at constant prices and Rs. 91874 at current prices. The per capita income of the state is estimated to be Rs. 63443 at constant prices and Rs. 95649 at the current prices in the year 2023-24 and Rs. 67347 at constant prices and Rs. 107027 at current prices in the year 20024-25 The per capita income of the

The per capita income of the state is esti-mated to be Rs. 68,612 at constant prices and Rs. 1,14,271 at current prices in the year 2024-25 and Rs.72,836 at constant prices and Rs. 1,24,079 at current prices in the year 2025 26 the year 2025-26.

According to the report the rate of inflation in Jharkhand has mostly remained within the targeted rate of 6 per cent since the last one year. In the financial year 2023-24 the average rate of inflation in the state was 5.7

Detober 2004) it is 4 per cent The rate of inflation in Jharkhand has most-ly remained less than that of the country. Only in six out of 19 months between April 2023 and October 2024, the rate of inflation in Jharkhand had exceeded that of the coun-try and remained less than that of the country in the remaining 13 months. In all the seven months of the current financial year (April 24 to October 24), the rate of inflation in Jharkhand remained less than that of the country.

Covid funds not fully utilised in Jharkhand : CAG report

PNS Ranchi

harkhand Rural Health Mission Society (JRHMS) had received Rs 436.97 crore for COVID management, but only Rs 137.65 crore could be spent between 2019-20 and 2021-22. That is, only 32 per cent of the total amount was used. The fact came to light from the CAG report which was presented in Jharkhand the Legislative Assembly on

Thursday. Finance Minister Radhakrishna Kishore tabled it in the House. The Government of India had released a total of Rs 483.54 crore. The State Government had to pay Rs 272.88 crore, making a total provision of Rs

756.42 crore. But, the Jharkhand Government released Rs 291.87 crore of the Center and Rs 145.10 crore of the State,

due to which only Rs 436.97 crore was used. The report said that till August 2022, the State Government did not release Rs 191.67 crore of the Center. The Home, Prison and Disaster Management

Department had released Rs^{754.61} crore between March 2020 and December 2021. But till February 2022, only Rs 539.56 crore was used. The CAG report said that due to improper use of funds,

COVID-19 management was affected. Many important facilities could not be built on time, such as RT-PCR lab was not built at the district level. The Center of Excellence in Paediatrics could not be established in Ranchi. Construction of prefabricated structures in CHC, PHC and HSC remained incomplete. Liquid medical oxygen plants could not be established.

Marandi demands Govt to release white paper on last 5 years

BJP says JMM/ Congress Govt's last tenure was full of financial mismanagement loot and corruption

PNS Ranchi

BIP state president and former Chief Minister Babulal Marandi today Government by referring to the CAG report. Marandi said that the last 5 years of the Hemant government have been of financial mismanagement, loot and corruption. Demanding a white paper of the last five years, Marandi said that CAG has reported a huge shortage of medical staff in Jharkhand. The audit report states that as of March 2022, out of 3,634 sanctioned posts of medical officers and specialists, 2,210 posts remained vacant, which is % of the total requirement. The audit has revealed a huge shortage of medical officers,



staff nurses and paramedics in government hospitals in Jharkhand. Apart from this, a serious shortage of essential medicines was also revealed. Between 2020-21 and 2021-22, a shortage of essential medicines ranging from 65 per cent to 95 per cent was found in community health centres, district hospitals and

that the state government could not spend the amount given for Covid. The CAG has found that the has found that the Government of India had released Rs 483.54 crore for Covid management, against this amount, the Jharkhand government had to release its

CM launches State Employees Health Insurance Scheme share of Rs 272.88 crore. share of Rs 272.88 crore. Against the total provision of Rs 756.42, the state govern-ment released only Rs 291.87 crore of central funds and Rs 145.10 crore of the state. That is, only Rs 436.97 crore was used. This was just 32% of the total released amount. The BJP leader claimed that CAG has also written in the report that the Home, Jail and Disaster Management

Management Disaster Department released an amount of Rs 754.61 crore from the State Disaster Fund between March 2020 and December 2021 for Covid 19 management, but only Rs 539.56 crore was used till February 2022. Covid management was affected due to non-spending of the amount. The report mentions that due to the lack of proper utiliza-tion of the amount of Covid-19 Management Fund, RTPCR laboratories at the district level, Center of Excellence in Pediatrics in Ranchi, prefabricated struc-tures in CHC, PHC, HSC and liquid medical oxygen plants could not be established.

Concrete steps are being taken towards strengthening the health system of the state

PNS Ranchi

hief Minister Hemant Soren today gave a big gift to lakhs of workers by launching the State Employees Health Insurance Scheme. Addressing the State Employees Health Insurance Scheme launch pro-gram organized by the Department of Health, Medical Education and Family Welfare in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly auditorium, the CM said that just as our government has restored the old pension scheme and has worked to provide financial support to the state employees even after retirement, in the same way, through the State Employees Health Insurance Scheme, this big step has been taken towards bearing the entire cost of proper treatment of the Now government employees. employees of any category of the state do not need to worry about the cost of treatment of their illness. Through this scheme, the government will bear the cost of their entire treatment. The CM said that today due to changes in lifestyle and work system,



Chief Minister Hemant Soren distributes Rajya Karmi Swasthya Bima Yojna Card to an official during a programme organized by the Health Department in the Jharkhand Legislative Assembly Auditorium, in Ranchi on Friday. Assembly Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahato, Ministers of the Cabinet and senior officers of he State government are also seen in the picture. Pix by Ratan Lal

health problems are also increasing rapidly. The way lifestyle and eating habits are changing; it has made more or less every person suffering from some disease or the other. While diseases like blood sugar and blood pressure have become common, many serious diseases are also rapidly catching people in their grip. Hospital treatment has become very expensive. The cost of treatment will be the same as the number of hospitals and doctors. In such a situation, people face a lot of problems on the financial front in the course of treatment of their disease. Because of this, our government is engaged in a campaign to improve the health system, so that people can get the best possible treatment at the

least cost. The CM said that Jharkhand is a back-ward and poor state. Many challenges are standing in front of us here. There is a lack of resources. But, even after all this, the government is trying to eradicate various problems here from the root. In this episode, the work of strengthening the health system is going on at a fast pace amidst limited resources. Referring to the Corona

period, the CM said that our government won over this disease through better management, which was appre-

ciated by the whole world. The CM said that our government looks at everyone with the same perspective. Be it farmers or labourers or any other class and section, the government stands with everyone with full sensitivity. He said that today there is a need to work with determination for the development of the state and our government is moving for-ward in a planned manner in this

direction. The State Employees Health Insurance Scheme is being imple-mented from March 1, 2025. In the first phase, all the working state employees are going to get the benefit of this scheme, whereas for other category employees, this scheme will be implemented from May 1, 2025. The benefit of this scheme will be avail-able to the employees of all the serv-ices of the state, members of the Legislative Assembly, retired employ-ees, family pension recipients and their dependents, former members of the State Legislative Assembly, serving / retired officers willing to All India Services, regular employees working / retired in various boards, corporations, institutions, institutions of the state government, working / retired teachers and non-teaching staff of universities and colleges and registered advocates.

