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DEHRADUN

Grand Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath Puri today



Elaborate security arrangements in place

NALINI SAHU Puri

he pilgrim town of Puri is all set to host the world-famous Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath and His siblings on Friday with elaborate security and logistical arrangements in place to manage a massive influx of devotees.

Nearly two million devotees are expected to witness the centuries-old festival, which will see the deities, Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra, Subhadra

Sudarshan, ride their ornate wooden chariots to the Gundicha Temple.

Director General of Police (DGP) Yogesh Bahadur Khurania said around 200 platoons of police, eight companies of Central paramilitary forces, bomb squads, dog squads and anti-sabotage teams have been deployed to ensure foolproof security. Marine police will patrol the coast while AI-powered surveillance and anti-drone systems will monitor crowd movement and traffic.

"The city has been divided into eight security sectors for effective management. A dedicated mobile app will provide real-time updates on traffic, parking and advisories," the DGP informed.

An integrated command and control centre will assist officials in handling emergencies and maintaining law and

Governor Hari Babu Khambampati, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and his ministerial colleagues, Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Jual Oram and Ashwini Vaishnaw, and many other top dignitaries are most likely to attend the grand divine celebration.

Meanwhile, Dharmendra

Pradhan appealed to devotees to shun single-use plastics during the festival, underscoring the need for cleanliness and environmental responsibility.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration has also released the ritual schedule for the Ratha Yatra with the ceremonial Pahandi procession of the deities beginning at 9.30 am and chariot pulling slated for 4 pm.

All arrangements are aimed at ensuring a safe, smooth and spiritually uplifting experience for the millions expected to converge on

One terrorist killed by army in Valley

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ Jammu

hortly after Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Thursday appealed to the devotees to turn up in large numbers at Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, which is scheduled to begin from July 3, a joint team of security forces gunned down a terrorist in the Basantgarh area of Udhampur district. An elite Para Commando of

the Indian Army was earlier 'killed in action' during a similar cordon and search operation in the forest area of Dudu Basantgarh on April 24 this year. The Indian Army's White Knight Corps, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Bihali after receiving credible intelligence about the presence of terrorists in the Bihali area of Basantgarh. "Contact was established with the terrorists early this morning, and one terrorist has been neutralized so far," an



A security personnel in a search operation after an encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in a remote forested area, in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur district, Thursday

Army spokesperson confirmed. At the time of filing the report, at least two more terror-

ists belonging to the same group were trapped by the forces. Inspector General of 11 Zone Bhim Sen Tuti, said, "Security forces, including elite Commandos and CRPF units, have been deployed to cordon off the area, with drones and sniffer dogs assisting in the search. Reinforcements have

been rushed to the site to tighten the cordon and prevent the terrorists' escape.

Addressing a press conference at Raj Bhawan in Srinagar, LG Manoj Sinha acknowledged Pahalgam attack on pilgrim registrations. "Before April 22, 2,36,801 people had registered. After the incident, there was a slight drop of about 10.19% compared to last year's 5.12 lakh pilgrims. However, as of yesterday, over 85,000 pilgrims have confirmed their Yatra, and I am hopeful the numbers will con-

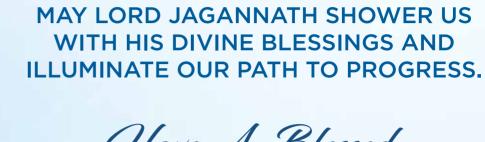
tinue to rise," he said. To restore public confidence, the administration has implented a robust multi. security grid. LG Sinha emphasized that the Indian Army, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) along with the Jammu & Kashmir Police, have taken comprehensive measures for a safe pilgrimage.

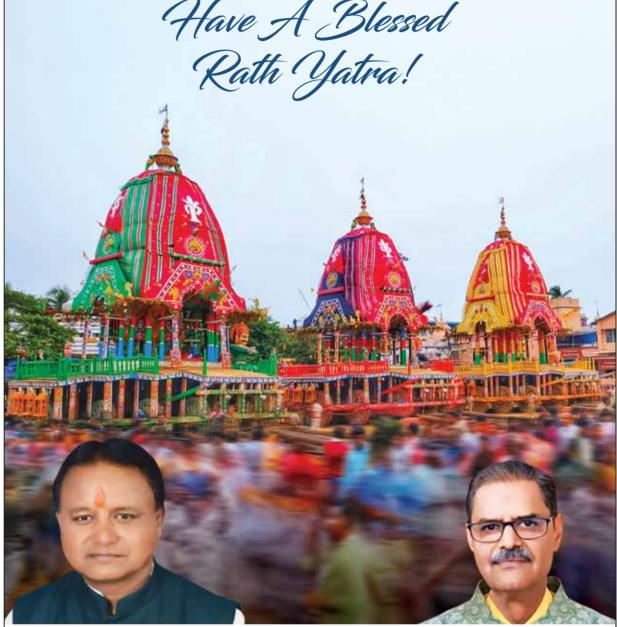
India moves to restrict Indus waters

The Government is looking to restart the

country's share of water from the western Tulbul project is being prepared and is long-stalled Tulbul Navigation Project, as rivers under the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). expected to take about a year to complete.

HYDERABAD





For You, With You, Always 4

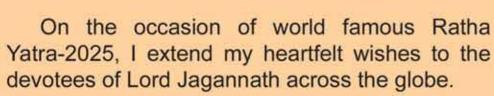
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(Joint Ventures of Tata Power and Government of Odisha)

DADLS-36



MESSAGE OF HON'BLE GOVERNOR ON THE OCCASION OF RATHA YATRA



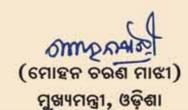
The path to the elevation of humanity lies in embracing the consciousness and timeless philosophy of Shri Jagannath. May this divine spirit greatly contribute to fostering peace, amity, love and brotherhood in society.

(Hari Babu Kambhampati)



ମହାପ୍ରଭୁ ଶ୍ରୀକଗନ୍ନାଥଙ୍କ ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ସମୟ ଭାଇଭଉଣୀମାନଙ୍କୁ ମୋର ଶୁଭେଚ୍ଛା ଜଣାଉଛି । ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଆମ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ଅସୀମ ଭକ୍ତି ଓ ଭାବାବେଗର ଉତ୍ସବ । ମହାପ୍ରଭୁଙ୍କ ଆଶୀର୍ବାଦରେ ରାଜ୍ୟର ବିକାଶ ସହିତ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କ ଜୀବନ ସୁଖ, ଶାନ୍ତି ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧିରେ ଭରିଉଠ୍ନ, ଏହା ହିଁ ମୋର କାମନା ।

ଜୟ ଜଗନ୍ନାଥ ...



CM reaffirms 'zero casualty' goal during disasters

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Wednesday chaired the 2025 State-Level Natural Disaster Committee Meeting and reiterated the State Government's firm commitment to achieving zero casualty during natural disas-

Addressing ministers, legislators and senior officials from disaster-prone districts, Majhi said that while natural disasters are unavoidable, their impact can be significantly mitigated through robust preparedness and strong interdepartmental coordina-

With the southwest monsoon bringing increased risks of floods and cyclones, the CM



reviewed preparedness across departments. He highlighted Odisha's successful handling of Cyclone Dana in 2024, which impacted 14 districts but resulted in no fatalities.

In response to drought vulnerability, the State has drawn up a plan to irrigate 15 lakh hectares over the next five years. The government has also declared unseasonal rain and heat waves as State-specific disasters, ensuring timely compensation to affected

farmers. Notably, only one death was reported due to heat wave conditions this year,

Emphasising health sector readiness, he instructed officials to sanitise tube-wells and stock essential medicines and anti-snake venom at healthcare centres. He also called for strict monitoring of weak embankments and better water management systems. Real-time weather tracking will be enhanced with Goppler radar installations in Sambalpur, Baleswar and Bhubaneswar. Multipurpose shelters, 909 in total, have been constructed in 25 highrisk districts while palm tree plantations have been undertaken in lightning-prone areas to minimise risks.

The emergency control rooms are operational 24x7, and ODRAF, NDRF and Fire Services remain on alert for rapid response.

Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari emphasised the use of modern equipments and trained personnel. Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo, ministers from key departments and elected representatives from vulnerable districts also attended the meeting.

With Adami & Jsw Odisha signs port deals worth Rs 18,654 crore

8,450 jobs to be created

RAJEEV RATHAN Bhubaneswar

The State Government on Thursday signed Concession Agreements for two major port infrastructure projects worth Rs 18,654 crore. The move marks a decisive step toward port-led development with strategic investments from private sector giants Adani Ports and JSW Steel.

The agreements were inked in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who emphasised the transformative potential of these projects for Odisha's coastal economy.

1. Gopalpur Port expansion-Rs 16,554 crore. Developer: Gopalpur Ports Limited (Adani Ports). Target capacity: 50 million metric tonnes (MMT). Employment generation: approx. 5,000 jobs

Erasama Jagatsinghpur-Rs 2,100 crore. Developer: JSW Utkal Steel Limited. Capacity: 52 MMT Employment: Approx. 3,450

2. Captive jetty at Jatadhari,

CM Majhi said, "These

projects will play a key role in transforming Odisha into a major hub for maritime trade. opportunities. TheSstate will work in partnership with private companies to enhance its maritime

Majhi announced plans for four additional ports to diversify the State's port ecosystem: New Ports: Inchudi and Bahuda. Upcoming ports: Subarnarekha and Astaranga.

economy."

Jobs boost: Over 8,450 direct and indirect employment

The Rs 18,654-crore investment is being hailed as a cornerstone in Odisha's coastal industrialisation journey. With port capacity expansion, strategic partnerships and future-ready infrastructure, Odisha is positioning itself at the centre of India's maritime

resurgence.

RSC holds wk-long fest to markDay of Yoga Host of activities

undertaken

PNS Bhubaneswar

The Regional Science Centre (RSC), Bhubaneswar, embarked on a week-long celebration to mark the 11th International Day of Yoga (IDY) from June 19 to 25. The event embraced this year's global theme: "Yoga for One Earth, One Health," reflecting the universal benefits of yoga in fostering holistic well-being for individuals and the planet.

Various activities were conducted at the centre including a guided yoga practice session under the banner Yoga Sangam, live streaming of Prime Minister's address and an interactive session on "Stress and Lifestyle Management and Diseases Prevention" on June 21 in association with JKYog India.



An online contest on "3 Generation Yoga" was conducted in which the participants were required to upload pictures of 3 generations (Grandparent to Grandchildren) performing yogic postures. The centre with support Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan, Bhubaneswar and the State Bank of India, RCE Bhubaneswar Campus, organised an Inclusive Yoga Session for the differently abled children, professionals, security personnel and staff members of the centre, presided over by Prant Pradhan (Odisha), Bharatiya Yoga Sansthan Suresh Kumar

Mohapatra.

Govt committed to making Odisha ganja-free: Min Bhuhaneswai

he Odisha Government has initiated a campaign to make the State completely ganja-free. Excise Minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Thursday announced that a structured process has already begun to eliminate ganja cultivation and its illegal trade across the State.

Addressing the media, the minister made a direct appeal to the public, especially in tribals-dominated regions, urging them to stay away from ganja farming. He expressed concern that members of tribal communities are often lured by drug mafias into cultivating the banned crop on the promise of financial gains.

He informed that several joint strategies have been dis-



aimed at enforcing tighter surveillance, uprooting ganja cultivation and taking strict action against offenders.

"Tribal people are often lured by drug mafias to cultivate ganja. We are also working on a plan to provide alternative livelihood plans for these communities. This year, we have destroyed the maximum of illegal ganja cultivation," Harichandan stated.

Along with enforcement, the government will launch awareness drives to educate tribal communities about the dangers of narcotic cultivation and the legal consequences involved. The focus will be on both curbing the supply chain and rehabilitating vulnerable communities. The government will keep a sharp eye on drug mafias while sensitising local populations. This is not just a law enforcement issue but a social responsibility, the minister said.

In city =

Tension after biker killed in hit-and-run mishap Vihar when they were hit by

one on the spot.

an unknown vehicle, killing

An eyewitness recounted,

"The bike rider was driving

 $T_{
m ension}$ prevailed on Wednesday night when a person died and another sustained critical injuries after a truck hit a motorcycle on the National Highway near CRPF Square under the Nayapalli police station in Bhubaneswar.

The identities of the deceased and the injured person were vet to be ascertained.

The duo on a motorcycle heading Baramunda towards Vani to the extreme left of the road

when a truck hit the bike and left the spot. The truck ran over the driver's head which caused his death on the spot while the pillion rider, who fell down from the bike, was critically injured."

He further alleged a delay in emergency response and said, "We were at the spot for more than an hour and kept calling for police and ambulance, but no one reached the spot immediately. Police reached only after two

Following the incident, irate passersby and locals gathered at the spot. Furious over the absence of prompt police assistance, they blocked the road for some time leading to traffic disruption. The situation was brought under control after cops reached the spot.

Om, Dipu murders

D-brothers, 8 others acquitted for lack of evidence

PNS Cuttack

A court on Thursday acquitted notorious gangsters Dhalasamanta brothers and eight others in the 2013 sensational Dipu and Om murder

The District and Sessions Judge Court, Cuttack, acquitted all the accused persons including D-brothers due to lack of evidence.

Deepak Mallick alias Dipu and Om Prakash Swain alias Om, two former associates of Sushant and Dhalasamanta, known as D brothers, were brutally killed on November 12, 2013.

The duo was murdered at a

farmhouse near Ansupa in Athagarh. Their bodies were ferried to West Singhbhum district in Jharkhand and set ablaze. The remnants were buried to erase evidence.

Police arrested the gangster brothers in 2016 from the Pokhariput area Bhubaneswar, where they had taken a HIG house on rent to avoid attracting any attention. A carbine meant for use of defence personnel and some luxury cars were also seized from their possession.

Despite investigations and court proceedings spanning over a decade, the prosecution failed to present evidence proving their involvement in

the murder case.

With the acquittal in the murder case, the duo remains convicted in an illegal arms possession case.

Earlier in 2023, the gangster brothers and one of their aides Arif Khan were acquitted by the Cuttack District and Sessions Judge Court in a sensational murder of wholesale pulses trader of Cuttack Malgodown, Sheikh Farooq.

Farooq was shot dead at his shop in Malgodown on November 12, 2014 for extortion. It was alleged that the Dbrothers had hired contract killers to eliminate Farooq after the trader refused to pay extortion money of Rs 30 lakh.

Cong slams govt for failing to contain cholera for urgent attention before the level findings on Wednesday. failing to ensure safe drinking Ekka stated that cholera water supply. upcoming Rath Yatra.

Udisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) president Bhakta Charan Das had recently constituted a fact-finding committee to assess the alarming spread of cholera across the State. Committee chairperson and Congress MLA CS Raazen Ekka addressed the media here, revealing disturbing ground-

has spread like wildfire in over 11 districts, affecting more than 12,000 people, far beyond the official figures shared by the State Government. He alleged that conclaimed that many villagers 53,000 villages in the State, are still dependent on pond 24,000 still lack access to powater with the government table water, he added, calling

He further pointed out that many hospitals are running without paramedical staffs and doctors. Contrary to government claims, more than 20-30 deaths have occurred due taminated drinking water is to cholera, but the administrathe primary cause and tion is suppressing data. Of the

Former PCC President Prasad Harichandan demanded that the government bear all treatment costs of cholera patients and compensate bereaved families with Rs 25 lakh each. He also urged

vice-president

slammed the Health Minister alleging he remains "lost in celebration while people are dying," and demanded his res-

The fact-finding team visited cholera-affected regions in Cuttack and Jajpur districts. The team submitted a detailed report urging structural reforms in rural water supply, health staffing and epidemic

Bhagabanprakash's book "Lucy's Children" A social narrative of our times by an Odia globetrotter

Bhagabanprakash's book "Lucy's Children" is an autobiographical non-fiction that covers a wide range of contemporary social narratives.

The book reflects the ideas and emotions of a trained sociologist, social development expert, and a student of literature who has nicely blended the combined expertise and experience based on his international exposure to around 70 countries.

Born in the pre-independent India in an upper caste poor family of a temple priest of a non-descriptive village in Khurda district of Odisha, Bhagabanprakash has made a very fascinating life journey as a small-time school teacher to a university faculty to a leader of country's largest youth programme, NSS to adviser to Election Commission of India. He is more known for his regular columns in the Sambad. As a prolific writer, he authored three popular books such as, Bikalp Biswa, Truteeya Drusti and Ditiya Pruthivi. He is also recognised as a public intellectual in civil society circle who is more concerned for



MANAS JENA

building an inclusive developed Odisha. Gandhi's death has impacted his childhood memory of school days and later, he was influenced by Gandhian thought. A non-vegetarian and passionate advocate of organic farming, he established SAMBHAV, an organic farming center, with late Prof

Radhamaohan as the co-founder. He was part of a group of inspired youth in their late thirties looking for a radical social change in society and for promotion of

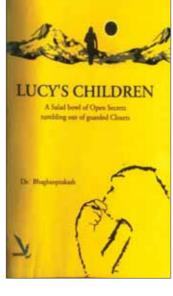
rational ideas in social and personal life. They identified caste system and social issues as a major barrier of social transformation of backward societies. In the early seventies, social actions were more influenced by ideas of Gandhi. Binova and Lohia's anti caste reform movement where they gave a call to denounce caste surnames through motivation and research. His efforts have resulted in building a band of critical youth social entrepreneurs of different commitment and later, they became the role models of social action in the State with their visible action research to bridging the gap between communities and government. Being nonpolitical in his approach to devel-

and remove the sacred thread as a caste privilege and symbol to demonstrate the upper caste hegemonic pride. Interestingly, the group once met the then Chief Minister of Odisha late JB Pattnaik at his residence and made a surprising request to him to wipe out his caste surname "Pattanaik" and also ambitiously proposed him to ask his Education Minister to issue an official circular to all educational institutions to not to use the caste surname during admission. But they failed to convince him about

such a very radical action. His social development action started mostly with youth action

opment, Bhagabanprakash identified civil society as a fifth pillar of democracy for community development to creatively complement and supplement to many government initiatives of transformative

Going through his book will make you encounter with many such interesting narratives to his personal conviction in fighting social issues that disturbed him the most while serving in some remote tribal areas. He left his lasting imprints on institutions where he served in different capacities and contributed through his policy interventions and actions.