Health Minister announces to set up five more medical colleges in State

CP Singh challenges Irfan Ansari to show the proof of PM Narendra Modi's

any big announcements are being made during the

Jharkhand. In this sequence, Health

Minister Irfan Ansari has made a

session

in

statement of giving 15

lakhs to people

budget

PNS Ranchi

ment on the fourth day of the Jharkhand Assembly session, MLA CP Singh challenged Minister Irfan



Congress Minority Department State Organization General Secretary Akhtar Ali, Congress Minority Department State Organization General Societary Automatics and Ranchi Metropolitan Minority Department President Hussain Khan, along with others congratulate CLP leader Pradeep Yadav for raising the long standing demand of minorities of Ibarkhand in the Assembly. PNS demand of minorities of Jharkhand in the Assembly.

CM hands over tablets to 28945 Govt primary school teachers

New chapter in connecting Govt primary schools to digital services: CM

PNS Ranchi

hief Minister Hemant Soren today said that the new era has gone digital. There is no sector left which is untouched by digitization. Digital services are also changing rapidly. Every day- digital services are getting upgraded. In such a situation, whether you want it or not, you cannot stay away from the digital platform. In such a situation, it is better that you make yourself and the coming generation technically strong according to the time. Only when you are digital friendly, will you be able to move forward.

The CM was addressing people on the tablet distribution program among 28945 government primary schools in a function organized by the School Education and Literacy Department at Jharkhand Headquarters on Friday. On this occasion, he also launched the school report card for quality education promotion and a mandatory 50-hour integrated-continuous capacity development program for teachers online.

The CM said that many concrete steps are being taken towards providing digital services to the government



Chief Minister Hemant Soren hands over a tablet to a government primary schools teacher during a programme organized by the School Education and Literacy Department at the Jharkhand Ministry, in Ranchi on Friday. Pix by Ratan La

and the whole world is con-

fined to that mobile. Now

you neither need to carry a

purse nor cash. You can ful-

fill your needs and get all the

information through your mobile phone. The CM fur-

ther said that everything has positive and negative aspects. Mobile phones are

also not better than this, but

schools of the state. In this ahead will not be easy. They will have to face many chalepisode, a new chapter is being started today with the lenges and problems at every provision of tablets to pristep. Keeping this in mind, mary schools. With this, all the government has started a reporting work from attencampaign to provide quality dance in schools will be education to the children studying in government schools and to strengthen done through digital medium. At the same time, the use of tablets will make it them digitally. The overall easier to monitor the work development of children is related to children's studies, our government's committeacher training, supervision, ment. Soren said that technology is changing rapidly today. You have a mobile in your fist biometric attendance and on that basis it will help a lot in improving the education sys-

tem. The CM said that today's education system has been digitized on a large scale. Smart classes are running in schools. Digital educational materials are being used. Online coaching classes are going on. In such a situation, if our children are not digital friendly, then their path

it depends on you how you use it. If you use it properly, then you will definitely move forward on the path of progress. He told the children to take steps towards progress by assessing where they stand in this digital age and where the world has reached.

The CM said that the state is encouraging the promising children through various means so that they can move forward. Today, along with JAC, the toppers of CBSE and ICSE boards are being given laptops and mobile phones along with incentive money, while the state government is giving the opportunity to the poor and promising students here to study abroad at its own expense. Apart from this, there are many such schemes, through which the students are being encouraged to move forward and their future is being improved.

The CM said that the issue of digital services being affected in rural areas comes up again and again. The problem of digital connectivity creates obstacles in all kinds of work and services, due to which people face a lot of problems. In such a situation, the government will take steps towards installing mobile towers in all panchayats so that all government work done through digital medium can be conducted smoothly, simply and conveniently.



Legislators attending the ongoing Budget session of the State Assembly in Ranchi on Friday. Pix by Ratan La

big announcement by taking a deci-sion in favor of the youth of the state. He has said that medical colleges will be established in 6 cities of Jharkhand and super specialist hospitals in 5 cities.

Making a big announcement, Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari said that medical colleges will be opened on PPP mode in Dhanbad, Deoghar, Khunti, Giridih, Jamtara and Jamshedpur. The opening of these medical col-

leges will benefit lakhs of youth here. Even students from other states will be able to study. Jharkhand Health Minister Irfan Ansari said that super specialist hospitals will be established in

Dhanbad, Jamtara, Deoghar, Hazaribagh and Godda. The open-Deoghar, ing of this hospital will relieve the problems of the patients and also reduce the burden of other hospitals.

Meanwhile, in another develop-

Ansari to show the proof of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state-ment of giving 15 lakhs in the House. MLA CP Singh said that if Irfan Ansari presents the proof of this statement in the House, he will resign from his MLA post. At the same time, if Irfan Ansari is unable to prove this, then he will have to resign himself.

At the same time, Hatia MLA Naveen Jaiswal raised questions about the employment promises of the state government. He reminded Chief Minister Hemant Soren of the promise of giving 10 lakh jobs, which has not been fulfilled yet. Naveen said that more than 1700 posts are vacant in Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC). But now the papers of most of the examinations are also being leaked, due to which there are difficulties in filling these posts.

यूको बैक UCO BANK भारत सरकार का उपक्रम

ZONAL OFFICE SAINIK MARKET, MAIN ROAD, RANCHI-834001, Ph. No. 0651-2330642

Appendix-IV-A (See Provisio to Rule 8(6))

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

E-Auction Sale notice for Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 lotice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to UCO Bank, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of UCO Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis, for recovery of amounts due to UCO Bank from the following Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit amount are as tioned in the table below

SI.	Name of the Branch, Borrower & Amount Due	Details of Property	Reserve Price, EMD & Contact Person	Date Of E-auction :	
01	HAZARIBAGH BRANCH New Arti Bakery, Prop: Radha Devi (Borrower)	All the part and parcel of Land and building situated at Raman Gali, Ram Nagar Chowk, measuring Area- 4 decimals, at Plot no 1667, Khata no 85, Thana No 128, P.S- Katkam Sandi, within the registration sub- district and District- Hazaribagh Bounded by : North - Road; South - Sri. Bal Mukund Sahay; East - Smt. Sangeeta Sinha; West - Smt. Dhukhni Devi/ Smt. Dhano Devi	₹ 17,00,000.00 ₹ 1,70,000.00 Bid Increment	17.03.2025,	
	₹ 8,35,993.39 (Rupees Eight Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Three and Thirty Nine Paise Only) (plus interest and charges thereon)		Amount ₹ 10,000.00 Mr. Prakash Mahto, (Branch Head of Hazaribagh Branch) Contact : 7355573767	between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM	
02	DALTONGANJ BRANCH Borrower : Awanishwar Organic Agro Farm, Prop: Swati Sinha (Borrower), W/o Mr Arya Das, Near RSS Office, Sahitya Samaj Chowk, Hamidganj, Daltonganj, Pin Code - 822101 and the	All or part and Parcel of the Land Owned by Satya devi, W/O Mr. Kamal Kishore Prasad located at Mauza- Kund Mohalla, Ward no 2, Title Deed No- 1932, dated 13.03.1987, Thana No- 194, Khata No- Nil, Survey Plot No460, 461 & 462, Holding Number 341, Area- 6.5 Decimal, New Nagar Sahitya Samaj Chowk, Daltonganj. Boundary : North-Road, South- Manjula Saran, East- Rajendra Prasad, West- Rajiv Ranjan / RSS Bhawan	₹45,22,500.00 ₹4,52,250.00 Bid increment Amount ₹10,000.00 Mr. Satyen Prakash, (Branch Head of Daltonganj Branch) Contact : 9031107000	31.03.2025, between 11:00 AM to 05:00 PM	
	Guarantors : Mr. Arya Das, S/O Mr. Kamal Kishor Prasad, Mr. Kamal Kishor Prasad & Mrs Satya Devi w/o Kamal Kishor Prasad				
	₹ 34,89,384.59 (Rupees Thirty Four Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Four and Fifty Nine Paise Only) (plus interest and charges thereon)				
	For detailed ter	Encumbrances Known to Bank : Not ms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in ht	이 집에서 잘 못 하는 것을 하는 것이 있는 것이 없다. 것이 있는 것이 없다. 것이 있는 것이 없다. 같이 있는 것이 없다. 같이 있는 것이 없다. 같이 있는 것이 없다. 같이 있는 것이 없다. 나는 것이 없다. 사는 것이 없다. 나는 것이 없다. 사는 것이 없다. 나는 것이 없다. 사는 것이 없다. 나는 것이 없다. 사는 것이		
D	ate :28.02.2025 Place : Ranchi		A	Sd/- authorised Officer, UCO Bank	



India-EU agree to conclude FTA by year end

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

indications as part of broader efforts to boost investments. year," he said. "We have prepared a blueprint

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

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

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

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

triangular development projects for sustainable and inclusive development in the Indo-Pacific region and Africa," Modi said.

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

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

Finally, we should deepen cooperation in protecting the cables that ensure data connectivity between India and the European Union, she said. In his remarks, Modi said the India-EU strategic partnership is "natural and organic" and that it is based on "trust" and shared belief in democratic values. "We welcome the new visa cascade regime of the EU. This will provide better mobility to the abilities of India's talented youth," he said. On connectivity, Modi said concrete steps will be taken to take forward the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEEC). Economic

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

EU exploring security, defence pact with India PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI he European Union (EU) is L exploring a security and defence pact with India in line

with its similar partnerships with close allies Japan and South Korea. The announcement, seen as

significant, was made by Commission European president Ursula von der Leven ahead of her wide-ranging talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In an address at a think-tank, she pitched for taking the EU-India strategic partnership to the next level to effectively deal with various geopolitical headwinds. Security should be a core part of our new strategic partnership with India, Von der Leyen said. "This is why I can announce

that we are exploring a future Security and Defence Partnership with India in the mould of the partnerships we have with Japan and South Korea," she said.

"This will help us step up our work to counter common threats whether on crossborder terrorism, maritime security threats, cyber-attacks or the new phenomenon we see: attacks on our critical infrastructure," she said.

nation 04

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

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

"For instance, we can join forces where we have technology and expertise, such as on cyber security, space and drones. This is not only about stability in our respective regions," she said.

Technology to play pivotal role on combat future: CDS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

increasingly becoming digitised, networked and

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

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

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

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

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

IAF chief said there is a need for manufacturing at least 35-40 military aircraft in India every year and stressed the target is not impossible to meet. He said the IAF's first priority when it comes to by senior advocate Indira acquisition, is "anything that is home grown". "So I'm very Jaising that in past 14 months, 18 suicides took place in Indian convinced in my mind that even if a home grown system gives me a slightly lesser and Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs). performance... If it is 90 per cent or 85 per cent of what I get in the world market, we will go for home grown system check this situation. We will because that is the only way we take this issue to the logical can get over with always conclusion," said the Bench. looking outward to get our

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

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

Systems needed to check suicides in IITs, IIMs: SC

Centre, said the University PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

Justices Surya Kant and N

Kotiswar Singh was informed

Institutes Technology (IITs)

"It is extremely unfortunate

what is happening. We will

create a robust mechanism to

Jaising, appearing for the

mothers of students Rohith

Vemula and Payal Tadvi, who

allegedly died by suicide after

universities and colleges hadn't

given entire data on suicides

taking place in their campuses

While Vemula, a PhD scholar

at Hyderabad Central

University died on January 17,

facing

discrimination,

despite a court order.

caste-based

said

Grants Commission (UGC) had formulated draft regulations, which took care The Supreme Court on Friday said incidents of suicides in IITs and IIMs were of majority of the concern raised by the petitioners, and were uploaded on its website "extremely unfortunate" and assured a robust mechanism to inviting suggestions and check such cases. A bench of

bictions from the public. Jaising said 40 per cent of the universities and 80 per cent of the colleges had not created equal opportunity cells in their campuses. The bench asked Jaising and other counsel appearing in the matter to give suggestions on the draft regulations and directed the UGC to look into

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

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

New financial laws pave way for investment in India: Birla

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

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

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

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



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

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

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

Rajnath releases

'Sashakt Bharat'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

magazine

NEW DELHI

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

Mehta, appearing for the institutions in the country.

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELH

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

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

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



File photo

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

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

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

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

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

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

improved compare to last year: CWC

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI

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

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

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

restoration and preservation

been

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

the Jaipur civic body to

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

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



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

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

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

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



Bihar Governor addresses joint session of Assembly

PNS PATNA

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

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

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

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

Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Friday extended the deadline for the sur-

render of looted and illegal arms

until 4 pm on March 6 following

demands by people from both

hill and valley areas for addition-

al time, an official statement

"Upon the expiry of the seven-

day deadline for the voluntary

surrender of arms, there have

been requests from both the

valley and hill areas to extend the

period. I have considered these

requests and decided to extend

the deadline until 4 pm on

March 6," the statement read.

It further assured that no puni-

tive action would be taken against those who surrender their

PTI 📕 IMPHAL

said.

Manipur extends deadline

for surrender of illegal arms

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

States

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

weapons within this period, emphasising that "this is the last opportunity for

everyone concerned to con-

tribute to peace, communal har-

mony, the future of our youth,

and the security of our society.

Bhalla had on February 20 urged

warring groups to voluntarily sur-

render weapons robbed from

security forces and other illegal-

ly held arms within seven days,

the deadline of which ended on

During the seven-day period, more than 300 weapons were surrendered by the public, pri-

More than 250 people have been

killed and thousands rendered

homeless in ethnic violence

between Meiteis and Kuki-Zo groups since May 2023.

marily in the valley districts.

Thursday.

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

consecutive term in office in the Assembly polls due later

delegation of BJP legislators

Siddaramaiah, and sought high-

er allocation of funds in the

upcoming state budget for the

The delegation led by party state

BJP President BY Vijayendra and

Leader of Opposition in the

Legislative Assembly R Ashoka

asked for allocation of ₹150

Crore for each Assembly seg-

Relook into the Metro fare hike,

allocation of funds for con-stituencies represented by first time MLAs, and holding of

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) polls at the ear-

liest are among the issues that were highlighted at the meeting.

Siddaramaiah who also holds the finance portfolio is scheduled to

PTI BENGALURU

city's development.

ment in the city.

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

Liberation, which is an

alliance partner of the RJD-Congress, came out with a strongly worded statement later, describing the goverlater, describing the gover-nor's address as a "bundle of lies" intended to cover up the failures of the JD(U)-BJP government in the state. The Governor also spoke of steps to improve agriculture through detailed five-year "road maps" and enhance healthcare with the establish-ment of new medical col-

ment of new medical colleges. He also made a mention of the government's commitment to maintaining "social

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

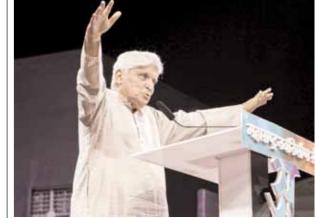
The Governor's address also spoke of "9.35 Lakh government jobs already created' and promised "the total number will rise to 12 Lakh not just 10 Lakh, before the assembly elections due later this year".A promise of "10 Lakh government jobs" has been the poll plank of Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the opposition in the state assembly who served as the deputy CM on the

two occasions when the RJD shared power with JD(U).