The writer is a "frequent flyer' and conceived this book in a air travel from San Francisco to New Delhi. The book 'Lucy Children' written in 2016 has 18 chapters that deals with social issues rooted in our understating of persistent myth, mythology, people's narrative, epics, religion, history, anthropology, sociology and modern science. The title of the book itself is

"Lucy" is not any one connected to the writer but the name of our common grandmother of humans whose 2.8 million years' fossils were discovered in Ethiopia in 1974. And we all are her children. The book can be seen as a document of social history of the last 65 years that meticulously narrates the human suffering of infants and mothers struggling with unsafe child delivery, unwanted pregnancy and lack of contraceptives.

Here he narrated his own childhood experience and personal familv life, about his mother who got married at age of 13 and delivered 9 children before she died early because of repeated multiple pregnancy issues along with breast cancer. He also talked about the pathetic condition of widows of those days and their multiple ways of suffering by depicting the life of his own "Nani Maa," a child widow as a symbolic metaphor of all widowhood, who left home to live in the holy city of widows. He remembered his school days and humorously narrated the school system specially the role of teachers and their very repressive method of

teaching children with unbearable heavy physical punishment of different varieties inclusive of verbal abuse. But when he became a teacher, he encountered different issues at a higher level with insensitive Principals and arrogant Vice-Chancellors who are against creative methods of imparting knowledge and their detachment from

public cause.

The end part of the book is a kind of semi-research report on old age related issues, may be the writer's role as an adviser to Helpage India International. It exposes him to a wide range of old age social and physical complications to develop a very indepth understanding based on social and physical science. This is important while we are going through a major demographic shift and the number of older people is projected to doubleengine by 2050. The book was released in Delhi by former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr SY Quraishi and suggested by eminent Indologist Wendy Doniger and former BBC Bureau chief Mark Tully for a must read-

(manasbbsr15@gmail.com)

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In Mayurbhanj

Woman gang-raped while returning from temple

another still at large

PNS Baripada

A 25-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by three men while returning from a temple in Karanjia in Mayurbhanj district. Though the crime occured on Tuesday, it came to the fore the following day after the woman's family filed a complaint

This is the fifth such inci-

dent in the State in a span of 10 days.

In connection with the Mayurbhanj incident, police have arrested two persons, who were identified as Bikash Kumar Patra (33) and Lokanath Mohanta (30). Both are from Malharpada village in Karanjia and have been produced in court. The third accused Bapi Patra is still at large

As per the complaint, the woman, who belongs to Nuagan village in Bisoi, had

gone to her uncle's place in Haladiaposhi. On Tuesday, she visited the Hanuman temple at Nadhagadia and was returning to her uncle's house when the three miscreants intercepted her near a cashew forest. Before she could react, they abducted her on their two-wheeler and took her to a deserted road-

While Bikas raped her, Lokanath molested her and Bapi filmed the incident. They

petrol pump.

side restaurant near Kuita

Karanjia College Chhak and

After coming home, the victim shared the ordeal with her family and filed a complaint, acting on which a case was registered by the Karanjia

Police said the main accused raped the woman while the other two abetted him. Their bike has been seized. Two persons have been apprehended and efforts are on to nab the third accused.

In Mayurbhanj Armed men loot Rs 8L from Gramya Bank

Armed miscreants looted the Kuchei branch of Gramya Bank on Wednesday, under the Kuliana police station in Mayurbhanj district and decamped with Rs 8 lakh.

The incident occurred at around 2:45 pm with customers and employees present in the bank.

As per eyewitnesses, five men wearing helmets arrived

bank and barged into the bank carrying guns and sharp weapons, terrorised those present and warned them against making any calls.

One of the assailants confronted the cashier and demanded money from the drawers. Simultaneously, another miscreant held bank manager Ranjita Soren at gunpoint, threatened her

against alerting the police.

snatched mobile phones from both staffs and customers, removed computer hard drives and took away the main gate key of the

The group swiftly collected the cash, locked the gate from the outside, and sped away. However, before fleeing, they threw the seized mobile phones and gate key outside the bank compound.

the branch manager, the stolen amount is believed to be between Rs 6 lakh and Rs 8 lakh. She also mentioned that the robbers spoke in Hindi, Bengali and Odia.

Later, Eastern Range DIG Satyajit Nayak and Mayurbhanj SP Varun Guntupalli visited the site. Police have begun reviewing CCTV footage to identify and trace the robbers

After safe return to India Odia students from Israel narrate harrowing experiences



Bhubaneswar

A group of Odisha students studying in Israel has safely returned to India amid the ongoing conflict in the region. After facing days of anxiety and living under the constant threat of rocket attacks and air raid sirens, the students landed in New Delhi on Tuesday and shared their terrifying experiences from the war zone.

The students, who were enrolled in various Israeli universities and research institutions, were evacuated as part of the Indian government's emergency repatriation efforts. Upon arrival, many of them expressed relief, but also recounted the psychological trauma of being in a war-torn environment.

"When we were on board the flight yesterday from Jordan and Kuwait, we saw missiles coming from the Iranian side and interceptors. Israel is really safe, as there are bunkers. We initially thought it was some sort of light, then realised it was a missile," said an Odia student studying at Tel Aviv University.

On Sunday, a missile landed near the university. No major damage was caused, she

added. "Sirens would go off at odd hours, and we had to rush to bunkers within seconds," said

one Odia student. She de-

scribed how students had to abandon classes and research labs, living in uncertainty and

Another student said, "My hometown is in Jajpur, and it was for the last one and a half years that I was studying in Israel. The Indian Embassy was in direct contact with us right from the day when the war started. When Operation Sindhu started, we started our registration process. Every arrangement was made by the Indian government via different routes. We spoke to students of other countries; they were in despair as their concerned governments had told them to come on their

The students appreciated the support provided by the Indian Embassy in Tel Aviv, which regularly updated them on safety protocols and coordinated evacuation.

"Our Odia community abroad stayed connected through WhatsApp groups. We made sure no one was left behind. Every two to three hours, we had to rush into bunkers," said a student leader from the group.

After reaching New Delhi, the students were welcomed by their families and Odisha representatives in the capital. Many plan to return to their studies once the situation improves, but for now, they are just happy to be home.

Cong hits back at BJP's Constitution Murder Day stitutions."

Terms it hypocritical RAJEEV RATHAN Bhubaneswar

Responding sharply to the Odisha Government's observation of 'Constitution Murder Day' on the 50th anniversary of the Emergency, the Congress on Thursday accused the BJP of indulging in political theatrics while systematically eroding Constitutional values through its governance model.

Former PCC president Prasad Harichandan said, "The Emergency was an extraordinary political decision taken within Constitutional provisions and later revoked through a democratic process. But what we are witnessing under the BJP rule today is a permanent and systematic subversion of democratic in-

Harichandan added that the Modi-led government has turned agencies like the ED, CBI and Income Tax into tools of political vendetta, targeting Opposition leaders while shielding those who join the BJP. "This is not emergency for 21 months; this is undeclared emergency for 10 years," he said. OPCC president Bhakta

Charan Das, while honouring the role of Opposition parties during the Emergency, reminded that India's democracy today is facing its gravest challenge. "The BJP cannot whitewash its own sins of muzzling dissent, jailing journalists and curbing federalism by revisiting a past chapter it had no role in restoring," he said.

Das also pointed to recent incidents in Odisha, in-

cluding the ongoing cholera outbreak and the deaths due to administrative negligence, stating that the real "murder of the Constitution" is when a government fails to ensure the Right to Life and Health guaranteed under Article 21.

The Congress further questioned the Odisha Government's "selective glorification" of BJP's role during the Emergency while conveniently forgetting the contributions of non-BJP stalwarts who also opposed it like Dr Harekrushna Mahtab and Biju Patnaik.

The party urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to focus less on symbolic events and more on substantive governance, including addressing public health crises, unemployment and the deepening rural distress in the State.

Gopalpur gang-rape: Accused produced in court

he Crime Branch on Thursday produced the prime accused in the Gopalpur gangrape case before court after the completion of their remand period.

Sources in the Crime Branch confirmed that the remand period, which was granted earlier for interrogation and further investigation into the sensational case, concluded on Thursday. The accused were brought before the designated court amid tight security arrangements.

The Gopalpur gang-rape incident had triggered massive public outrage across the State after reports emerged of a minor girl being sexually assaulted by multiple individuals. The government handed over the case to the Crime Branch for an impartial and



in-depth probe.

According to officials, during the remand, the Crime Branch interrogated the accused to uncover the sequence of events, identify other possible suspects and gather digital and forensic evidence. The agency is also verifying whether there are links to any

larger criminal network.

As per court procedure, further legal action will follow based on the findings of the investigation. The case continues to remain under close monitoring by senior police officials with assurances given to the victim's family that justice will be delivered swiftly.

Singh Deo seeks Centre's support for resilient, green power infra NALINI SAHU Bhubaneswar

At the Conference of State Energy Ministers and Energy Secretaries of Eastern Region States held in Patna on Tuesday, Odisha Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister KV Singh Deo reaffirmed the State's commitment to developing a resilient, green and future-ready power infrastructure.

Addressing the summit chaired by Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, Singh Deo emphasised Odisha's progress in the power sector and its vision to emerge as a model State in energy transformation.

"Odisha has successfully moved from being power-sufficient to power-empowered. We are strategically investing in renewables, grid resilience, transmission planning and financial reforms," he said.

Highlighting Odisha's ambitious targets, Singh Deo noted that 61 per cent of the State's power capacity is

achievements in power distri-

planned to be from non-fossil fuel sources by 2036. Odisha aims to add 11,294 MW of green energy capacity, of which 3,904 MW is already under contract. Renewable power corridors, including major projects like Hirakud, Kolabira, Duburi, Indravati, Theruvali and Gopalpur, are being developed to support this transition.

He also showcased Odisha's

Shreekshetra Puri.

toric for Odisha's railway in-

frastructure development.

Under PM Shri Narendra

Modi's Purvodaya policy,

Odisha's railway budget allo-

cation has seen a twelve times

jump to over 10,500 crore in

2025-26 as compared to the

annual average during 2009-

14. Since 2014, over 2,100 km

of new tracks have been laid in

Odisha - more than the entire

Approximately 73,000

crore worth of projects for

constructing new tracks in

Odisha are ongoing. 59 Amrit

stations are being developed,

including 16 stations in

aspirational districts. 6 Vande

rail network of Malaysia.

bution, citing a sharp drop in AT&C losses from 29.5% in FY21 to 16.5% in FY25. He noted that three of the State's four distribution companies (DISCOMs) have earned A+ ratings and rank among the top 10 performing utilities in

Singh Deo urged the Union Government to sanction Rs 6,284 crore under the Re-

vamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and sought viability gap funding for green projects, including pumped storage, floating solar, offshore wind and tidal energy initiatives. He also requested Central allocation of 800 MW from the NLC Talabira II project and relief from the Rs 400/tonne State Compensation Cess on coal dispatched

from the Manoharpur mine.

Bhartiya Rail: At the service of Rath Yatra pilgrims

Zohran, New York mayoral candidate, has Odisha roots

RAJEEV RATHAN Bhubaneswar

 ${f A}_{
m s}$ Zohran Mamdani emerges as the Democratic nominee for New York City Mayor, a strong sense of pride is sweeping across Odisha, his maternal homeland. The 33year-old New York State Assembly member, known for his progressive politics, carries deep ancestral roots in the State through his mother, celebrated filmmaker Mira Nair.

Rourkela and raised in Bhubaneswar, where she spent her formative years before moving abroad. Her father Amrit Lal Nair, a 1949-batch IAS officer, played a key role in setting up the Rourkela Steel Plant. His legacy continues to be remembered through landmarks like Nair Chowk in Rajgangpur and Nair Stadium in Sundargarh district.

Though Zohran was born in Uganda and moved to New York at the age of seven, his Odisha connection has remained a source of strength and identity. His campaign in New York City has drawn admiration from Indian-Americans, particularly the Odia diaspora, who see in him a reflection of their aspirations and legacy.

"It's not just a political moment; it's a cultural one," said a resident of Bhubaneswar. "Mira Nair took Odisha's spirit to the global stage through cinema, now her son may do the same in governance."

If elected on November 4, 2025, Zohran would be New York City's first Indian-American and Muslim mayor, marking a historic moment for immigrant and minority representation. For Odias around the world, his potential victory is also a testament to Odisha's growing presence on the global stage.

BJD demands CBI probe into Brahmapur rape case



RAJEEV RATHAN Bhubaneswar

he Biju Janata Dal (BJD) on Thursday demanded a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the rape of a minor girl by a fake doctor in Brahmapur, citing the accused's strong political affiliations and suspected links to organised crimes.

In a memorandum to the Inspector General of Police, Southern Range, the BJD alleged that one Bhabani Sankar Dash, who operates a clinic in Baidyanathpur, raped the girl employed at his establishment. An FIR has been registered at

the Baidyanathpur police station following the victim's disclosure to her family.

The BJD stated that the accused holds a prominent post as the BJP's Ganjam district president of the Workers' Front and is a former Brahmapur City BJP president and Vishwa Hindu Parishad Ganjam district president. He is reportedly close to Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Ministers Bibhuti Bhusan Jena and

Gokulanand Mallick. The party suspects that the accused may have abused multiple girls and expressed grave concerns over possible involvement of his clinic in trafficking and illegal organ

"To ensure impartiality and restore public trust, the investigation must be handed over to the CBI immediately," Ganjam district BJD president Ramesh Chandra Chyupatnaik said. The BJD delegation in-

cluded former Jagatsinghpur MP Dr Rajashree Mallick, Brahmapur Mayor Sanghamitra Dalai, former minister Tukuni Sahu and former Ganjam district presi-

dent Subash Maharana.



ASHWINI VAISHNAW

Bharat services covering 17 districts are operational.

The most special contribution of Indian Railways to Odisha is during the Rath Yatra. The railways undertakes the task of serving lakhs of Rath Yatra pilgrims every year.

There has been a four times jump in the Rath Yatra special trains over the last 11 years. A total of 1,215 train services including 850 regular and 365 special train services are being provided this year for Jagannath Puri. These services

connect many districts of Odisha including aspirational districts of Kalahandi, Balangir, Nuapada, Koraput, Rayagada, Gajapati and Dhenkanal and interior tribal regions to Shreekshetra Puri. An AI-based real-time demand prediction system has enabled dynamic scheduling. 10 platforms are welcoming the pilgrims this year. Additional ticket counters have also been set up at Puri as well as other railway stations.

With the spirit of Seva Parmo Dharma, Bhartiya Rail ensures dignity, comfort and security of the pilgrims during the Rath Yatra. This year marks one of the largest facilitation drives for inclusive pilgrimage travel.

Railways is ready to cater to around 20 lakh passengers with a daily peak of 2 lakh. A holding space with a capacity to accommodate 25,000 pilgrims has been designated. Adequate arrangements have been made to provide relief from the hot weather. Sufficient food stalls and water booths & coolers have been arranged. An estimated 2.5 lakh free meals will be served to the pilgrims.

Sanitation and cleanliness arrangements including modern jet cleaning machines and sewage suction trucks are also in place. A much larger pool of security personnel have been deployed for ensuring safety and security of the pilgrims. They will be supported with CCTVs, drones, and face recognition systems.

Accessibility needs of Divyangjans, elderly, women and medically-vulnerable pilgrims have also been taken care of. Medical booths with doctors and paramedics, ambulances, and first-aid counters have been set up. This year, Indian Railways has converted Puri station into a model of inclusive and faithcentred public service.

A team of Indian Railways including engineers and technicians is also deployed at the Rath Yatra. This team is responsible for ensuring smooth movement and repair work of the chariots during the Yatra. The team assists in transporting the massive chariots from the construction site to the Shree Jagannath Temple.

The railways team uses the special screw jacks for ensuring proper positioning, alignment, and forward movement of the chariots on the designated path. It also helps in removing any obstacles and maintaining adequate distance between the chariots. The team accompanies the chariots till the completion of the Yatra.

Bhartiya Rail is fondly called as the lifeline of the nation. It remains committed to the service of all Indians including the pilgrims who consider Rath Yatra as their life-

(The author is Union Minister for Railways, Electronics & Information Technology and Information & Broadcasting)

Language was used to divide India: Home Minister Shah

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

nion Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said language was used as a means to try to divide India in the past but such efforts were never successful, and the Modi government will ensure that Indian languages become a powerful medium to unite the

Addressing the golden jubilee celebrations of the Central government's official language department, Shah also said Hindi is not an opponent to any Indian language, rather it is a friend of all Indian languages and that there should be no opposition to any foreign language in the country.

He said the country's administration should align with the spirit of the nation, and for the self-respect of Indian languages, administrative functions should also be conducted in Indian languages.

"In the last few decades, language was used as a means to try to divide India. This move was not successful even though efforts were made. We will ensure that our languages become a powerful medium to unite India," he said.

The home minister said the official language department will work in this endeavour.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation for creation of a great India by 2047 and efforts will be made to make the Indian languages enriched and increase their utility.

"I sincerely believe that Hindi can't be an opponent to any Indian language. Hindi is a friend of all Indian languages," he said.

Hindi and other Indian languages together can take the self-esteem of the country to its final destination, Shah said.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah

He asked all state governments to take the initiative to impart medical and engineering education in the local lan-

The home minister also said

that everyone should get rid of the slavery mentality and until a person takes pride in his own language, or does not express

himself in his language, that

person cannot be free from the

mentality of slavery.

"There is no opposition to any language. There should not be any opposition to any foreign language. But there should be an urge to glorify should be an urge to speak one's own language, there should be an urge to think in one's own language," he said.

Shah also said that language is the "soul" of a nation.

"Language is not just a medium of communication, it is the soul of a nation. Our roots, traditions, history, and culture cannot move forward separately from the languages. Keeping languages alive is as essential as enriching them," he

He said efforts should be made in the coming days for growth and expansion of all Indian languages, especially for the official language.

The home minister said if a country has to progress, it is absolutely essential that its administration operates in its own languages and with this great objective, the department of official language was

"Indian languages should be used as much as possible in government work, not only in the Central government but also in the state governments. For this, we will also help the state governments, encourage them and try to convince them," he said.

Extending greetings to all the well-wishes of the official language Hindi, the home minister congratulated the admirers of Indian languages across the country on the golden jubilee year of the depart-

Shah said this was the 50year journey from 1975 to 2025 of the official language department and when India will celebrate the centenary of its Independence, the name of the official language will be inscribed in golden letters in the history of all the efforts made for the reawakening of India's pride.

He said in the last 11 years,

Prime Minister Modi has launched the 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' programme under which initiatives have been taken to host events like the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam, Kashi-Telugu Sangamam, Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam, and Mithila Festival, so that the country's unity can be further strengthened.

The home minister said entrance examinations like the JEE, NEET, CUET are now conducted in 13 Indian languages. Besides, he said, examination for recruitment in the constable posts in the Central Armed Police Forces are now conducted in 13 languages instead of earlier Hindi and English.

I am happy to say that 95 per cent of the candidates are taking the constable examination in their mother tongue. This tells how bright the future of Indian languages is in the coming days," he said.

Somnath Bharti cannot represent wife in her defamation case: Sitharaman to Delhi court

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

¬inance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday informed a Delhi court that AAP leader Somnath Bharti cannot legally represent his wife in a defamation case due to "conflict of interest". Bharti's wife, Lipika Mitra filed a criminal complaint against Sitharaman before a court accusing her of defamation.

Sitharaman's counsel argued Bharti representing his wife Mitra in her complaint was conflict of interest as Mitra was Bharti's wife, who alleged that the minister's purported speech damaged her husband's reputation.

he counsel said Bharti couldn't appear in his own case and should withdraw his vakalatnama (document authorising lawyer to represent) failing which a reference ought to be made to the Bar Council of India for initiation of disciplinary proceedings

Additional Chief Judicial



Nirmala Sitharamar

Magistrate Paras Dalal posted the hearing on July 16 after tered," the judge noted. Bharti sought time to argue on

the application. The judge on May 19 issued notice to Sitharaman, noting The complaint claimed that that "the proposed accused is to be given opportunity of

being heard". "Fresh case for making and publishing defamatory, derogatory and libelous remarks in print and electronic media against the complainant received by way of assignment. It be checked and regis-

The judge passed the order after hearing submissions on point of cognisance/issuance of notice to Sitharaman.

Sitharaman made "defamatory, false, and malicious statements" in a press conference on May 17, 2024 with the sole intention to tarnish the reputation of Bharti and weaken his chances of winning in generSomnath Bharti

According to the complaint, the utterances were made 'solely with an intent to hurt the complainant and her husband" for political gains to BJP's candidate and political loss to the complainant's husband during 2024 lok sabha

The accused, it said, spoke about the matrimonial discord of the complainant and her husband but withheld the information of their reunion and living together happily.

ICMR in process to procure two more mobile BSL-3 laboratories

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

dhe Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has initiated the process of procuring two more Mobile BSL-3 (MBSL-3) laboratories to step up outbreak response capabilities and bolster public health delivery, especially in remote and inaccessible areas.

Called RAMBAAN, there are currently two such laboratories - each stationed at ICMR's two institutes, the National Institute of Virology in Pune and the RMRC in Gorakhpur, UP.

RAMBAAN is the first of its kind Rapid Action Mobile BSL-3 laboratory and is fully indigenous. It is field-deployable and designed to meet enhanced diagnostic demands during outbreaks of known and unknown high-risk pathogens.

An initiative of ICMR, it was developed in partnership with Klenzaids Contamination Controls Private Limited, Mumbai, under the patronage

of Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the apex research institute said.

The MBSL-3 was successfully deployed and operationalised for the first time during the Nipah virus (NiV) outbreak in Kozhikode, Kerala, in September 2023 and again in Malappuram district of the state in July 2024, it said. This "laboratory on wheels'

is built on a heavy-duty Bharat Benz vehicle chassis, compliant with BS-VI norms, designed to operate at extreme temperatures and altitudes and bears a maximum load capacity 17,000

It is classified as a Type-IV Rapid Response Mobile Laboratory (RRML) as per WHO GOARN RRML laboratory network classification. The laboratory is designed

to maintain a negative air pressure environment and is equipped with an advanced heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system

It also features a doubledoor autoclave and a biological liquid effluent decontamination (BLED) and hydrogen peroxide (H2O2) fogger system for biological waste management.

The MBSL-3 laboratory's work area is divided into four zones -- zone-1 (driver and outer change room), zone-2 (shower and inner change room), zone-3 (main laboratory), and zone-4 (material staging and decontamination

Key installations within these zones include biological safety cabinets (Class II A2), an intelligent programmable logic controller system, a dynamic pass box, and an entry-exit shower system with biometric control.

The laboratory's power supply can be from a direct electric supply or a diesel generator, with an uninterrupted power supply (UPS) and petrol generators for backup. Communication within the laboratory is facilitated by walkie-talkies and real-time surveillance through CCTVs.

272 Indian, 3 Nepalese nationals evacuated from Iran

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

ndia has evacuated 272 Indian and three Nepalese nationals from Iran following the conflict with Israel, officials said on Thursday.

A special flight carrying them arrived in Delhi a little past midnight from the Iranian city of Mashhad.

"#OperationSindhu update 272 Indian and 3 Nepalese nationals were evacuated from Iran on a special flight that arrived in New Delhi from Mashhad at 00:01 hrs on 26th June. 3426 Indian nationals have been brought home from #OperationSindhu," External

Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal posted on X. India on Wednesday had evacuated 296 Indian citizens and four Nepalese nationals

India on Tuesday had evacuated more than 1,100 citizens from Iran and Israel.

from Iran.

It has brought back 594 Indians from Israel, using C-17 heavy-lift aircraft of the Indian Air Force to fly out more than 400 people after they were moved out of Israel to Jordan

and Egypt by land transit points. Also, 161 Indians were brought back in a chartered flight from Amman after they had moved to the Jordanian

capital from Israel by road. A total of 573 Indians, three Sri Lankan and two Nepalese nationals were evacuated from Iran in two chartered flights on Tuesday, according to details shared by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

Several other flights have brought Indian nationals back home after being evacuated from Iran in the past several days. Israel and Iran fired hundreds of missiles and drones at each other's cities and military and strategic facilities since the hostilities began more than a

RSS seeks removal of socialist, secular from Constitution

SS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Thursday demanded that the Congress must apologise for the imposition of Emergency by the Indira Gandhi government 50 years ago. Addressing an event here, Hosabale also made a strong pitch for the removal of two words - socialist and secular — from the preamble of the Constitution, which were inserted by the erstwhile Congress government during Emergency.

Recalling the days of Emergency, which was announced on June 25, 1975, Hosabale said while thousands of people were put in jail and



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari with RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale and President of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) Trust Ram Bahadur Rai releasing a book authored by Rai during an event marking the 50th anniversary of the Emergency in New Delhi

media was also curtailed.

The days of Emergency also witnessed large-scale forced sterlisation, the RSS leader said.

"Those who did such things

Constitution's copy. They have still not apologised... Apologise," he said.

"Your ancestors did it... You must apologise for this to the

DRI seizes Pakistan-origin goods worth ₹9 crore

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE New Delhi

n a significant enforce-ment action, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized goods worth Rs 9 crore under 'Operation Deep Manifest', targeting illegal imports of Pakistani-origin goods routed through Dubai.

The operation has thus far led to the seizure of 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonnes of goods in blatant violation of import policy conditions and prohibitions imposed by the government on direct or indirect import or transit of Pakistani-origin goods, the finance ministry said in a statement on Thursday. One of the partners of an importing firm was arrested on Thursday, it

terror attacks, the govern- import into India," it noted. ment imposed a comprehen-2025, on the direct or indirect import or transit of goods originating in or exported from Pakistan

Previously, such goods were subject to 200 per cent customs duty. Despite these stringent measures, some importers attempt to bypass the government policy by misdeclaring the origin of goods and manipulating the related shipping documents, the ministry said.

"In two separate cases, these consignments were seized at Nhava Sheva port. The consignments were falsely declared as UAE-origin, masking their Pakistani origin. However, investigations revealed that these goods actually originated from Pakistan and were merely

Investigations revealed that aimed at obscuring the true sive ban, effective May 2, the goods were initially trans- origin of the goods, namely ported from Pakistan to Dubai on one set of containers and vessels and subsequently transferred to another set of containers and vessels bound for India, it said.

Further examination of goods and analysis of documents gathered during investigations conducted so far uncovered cargo movement trails from Karachi port, Pakistan, and transshipments at Jabel Ali port, Dubai, en route to Indian ports, the statement said.

Furthermore, it said, money transfers/financial linkages with Pakistani entities were traced, raising serious concerns about illicit financial flows. The entire modus operandi was orchestrated through a complex web of

Pakistan. In the context of "Operation Sindoor" and the prevailing heightened security environment, DRI intensified its vigil through augmented intelligence gathering and data analytics to target consignments emanating from Pakistan, the ministry said, adding that this proactive surveillance resulted in highvalue seizures.

Pakistani and UAE nationals,

In the light of prevailing regional and global security threats, "Operation Deep Manifest" exemplifies DRI's steadfast commitment to upholding the government's policy, customs and other relevant laws; safeguarding national and economic security of the country and preventing the misuse of trade channels for import of Pakistani-origin goods.

tortured during that period, freedom of the judiciary and are today moving around with country," Hosabale said. Following the Pahalgam transshipped via Dubai for week ago. involving transactions Congress to ensure backward castes get President inaugurates cancer-care centre at SGRH

respect in Bihar, north India: Rahul PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

New Delhi

ongress leader Rahul Gandhi has said that his ✓ party is with backward communities in their fight for power in proportion to their population and again called for conducting a caste census at the earliest.

Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said this during a meeting with members of the Vishwakarma community at his residence here earlier this week In a video shared by him on

Thursday, Gandhi is heard saying that the Congress would strive to help the OBCs and the extremely backwards get respect in north India and Bihar. "My aim is to hand over the

Congress party's command in the hands of OBCs, Dalits, tribals. This is your weapon," he told the Vishwakarma commu-

injustice being done to backwards and very backward communities, I don't like it. My endeavour is that in Bihar and north India, the extremely backwards should get respect and their history should be respected. I want to strengthen the original roots of extremely backward community, which the BJP-RSS is trying to weaken," he said.

Gandhi pointed out during the meeting that people of the community were not there in the bureaucracy, media, corporate India, higher judiciary or among the generals in the armed forces.

'The solution to your problems is caste census and the day it is done, your community will realise that they do not have a share according to their population. "The big question is how you will enter the country's power system. Merely having

nity leaders. "...When I see some MLAs from your community is not enough. You are fighting for representation and not for power. You should fight for power," the Congress leader Sharing the video of the

meeting on his WhatsApp channel, Gandhi said lack of representation, loss of traditional employment, humiliation and contempt, and a large population of the country being away from the mainstream were their main complaints.

Giving the example of Congress' freedom struggle for complete independence, the Congress leader said he explained to them that mere representation is not enough -"a united strong voice is also necessarv".

"The first and most important step in this direction is 'caste — the tool that will bring out the real situation of the

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

resident Droupadi Murmu inaugurated a state-of-the-art cancercare centre at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) here on Thursday and interacted with patients during her visit to the facility.

Describing the event as a moment of pride, the hospital authorities said the president's presence marked a recognition of the institution's legacy of delivering ethical, affordable and quality healthcare for more than seven decades.

The newly-inaugurated Comprehensive Cancer Care Centre brings together medical, surgical and radiation oncology, along with day-care chemotherapy, under one roof, aiming to offer a one-stop destination for cancer diagnosis, treatment and long-term care, according to a statement issued by the hospital.



diagnostic and therapeutic centred care and medical technologies, the facility is excellence. designed to offer personalised Doctor D S Rana, chairman and multidisciplinary treatof the Sir Ganga Ram Trust ment to cancer patients, the Society, said the launch of the statement said. cancer-care centre was a signif-Murmu also unveiled a icant step toward the hospital's commemorative plaque and

Equipped with cutting-edge

vision of accessible and compassionate healthcare. toured the premises, commending the hospital's contin-

"For the past 50 years, the

ued commitment to patient-

icated Board of Management consisting of 25 eminent doctors. We are proud to follow a sustainable, charity-based healthcare model. The Cancer Care Centre is not just an

hospital has been run by a ded-

infrastructure milestone — it is a reflection of our dream to serve more communities and eventually establish SGRH

Doctor Ajay Swaroop, chairman of the Board of Management, added, "This centre marks the culmination of the dream of our stalwarts and positions the hospital as a total comprehensive healthcare provider. We now offer the most-advanced diagnostic, therapeutic and after-care services for all types of cancer." The hospital was founded in 1954. Hospital officials said the cancer-care centre

Medical College," Rana said. Echoing the sentiment,

aligns with the SGRH's longstanding mission of blending advanced medical science with humility, empathy and President Droupadi Murmu visited ailing former Jharkhand chief minister

Shibu Soren at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital here. She met Soren's son and

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and enquired about his father's health.

Learning to live like a baby, says Shubhanshu Shukla

stronaut Shubhanshu Shukla on Thursday said he was learning to live in microgravity conditions "like a baby" and it was an amasing experience to float in vacuum as the Dragon spacecraft circled the Earth in its journey to dock at the International Space Station.

Sharing his experience via a video link from the spacecraft, Shukla said after remaining in quarantine for 30 days, where he was far away from all the excitement, ahead of the launch of the Axiom-4 mission on Wednesday, "the only thought in my mind was to let us just go".

Shukla and three other astronauts lifted off from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on board the Dragon spacecraft, powered by the Falcon-9 rocket for a 14day stay at the International Space Station (ISS). The astronauts, part of the Axiom-4 commercial mission, docked at the ISS at 4:30 pm on Thursday.

"Wow, what a ride it was. Frankly, when I was sitting in the capsule Grace, yesterday on the launch pad, the only thought in my mind was let's just go. After 30 days of quarantine, it was a feeling that I just wanted to go. Excitement and all was very far away. There was just this feeling that let us just leave," Shukla said. The new Dragon spacecraft of SpaceX has been named Grace by the astronauts.

He also introduced 'Joy', a toy swan that



India's Shubhanshu Shukla and three other astronauts react after Space-X Dragon spacecraft docked to the International Space Station

is the zero gravity indicator and the fifth "crew member" on the Axiom-4 mission.

Sharing his experience of encountering the gravitational force during the launch, Shukla said he felt like being pushed back in his seat. "But when the ride started, it was something. You were getting pushed back in the seat. It was an amasing ride and then suddenly nothing. Everything was silent and you were just floating. You were unbuckled and just floating in the silence of vacuum," he said.

Shukla said the first few moments after they got shot into the vacuum did not feel that great, but soon it was "an amasing feeling". He added that his fellow astronauts have told him that he has been sleeping a lot since the launch on Wednesday

"I am getting used to it quite well. I am enjoying the views, enjoying the experience and learning like a baby. Learning the new steps, learning how to walk, learning how to control yourself, learning how to eat. It's just so exciting," Shukla said.

"It is a new environment, a new challenge and I am really enjoying this experience with my fellow astronauts here. It is good to make mistakes, but it is better to see somebody else do that too. So it has been a fun time," Shukla said.