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

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

The Governor's address concluded with a word of thanks to the Centre for the "gener-ous help extended to Bihar" in the Union budget presented recently by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who came up with "announcements like setting up of a Makhana board, new airports, economic assistance for a canal in the flood-prone Kosi region and expansion of IIT, Patna".



nation 05

Veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar during celebrations of 'Marathi Bhasha Gau

Javed, Kangana settle defamation case

Bandra.

future.

case.

he added.

MLAs.

Rajput.

Bhardwaj said.

special magistrate court in

Ranaut stated before the media-

for inconvenience caused to him

due to her statement, he said

adding that she has undertaken

not to make such a statement in

Siddiqque said, "We were look-

ing for mediation for a long time.

We had exchanged drafts also. Finally we have resolved the

"There were no issues, only the wordings were to be decided,

which was done today. We pre-pared the draft, signed it and both

the cases were withdrawn today,"

The case was initially heard by a

magistrate court in Andheri. In

2024, after she was elected as a

Member of Parliament (MP)

from the Mandi Lok Sabha con-

stituency in Himachal Pradesh,

the matter was transferred to a

special magistrate court designat-

ed for matters involving MPs and

In his complaint, Akhtar claimed

that Ranaut dragged his name

during an interview while refer-

ring to a 'coterie' existing in Bollywood, following the alleged

suicide by actor Sushant Singh

Ranaut posted a photo with

PNS MUMBAI

matter was settled through an hour-long mediation before a Actress Kangana Ranaut on Friday settled the defamation case filed against her by veteran lyricist Javed Akhtar, which had tor that she made the statement been ongoing for over four years, due to misunderstanding and she has decided to withdraw it, through mediation. The BJP MP also apologised for the "inconve-Ranaut has apologised to Akhtar nience" caused to the screen-

The duo appeared before a special court here on Friday and informed it of their decision to withdraw the complaints they had filed against each other. After the court appearance, the actor also posted a photo on her social media platform along with Akhtar, stating that they have resolved the legal matter.

The court will pass a formal order on this later in the day.

The actor said she made the statement against Akhtar due to misunderstanding, and apologised for the inconvenience caused to him due to it. Akhtar had filed a complaint against Ranaut in 2020, alleging that she had defamed and damaged his 'immaculate reputation' by dragging his name into actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death in an interview with a news channel in July that year.

Ranaut had later filed a cross complaint against Akhtar, alleging criminal intimidation and insult to modesty

She had claimed that during her meeting with Akhtar at his residence in 2016, he criminally intimidated her, demanding that she apologise to a co-star.

Akhtar on Instagram and said the Ranaut's lawyer Rizwan cinema veteran was "kind and gracious" during the mediation Siddiquee and Akhtar's advocate Jay Kumar Bhardwaj said the process.

Gurugram police arrest employee for ₹23 Lakh software hacking fraud

PARVESH SHARMA GURUGRAM

partner, Jatin, committed the crime of fraudulently transferring money to various bank cyber crime police station (south) of the accounts by hacking the company's software in

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

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

(BBMP) for the development of Bengaluru in every budget. "No such allocations have been made for Bengaluru in the last two years, so we have requested ₹6,000-8,000 Crores for Bengaluru city in the budget," he

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

PRAYAGRAJ

said.

BJP urges Karnataka CM for increased Bengaluru budget

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

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

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

ensure allocation of funds within limitations

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

Keeping in mind Bengaluru's global and national reputation, we have urged the CM to give more funds to the city, and we are hopeful that the Chief Minister will consider it," he added.

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

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

Cleanliness drive launched in Prayagraj after Maha Kumbh ing Sangam ghats, Mela grounds, temples, and roads, both permanent and temporary. The drive also includes the removal of 1.5 Lakh temporary toilets, with

Baswar plant in Naini.

aste

As part of the clean-up operation,

all temporary pipelines installed

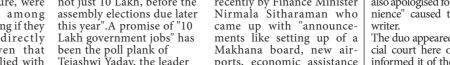
by the Urban and Rural Water

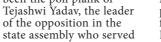
Ćorporation, streetlights put up by the electricity department, and

tents and pavilions used by saints,

monks, and Kalpvasis are being

ienosal at the





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

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

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

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

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

In revenge, the accused, along with his other

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

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

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

launched a 15-day special cleanliness drive to ensure that the festival grounds remain pristine. The initiative aligns with his vision of a clean and divine Maha Kumbh, reinforcing his commitment to hygiene and environmental sustainability.

 $F_{
m ofMaha}^{
m ollowing}$ the grand conclusion for Maha Kumbh 2025, Chief

During the closing ceremony Chief Minister Yogi honoured sanitation workers for their relentless service and directed officials to maintain the sanctity of the Mela grounds. The cleanup operation is being led by Special Officer Akanksha Rana with Swachhata Mitras and Ganga Sewa Doots actively engaged in restoring cleanliness The Sangam ghats, Mela ground roads, and temporary as well as permanent infrastructure are



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

the Triveni Sangam

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

Crore devotees take a holy dip at and sacred environment.

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

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

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

Andhra Pradesh budget prioritises welfare of farmers, fishermen



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

PTI AMARAVATI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Allocating ₹13,862 Crore to the Municipal Administration and

Urban Development Department, Keshav asserted

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

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

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

Railway joins tunnel collapse rescue

PTI NAGARKURNOOL

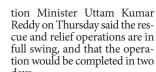
outh Central Railway (SCR) Shas joined the rescue teams that are engaged in locating the eight persons who remain trapped in the partially collapsed Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel for the past six days, with necessary equipment, a senior official said on Friday.

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

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

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

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



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

"One team went into the tunnel at 7 am.

taken up the required works.

The second batch of experts also

reached the site to support the

first team, last night, he further

said

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

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

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

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





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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Lawbreakers as lawmakers

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

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



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

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

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



Strengthening public

institutions in the digital age



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



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

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

A New Era of Governance Historically, governance foling was data-driven and refined through expert consultation with a focus on long-term national interests. Then the digital revolution changed everything. Social media now plays a central role in shaping public discourse, often setting the agenda before formal institutions can respond. A 2023 Pew Research study