India rejoices as Shukla reaches ISS

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

ndia rejoiced again as the Space-X spacecraft with Lucknow-born astro-Lnaut Shubhanshu Shukla on board landed at the International Space Station

(ISS) on Thursday. 'Bharat Mata ki jai', 'India-India' and 'Hip Hip Hurray' chants intermingled with resounding applause after the Dragon spacecraft docked to the orbital laboratory after a 28-hour journey around

After joining for Wednesday's successful liftoff from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, marking India's return to human spaceflight after 41 years, Shukla's parents and relatives, teachers, friends, scores of students and astounded onlookers greeted the successful docking with a standing ovation and let out a collective roar at Lucknow's City Montessori School here.

Shubhanshu's family were also seen joyously holding the Tricolour as the Dragon spacecraft completed the docking sequence with ISS.

"He has reached the ISS; we are over the moon," Shubhanshu's sister Suchi Misra said, admitting that it was a moment when the astronaut's family, like the rest of India, felt overwhelmed.

Like Wednesday, Shubhanshu's parents — Shambhu and Asha Shukla — were there to witness the momentous occasion at the World Unity Convention Centre (WUCC) of CMS, where Sudhanshu studied till class 12.

"He is our son, but now he is more than that. For he is carrying with him to space not just our blessings but the dreams and prayers of a billion Indians, all of whom are rejoicing not just for my

Shubhanshu Shukla's mother Asha Shukla, father Shambhu Shukla and others celebrating after Shukla reached the International Space Station in Lucknow on Thursday "I hope his journey inspires the rise of son but also because the moment her-

alds India's triumph in space," Shubhanshu's father said. Since Wednesday's lift-off, the Shukla

household had been praying.
"Of course, we have deep belief in the almighty whose blessings help in achieving big missions. Shubhanshu is a deep believer in Lord Hanuman and all other gods, and now we are praying for his safe return after successful completion of the mission," he added. CMS manager Geeta Gandhi Kingdon said that there was more to the moment than just celebrations.

"Of course we are delighted, like all Indians, more so as he is an alumnus who has made all of us so proud. But, at this moment as he enters the ISS, Shubhanshu also symbolises India's growing muscle in

many more Shubhanshus across the country. It's a moment of immense pride for every Indian," Suchi had said during Wednesday's liftoff.

And on Thursday, Sudhanshu Gaur, sports teacher at the CMS Aligani branch where Shubhanshu studied, admitted to growing enthusiasm among students to become astronauts.

"I am witnessing a newfound enthusiasm among students to become astronauts. We had a fancy dress competition in school sometime back, and the majority of students turned up as astronauts. This is just amasing," Gaur said.

"As the docking happened and everyone went up I had tears in my eyes," said Rishi Khanna, head of communications

Mamata misusing Lord Jagannath's name for commercial gains, says Puri seer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE Puri/Kolkata

¬he Puri seer on Thursday accused the West Bengal Government of misusing the name of Lord Jagannath for commercial gains rather than religious devotion. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she holds the Puri Jagannath temple in high esteem and has been a regular visitor as a devotee for years.

Addressing a press conference, the Shankaracharya of Govardhan Peeth, Swami Nischalananda Saraswati, said, "The West Bengal Government is misusing the name of Lord Jagannath for commercial purposes. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee does not have the religious sentiment required to name the Digha temple as

'Jagannath Dham." Clarifying his remarks, the 81-year-old seer pointed out that Puri's economy is significantly supported by pilgrims from West Bengal.

"Even Mamata Banerjee knows that Puri thrives because of Bengali devotees. Local servitors, hotels and traders benefit from this," he said. "To stop the flow of revenue from Bengal to Odisha, she (Mamata) has constructed a Jagannath Temple in Digha and termed it as 'Dham'. Using the 'Dham' tag is not acceptable," the seer said, adding she thinks Bengali pilgrims will now spend money in Digha.

Replying a question, he also criticised ISKCON for conducting different rituals and festivals of Lord Jagannath, including Rath Yatra, on dif-

ferent dates and days not in accordance with the scriptures. "ISKCON should stop all this," he demanded. The West Bengal Government inaugurated the Jagannath Temple in Digha on April 30 and named it as 'Jagannath Dham', triggering a row.

The controversy began after the West Bengal Government inaugurated a Jagannath temple in Digha on April 30, 2025 and named it 'Jagannath Dham'. The move triggered sharp objections from Puri's Gajapati Maharaja Divyasingha Deb, Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, and servitors of the Jagannath Temple, who argue that the 'Dham' designation is traditionally and spiritually reserved for Puri.

Meanwhile, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata



Banerjee said she holds the Puri Jagannath temple in high esteem and has been a regular visitor as a devotee for years. Reacting to the Odisha Government's objections over the naming of the newly constructed temple in Digha as 'Jagannath Dham', Banerjee told reporters that she could neither understand nor comment on how the BJP-led Government chose to react to it. "The Digha temple had come

up adhering to all rituals and scriptures, with one of the Doyitapatis (servitors) of Puri temple himself deciding on the religious norms and practices to follow," Banerjee said.
"Let the Odisha Government do whatever it likes about the Digha Jagannath temple. I have deep respect for the 12th-century shrine. I am a devotee of Lord Jagannath. But can't there be another Jagannath temple in Digha?"

She said hundreds of people from Odisha are visiting the Digha temple. "So why is the Odisha Government so upset," she asked. Stating she doesn't know much about the intricacies of scriptures and rituals, Banerjee claimed, "We consulted experts and priests and went by their words."

"Which is the greater religion? The religion of humanity is supreme to me. I love people. I love humanity and for me, that is true religion," she added. Asked about the statement made by Puri Gajapati King Dibyasingha Deb, who said the Digha temple cannot be referred to as 'Jagannath Dham', Banerjee said, "I have full

Sohna municipal council yet to act against encroachments in Aravalli

espite repeated concerns raised over illegal farmhouse constructions in the Aravalli region near Sohna, the Municipal Council of Sohna has yet to take substantial action against the encroachments, raising questions about the seriousness of its enforcement efforts.

Sources indicate that while officials of the council are aware of the illegal activities, action has largely been limited to symbolic gestures.

On Wednesday, the council team had installed a few warning boards and placed notices in front of some farmhouses. In

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

¬he stage is set for a his-

world of cryptic cross-words, as World Cryptic

Crossword Championship

(WCCC) 2025 prepares to

crown its champions and unite

the planet's finest minds in a

grand celebration of cryptic

crosswords. For the first time

ever, the cryptic crossword — $\,$

a cerebral art form that has

challenged, entertained and

enriched minds for over a cen-

tury - will have its own formal

World Championship, cour-

tesy of the pioneering efforts of

Extra-C, a leading organisation in the field of intellectual and

 $knowledge-based\ competitions.$

WCCC 2025 promises to

toric moment in the



some instances, only partial demolition, such as the dismantling of boundary walls,

Global stage set for excellence at World

For the first time ever,

was carried out

Cryptic Crossword Championship

Council, Municipal Executive Officer (EO) Suman Lata maintained that the council is doing its best to prevent

To stop illegal constructions in the Aravali area, we have deployed 12 council guards who monitor the area roundthe-clock in shifts and report any suspicious activity. She also claimed that due to the non-availability of a deputy magistrate or police force, the demolition drive is sometimes hampered," said Lata while speaking to The Pioneer.

However, a ground inspection by The Pioneer revealed a stark contrast to the EO's claims. Loud music could be heard from within one farmhouse and a pool party was underway

the ecologically sensitive strictly prohibited within the that nearly 450 farmhouses protected Aravalli zone.

Previously, The Pioneer had reported in detail on the illegal construction of farmhouses in the region, especially near Raisina village. In response to those reports, council officials claimed to have initiated a drive to identify and take action against unauthorised structures. Show cause notices were reportedly issued to some property owners, asking them

to respond within seven days. According to officials, many of these illegal constructions begin with the erection of massive boundary walls that shield ongoing development inside.

have been sold in the Aravallis private developers, each

spanning over one or two acres. Historical records further expose the scale of encroachment. A survey conducted by the council before 1992 had recognised only four to five legal structures in the area. Any construction that has taken place after 1992 is considered illegal under existing forest

and environmental regulations. Despite these clear violations, the lack of robust enforcement continues to allow illegal construction to thrive in one of Haryana's most ecologically crucial regions.

supreme, says CJI PIONEER NEWS SERVICE CII said.

Constitution is

hief Justice of India BR Gavai has said the **✓** Constitution of India is supreme and all three wings of democracy work under it. Referring to a judgment passed by the Supreme Court on the foundation of the 'Basic Structure' doctrine, he said Parliament has the power to amend, but it cannot alter the basic structure of the Constitution.

Justice Gavai, who took oath as the 52nd CJI last month, was speaking on Wednesday at his felicitation in Amravati city of eastern Maharashtra, his hometown. He said while some people say Parliament is supreme, in his opinion the Constitution is paramount.

There is always a discussion as to which wing of democracy — the executive, legislature or the judiciary is supreme, he said.

While many say and believe that Parliament is supreme, according to me, it is the Constitution of India wings of the democracy work a lawyer.

under the Constitution,

A judge does not become independent just by passing orders against the Government, he further said.

"A judge should always remember that we have a duty, and we are custodians of the rights of citizens and constitutional values and principles. We don't just have power, but a duty is cast upon us," he said. A judge should not be guided by what people will say or feel about their

judgment, the CJI said. "We have to think independently. What people will say cannot become a part of decision-making process," he added.

The CJI asserted that he always let his judgments and work speak, and always stood by the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution.

Referring to his judgment against "bulldozer justice", he said the right to shelter is supreme. Gavai reminisced about his childhood days, saying while he wanted to be an architect; his that is supreme. All three father wished that he become

Crosswords are one of the

Andhra lacks fiscal discipline: Jagan and off-budget borrowings availed and secured

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Amaravati

ormer Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday accused the TDP-led NDA Government of lacking fiscal discipline and exceeding 50 per cent of the borrowings incurred by the previous YSRCP regime in just 13 months.

Reddy said that the Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation (APMDC) concluded the second tranche of its NCD (bond) issuance at a coupon rate of 9.3 per cent on June 25 to raise ₹5,526 crore, taking the aggregate value of the issuance to ₹9,000 crore.

"With this NCD issuance, the total budget

in this 13-month period by the TDP alliance government exceeded 50 per cent of what was borrowed by (the) previous Government over a 5 year period," said Reddy in a post on 'X'.

Alleging that the N Chandrababu Naidu-led government disregards constitutional framework, the YSRCP supremo said APMDC went for the second tranche of its NCD (bond) issuance despite this matter being admitted in the Andhra Pradesh High Court and notices served over it. "Further, it is quite apparent that the proceeds of the issuance would be utilised for financing government revenue expendi-

Uddhav, Raj call for protests against Hindi in school curriculum

TN RAGHUNATHA Mumbai

head of joining hands to contest the crucial Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls, the Thackeray cousins — Uddhav and Raj came on the same page on Thursday and announced their plans to stage protests against the BJP-led MahaYuti Government's decision to make Hindi as a "third language" for the Class 1st to 5th students in Marathi and English medium schools in

While the Raj Thackeray-

led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) will take out a padyatra from Girgaum Chowpatty to Azad Maidan on July 5 (Saturday) to protest against Hindi being made "third language" in school, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) would hold a rally on the same issue at Azad Maidan on July 7 (Monday).

Informed sources in both the parties are not ruling out the possibility of the Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS taking out a joint a joint protest at the Azad Maidan on a mutually agreed upon date in the first week of

July. In an effort to amplify the impact of the issue raised by them, the Thackeray cousins are involving the participation of all Marathi-speaking people, authors, artists, actors, lawyers, academics, sportspersons and other citizens.

A coordination committee of Marathi intellectuals and academics has already thrown

planned by it on July 7, the MNS will burn the copies of the Government circular on the Hindi issue, on June 29.

Slamming the Devendra Fadnavis-led Government for "imposing" Hindi on students in schools in the State, Uddhav said the Hindi language decision had stemmed from "linguistic emergency' declared by the ruling BJP.

"What is happening is nothing but a 'linguistic emergency'. India's federal structure is built around linguistic states, but the Government is not imple-

and efforts as part of the BJP's covert agenda," the Sena (UBT) chief said. "We are not against Hindi or any other language. It's an

menting policies to promote

Marathi despite many pleas

issue of Marathi pride. The Hindi film industry was born in Maharashtra, but forcibly implementing the decision is not acceptable. This is a move to impose 'one language, one party'. So we are taking it to the streets. The matter can be resolved in two minutes if the chief minister rolls back the decision," Uddhav Thackeray said.

bring together top solvers from across continents in both individual and team-based competitions, giving cruciverbalists a global platform to showcase their skills and earn international acclaim.

WCCC 2025 is organised through ACAD Global - a daily international crossword challenge run by extra-c at

the cryptic crossword a cerebral art form that has challenged, entertained and enriched minds for over a century - will have its own formal **World Championship** www.crypticsingh.com. ACAD

Global is the year-round training ground for crossword vers — offering a daily cryptic clue at 12:30 GMT, global leader boards and an engaging platform to sharpen skills in preparation for WCCC. No separate registration required for WCCC. Free regis-

tration via ACAD Global is mandatory for all participants (both individual and team championships). After registering, participants will receive login credentials to access WCCC events. The World Cryptic Crossword Championship (WCCC) 2025 will open with the much-anticipated Individual Championship, an online event where the

globe will compete for the coveted title of World Champion. The second day of WCCC 2025 will see the spotlight shift to London for the prestigious Team Championship, an in-person contest that will bring together some of the finest cruciverbalists worldwide. The event is scheduled for June 29, 2025 in London.

Participation in the Team Championship will include two categories of contestants: Country Representatives - top solvers specially invited by the organisers based on their past performances in national and international competitions and Challenger Participants, an open category welcoming all crossword enthusiasts who hold a valid ID and have registered for ACAD Global.

finest examples of intellectual sport. The WCCC 2025 aims to take this cerebral challenge to a truly global level where the best minds can pit their skills in friendly competition. We invite all lovers of wordplay and logic to be part of this historic championship, said Amitabh Ranjan, COO sharpest minds from across the Extra-C, in a statement.

its lot with the Thackeray cousins to boost the protests announced by them against ruling MahaYuti Government of the BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar) on the Hindi language issue,





Looming water crisis: Act now or pay the price later

With demand poised to outstrip supply by 2030. Water emergency is not a distant threat, it is already unfolding

n India we have taken natural resources for granted. We care little about them but exploit them to hilt realising little that these resources are limited and if not consumed in a responsible way would perish faster than we can imagine. India today stands on the brink of a monumental water crisis that threatens to derail its economic progress, destabilise food security, and imperil public health. Despite housing 18 per cent of the world's population, India holds only 4 per cent of its freshwater resources.

NITI Aayog's 2018 Composite Water Management Index had already sounded the alarm - 600 million Indians are living under high to extreme water stress. By 2030, demand could double the available supply. Yet, despite the growing evidence, the country continues to respond with fragmented policies and piecemeal solutions. The roots of this crisis are deep and multi-layered.

One of the primary causes is the grossly unequal distribution of water across the country. While some states struggle with devastating floods, others face year-round droughts. Climate change has intensified this disparity. Adding to this challenge is India's overwhelming dependence on groundwater. Excessive extraction has pushed India to become the world's largest user of groundwater. Replenishment rates simply cannot keep up. Climate change has transformed the water equation from a future threat to a present crisis. Erratic rainfall patterns have made agriculture precarious. The shrinking glaciers have further led to the shortage of water across storage systems. Glaciers in the Himalayas - the lifeline of rivers like the Ganga and Indus — are melting at alarming rates.

The contamination of water sources presents an equally serious challenge. The 2024 Annual Groundwater Quality Report revealed that 70 per cent of India's water is contaminated, with arsenic and fluoride contaminating drinking water for over 230 million people across 19 states. Untreated sewage and industrial waste continue to choke rivers, rendering them unfit for use. The toll on public health is staggering. According to NITI Aayog, nearly 200,000 lives are lost each year to waterborne diseases — a tragedy that is preventable. Cities like Bengaluru, Chennai, and Delhi have already experienced water crises of a scale once thought unimaginable. According to NITI Aayog, 21 Indian cities could exhaust their groundwater by 2030, impacting over 100 million people. There is, however, a way forward. But it requires systemic transformation. Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) must become the norm rather than the exception. Water cannot be viewed in isolation - it is intricately connected with energy, agriculture, climate, and health. National policies must reflect this reality. Nature-based solutions like wetland restoration need to be scaled up alongside cutting-edge technologies such as real-time monitoring and water accounting systems that can track usage and redistribute resources more equitably. A water-secure India is the bedrock of economically vibrant, and socially just future. The consequences of inaction will be huge. What remains to be seen is whether India will rise to the challenge.





Artisan in Jaipur meticulously weave carpet on the handloom, preserving centuries-old traditions with every knot and thread PHOTO: PANKAJ KUMAR

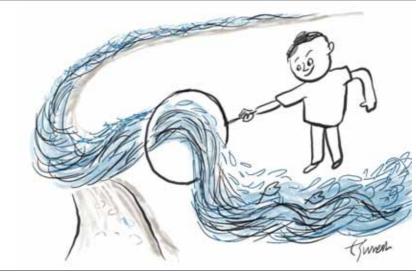
Karakoram anomaly: Relook Indus Water Treaty

With India suspending the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), the abeyance of the IWT, combined with a renewed focus on harnessing water resources from the western rivers, signals a decisive policy shift regarding natural resource sharing

slamabad's preference for terror on India's civilian and armed forces using ISItrained terrorists, as compared to the belief in conventional warfare has misfired after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22nd, where 26 civilians, mostly tourists including a Nepalese national lost their lives. Immediately after the attack India expelled Pakistani nationals, reduced its diplomatic presence and kept the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in abeyance. In response to the April 22nd attack, India launched Operation Sindoor in the wee hours of May 7th, and hit and decimated terrorist infrastructures at nine locations — five in PoK and four in Pakistan's Punjab province including Muridke and Bahawalpur, the headquarters of two major terrorist organisations Lashkar-e-Taiba or Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The operation also resulted in the killing of more than a hundred terrorists in these camps. Pakistan's response using Turkey and Chinesemade weapons was foiled and in four days of conflict, considerable damage was inflicted on Pakistan's eleven airbases and air defence system. Even after the ceasefire was announced at 5.35 pm on May 10th, IWT continued to be kept under abeyance. Two countries have fought several wars and India has faced many terrorist attacks orchestrated by our neighbour, but it is for the first time since 1960 that IWT has been suspended. A permanent cost has been inflicted on Pakistan for the misadventure. In recent years India has been seeking bilateral modification of IWT. The treaty signed in 1960 divides six rivers of the basin between the two. Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are the western rivers allocated to Pakistan, while Ravi, Beas and Sutlei are the eastern rivers allocated to India. Further, the treaty allocated 80 per cent of water for Pakistan and only 20 per cent for the upper riparian state, India. No other water treaty in the world has ignored an upper riparian state like this and has been the most generous treaty favouring the lower riparian state. The treaty also did not take into account global warming, climate change issues and environmental impact assessment, as brought out in the departmentally related Standing Committee report 2021.

While the treaty was operational, Pakistan has continuously objected to India's hydroelectric projects. In recent years, the objections to the Kishenganga and Ratle hydroelectric projects are for anyone to take note of. With such baseless objections, Pakistan moved International Court of Justice, Hague, which is quite irksome and hampers our growth. Further, it is challenging for the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir to progress economically. Reports have substantiated that UT suffered hundreds of millions of rupees



annually due to IWT. Sixty-five years into the treaty, climate change has altered the scenario considerably. The glaciers located on the eastern side that feed water to Sutlej, Beas and Ravi rivers are at relatively lower altitudes as compared to the glaciers in the Karakoram mountain ranges that feed water to western rivers namely Indus, Jhelum and Chenab. The glaciers at lower altitudes are losing mass at higher rate and are retreating faster.

In higher Karakoram mountain ranges, laciers are not losing masses, and are relativestable. In the scientific community, it is called the 'Karakoram anomaly'. From the depleted glacier mass there has been a considerable reduction in the flow of water in the eastern rivers namely Sutlej, Beas

and Ravi. This has impacted water availability for irrigation and power generation in the Indian states of Punjab and Rajasthan, as well as in the UT of J&K. Thus, despite IWT allocated 20 per cent water share for India, we got only 5 per cent. 'Karakoram anomaly' is termed as the stability or the anomalous growth of glaciers in

central Karakoram, in contrast to the retreat of glaciers in other nearby mountainous ranges of the Himalayas and other ranges of the World. Studies have highlighted the role of temperature in establishing and sustaining the anomaly over the years. Western disturbances are the primary feeder of the snowfall for the region in winter. It has also been found in the study that 53 per cent of precipitation and 65 per cent of snowfall in the region is

SINGH

powered by western disturbances. This has resulted in an increase of precipitation intensity in the Karakoram ranges by 10 per cent in the last two decades. This explains the role of Western disturbances in sustaining the anomaly. In other words, the flow of water in western rivers namely the Indus, Jhelum and Chenab is sustainable and may increase by 10 per cent, while that in eastern rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej shows a depleting trend. Given scientific findings, IWT must change.Post Pahalgam, PM Modi has reiterated that the treaty will remain suspended till our neighbour stops supporting terrorism in all forms and manifestations.

Especially given the 'Karakoram anomaly' owing to climate change, IWT in its present form cannot be revived, even if Pakistan supports terrorism. PM Modi has directed officials to expedite the planning and execution of projects on the Chenab, Jhelum and Indus rivers. The central Government has also committed to fast-track environmental clearances of all pending and proposed projects in the Indus River basin in I&K to utilise the maximum amount of water from the river system. Canals on Chenab are also being planned to be extended to cover more areas for irrigation. Uri Stage II, Kirthal-II and Sawalkot projects are for the generation of power and also for irrigating agricultural fields, and are already listed for single window clearance. The work on the Tulbul navigation barrage in the Wullar Lake in north Kashmir, essential for providing navigation in the Jhelum river, was suspended in the 1980s, under pressure from Pakistan, but can now be revived. After keeping IWT in abeyance, India released water from the Baglihar and Salal dams for the desiltation of reservoirs. This caused swelling of the Chenab River and flooding in Pakistan.

After completion of de-siltation, the gates are closed, disrupting the agriculture sowing/paddy transplant in Pakistan's Punjab and Sindh

Even India is not obliged to share rainfall data now. Pakistan has come up with another bluff, saying that China in a similar way can stop Brahmaputra water, where India is the lower riparian state. China can never punish us in that way. The Brahmaputra originates in the Angsi glacier in Tibet and flows through China as Yarlung Tsangpo before entering India's Arunachal Pradesh. It is called Siang and Dibang in Arunachal Pradesh and Brahmaputra in Assam and Bangladesh. China has already announced the building of a hydropower dam on Yarlung Tsangpo, but Indian experts opined that it cannot cut the flow of water in Brahmaputra. IDSA's peerreviewed data suggests that even during lean periods Yarlung Tsangpo's annual outflow from China is far lower than Brahmaputra's total discharge in India. Assam CM Hemanta Bishwa Sarmah recently responded to this bluff and posted on X, "Brahmaputra is not a river India depends on upstream — it is a rain-fed Indian river system, strengthened after enter-

ng Indian territory." Only 30 to 35 per cent flow is fed by glacier melting and some rainfall in Tibet in Chinese territory and the remaining 65 to 70 per cent is fed from Indian monsoon through the rivers Subansiri, Lohit, Kameng, Manas, Dhansiri, Jia-Bharali, Kopili, Krishnan, Digaru and Kulsi in the catchments spread in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland and Meghalaya. Any Chinese upstream intervention will have no impact on India.

(The writer is a retired Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka Views are personal)

Telangana's fight against child labour

recent report on child labour rescues has found that Telangana outpaced all other states in pulling children out of unlawful employment in 2024–25. Of the 53,651 children rescued in India during this period, 11,063 were given a new lease of life in Telangana. The state not only carried out the most number of rescue operations in the country but it also topped the list of arrests made against the offenders.

While this is good news for all the vulnerable children rescued from exploitative work, their lives will still be in limbo in the absence of appropriate rehabilitation. This crucial task may be an easier one for Telangana as it already has a successful rehabilitation roadmap, thanks to MV Foundation, the Hyderabad-based, not-for-profit, which has managed to withdraw over one million children from work. By mainstreaming them into formal schools, MVF has also made 1500 villages child-labour-free. This is no mean achievement. The cornerstone of their success has been their belief that any child out of school should be considered a child labourer and that school and education were the only options for eliminat-

simple. First, a survey of all children out of school is con-

BAL GOVIND | NOIDA

often taken aback to see a sari-clad lady outside their homes asking about their children. But Shantha Sinha, be allowed to join the RBC, ran away without informing founder trustee MVF and Magsaysay awardee for her work to eliminate child labour, had no compunctions in sitting on the floor of their homes to persuade them to send their children to school. This personalised approach helped in facilitating permission for their children to attend residential bridge course camps (RBC).

These provide short-term intensive education programmes to help children who had dropped out of school to work or those who had never been to school, fill their knowledge gaps. Then they

are mainstreamed into government schools. Establishing Child Rights Protection forums comprising the community, parents, local panchayat members and school teachers, ensures children enrolled stay in school. Had it not been for this house-to-house survey, 11-yearold Amritha would have continued to work with her family as agricultural labourers.

She was reconciled to going to sleep most of the nights on an empty stomach. But her life changed when MVF came to her village to spread awareness about education. They motivated her parents to send her to the RBC.

ing child labour. The model adopted to reach this goal is When it became known that Amritha had gone to the camp, five other children, who heard about the life-chang-

ducted in each of the intervention villages. Villagers were ing experience, also joined her there. One of them was working at a roadside eatery and afraid that he wouldn't his employer. He walked 10 km to catch a train to the MVF camp. The MVF approach has given hundreds of children a chance at second childhood by fostering a sense of community ownership to ensure the elimination of child labour. This has provided support for a large number of such children to go beyond primary schooling. Many of them have achieved their dream of becoming doctors, lawyers, engineers and media personalities. Equally vulnerable to exploitation are those reported missing as they too are at risk of being trapped in working in dangerous trades.

Over 11,400 children were reported as missing in 2024-25, according to India Child Protection, a voluntary organisation, that prepared the report on child labour rescues in conjunction with Just Rights for Children, a civil society network of over 250 organisations working in coordination with law enforcement agencies to combat child labour and trafficking. Although a large number of these missing children have been found, they face similar challenges of rehabilitation. Adapting the community-based, child-protection approach to mainstream them back to school could be life-changing for all these children.

> (The author is a journalist writing on development and gender. Views are personal)

Letters to the Editor

Restored Sholay to premiere in Italy

The iconic Bollywood classic Sholay will screen in its original, uncut form — including its long-lost climax and deleted scenes — at the prestigious Il Cinema Ritrovato Festival in Bologna, Italy, this Friday, June 27, 2025.

The film will be showcased on a grand open-air screen at Piazza Maggiore, the city's historic central square. This restored version is the result of painstaking efforts by the Mumbai-based Film Heritage Foundation, led by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur, in collaboration with India's National Film Archive and international restoration experts. The screening marks the world premiere of the restored Sholay, offering global audiences a rare glimpse of Ramesh Sippy's vision as it was originally conceived.

As it will subsequently screen in Indian theatres, its changed ending will disturb the five-decades-formed image in the audience, giving relief to some while it may not affect the new generation. Indeed, it is a proud moment for film

The world premiere of the restored Sholay on June 27, 2025, at Il Cinema Ritrovato in Bologna marks a historic cinematic moment. Audiences will witness Ramesh Sippy's complete vision for the first time, including the original climax. The restoration, led by the Film Heritage Foundation and global partners, will soon reach Indian **RS NARULA PATIALA**

Tripura becomes fully literate state

Tripura has become the third fully literate state after Mizoram and Goa. In 1961 Tripura's literacy rate was 20.24 per cent; in 2011 it reached 87.22 per cent.

For the last decade or so, Tripura's literacy rate was more than 90 per cent, but it was lagging behind on some parameters; hence, it could not attain fully literate state status earlier.

It is to be noted that any state acquires this status once it reaches more than 95 per cent literacy rate. But we need to dig deeper and introspect as to why it took so long — precisely more than six decades for a population of 40 lakh people of Tripura to achieve this feat. Mediocrity is so ingrained in our blood that we do not aim for high goals and accept tortoise-pace growth as a way of life. This thinking has to change.

Hopefully, other states can take a cue from Tripura and keep promoting learning to all their citizens and take help of digital mediums to reach this level and attain full literacy. Collaborating with NGOs can also help the cause to bridge the digital gulf between rural and urban as education has to reach the remotest village in the country. Tripura's achievement of full literacy is commendable, but the six-decade journey for a small state signals deeper systemic complacency.

India's complacency cost it the match

SWAPNA MAJUMDAR

Anyone imagined that after having scored five centuries three in the first innings and two in the second — can any team suffer a loss when they have put up a formidable 371 for the opponent to chase in the fourth innings in a Test match? Indeed, team India has now become the first team in the 148 years of Test cricket history to face such an unexpected defeat against England at Headingley sheerly by their complacency in their approach, by the slipshod fielding of dropping as many catches and a mediocre bowling attack.

Little the skipper Shubman Gill tried to rotate the bowlers and solely depending on Jasprit Bumrah won't pave the way for the team to come victorious all the time; this never happens must be realised. Only the individual records were the highlight: Skipper Shubman Gill rose up to his captaincy debut and his deputy Rishab Pant scored two brilliant tons back-to-back in the same Test — all went in vain at the end for India's own fault. KL Rahul's extraordinary ton in the second innings was not utilised in their failed attempt to dismiss England when the target set was reasonable enough to grab a victory. In a way it was a gifted match by India while Yashasvi Jaiswal dropped four catches, which includes a costly one of Ben Duckett on 97, whom England relied much upon to score in a fast-paced strategy which worked in their favour as Duckett went on to reach 149.

AP THIRUVADI | CHENNAI

MAMATA'S BOLD QUESTION SPARKS DEBATE ON DISCRIMINATION

No kudos is enough for Mamata Banerjee for asking the most relevant and burning question in a straightforward way whether speaking the language of Rabindranath Tagore and Swami Vivekananda has become an "offence" in the "Double Engine" states ("Is speaking Bengali an offence: CM Mamata Banerjee asks BJP?", June 25)! Yes, just speaking Bangla (language of India's National Anthem and National Song) and hailing from Bengal (land of Khudiram Bose, Surya Sen, Netaji and innumerable other valiant bravehearts selflessly sacrificing their all for the sake of Indian independence) are enough "excuse" for according such stepmotherly treatment to the Bengalis in their very own country, now dubbed "New India"!

At first the hard-working migrant labourers from Bengal were getting heckled by the goons from Odisha to Rajasthan and often compelled to leave the concerned states without their

belongings and unpaid wages, and this ugly phenomenon has increased in deadly proportions recently! Also they are regularly being summoned by the police or detained for days in the name of "interrogation" and "identification"! But now the situation has attained such a height of absurdity that many of them have been "pushed" into Bangladesh by the security force of India! Have the hapless souls committed a "quintuple sin" of sorts - hailing from Bengal, speaking Bangla, professing Islam and daring to venture to "Double Engine" states for earning an honest livelihood!

And if their "authenticity" as an Indian citizen gets questioned despite possession of Aadhar and EPIC, then immediately the Government must declare that these cards have no legal value and stop demanding the former right from pregnancy cases in hospital to the crematorium!

KAJAL CHATTERJEE | KOLKATA

Please send your letter to the letterstopioneer@gmail.com. In not more than 400 words.

Drug abuse and illicit trafficking: The role of RPF under the NDPS act

On this International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, RPF stands as a vigilant and evolving Force, committed to securing the lifelines of the nation from the scourge of drugs. RPF is not only protecting the Indian Railways but also fortifying the nation's resolve against narcotics trafficking



very year, June 26 is observed as the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, serving as a global reminder of the need to combat one of the most serious threats not only to human health and safety but also to the future of humanity. As India faces increasing challenges related to the rising consumption of narcotics in the younger sections of our population due to the easy availability of narcotics, the Indian Railways, and RPF have resolved not to allow the railways to be used by narcotics smugglers for their nefarious designs.

Since the Indian Railways, due to its vast network and high passenger volume, was beginning to emerge as a significant conduit for narco-trafficking, a major development occurred in 2019 when the Government of India empowered the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. This authorisation enabled the RPF to search for and seize narcotics being transported through the railway network, thereby strengthening efforts to combat narcotics trafficking across Indian Railways. This decision aligned with the Government of India's comprehensive "whole-of-government approach" in the war against narcotics, reinforcing the RPF's role in national security beyond its traditional duties.

RPF's Mandate under the NDPS Act

The grant of authority under the NDPS Act enabled the RPF to act not only as a custodian of railway property but also as a proactive law enforcement agency in the domain of narcotics control. The large and relatively unmonitored railway ecosystem-characterised by open-access platforms, high-frequency passenger movement, and vast geographical spread-was being increasingly exploited by traffickers to move contraband, particularly Ganja, and this timely decision has brought about a transformational change

Notable achievements of RPF in controlling the drug menace

In the year 2024 alone, RPF undertook a record number of operations resulting in over 1700 contraband seizure cases involving significant quantities of contraband articles. Big Seizures and Operational Successes of RPF during 2024-25 include:

1. On 01.03.2024, in a joint operation with DRI Tuticorin & Madurai teams, RPF/Madurailed to the seizure of 31.5 kg of Methamphetamine worth ₹150 crore from a passenger on Pothigai Express (Train No. 12661) during a tar-

2. On 08.05.2025, at Nabadwip Dham Railway Station (ER), a joint team seized 1.03 kg of Brown Sugar worth ₹4 crore during a surveillance operation based on intelligence generated by STF Kolkata.



3. On 19.06.2025, at Sealdah Station (ER), a routine RPF check led to the recovery of 3.14 kg Morphine and 3.198 kg Heroin, valued at ₹3.35 crore. The seized quantity was later handed over to

4. On 05.12.2024, at Burhwal Station (NER), a joint operation intercepted two women aboard a train with 11 kg Charas worth ₹5.5 crore which was being transported from Sugauli to Kota.