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

Adapting Without Losing Purpose

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Looking Ahead

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

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

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

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

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

Tourists at the Taj Mahal, in Agra

Rupee depreciation calls for structural reforms

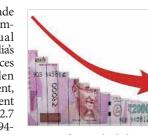


R P GUPTA

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRUMP'S GOLD CARD PLAN

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

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

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

BRUTAL MURDERS SHOCK NATION

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

CBSE clarifies language policy



THE

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

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

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

AFGHANISTAN STUNS ENGLAND

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

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

Vinay Kr Malhotra | Ambala Cantt

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

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

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



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

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

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

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



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

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

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



analys \$ 07

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



aving swept the polls in the Aving swept the poils in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi with a clinch-ing 2/3rd majority, Rekha Gupta-led BJP - government faces the daunting challenge of having to find money to fulfil its poll promises. Amongst others, the BJP had promised Rs 2.500 a month to women under Mabila 2,500 a month to women under Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY); Rs 21,000 to pregnant women; LPG cylinders for Rs 500 and free cylinder on Holi and Diwali; a stipend of Rs 1000 a month to SC students pursu-ing technical and vocational courses; free education for needy students from KG to PG; free travel for students on Delhi Metro; Atal Canteens in Jhuggi Basti clusters pro-viding nutritional meals for Rs 5 only; imple-mentation of Ayushman Bharat scheme and additional cover of Rs 5 lakh for senior citizens. BJP had also vowed to continue all existing schemes such as free electricity and free water (for monthly consumption up to a specified threshold) run by the erstwhile AAP - dispensation under the then Chief linister, Arvind Kejriwal How much will these freebies cost? Let us look at the Mahila Samridhi Yojana (MSY) under which the party has promised BE DISCONTINUED. to give cash assistance of Rs 2500 per month to every woman. The number of women above the age of 18 years in Delhi is around 6700,000. @ Rs 2500 per month or Rs 30,000 annually to each woman, giving cash assistance to them all will require Rs 20,100 crore per annum $(0.67 \times 30,000)$. The assistance to pregnant women @Rs 21,000 per woman, taking a total of about 1500,000 pregnant women will cost around Rs 3150 crore annually. As for subsidy on LPG, take consumption of 4 cylinders (14 kg each) per household (HH) in a year. The current cost of supply-ing a cylinder is around Rs 1000. For two WHICH WOULD BE cylinders (Holi and Diwali) promised to be given free, the subsidy will be Rs 2000 whereas for the other two to be given @ Rs 500 each, the outgo will be Rs 1000. This gives an annual subsidy of Rs 3000 per HH. The current population of Delhi is 330 lakh. Taking an average of 4 members per HH,

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

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

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

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

The liability for servicing those debts

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

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

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

What is the current state of Delhi's finances?

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

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

is vested entirely in the NCT gov ernment and should be reflected in its balance sheet. Look at the fiscal deficit (FD) which is the excess of total receipts over total expenditure. For FY 2024-25, it is estimated at Rs 18,000 crore which is 80 per cent higher than the FD during FY 2023-24 at Rs 10,000 crore. The surge is despite a steep reduction of over 30 per cent in CE from the budget estimate (BE) of Rs 22,000 crore for FY 2023-24 to Rs 15,000 crore for FY 2024-25.

If interest payments on loans taken by DJB and DTC (Rs 130,000 crore plus) which are merely adding to the mountain of debt on the books of those departments year after year are also included, the FD would be much higher. The situation had come to such a pass that the then CM Atishi had approached the Centre seeking a loan of Rs 10,000

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

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

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

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

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

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



have been vital in driving the development and implementation of solar projects under

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

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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



Israel's army admits failures leading to Oct 7 attack

PTI TEL AVIV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The military's findings are in line with past

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

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

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

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

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

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



Israeli network

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

weekend, Hamas launched a heavy wave

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

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

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

world 08

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

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

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

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

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

claimed nearly 1400 lives.

Bangladesh witnessed a resur-

gence of unrest since February

burned and demolished the

residence of the country's

founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, coinciding

with her daughter Hasina's pre-

viously announced virtual

address to students from India.

The protesters set on fire or

ransacked the houses and busi-

ness establishments of the

Awami League leaders and

supporters across the country.

Bangladesh's security forces

this year when protestors

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

PTI KHAN YOUNIS (GAZA STRIP)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

for the past few years to help its close ally. The Chinese space station, which has been in

orbit for nearly four years, is regarded as a rival to Russia's international space station Mir, cur rently in orbit.

China built Tiangong after the country was reportedly excluded from the International Space Station (ISS) over concerns that China's space programme is manned by its military, the People's Liberation Army (PLA). China's space station is also seen as a new field

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

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

er announced plans for the fur has ea

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

PTI 📕 DHAKA

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

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

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

NCP leaders said they expect-ed around 3,00,000 people, including students from across the country, at the launch event. "People from all the 64 districts are to join our inauguration alongside the family members of those who gave their lives in the July-August mass uprising," a spokesman of the new party's media cell said. 'We have also invited the lead-

NCP leaders said Yunus was also invited to their launch ceremony

include Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson and ex-premier Khaleda Zia; her son and acting BNP chairper-

e-Islami ameer Shafiqur Rahman, and leaders of several Islamic, rightist and leftwing parties and groups.

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

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

A recent UN fact-finding report suggested policed actions during the uprising and subsequent violence January last year.

have arrested over 8,600 people in a two-week crackdown named 'Operation Devil Hunt' that targeted gangs allegedly linked with the ousted Hasina government. The arrests came amid growing concerns about rising crime levels, particularly in Dhaka, with police saying the number of robberies had doubled since

5 killed, 20 hurt in Pak mosque blast

PTI PESHAWAR

10 Friday

of Nowshera district, Chief during 'Jumma' prayer. Secretary Shahab Ali Shah con-(Sami Group) after the death of

The Darul Uloom Haqqania A powerful blast killed at Aleast five people and Haq became chief of his JUI Hanafi Deobandi school of and removed the bodies and Haq became chief of his JUI Sunni Islam It was founded by Maulana Abdul Haq along the lines of the Darul Uloom Deoband seminary in India, where he had taught. It has been dubbed the "University of Jihad" due to its methods and content of instruction, along with the future occupations of its alumni. A number of leading members of the Taliban, including

former chief Akhtar Mansour, studied here.

ers of major political parties," he added. The new party is being launched with the blessings of Yunus, who took over as the Chief Adviser as the SAD nominee in August 2024.

The other high-profile invitees

son Tarique Rahman; BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir; Jamaat-

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

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

Overnight, Hamas released the remains

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

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

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

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

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

DPO Nowshera district Abdur Rasheed said the blast occurred evacuated the injured hospital. An emergency was declared in both Nowshera and Peshawar hospitals.

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

Quake rattles Kathmandu PTI 📕 KATHMANDU

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

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

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

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

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



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

Russian, US diplomats meet in Istanbul

PTI 📕 ISTANBUL

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

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

Speaking during Thursday's

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

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

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

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

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

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

restrictions

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

PTI MIRAMAR (PANAMA)

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

hundreds of deportees from

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ruiz-Hernandez said some of



North Korea's current solid

cooperation with Russia after

Last Saturday, North Korea's

Defense Ministry alleged the

US and its allies were ramp-

provocations targeting North

Korea since Trump took

It cited the recent US-South

ing up more serious military

the war ends.

ower.

Doctors suggest Pope has overcome the worst

PTI ROME

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

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

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

For the second day in a row,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Government Employees.

ers who joined the federal gov

ernment to make a difference

in their communities, only to

be suddenly terminated due to

this administration's disdain

Alsup ordered the personnel

office to inform a limited num-

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

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

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

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

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

The Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry said the 84 Indonesians, which included 69 men and 15 women, were healthy and will fly to Jakarta on three commercial flights Friday. The ministry had

North Korea says it performed cruise missile tests Ukraine with supply of

PTI SEOUL (SOUTH KOREA)

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

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

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

confrontation environment," weapons and troops, won't of the North Korean mililikely embrace Trump's outtary's counterattack capabilreach anytime soon. ity and the readiness of its They say Kim could reconsid nuclear operations, KCNA er if he doubts he'll maintain said.