5. On 05.03.2025, a joint RPF-GRP team recovered 24.39 kg of Charasvalued at ₹6 crore in unclaimed backpacks at Sagauli Railway Station (ECR).

6. On 26.03.2025, in Varanasi Station (NR), a checking operation on Tapti Ganga Express led to the seizure of 10 kg Charas, valued at ₹5 crore, from an unat-The RPF seized contrabands valued at

over ₹227.5 crore in 2024, contributing 1.34 per cent to the overall seizure quantity in the country. RPF has also rrested 1489 traffickers during the year. This significant recovery marks a notetowards building a Drug-Free India. The outcome of the targeted and successful oper-

YADAVA worthy addition to the collective efforts

ations and seizures underscore RPF's evolving capa-

bilities and intelligence-led policing approach.

Emerging patterns

An analysis of drug trafficking patterns on the Indian Railway network has revealed distinct smuggling corridors and modus operandi of traffickers. The North-Eastern Corridor (Lumding-Arunachal) acts as a critical source route for cannabis cultivation and transportation. Eastern-Central-Southern Routes (Odisha to Southern States) facilitate the movement of narcotics from Odisha to high consumption — demand centres such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi and Mumbai. Major cities act as the primary endpoints of the trafficking network, where narcotics are distributed through local networks, making them the urban consumption hubs. The affordability of Ganja, combined with its recreational nature, makes it one of the most commonly trafficked narcotics via railways. The contraband is often packed in bulk quantities and concealed ingeniously in passenger and freight luggage.

Learnings and Strategic Insights

From years of tracking illicit narcotics movements while actively pursuing the role of Sentinels of Indian Railways, RPF has developed key learnings in the domain. Traffickers rely on anonymity pro-

vided by general class compartments and unreserved ticketing. Night trains and long-distance express trains are frequently misused due to the reduced presence of uniformed personnel at night time. Concealment techniques have become increasingly sophisticated, necessitating enhanced detection methods. Youth and vulnerable populations in urban centres are primary targets for drug consumption, fueling demand.

Capacity Building and RPF's Commitment

RPF has taken concrete steps to build institutional capacity to tackle narcotics trafficking. Specially trained dog squads are now deployed at major railway stations and are actively participating in targeted operations. RPF personnel undergo intensive training on NDPS provisions, detection methods, and procedural law and inter-agency coordination in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Data analytics and crime pattern analysis have led to the systematic mapping of drug routes and the identification of vulnerable trains. Cooperation with NCB, State Police and Intelligence Agencies has led to a productive partnership based on real-time intelligence sharing and the constitution of joint taskforces for action. This progress directly reflects the Union Home Minister's strate-

gic directive that combines top-down guidance and bottom-up implementation, ensuring uniform policy application with local adaptability.

Challenges and the Road Ahead

Despite the success stories, several challenges remain. The need for more resources including narcotic detection equipment and canine units, slow judicial processes under NDPS hindering deterrence, rapid changes in trafficking routes and methods, cross-border smuggling through the porous borders of the country, and imperatives of passenger privacy is a vissurveillance concern which demands balancing individual rights with stringent checks etc needs systematic and concentrated approach to be addressed effectively.

To counter these challenges, enforcement agencies must continue to leverage advanced technological solutions such as Artificial Intelligence and scanning systems with pattern recognition capabilities for route and passenger profiling, thereby enabling predictive policing in the detection of drugs and narcotics. Community sensitisation programs to generate public awareness are essential to address the issue of consumption. The canine force is the backbone of any Force involved in the detection of narcotics, but it has its operational limitations. Possible technology solutions to enhance detection need to be explored in the field. Further, the human capabilities in the field demand capacity augmentation through specialised training and intervention in the

The Indian Railways handles a substantial quantity of parcel traffic through the Seating cum Luggage Rake (SLR) vans of long-distance passener trains. At present the contents of the parcel are not being scanned through X-ray scanners. Realizing the possibility of utilisation of parcel traffic for drug trafficking, Indian Railways has started the process of installing large-sized baggage scanners at important railway stations.

A-Pillar in the Whole-of-Government

The RPF's contribution to narcotics control is not an isolated initiative but a net addition and an important part of the Government of India's integrated anti-drug effort. Its success exemplifies the whole-of-government approach, working in unison with central and state agencies to safeguard national security and public health. On this International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, RPF stands as a vigilant and evolving Force, committed to securing the lifelines of the nation from the scourge of drugs. By recognising patterns, enhancing capabilities, and strengthening inter-agency collaboration, RPF is not only protecting the Indian Railways but also fortifying the nation's resolve against narcotics trafficking in the years to come.

(The writer is Director General, Railway Protection Force. View are personal)

MSME Day: Celebrating the backbone of sustainable growth and innovation

une 27 is MSME Day. It is a day dedicated to celebrating the significance and achievements of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). In 2017, the United Nations (UN) designated this day to recognise the vital role of MSMEs in promoting innovation, job creation, and sustainable economic growth. MSME Day highlights the need for ongoing support and innovation to help these enterprises thrive in a changing global environment.

The UN estimates indicate that MSMEs are the cornerstone of economic growth worldwide, accounting for 90 per cent of global businesses, 60-70 per cent of employment and 50 per cent of the world's gross domestic product (GDP).

The World Bank notes that 60 crore jobs will be needed by 2030 to absorb the growing global workforce, which makes MSME development a high priority for many Governments around the world. Furthermore, in emerging markets, most formal jobs are generated by Small and Medium Enterprises, which create 7 out of 10 jobs.

In India, MSME Day is particularly significant. The country has over 6.5 crore registered MSMEs, contributing 31 per cent to the GDP and 45 per cent to total exports, employ-

ing more than 28 crore people. Today, MSMEs are omnipresent, traversing all sectors from Charkha to Chandrayaan.

They are spread over variegated sectors, stretching from retail trade to repair of computers, from food and beverage services to land transport, from the manufacturing of apparel to manufacturing of furniture, from pharmaceuticals to tourism, from khadi

and village industries to literally catapulting Missions into space by manufacturing aerospace components. Accordingly, these enterprises get covered by schemes and policies of different administrative Ministries of the Central Government, accentuating the essence of the Whole of Government approach.

ISHITA G TRIPATHY

The theme of this year's MSME Day is 'Enhancing the role of MSMEs as drivers of Sustainable Growth and Innovation'. This underscores both the relevance of the sector and its potential role in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

It is a well-known fact that the definition of MSMEs followed across the world is not uniform. While some countries follow an asset-based definition, MSMEs in some other countries are identified in terms of their employment. In 2020, India became one of the countries that adopted twin cri-



teria based on investment in plant and machinery and turnover of enterprises to classify them as MSMEs. The overall ceiling for MSMEs was ₹50 crore for investment and ₹250 crore for turnover. To allay apprehensions of losing entitlements related to MSMEs, from 1st April 2025, the ceilings were raised to ₹125 crore and ₹500 crore for investment and turnover, respectively. The Indian MSME sector is also unique in its recognition and

purposeful formalisation of informal micro-enterprises.

The closest proxy measure of the universe of MSMEs is the number of non-agricultural unincorporated enterprises estimated by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises <u>ANU</u>RADHA (ASUSE). The latest report GURU of ASUSE of January 2025 estimates 7.34 crore such enterprises. Since 1st April

2023, the number of formalised enterprises has grown fourfold, to 6.5 crore. The effort to bridge the formalisation gap is discernible. Formalisation extends the twin benefits of providing an identity to the enterprise and creating entitlements for it because of its MSME status. Enterprises registered on the Udvam Registration Portal or Udyam Assist Platform not only become eligible for Priority Sector Lending but also for schemes meant for MSMEs run by the Central Government and some State Governments.

With recently determined interventions from the Government of India to ensure affordable finance, accessible technology, and the availability of domestic and international markets, the sector has undoubtedly made great strides.

While during 2000-2023, as many as 70.7 lakh guarantees worth ₹4.27 lakh crore were given under the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Micro and

Small Enterprises (MSEs), during 2023-2025, there were 44.39 lakh guarantees worth ₹5.08 lakh crore, indicating larger coverage of enterprises in a shorter period and a higher average guarantee amount. Recent reports corroborate the accomplishments of the sector. Niti Aayog's report, released in May 2025, states that the share of MSEs accessing credit through scheduled banks rose from 14 per cent in 2020 to 20 per cent in 2024.

The share of Medium Enterprises increased from 4 per cent to 9 per cent during the same time. SIDBI's survey report for May 2025 elucidates affirmative findings. 90 per cent of the survey respondents claimed to be using digital payments. 18 per cent had benefited from digital lending platforms. While one-third of the respondents stated that they had adopted at least some form of sustainable practice, an equal proportion also mentioned that limited awareness was the main hindrance to adopt ing sustainable practices. Mandatory procurement of CPSEs from MSEs gives enterprises the comfort of certainty. While in 2023-24, CPSEs procured ₹74,828 crore from MSEs, the corresponding figure in 2024-25 grew by 25 per cent to ₹93.697 crore.

In recognition of the achievements of MSMEs, National Awards for MSMEs have been instituted to encourage entrepreneurship and enthuse potential risk-takers to emerge as successful

entrepreneurs. The MSME Day is more than just a celebration; it is a vital call for action to strengthen this essential pillar of economies around the world. Awareness among all stakeholders, robust and integrated central databases, strengthened digital public infrastructure for addressing various issues faced by MSMEs, including access to finance, academia-industry collaboration for effective technology transfer and incentives for adopting green technologies are some steps that will cement the role of MSMEs in designing sustainable Viksit Bharat.

(The writers are officers of the Indian Economic Service. Views are personal)

Rate cuts to reforms: Fiscal policy must power India's growth engine

the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statement on June 6 announced a reduction in the Repo rate by 50 basis points to 5.50 per cent, cumulatively cutting the repo rate by 100 basis points since February.

It also surprised the economy by reducing the Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) by 100 basis points to 3 per cent. This expansionary monetary policy (MP) move is expected to boost economic activity, as banks can borrow more and lend it to consumers and investors at lower interest rates. Following this, four public sector banks have already reduced the repo-related lending rates. The reduction in CRR further supports the lending spree, as it would release ₹2.5 lakh crore, giving banks further impetus to lend.

MP could choose to be accommodative, as the inflation rate has been at a comfortable target level of an average of 4 per cent, and the outlook for the year is being further revised downwards to 3.7 per cent.

Hence, inflation is not a major concern for now, but growth remains below expectation, with the projected growth for 2025-26 being 6.5 per cent, the same as the actual real growth in 2024-25.

With enough leverage provided to support growth, MPC has announced a reversal to a neutral stance for the future, and the economy cannot expect further cuts in the interest rate easily. With this future course of action of MP, they have set the ball rolling for fiscal policy (FP) measures to take the onus of stimulating growth.

The Government will now have to proactively take measures to ensure optimistic consumer, investor and producer confidence, the lifelines of a

resilient economy. With the uncertainties looming due to expected tariff impositions from the US and subsequent trade wars, the Government has to be vigilant of even the smallest aberrations from the norm. On the revenue front, the Government had already reformed the income tax rate structure in this year's Union Budget, with tax exemptions, to boost consumption.

Additionally, there is an expectation of rationalisation and restructuring of the complex GST framework soon. The four-tier slab structure needs to be streamlined and simplified, which will

help to incentivise consumption and production. Further, the Government has planned its capital expenditure policy to lift the business mood. It has already front-loaded the capital expenditure in the current financial year, spending ₹1,59,790 crore in April, an increase of 61 per cent spent in the corresponding month of the previous year. The cost of Government borrowing, according to the RBI, has decreased over the years, releasing liquidity, which, if provided as



loans to the states, with assured productive expenditure, can encourage consumption, and investment, and strengthen the macroeconomy.

On the global front, India is gaining strength,

as global investors are shifting their manufacturing base to India, due to production link incentives, strong global supply chains, easing of business policies, low labour cost, and high demand, to name a few.

Further, the IMF World Economic Outlook (April 2025) shows India acquiring the status of the fourthlargest economy in the world, surpassing Japan in terms of nominal GDP as reported by BVR Subrahmanyam,

Chief, Niti Aayog. Analysts, however, caution that this does not guarantee the improvement in the internal socioeconomic issues such as poverty, health, educa-

tion, large income inequalities, etc. With a neutral MP stance for the future, now the Government needs to play its cards well amidst the domestic and global uncertainties for a better-performing economy.

Conclusion

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The MPC's expansionary measures, including rate cuts and CRR reduction, aim to revive growth amidst subdued inflation. With monetary policy turning neutral, the spotlight shifts to fiscal policy. The Government must now drive momentum through tax reforms, GST rationalisation, and increased capital spending. Despite global headwinds, India's rising global stature and investor interest offer optimism. However, sustained progress depends on addressing domestic socioeconomic disparities while navigating uncertain global tides with prudent fiscal strategies.

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce, Delhi University. Views are personal

WORLD 08

Trump officials to give classified briefing on Iran strikes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

enators are set to meet with top national security officials on Thursday as many question President Donald Trump's decision to bomb three Iranian nuclear sites — and whether those strikes were ultimately successful.

The classified briefing, which was originally scheduled for Tuesday and was delayed. also comes as the Senate is expected to vote this week on a resolution that would require congressional approval if Trump decides to strike Iran again.

Democrats and some Republicans, have said that the White House overstepped its authority when it failed to seek the advice of Congress and they want to know more Trump relied on when he authorised the attacks.

"Senators deserve full transparency and the administration has a legal obligation to inform Congress precisely about what is happening," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, who said Tuesday that it was "outrageous" that the Senate and House briefings were postponed. A similar briefing for House members was pushed

CIA Director John Ratcliffe, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth are expected to brief the senators on Thursday.

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard was scheduled to be at the Tuesday briefing, but will not be attending, according to a person familiar with the schedule.



President Donald Trump, right, speaking at the NATO summit

The briefing could be contentious as questions have swirled around Trump's decision to strike Iran and whether the attacks were successful.

ments from Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin

gence report found this week Netanyahu about the status of that Iran's nuclear programme Iran's nuclear facilities, accordhad been set back only a few ing to two people familiar months, contradicting statewith the report.

The people were not authorised to address the matter course of years".

tion of anonymity. On Wednesday, Gabbard

and Ratcliffe sent out statements backing Trump's claims that the facilities were "completely and fully obliterated".

Gabbard posted on social media that "new intelligence confirms what @POTUS has stated numerous times: Iran's nuclear facilities have been destroyed." She said that if the Iranians choose to rebuild the three facilities, it would "likely take years to do." Ratcliffe said in a statement

from the CIA that Iran's nuclear programme has been "severely damaged" and cited new intelligence "from a historically reliable and accurate source/method that several key Iranian nuclear facilities were destroyed and would have to be rebuilt over the

Most Republicans have staunchly defended Trump and hailed the tentative ceasefire he brokered in the Israel-Iran war. House Speaker Mike Johnson even went as far as to question the constitutionality of the War Powers Act, which is intended to give Congress a

say in military action.
"The bottom line is the commander in chief is the president, the military reports to the president, and the person empowered to act on the nation's behalf is the president," Johnson told reporters.

But some Republicans including some of Trump's staunchest supporters - are uncomfortable with the strikes and the potential for US involvement in an extended Middle East conflict.

"I think the speaker needs to review the Constitution," said Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky. "And I that our Founding Fathers did not want presidents to unilaterally go to war."

Paul would not say if he is voting for the resolution by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va, that would require congressional approval for specific military action in Iran. The resolution is likely to fail as 60 votes would be needed to pass it and Republicans have a 53-47 majority. But Kaine says it's important to put the Senate on the record.

"You have a debate like this so that the entire American public, whose sons and daughters are in the military and whose lives will be at risk in war, get to see the debate and reach their own conclusion together with the elected officials about whether the mission is worth it or not," Kaine

EU meets to discuss Russia

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◄he heads of the European Union's (EU) 27 member nations will meet on Thursday in Brussels to discuss tougher sanctions on Russia, ways to prevent painful new US tariffs and how to make their voices heard in the Middle East conflicts.

Most of the leaders will arrive from a brief but intense NATO summit where they pledged a big boost in defense spending, and papered over some of their differences with US President Donald Trump. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will join the EU summit by videoconference, after meeting Trump on Wednesday.

US-led NATO downgraded Ukraine from a top priority to a side player this week, but Russia's war in Ukraine remains of paramount concern for the EU. Members will be discussing an 18th round of sanctions against Russia and whether to maintain a price cap on Russian oil, measures that some nations oppose because it



European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, left, speaking with Portugal's Prime Minister Luis Montenegro as they arrive for an EU summit at the European Council building in Brussels

could raise energy prices.

Meanwhile, Trump's threatened tariffs are weighing on the EU, which negotiates trade deals on behalf of all 27 member countries. He lashed out at Spain on Wednesday for not spending more on defense and suggested yet more tariffs. France's president called Trump to task for starting a trade war with longtime allies.

European leaders are also concerned about fallout from climate leadership in favour of the wars in the Middle East, and

the EU is pushing to revive diplomatic negotiations with Iran over its nuclear programme. EU members have internal disagreements to overcome. They are divided over what to do about European policy toward Israel because of its conduct in Gaza

And left-leaning parties are attacking European Commissioner Ursula von Der Leyen's pivot away from the EU's military investment.

California must change transgender policies: US

ASSOCIATED PRESS

⊣he Trump administration said on Wednesday that California must change its policies allowing transgender girls to compete on sports teams consistent with their gender identity.

The US Department of Education said it determined California's education department and governing body for high school sports are violating Title IX, a federal law banning sex discrimination in education.

The federal Government said California must agree to change its policies in 10 days or "risk imminent enforcement action."

The administration could otherwise refer the state to the US Justice Department, the Education Department said.

California, though, said it has no plans to change its poli-"The California Department of Education believes all students should have the opportunity to learn

and play at school and we have consistently applied existing law in support of students' rights to do so," agency spokesperson Liz Sanders said in a statement.

US Education Secretary Linda McMahon invoked Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom's remarks on his podcast in March questioning the fairness of trans girls competing in girls sports. "The Trump Administration will relentlessly enforce Title IX protections for women and girls, and our findings today make clear that California has failed to adhere to its obligations under federal law," she said in a statement.

She told Fox News the agency may pull federal funding if the state does not comply.

The Education Department said the state should apologise and restore awards to girls who lost sports titles to trans athletes, and notify school sports programmes that receive federal funding that

Title IX prohibits trans girls

from participating in girls sports. The announcement comes

weeks after a trans student

athlete garnered national attention over her participation in the California high school state track and field championship. The student, Hernandez, placed first in the girls high jump and triple jump and second in the long jump. The California Interscholastic Federation, which ran the meet, awarded

gold and silver medals to both Hernandez and other competitors who would have placed had she not participated. It was the first time the federation made such a rule The issue is part of a nation-

wide battle over the rights of transgender youth in which states have limited transgender girls from participating on girls sports teams, barred gender-affirming surgeries for minors and required parents to be notified if a child changes their pronouns at

states have laws barring transgender women and girls from participating in certain sports competitions. Some of the policies have been blocked in

Former California Gov Jerry Brown signed a law in 2013 allowing students to participate in sex-segregated school programmes, including on sports teams and use bathrooms and other facilities that align with their gender identity.

Newsom spokesperson Izzy Gardon said McMahon's threat to pull federal funding over the state's policy was "dramatic, fake and completely divorced from reality." The California Interscholastic Federation declined to respond to the announcement, saying it does not comment on legal matters.

The federation is violating the US Constitution by allowing trans girls to compete in sex-segregated sports consistent with their gender identity, said Harmeet Dhillon, US assistant attorney general for civil rights, in a letter after the state track and field finals. The California Family

Council, a conservative group that opposes trans girls' competition in girls sports, applauded the federal government's findings Wednesday. "This decision is a critical step toward restoring fairness and protecting the integrity of

girls' sports in our state," Sophia Lorey, an advocate for the group, said in a statement. But Equality California, an LGBTQ+ advocacy organisation, said the findings were a

"dangerous distortion of Title IX and a direct attack on transgender youth in California." "Let's be clear: this isn't

about fairness in sports and never has been — it's about a federal administration weaponising civil rights laws to target transgender students and force California to comply with their hateful antitransgender agenda," Tony Hoang, the group's executive director, said in a statement.

Colombia's president Petro signs labour overhaul into law

ASSOCIATED PRESS Bogota(Colombia)

olombian President Gustavo Petro signed ✓into law on Wednesday a controversial labour overhaul with the potential to profoundly shift the balance of power from employers to workers, a key victory for the left-wing leader even as Congress compelled him to scale back his more radical

The enactment of the law marks a milestone for a president who has struggled to

reduce inequality in one of the region's most unequal nations. But it's faced opposition from business leaders and Colombian government bonds have suffered as markets worry about the fiscal and economic effects.

The law increases overtime pay for salaried workers and limits the use of short-term contract workers, while requiring companies to provide medical coverage and social security for gig workers like food delivery drivers. It also promises student interns proper con-



tion time and severance pay. Many of Petro's efforts to vastly expand social programs

have stalled in Congress, with lawmakers shooting down this labour law twice. Lawmakers let the legislation squeak by last week after Petros moved to call a public referendum.

Petro signs the law at the home of Simón Bolívar

Petro signed the legislation at the historic home of 19thcentury war hero Simón Bolívar, who led South America's fight against impe-

Serbians held ahead of anti-corruption rally

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■

accused of allegedly plotting to overthrow the government as tensions soared ahead of a major anti-Government rally planned this weekend in the capital Belgrade.

Police said six were detained on Wednesday evening, suspected of "preparing criminal acts against the constitutional order and security of Serbia" and "calling for violent change of the constitutional order".

At least one other university student was arrested earlier this week accused of preparing "an act of terrorism" based on his private conversations over a mobile phone.

Hundreds on Thursday demonstrated against the arrest in Belgrade. Protesting university students have called Saturday's rally to press their demand for an early election after nearly eight months of almost daily anti-corruption demonstrations that have shaken the populist government of President Aleksandar Vucic.

Persistent protests started in November after a renovated rail

station canopy collapsed that killed 16 people and which many blamed on rampant govpolice in Serbia have ernment corruption and negligence in state infrastructure projects. University students have been a key force behind the nationwide movement. Vucic and his right-wing

> Serbian Progressive Party have refused the students' demand for a snap vote, instead accusing the protesters of planning to spur violence at Saturday's gathering.

Police alleged the detained group met last week in a hotel in the central town of Kraljevo to plan a violent change of government and attacks on police and pro-government media outlets. One of the suspects had a gun and ammunition,

they said. No other details were immediately available. Serbian media reported that those arrested include an opposition politi-

cian, veteran of the wars of the 1990s, and others. Authorities made similar arrests back in March, ahead of what was the biggest ever anti-Government protest in

the Balkan country, which drew hundreds of thousands of

Ecuador recaptures drug trafficker wanted in United States

Quito(Ecuador)

fugitive drug trafficker wanted by authorities in Ecuador and the United States was recaptured more than a year after he escaped from prison in the Andean nation, Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa announced on Wednesday.

José Adolfo Macías, alias "Fito," who led a gang called "Los Choneros" in Ecuador and has been indicted in New York City on charges he imported thousands of pounds of cocaine into the United States, was captured in the Ecuadorian city of Manta, his

hometown, officials in Ecuador said. Interpol had issued an arrest war-

rant for Macias after hi s mysterious prison escape in early 2024 from the Guayaquil Regional Prison, where he was serving a 34-year sentence for drug trafficking. Ecuadorian authorities have yet to explain how he escaped. They only learned of his escape when a military contingent arrived to transfer him to another maximum-security prison but didn't find him in his cell.

The Ecuadorian army confirmed Macias' recapture in what appeared to be the basement of a house. A video provided by the army showed

the moment of the arrest, with a uniformed officer aiming a gun at the head of the drug trafficker, who gave his full name. The officers had found him hiding in a small hole beneath what appeared to be a kitchen

Wednesday's announcement of his arrest comes in the same week that Federico Gómez, alias "Fede," the leader of another gang called Las Aguilas, was confirmed to have escaped from an Ecuadorian prison.

Last year, US Attorney John Durham said in a news release that Macias led Los Choneros and its "net-

work of assassins and drug and

weapon traffickers" since at least 2020. With an extensive criminal record including charges of murder and organised crime, Macías has cultivated a cult status among fellow gang members and the public in his nome country.

While behind bars in 2023, he released a video addressed to "the Ecuadorian people" while flanked by armed men. He also threw parties in prison, where he had access to everything from liquor to roosters for cockfighting matches. The seven-count indictment unsealed in Brooklyn charges Macías and an unidentified co-defendant with international cocaine distribution, conspiracy and weapons counts, including smuggling firearms from the United States.

Los Choneros employed people to buy firearms, components and ammunition in the United States and smuggle them into Ecuador, according to the indictment. Cocaine would flow into the United States with the help of Mexican cartels.

"Los Choneros operated a vast network responsible for the shipment and distribution of multi-ton quantities of cocaine from South America through Central America and Mexico to the United States and elsewhere," the indictment says.

Afro-Mexican communities in US devastated by Hurricane Erick FDA expands warnings COVID-19 vaccines

ASSOCIATED PRESS Washington

he Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Wednesday it has expanded existing warnings on the two leading COVID-19 vaccines about a rare heart side effect mainly seen in young men. Myocarditis, a type of heart inflammation that is usually mild, emerged as a complication after the first shots became widely available in 2021.

Prescribing information from both Pfizer and Moderna already advises doctors about the issue. In April, the FDA sent letters

to both drugmakers asking them to update and expand the warnings to add more detail about the problem and to cover a larger group of patients.

While the FDA can mandate label changes, the process is often more of a negotiation with companies.

Specifically, the new warning lists the risk of myocarditis as eight cases per 1 million people who got the 2023-2024 COVID-19 shots between the ages of six months and 64 years old. The label also notes that the problem has been most common among males aged 12 to 24. The previous label said the problem mostly occurs in 12- to 17-year-olds.

The FDA's labelling change appears to conflict with some prior findings of scientists else-

where in the US Government. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention previ-

increased risk of myocarditis detected in Government vaccine injury databases for COVID-19 shots dating back to 2022. Officials also noted that cases

tend to resolve quickly and are less severe that those associated with COVID-19 infection itself, which can also cause myocarditis. The FDA announcement came as new vaccine advisers appointed by Health Secretary Kennedy met to debate the continuing use of COVID-19 vaccines for key groups, including pregnant women and children.

It's the first meeting of the CDC advisory panel since Kennedy abruptly dismissed all 17 members of the group, naming a new panel that includes several members with a histoously concluded there was no ry of anti-vaccine statements.

ASSOCIATED PRESS Mexico City

fro-descendant communities along ⚠ Mexico's Pacific coast are calling on President Claudia Sheinbaum's administration for an immediate response a week after Hurricane Erick, saying poorer and predominantly Black communities have been disproportionately impacted by hurricanes over the past three years. Hurricane Erick rapidly

strengthened over the Pacific, making landfall as a Category 3 storm in the Costa Chica's coastal mountains south of Acapulco.

In rural swathes of the It knocked out power for nearly 300,000 people, trigcoastal states of Oaxaca and



gered landslides and flooding and killed a 1-year-old boy, who drowned in a swollen river.

reported that Afro-descen-Mexico's government. Photos dant communities - comprisand videos of towns in the ing more than 80 per cent of region following the hurricane the population — were devasshow collapsed tin roof houses, fields of uprooted trees and tated by the hurricane and

The destruction has driven these communities to appeal for help and aid supplies on social media, highlighting the hurricane's aftermath as further evidence of the historic neglect faced by ethnic minorities in Mexico and the disproportionate impact of the climate crisis on some of the most vulnerable communities. 'This devastation is a direct

flooded villages.

consequence not only of climate change but also of the structural, institutional and systemic racism that has kept the Afro-Mexican people marginalised from development," wrote MUAFRO, an Afro-Mexican women's collective in the coastal states, in a post calling for aid.

WORLD 09

Thailand bans cannabis sales without prescription

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■

hailand is further tightening control of cannabis by banning sales of the plant to those without prescriptions. Thailand became the first country in Asia to decriminalise cannabis in 2022, in a move that boosted Thailand's tourism and farming, and spawned thousands of shops. But the country has faced public backlash over allegations that under-regulation has made the drug available to children and caused addiction. Health Minister Somsak Thepsutin signed an order Monday that bans shops from selling cannabis to customers without a prescription. It also seeks to reclassify cannabis buds as a controlled herb.

Phanurat Lukboon, secretary-general of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, said on Wednesday that his agency is ready to study and implement the change in regulations.

The order will take effect when it is published in the Royal Gazette, although it was unclear when that would happen.

The ruling Pheu Thai Party previously promised to criminalise the drug again, but faced strong resistance from

its former partner in the coalition government, the Bhumjaithai Party, which supported the decriminalisation.

Bhumjaithai quit the coalition last week over a leaked phone call between Prime Paetongtarn Minister Shinawatra and former Cambodian leader Hun Sen.

Somsak told reporters Tuesday that he would like to relist cannabis as a narcotic in the future. The move came after officials last month revealed that cannabis smuggling cases involving tourists had soared in recent months.

Phanurat said that a study done by his agency last year found the number of people addicted to cannabis had spiked significantly after it was decriminalised.

Government spokesperson Jirayu Houngsab said in a statement Tuesday that the government ordered the Health Ministry to tighten control on sales of cannabis because "many shops opened to sell cannabis both for recreational and medical purposes, allowing easy access for children and general people, which contradicts the government's purpose to crack down on drugs".

A group of cannabis advocates said Wednesday that the change in regulations was politically motivated.



→early \$300 million worth of confiscated illegal drugs were destroyed in Myanmar's major cities on Thursday to mark the annual International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, officials said.

The drug burnings came nearly a month after UN experts warned of unprecedented levels of methamphetamine production and trafficking from Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle region and Myanmar's eastern Shan State in particular. The country has long been a

destined for East and Southeast Asia, despite repeated efforts to crack down. The UN agency labelled it in 2023 as the world's largest opium producer.

major source of illegal drugs

In the country's biggest city,

Known to all that my client Smt. Laxmi Devi owner of the THIRD FLOOR, PLOT NO. 30, AREA 114.33 SQ YDS, KHASRA NO.36/25 RAJINDRA PARK, NANGLOI, NEW DELHI and Smt. Laxmi Devi Purchased property from Smt. Ratan Kaur vide Notarized GPA, ATS and Will dated 04.05.1987,Now Smt. Laxmi Devi wants to sell aforesaid property. And It is informed that any deal with said documents by any person except my said client and said institution regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person having any claim, right in said property then he may contact and handover the same and apprise his claim to undersigned within 15 days of this publication.

AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION

worth more than \$117 million went up in a spectacular blaze.

The destroyed drugs included opium, heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana, ketamine and the stimulant known as ice, or crystal meth, Yangon Police Brig Gen Sein Lwin said in a speech at a drug-burning ceremony.

Similar events also occurred in the country's second-largest city of Mandalay, and in Taunggyi, the capital of eastern Myanmar's Shan state, all areas close to where the drugs are produced. A police official from the capital Naypyitaw told the Associated Press that the substances burnt in three locations were worth 297.95 million US dollars. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the information has not yet been publicly announced.

Myanmar has a long his-

Lajpat Rai Sikand resident of Flat No.3397 Second Floor, Pocket-3, Sector-D, Vasant Kunj

New Delhi is owner/mutatee and in physical possession of Flat No. 3397, on Second Floor, Cat.SFS-II, Pocket-3, Sector-D, situated at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, which has been allotted by DDA vide File No. F125 (4289)1983.



tory of drug production linked to political and economic insecurity caused by decades of armed conflict.

Eastern Myanmar is part of

the infamous Golden Triangle, where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet. The production of opium and heroin historically flourished there,

Government has been able to exercise only minimum control over various ethnic minority

AXIS BANK

in the drug trade.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime said in a report in May that the political crisis across the country after the military takeover in 2021 that has led to what is now a civil war — has turbocharged growth of the methamphetamine trades.

That has caused the flow of drugs to surge "across not only East and Southeast Asia, but also increasingly into South Asia, in particular Northeast

India," the report said.

Drugs are increasingly trafficked from Myanmar to Cambodia, mostly through Laos, as well as through maritime routes "linking Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines, with Sabah in Malaysia serving

as a key transit hub.