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that my client Deepak Kumar Yadav and Manju Devi are in process to purchase the Entire Third Floor built on Front. Side Portion of Property bearing Municipal Old No. 7-P/3, New No. S.4, area measuring 60 Sq. Yds., Out of Kinasra No. 133, situated in the area and abdid of Snitwaspuri, New Obth.; (availing loan from PCHFL) from Suresh Kumar Arora, having acquired the said property bearing with with a seasand Executed by Sunita Rani, Mrs. Suran Anagpal, Mrs. Lalita, Mrs. Ankita Makkar, Ms. Srishti Arora and Mr. Madhav Arora All personis having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or uny part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family possession, lease, subleas, tenancy, icense, lien, charge, pledge, assement or otherwise howsoever, are hiereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereot failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and(or abandoned. Kamal Kant Gupta (Abrocate) Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE Its to inform to the public at large that Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mrs. Arti Kumari who are the owners of Entire Third Floor, with roof terrace rights, area measuring 110 Sq. Yds., I.e., 91971 Sq. Mits., out of Property Bearing No. R2-F21/17, Street No.5, out of Khasra No.447/2, Stuated in the area of Village Mahavir Enclave, New Dehi-110045 vide Sale Deed dated 31.05.2023 (Vide Doc. No.5937) Award Wrs. Geeta Kothari and same to be financed & mortgaged by Acitya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. Intel. Original Sale Deed dated 31.05.2023 executed by Mrs. Geeta Kothari in favour of Mr. Dilip Kumar and Mrs. Arti Kumari in respect of said property, vide Registration No.5937, Book No.1, Vol. No.12176, on pages 191-199, on dated 31.05.2023, SR-IX, New Delhi is lost/misplaced. 31.05.2023, SR-IX, New Delhi is lost/misplaced So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person raving any type of claim /right/title/interest reating mortgage over the said property, may nform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 15 days from oday, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Sncumbrances, lien etc. Lucen Legal LLP B-938, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank bactor 2 Noida III.2000

Korean aerial exercise involv-ing a US B-1B bomber and other reported activities involving U.S. military assets. A Defense Ministry state-ment said North Korea will counter the strategic threat of the US with strategic means. Kim and Trump met three times from 2018-19 to discuss the fate of North Korea's nuclear program, but their diplomacy derailed due to disputes over US-led sanc-

tions on the North. Kim has since sharply increased the pace of weapons tests to expand and modernize his nuclear and missile arsenals.

Having a bigger nuclear arsenal now, experts say Kim would think he could win greater US concessions if he revives diplomacy with Trump

21/03/2025

1500 Hrs

21/03/2025

1500 Hrs

21/03/2025

1500 Hrs

21/03/2025

1515 Hrs

21/03/2025

1530 Hrs

21/03/2025

1545 Hrs

Unit No. FF-2, First fl Sec-4, Vaishali, G	Unit No. FF-2, First floor, Mahaluxmi Metro Tower B-93B, Second Floor, Opp. SBI Bank Sec. 4, Vaishali, Gzb., U.P., Mob. 9810063351 Sector 2, Noida, UP-201301Contact#0120-4269379				
W.P. POWER GENERATING COMPANY LIMITED Office of the Addl. C.E. (P&W), Shree Singaji Thermal Power Project Dongalia Distt. Khandwa (M.P.), E-mail ID : sepnw.sstpp1@gmail.com No. 515-1700/SSTPP/MPPGCL/P&W/9195 Date : 28.02.202				te : 28.02.2025	
	Tender Particulars/Tender Number		Estimate Cost (Rs (includit GST)	.) Cost &	Last date and time for closing of online submission
Work Contract of day to day routine maintenance of 220kv & 400kv 89,3 Switchyard, all HT and LT transformers, Overhead line faults, lighting of BOP & BTG building in plant, street lighting in plant, to raw water intake and inside colony and maintenance of electrical installation siwariya township as per scope of work of phase-1, SSTPP, SSTPP, MPPGCL, Khandwa. (T-2025_MPPGC_393547_1)				1,78,700/- &	04.04.2025 up to 15:30
For extension & other details, the bidders are requested to please visit e-portal of GoMP at www.mptenders. gov.in M.P. Madhyam/119021/2025 SE (P&W)					
BSES BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi					
L	TENDER N	OTICE		Date	e: 01.03.2025
Sealed tenders u	Sealed tenders under two parts (Un priced & priced) are invited for the supply of following materials from all bidders:-			idders:-	
NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost	Cost of EMD	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening

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

PTI SAN FRACISCO

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

US District Judge William Alsup ordered the Office of Personnel Management to inform certain federal agencies that it had no authority to order the firings of probationary employees, including at the Department of Defense. "OPM does not have any

authority whatsoever, under any statute in the history of the universe," to hire or fire any employees but its own, Alsup said.

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

officials with civil service protection

Lawyers for the government agree that the office has no authority to hire or fire employees in other agencies. But they said the Office of Personnel Management asked agencies to review and determine whether employees on probation were fit for continued employment. They also said that probationary employees are not guaranteed employ-

ment and that only the highest for federal employees and performing and mission-critidesire to privatize their work. "I think plaintiffs are conflat-ing a request by OPM with an order by OPM," said Kelsey An email seeking comment from the Office of Personnel Management was not immediately returned Thursday Michelle Lo, an assistant US Helland, an assistant U.S. attorney in court Thursday. attorney with the Department of Justice, declined to com-

Attorneys for the coalition cheered the order, although it does not mean that fired employees will automatically be rehired or that future firings

Punjab & Sind Bank will not occur. ß 'What it means in practical effects is the agencies of the federal government should hear PUBLIC NOTICE the court's warning that that Puniab and Sind Bank, Bahadurgarh order was unlawful," said is providing loan on the following property Danielle Leonard, an attorney of Sh. Ashish Gulia S/o. Sh. Joginder for the coalition, after the hear Singh and Smt. Sweety W/o. Sh. ing. "This ruling by Judge Alsup is Ashish Gulia situated at Plot No.855. Sector-2, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar an important initial victory Harvana-124507. We hereby state that the Original Conveyance deed 3810 dated 18-10-2006 is lost. Punjab and

ment

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

schemes in Myanmar.

SUPERIOR FINLEASE LIMITED CIN: L74899DL1994PLC061995

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

Phone No.: +91-9953798335

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

PUBLIC NOTICE My client HDFC Bank Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mrs. Sangeeta Khandelwal and Naveen Khandelwal has taken a housing loan against Flat No. CM309A, Tower-3A, 9 th Floor, DLF THE CAMELLIAS M SUBVENTION, S. No. DLF5,

Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 but in the internal movement of file one

file containing the original Flat Buyer Agreement is not traceable

which was lost/misplaced if any

body find the same may return to

the undersigned, if anybody

misuses the same, the same shall

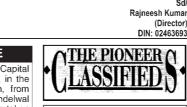
K-8, LGF Janopura Extn. New Delhi-110014

Karnail Singh, (Advocate)

be at his/their own risk and cost.

Date : 28.02.2025

Place : New Delh



Corrigendum

Sd/

THE PIONEER A CHANGE OF NAME

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

Sector 45, Gurugram, have

changed my name Shivani

Solanki to Shivani Balhara.

Shivani Solanki to Shivani

I, Shobha Sharma W/o Brij

PD(1599)C

PD(1603)C

person. Kindly note.

said last week as many as 270 Indonesians were stranded in Mvanmar after leaving the scam centers, but it was not clear why only 84 were being repatriated. Judha Nugraha, director of Indonesian citizen protection at the ministry, has said that approximately 6,800 Indonesians have fallen victim to illegal job scams, ending up in online gambling operations or bogus investment

Social Security Administration could reduce 50% workforce

at

"The

benefit program.

ber will soar."

Security.

PTI WASHINGTON

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

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

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

A representative from the Social Security Administration did not respond to an Associated Press Sind Bank is providing loan on the said property, if any person has any objection to the above consent, then contact the branch within 15 days or Advocate

Pooja Rani (Mobile: 7988636387)

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

₹ 22.67 Cr

₹ 13.48 Cr

₹ 40.91 Cr

₹ 22.67

lakhs

₹ 13.48

lakhs

₹ 40.91

lakhs

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

CMC/BR/25-26/

FK/PR/FH/1254

CMC/BR/25-26/

FK/PR/FH/1255

CMC/BR/25-26/

FK/PR/FH/1256

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

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV

GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 2CX25

SQ.MM IN BRPL

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF 1.1KV

GRADE POWER CABLE OF SIZE 4C CABLES

IN BRPL

RATE CONTRACT FOR SUPPLY OF LT

AERIALLY BUNCHED CABLES OF SIZES

3CX150 & 3CX95 SQ.MM IN BRPL

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

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

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

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

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

GDP growth rate 6.2 per cent in Q3

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

quarter against 10.1 per cent a year earlier. The GVA growth in the cent during the third quarter

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

cent estimated earlier. "Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2023-24 and 2022-23 stands at ₹176.51 Lakh Crore and ₹161.65 Lakh Crore, respectively, showing a growth of 9.2 per cent during 2023-24 compared to

a growth of 7.6 per cent during 2022-23," it said. Per Capita Income i.E. Per Capita Net National Income at current prices is estimated at ₹1,69,145 and ₹1,88,892 respectively for 2022-23 and 2023-24, it noted. The NSO has also revised

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

cent, respectively



Expenditure at Maha Kumbh to push GDP growth in Q4: CEA

PTI 📕 NEW DELHI

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

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

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

sectors, except agriculture. NSO also released the second advance estimate for the current fiscal and pegged the economic growth at 6.5 per cent against 6.4 per cent estimated in the first advance estimate released in January. To achieve 6.5 per cent growth, India's GDP has to

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

per cent growth is realistic

and can be achieved during

"There are some good

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

additional expenditure that

we are seeing happening because of the footfalls in Maha Kumbh...That we have

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

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

Asked about the stock market fall, he said looking at

the long-term prospects of

compared to other places and

looking at the historical track

record of the Indian market,

one shouldn't be over-

interpreting the near-term

Benchmark indices Sensex

and Nifty tumbled nearly 2

per cent on Friday, mirroring

deep losses in global markets

as the latest announcement

of an additional 10 per cent

tariff on Chinese products

economy

Indian

been seeing," he said.

fourth quarter.

the

numbers.

the fourth quarter.

economy is on the verge of crossing \$4 Trillion in FY25. Nominal GDP or GDP at current prices is estimated to attain a level of ₹331.03 Lakh Crore in the year 2024-25, against ₹301.23 Lakh Crore in 2023-24, showing a

money 10

growth rate of 9.9 per cent. About inflation, Nageswaran said, it is trending down.

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

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

urban consumption. The robust kharif production and better rabi sowing, coupled with higher reservoir levels and seasonal winter correction vegetable prices, augur well for food inflation going

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

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

PTI NEW DELHI,

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

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

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

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

In the ninth round, India and the EU discussed trade issues covering goods, services, investment and government procurement along with necessary rules such as rules of origin, SPS (sanitary and phytosanitary), and technical barriers to trade. 27-nation EU bloc resumed trade

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

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

The agreement is aimed at further boosting bilateral trade and investments between the two. The two In June 2022, India and the sides are negotiating a free an

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

demand.

March 6.

times

The Reserve Bank of India

agreement,

Jharkhand Economic Survey estimates mining royalties will fetch ₹19,300 Crore PTI RANCHI

Projecting robust mining growth to be a key driver of the state's economic development, Jharkhand Economic Survey on Friday estimated rovaltie

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

operations. Jharkhand is actively

January 2025, according to the exceeding 19

PTI NEW DELHI The Centre's fiscal deficit touched 74.5 per cent of the

Centre's fiscal deficit

touches 74.5 per cent

Crore.

transferred

the previous year.

for 2024-25 has been pegged at 4.8 per cent of GDP (lower than earlier estimate of 4.9 per cent) and at 4.4 per cent for

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

governments as devolution of

share of taxes by Government

of India up to January, which is

₹2,53,929 Crore higher than

to

state

annual target at the end of 2025-26. In absolute terms, the fiscal data released by Controller deficit for the financial year ending March

Buy/Sell swap. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank will be conducting a USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction of \$10 Pilliag for a torget of 2 more?" Billion for a tenor of 3 years." In January also, the RBI had announced liquidity injection worth over ₹1.5 Lakh Crore The auction comes in the backdrop of rupee trading at through different instruments, including \$5 87.46 against the US dollar Billion forex swap. The rupee declined 28 paise to 87.46 against the US dollar on

Friday.

India, a big deal for its IT Billion. industry.

PTI MUMBAI Reserve Bank side A bank shall sell US dollars to The Reserve Bank on Friday conducted US dollar-Reserve Bank and the rupee swap worth \$10 Billion for injecting long-term liquidity in the system, with

swap worth \$10 Billion

RBI conducts forex

simultaneously agree to buy the same amount of US dollars at the end of the swap While announcing the swap auction last week, the RBI had said: "In order to meet the the auction eliciting robust The settlement of auction will durable liquidity needs of the take place on March 4 and system, the Reserve Bank has The USD/INR Buy/Sell swap auction for a tenor of 3 years was oversubscribed 1.62 decided to inject Rupee liquidity for longer duration through long-term USD/INR

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

ations after a gap of over eight years. It stalled in 2013 due to differences over the level of opening up of the markets.

demanding Besides significant duty cuts in automobiles, the EU wants tax reduction in wines, spirits and a strong intellectual property regime. Indian goods' exports to the

EU, such as ready-made garments, pharmaceuticals, steel, petroleum products, and electrical machinery, will become more competitive, if the pact gets concluded

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

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

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

successfully. India is also seeking data security status for the IT sector. The lack of this status has prevented the flow of constitive information to fully built-up (CBU) vehicles.

will fetch ₹19,300 Crore in the ongoing fiscal.

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

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

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

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

from the

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

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

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

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

General of Accounts (CGA) on estimated at ₹15.69 Lakh Friday.

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

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

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

INBRIEF

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

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

NATIONAL SCIENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS AT VIT-AP

BINOD ANAND NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

without deductions. tracking of Real-time

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

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

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

ensuring instant payments affordable for small farmers and tenant cultivators.

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

procurement will enable

RANCHI | SATURDAY | MARCH 1, 2025

www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

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

with deep

symbolism, writes SAKSHI PRIYA

PHOTOS : PANKAJ KUMAR

ne pioneer

[ART & CULTURE] VIVACILY

Patience

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Chromalogue: Art in Every Shade



BY TEAM VIVA

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

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

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

softens the senses, creating a quiet space within. *Babita Varma's* Aswan, sculpted in clay on wood, and Kripal Mathur's Spring Dance, work with hand-dyed goat's wool, show that colour is not just seen, it is felt.

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

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

Beyond paint, mixed media adds depth and dimension. Priya Bery's Poppies: The Intoxicators bursts with life on Waterford paper, while Winnie Singh's





Experience the evolution of art

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

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

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

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

A DYNAMIC INTERPLAY OF TRA-

DITION AND INNOVATION, WHERE

21 ARTISTS REDEFINE ARTISTIC BOUNDARIES THROUGH COLOR,

FORM AND TEXTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



sports 12

Hockey India unveils performance-based system for national championship

PTI NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

league matches, with the top securing two teams promotion to Division B. During the league stage, teams in all three divisions

will earn points based on their performance. Each team will be awarded three points for a win, one point for a draw, and

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

Division A

Pool A: Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha, Hockey Karnataka Pool B: Hockey Maharashtra, Manipur Hockey, Hockey Punjab Pool C: Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Mizoram, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu

Pool D: Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Bengal, Uttar Pradesh Hockey Division B

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

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

Hockey, Hockey Arunachal, Hockey Jammu and Kashmir.



Praggnanandhaa draws against Gurel Ediz

PTI PRAGUE

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

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

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

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

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

spot on a half point apiece from their two games.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WPL: RCB looks for victory against DC

PTI BENGALURU

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

RCB had begun the third season of WPL with two wins in Vadodara, but their fortunes have nosedived since the tournament caravan shifted to their home ground hree consecutive defeats, including a heartbreaking loss in the Super Over to UP Warriorz, have left them reeling. Placed third on the table and winless at home so far, RCB will be desperate to bounce back against a Delhi Capitals side facing the challenge of playing back-to-back games before the WPL heads to Lucknow. The Meg Lanning-led Capitals will have little recovery time as they take on Mumbai Indians in a top-of-the-table clash on Friday before locking horns with RCB the very next day. RCB's struggles have been glaring in both batting and bowling. Their batting unit collapsed in the defeat against Gujarat Giants on Thursday, skipper with Smriti Mandhana's form being a major concern. Her 81 against DC remains her only notable

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

partner. Her opening England's Danni Wyatt-Hodge too has been inconsistent, while Australian veteran Ellyse Perry, despite being in sensational touch, suffered a rare failure with a maiden WPL duck against Gujarat Giants.

The bowling department has been equally underwhelming. Frontline pacers Renuka Singh and Kim Garth have lacked consistency, often erring in line and length. Ekta Bisht, and Kanika Ahuja have struggled to exert control in the crucial middle overs, compounding RCB's woes further. Delhi Capitals, too, have endured an inconsistent campaign, with two losses sandwiched between three wins. Their batting lineup has finally started firing with Shafali Verma and Jess Jonassen finding form. However, skipper Lanning continues to struggle at the top. Jemimah Rodrigues and Annabel Sutherland have provided occasional fireworks in the middle order, but DC

New Zealand excited to play in different conditions: Bracewell

PTI DUBAI

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

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

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



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

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

facing all three opponents in

their group once and two randomly drawn teams from

The top four teams at the end

will advance to the knockout

rounds, leading to the grand

the other group.

finale on June 15.

conditions. Yeah, not much more to say on that other than we're excited to try and learn and play in different conditions," added the 34year-old off-spinner. The New Zealander opined dwelling on that," said Bracewell, when asked if

that the pitches here would aid spin and it would be a

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

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

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

India, becoming the first touring side to seal a series

exciting. I personally think it's coming to a different ground and trying to figure out those different

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

van

"It's part of what makes it

will seek more consistency from their batting unit. In Shikha Pandey, Marizanne Kapp, young Titas Sadhu, Sutherland, and Minnu Mani, DC boast a formidable bowling attack, making them a dangerous opponent despite their inconsistencies.



PTI NEW DELHI

 $T_{\text{Ultimate}}^{\text{he sixth}} \xrightarrow{\text{edition}}_{\text{Table}} \operatorname{Tennis}$ (UTT), the sport's premier league in India, will be held from May 29 to June 15 in Ahmedabad, the organisers compete against top international talent," Table Tennis Federation of India announced on Friday. The state-of-the-art EKA Secretary Kamlesh Mehta Arena, a venue that has staged the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup said. The upcoming season will and 2019 Intercontinental feature eight teams split into Cup (football), will be the two groups of four for the draw, with each team playing venue for the event that will be five ties in the league stage in Ahmedabad for the first

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

PTI LONDON

West Ham handed relegation-threatened third title. "Ultimate Table Tennis has been instrumental Leicester its fourth straight in transforming the table Premier League loss by tennis landscape in India, Ruud beating Nistelrooy's team 2-0. providing our players with an unparalleled platform to Leicester failed to score in

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

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



Brentford but kept Van draw and 11 losses. Nistelrooy in charge. In 14 Premier League games under the Dutch manager,

Leicester has two wins, one

"We were way too passive," Van Nistelrooy told TNT

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

Sports. "Of course we're in a situation where we're not

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

first time this season. Graham Potter, who replaced the fired Julen Lopetegui as manager seven weeks ago, said Thursday's victory was a "professional performance," following up from a 1-0 victory at Arsenal

last Saturday. "For us, we're just delighted with two wins, two clean sheets and six points," he said of the mini-run.

Champions Trophy: South Africa eyes semifinal spot against England

PTI KARACHI

As the battle for the semifinals intensifies in Group B, top-ranked South Africa will aim to assert their dominance and secure a spot in the final four when they face a struggling England in a highstakes Champions Trophy (CT) clash here on Saturday. Unlike Group A wherein two best sides - India and New

Zealand - have sailed through with ease into the knockouts, Australia, Afghanistan and South Africa in Group B are locked in for an intense battle over the two days for the remaining two semifinal berths. A crushing loss by eight runs to for the semifinals but also kept the Asian team's hopes alive of making to the final four, which has kept both South Africa and Australia on tenterhooks. Afghanistan will take on Australia on Friday in Lahore riding on the big wave of confidence from their last outing between the two teams in the 50-over format. The Afghans had pushed Australia to the brink in their last meeting in the 2023 ODI

World Cup before Glenn Maxwell's sensational 201 not

out turned the tables. While there are possibilities of the contest being affected by rain, a win for Afghanistan will

Afghanistan not only sent be enough for them to seal a England out of the contention spot in the semifinal, as Australia's defeat will leave the Steve Smith-led side locked in for a battle with South Africa for the second and final spot from this group. South Africa (3 points, 2.140 NRR) are likely to progress if

Australia (3 points, 0.475 NRR) beat Afghanistan (2 points, -0.990 NRR), even if the Proteas lose to England because of their healthy NKR.

A favourable result should not be too difficult for South Africa who have all their bases covered and more importantly, have their key players in-form compared to a misfiring England, who are overly

Proteas dependent on Joe Root.



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

formidable 315/6 batting first, following which the bowlers produced a unified show to bundle out Afghanistan for a mere 208.

While on-paper, South Africa are a formidable unit and have been the team to beat in recent ICC events, their overall form over the last one year or so doesn't inspire confidence as South Africa have lost eight of their last 12 ODIs and won only four since January 2024.

South Africa had also failed to make the tri-seires final in Pakistan also involving New Zealand, prior to the Champions Trophy, and Bavuma's side will be required to find consistency against a hurting England who will be determined to sign off on a high. Barring Root, England do not inspire much confidence as they are amid a losing streak which began with a 0-3 hammering by India before this tournament.

Root's 120 was the only bright spot for England against Afghanistan as the venerable batter was the only one to convert his start and show the promise to do the job for his side, which ideally should have been completed but the 2019 World Cup winners lacked the gumption.

England, who had begun the tournament with a defeat to Australia, are likely to go through changes in terms of leadership but before all that

unfolds, Jos Buttler would be keen to rally his troops around for one final laugh.

Teams (from):

England: Jos Buttler (c), Jofra Archer, Gus Atkinson, Tom Banton, Harry Brook, Rehan Ahmed, Ben Duckett, Jamie Overton, Jamie Smith, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Joe Root, Saqib Mahmood, Phil

Salt, Mark Wood. South Africa: Temba Bavuma (c), Tony de Zorzi, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Corbin

Bosch.

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