AXIS BANK LTD

(CIN: L65110GJ1993PLC020769)

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SALE OF SECURITIES

ntities ("Parties")for acquisition of debt of below mentioned company through competitive bidding rocess.The sale of debt is on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" and

The broad terms of the offer are as follows:

1. Parties should submit an unconditional Expression of Interest ("EOI") expressing their interest in purchasing the above Securities, by sending e-mail to subhodip.mukherjee@axisbank.com / n.bapiraju@axisbank.com and submission of original hard copy of the EOI at the address mentioned herein below on or before 2nd July, 2025 by 05:00 p.m. Noida: Subhodip Mukherjee/ N. Bapiraju, Structured Assets Group – Axis House Plot No: 114, Tower 4, 4th Floor, Sector 128, NOIDA - 201304, Mob. No.: - +91-8130891183.2.Minimum Mark-up Offer above the Reserve Price amount is 5% i.e. the entities participating in the bidding process has to submit minimum binding offer of Rs. 14.4375 Cr. (Runges Fourleen Crore Fort Tytes Lacs Seventy Five Toussand Only 31. The Bank.

the entities participating in the bidding process has to submit minimum binding offer of Rs. 14.4375 Cr (Rupees Fourteen Crore Forty Three Lacs Seventy Five Thousand Only,)3. The Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any ineligible EOI without assigning any reason thereof i.e. it is the discretion of the Bank to accept or reject the EOI.4. Interested parties after due diligence shall submit their bid application/format of offer (as mentioned below) along with EMD of minimum 5% of the amount specified in Point 2 above on format of offer quoting bid price along with the detail of bidder (KYC documents, i.e Photo ID proof, PAN card & Address proof & E-mail ID). The format of offer will only be provided to the participating Parties whose EOI has been accepted by Bank.5.EMD is to be deposited in form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of, Axis Bank Ltd, payable at par. Last date for Bid application/Format of offer along with EMD amount is to be deposited by 5:00 P.M of 15.07.2025. Full name of the bidder, Address, Contact No. & E-mail ID should be mentioned at the back of the demand draft (EMD). 6.The EMD amount shall be liable for foreiture without prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and conditions. 7.Nothing in this notice constitutes or will be deemed to

ails to adhere to the terms and conditions. 7. Nothing in this notice constitutes or will be deemed to

constitute any commitment or representation on the part of the Bank to sell the above Securities. Axis Bank reserves the right to cancel the sale for any reason it may deem fit or even without assigning any reason and such cancellation shall not be called in question by the bidders. S. Bank shall have no liability on ndemnity obligations (whether express or implied) to any bidder. 9. The successful bidder shall be solely

and absolutely responsible for completion of all statutory, regulatory and other compliance.10.This

process shall be governed in accordance with the laws of India and the courts of Delhi shall have the exclusive jurisdiction over any dispute arising under this process.11. Cut-off date denotes the date of assignment the Stressed Loan Exposure (s) i.e., all realization/ recoveries made up to the cut-off date shall be retained by the Bank. 12. The transfer of loan exposure will be on "as is where is basis", "as is

what is basis", "whatever there is basis" and "without recourse basis" i.e., with the risk such credit risk

operational risk, legal or any other type of risks associated with the Stressed Loan Exposure(s) being transferred to the acquirer and shall not be liable to be revoked for any breach including antecedent breach of any representation and warranty. In the event of non-realization of amount out of assets/securities, the Bank is not liable to refund anything in part or full. Bank reserves right to execute the

assets/securities, into Barin's notingine to return dryining in part of this. Barin's reserves right to execute the assignment deed as per Bank's format 13. In case any un-devolved LCs/ BGs yet to be invoked/ instalments of DPGs, which are not yet due, in respect of the specified loan exposure being offered for transfer by the Bank. Bank shall retain charge on the securities relating to un-crystallized non-funded facilities. In case of crystallization of non-funded facilities after the transfer of loan exposure, the acquirer of the fund-based loan exposure of the said loan account shall be bound to purchase that converted

ortion of non-fund based loan exposure (net of cash margin converted into fund-based exposure) from Bank on predefined terms and conditions of notice and Assignment Deed 14. Taxes, stamp duty and registration charges that may be arising out of the transaction shall be payable by the successful bilder.

15. Bank shall reserve the exclusive right to deal with the claims pertaining to ECGC/CGTMSE (both present & future) /cash margin/insurance claim/subsidy reserve fund/margin etc. of the Stressed Loan

Exposure(s) and the successful acquirer/bidder has no right or authority or claim thereon. 16. AXIS BANK eserve the right to add or delete accounts or modify the composition of the Stressed Loan Exposure

(Individual/Portfolio) offered for transfer and transfer structure at any stage without assigning any reason.

17. Further, AXIS BANK does not represent and warrant realizations in terms of the valuations of the security reported in the Preliminary Information Memorandum, Further, AXIS BANK also does not warrant.

and represent that the security is enforceable beyond the extent asserted by its advocates. The bidder(s

are therefore advised to have complete due diligence of the account put for transfer. Bank will no ertain, any claim whatsoever, for any deficiency pointed out in future and will not indemnify

sinestant, any dealin winesteerer, or any deliciency pointed out in ruture and win not indenting minesteerer, or sosses good to the successful buyer.

18. Notwithstanding anything contained herein above, Bank reserve the right to examine the EoI and

accept or reject any or all or some of the Eols at its sole discretion, and neither this notification nor deliver

of an Eol nor the consideration thereof by Bank shall be construed as creating any kind of right or interes

or an LOT not the Consideration thereby of an isolatine Considera as default any similar of ignit on interest in any interested party to be considered any further in the process or entitle them to any recourse against he lenders. 19. Notwithstanding anything contained in this notice, neither AXIS BANK, nor its employees or its advisors accept any responsibility or liability, whatsoever, in respect of any statements or omissions nerein, or the accuracy, completeness or reliability of information, and shall incur no liability, under any

nerein, or the accuracy, completeness or reliability of information, and shall incur no liability, under any law, statute, rules or regulations as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of this PUBLICATION, even if any loss or damage is caused by any act or omission on the part of Axis Bank or its employees or its advisors, whether negligent or otherwise. 20. AXIS BANK, may, at its sole discretion, add amend, vary, modify, delete, any of the conditions, date etc. of this notice as may be deemed necessary in the light of the facts and circumstances and also issue one or more Agenda, Corrigendum as required without giving

any reasons thereto. 21. AXIS BANK reserve the right not to go ahead with the proposed transfer at any

any leasons unlet by 2.1 AXIS BANK leselve for legith to to go alread with rise ploposed unlated at any stage, without assigning any reason. AXIS Bank has absolute and unimpeachable right with respect to all the matters starting from receiving, considering, accepting the bid, or transferring the specific loan exposure and such right without limitation encompasses right to not to receive, not to consider, not to accept the bid and decide not to transfer the specific loan exposure. AXIS BANK would not entertain any claim from any acquirer in this regard. The decision of the AXIS BANK in this regard shall be final and

inding. 22. The Assignment will be done on prescribed format. Any changes in the prescribed format wil

be accepted only if approved by the Bank considering the specific facts of the transaction and any changes in the basic premise of the draft agreement will not be accepted. 23. The Bids submitted by bidder(s) should be unconditional, irrevocable & binding in all respect. Bidder(s) cannot withdraw the bid

once submitted & successful bidder has to complete the transaction related to transfer of the loar

"NO RECOURSE" condition subject to certain terms and conditions.

The Schedule of the procedure and timelines for the bid are as under:

NEW OKHLA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B. Nagar,(U.P.

This is to be informed to the general public that the building (W Mall) constructed on the land of Khasra number 412 of village Hajipur is illegal and the file is in moment for the sealing/demolition process of the said building, which is to be demolished soon. Some people/land mafias have constructed /running shops for commercial activities on the notified land of Noida Authority and are selling it to the general public. This is completely against the rules of the

Therefore, the general public is conscious not to purchase illegal shops constructed in the name of (W Mall) on the land of Khasra number 412 of village Hajipur, so that the general public does not suffer any financial loss. Senior Manager

> Work Circle-8, Noida CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA



DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

DTI intends to invite online tender for Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220/66/33KV G1S Sub-Station with complete civil works & automation at existig 220KV GIS Maharani Bagh Substation, New Delhi (India) on Turnkey Basis against Tender No. T25R220466.

For complete details of the tender please visit websites: https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

(Tender ID No. 2025_DTL_274356_1)

and www.dtl.gov.in

(Tender Reference No. -DTL-9650-250625)

Last date for bid submission: 25.07.2025 at 1.30 P.M.

All corrigendum, addendum, amendments, time extensions clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updatd.



DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

DTI intends to invite online tender for Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220/33KV G1S Sub-Station with complete civil works & Automation at Sarojini Nagar, Delhi on Turnkey Basis against Tender No. T25R220465.

For complete details of the tender please visit websites :https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

(Tender ID No. 2025_DTL_273856_1)

and www.dtl.gov.in

(Tender Reference No. -DTL_9654-260625)

Last date for bid submission: 28.07.2025. at 1.30 P.M.

All corrigendum, addendum, amendments, time extensions,

clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updatd.



DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

DTI intends to invite online Two Part Domestic Competitive Bidding (DCB) tender for Design, Engineering, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 220/66KV G1S Sub-Station with complete civil works & automation at Budella, Delhi on Turnkey Basis against Tender No.

For complete details of the tender please visit websites :https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

(Tender ID No. 2025_DTL_274404_1)

and www.dtl.gov.in

(Tender Reference No. -DTL-9651-250625)

Last date for bid submission: 25.07.2025 at 1.30 P.M.

All corrigendum, naddendum, amendments, extensions, clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updatd.

allotted by DDA vide File No. F125(4289)1983. /VK/II and applied for conversion from lease hold into free hold of said flat in D.D.A. The original allocation Letter, and other related documents of said flat have been lost. An F.I.R. to this effect has been lodged. Any person(s) claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/contact with above named person at above address/ Phone No. 9560064477 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this flat can personally inform or write to Dy. Director(LAB) H,D Block 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Smt. Laxmi Devi
owner of the THIRD FLOOR, PLOT NO. 30,
Lajpat Rai Sikand resident of Flat No.3397.

property.

Mr. Devender Kumar Maurya intends to transfer the ownership of above-mentioned Property by way of Sale Deed to Ms. Sapna Kumari. Subsequently. Ms. Sapna Kumari is in the process of mortgaging the sald Plot with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted afte the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the sai property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please drow within the stipulated 15-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Flooi Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Nolda, Utta Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +91012 04499711, e-mail: accounts@Ivnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Dilip Singh ("seller") s/o Shri Prem Kishore, is selling a Portion admeasuring 25 square yards of his Freehold property, admeasuring 133 square yards in total, bearing address Property No. N-178. Out of Rect No. 21, Killa No. 24/2 situated at Village Khyala, Vishnu Garden, New Delhi ("said property"), to Mohd. Uvais Khan and Mrs. Nishat Parveen ("intending borrowers"). The seller acquired the right over the said property by virtue of General Power of Attorney executed/notarized on 03.01.2008 by Mr. Krishan Lall in favour of the seller, in respect of the said property, along with Notarized WILL and Agreement to Sell. The property is now being sold to the Intending Borrowers and the purchase Agreement to Seal. The property is now depreta-soil to the Intending Borrowers and the purchase is being financed by SMFG India Home Finance. Co. Ltd. General Public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge! Interest/Title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of publication of this advertisement.

TAPAN RAGHAV (Advocate Ch. No. G-220, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi- 32, raghavtk.legal@gmail.com (M - 8800096522)

SBFC FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Unit No. 103, C&B Square, Sangam Complex, Andheri Kurla Road,
Chakala, Andheri East, Mumbai — 400059

Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | www.shfc.com | CIN : | 67190MH2008PI C178270

This is to inform the public regarding shifting of SBFC Finance Ltd to Faridabad, (Haryana Branch), which will be effective from 27" June, 2025 to 2" October, 2025.
Old address: Plot no 731, Mohna Road, Yadav Prem Nagar, Ballabhgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004
New address: SBFC Finance LTD Shop No- 125 First floor , Sec- 3 , Huda Market Ballabgarh Haryana121004.

You can reach out to our nearby branch for servicing related requests

For SBFC Finance Limited

PUBLIC NOTICE TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

This is to inform general public that the following 718 Equity Shares of **Escorts Kubota Ltd** having its Registered Office at 15/5 Mathura Road, Faridabad, Haryana 121003. registered in the name of (Late) Kantilal Manilal Mehta under L. F. No ESC0006858 bearing Certificates Nos 90019085 - 90019095, 90019097-90019098 and 90019102-90019106 and Distinctive Nos 1317059-1317068, 1563356-1563367, 1913307-1913320, 2284225-2284241, 2813245 2813269, 3177990-3178014, 3890773-3890823 5916935-5917026, 9388663-9388809, 14472275-14472509, 25923819-25923863, and 32173819-

32173863 have been lost by me. The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing with the above mentioned shares

Any person who has any claim in respect of the above shares certificates should lodge such claim with the company at its abovementioned address within 15 days of the publication of this notice after which no claim shall be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue of Duplicate Share Certificates,

> Place: Mumbai | Date: 27 - 06 - 2025. (KAUSHAL KANTILAL MEHTA)

RLF LIMITED

Reg. Office:14 KMS, Gurgaon Pataudi Road, Village Jhund Sarai Veeran Distt. Gurgaon Haryana-122001 Corporate Office: D-41, South Extension-II, New Delhi-110049 CIN NO. L74999HR1979PLC032747, Phone: 011-26258237,

Email: teamunited83@gmail.com, compliance@rlfltd.com NOTICE TO PARTLY PAID UP PHYSICAL SHAREHOLDERS OF RLF LIMITED Notice is hereby given to the shareholders of RLF Limited bearing CIN

L74999HR1979PLC032747, that pursuant to provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and rules made thereunder along with the compliance of the provisions of Articles of Association of the company, SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ("SEBI LODR Regulations") and other applicable egulations, this is to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Company in its meeting held on 22nd January, 2025 by passing a resolution, made call on partly paid equity share amount payable on or before 24th February, 2025 the appointed date and the said notice was issued to partly paid share meeting held on 29th May, 2025 by passing a resolution have decided to ask the holders of partly paid equity shares to pay the amount as per call notice previously sent along with an interest of 12% (Twelve percent) per annum on or before 14th July, 2025 the appointed date and the said notice was issued to partly paid shareholders dated 29th May, 2025. The members holding partly paid equity shares are now requested to remit on o

before the appointed date .i.e. 14th July, 2025, the necessary amount of call money in respect of the shares held by you should be made via Cheque/Demand Draft drawn in favour of "RLF Limited" along with Payment Slip enclosed herewith as Annexure A and details of same to be sent to the Corporate Office o the Company situated at D-41, South Extension, Part II, New Delhi-110049 additionally you are requested to email the same at compliance@rlfltd.com. Notices are sent to physical shareholders of partly paid shares at their registered addresses as on record date Tuesday February 04, 2025 (date of determining eligible shareholders for sending last call notice to partly paid shareholders.) Ir case any member of the company has not received the above said notices may ontact the company or download the notice from website of the company

Date: 26th June, 2025

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सुचित किया जाता है कोरोमण्डल फर्टीलाजरर्स एंड केमिकलस प्राइवेट लिमिटिड गाँव-मसतपुर, डाकखाना-चौड मसतपुर-134007, अम्बाला, हरियाणा का नाम बदलकर नोवामंडल फर्टीलाइजर्स एंड केमिकलस प्राईवेट लिमिटिड गाँव-मसतपर, डाकखाना-चौड मसतपुर-134007, अम्बाला, हरियाणा कर दिया है।

इंडियन बेंक 🔥 Indian Bank

AB-20, Safdarjung Enclave, DDA Shoppir Complex, Delhi-110 029

OR PUBLIC NOTICE - LOST DOCUMENTS Himanshu, s/o Raja Ram Dwivedi, working as a Branch Manager, Indian Bank havin its branch at S.D Enclave, AB-20 DDA Shopping Complex Safdarjung Enclave New Delhi, Pin code 110029, hereby informs that Flat buyers Agreemen between Pal Infrastructure & Developer Pvt td and Mr. Amit Kumar bearing property Flat no. 301 Tower B, 3rd Floor, Pal Greens Sector 78, Faridabad, Haryana, on which bank has created E.M is not traceable in the may please inform the bank at the above said address and mobile no. 9369444608.

hereinafter referred to as "said property"; NOTICE is hereby given to general public that our client, Mr. Rajesh Sikka (hereinafter called the "owner") is the sole and absolute owner of the said property vide Mutation Letter dated 18.06.2024 issued by NOIDA. The said owner has further informed that the said property owned by Mr. Brij Sikka vide allotment letter dated 28.08.1980 and lease deed dated 18.07.1986 executed by NOIDA. And after unfortunate death of Mr. Brij Sikka his property has been devolved upon Mr. Rajesh Sikka and the said property has been mutated in his favour and he became the owner of the said property. The said owner has also informed that the said property is not mortgage anywhere and there is no charge or dispute or any litigation pending upon the said property.

said property.

Any person including Bank/s, Financia Institution/s, relative/s having any claim right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property is hereby called upon to make the same known n writing, with documentary evidence, because and post of the undersigned the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the or days of publication or this notice and in the event of no response having been received the notice, the title of the owner in respect of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shanot bind our client/owner, in any manne whatsoever.

Shivkant Arora, Advocate For M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, Lower Ground Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

PUBLIC NOTICE

operty Bearing No. WZ-48, area ing 75 sq. yds., Out of Khasra No. 26 in the Laldora of Village Tatarpur rh Road, New Delhi. Hereinafte red to as "the said property"

dispute of any litigation pertaining upon the sear property.

Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution/s, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered ADPost, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the owner in respect of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shal not bind our clients/owner, in any manner whatsoever.

It's temor to the public at large lims. Sainlit Bovi had acquired Residential Plot area measuring 50 sq. yrds., out of Khasra No. 18/1, subtated at Shankar Vhar Khora Colony, Pargana Loni, Tehsii & Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P vide Gift Deed Dt. 26.06.2023 executed by Mr. Pradeep Kumra, Now Mirs. Sanjila Devi is the undisputed owner of the said property.

OR

Any person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the said Property by way of inheritance, share, sale, agreement, lease, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents at or claim, if any, with all supporting documents a below mentioned address. After expiration of notice period, the claims, if any, of such person shall t treated null and void and also treated as waived an

Delhi (Hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property"). Be it known to all that our clients, Mr. Kalam Khan & Mrs. Revena Khatun (hereinafter called the "Purchasers") intends to purchase the said property intends to purchase the said profit on of the said property from Mr. Avvinder Singh, Attorney intends to purchase the said profit on this connection, the Attorney-holder has informed the purchasers that he is the sole and absolute attorney holder in respect of the said portion including the said property vide POA documents viz., GPA, ATS and Will dated by Mr. Sehaj Ram & Mr. Balwan which has been transferred many times to Mr. Dayal Singh and after that to Mr. Ajay Vir Yadav and thereafter to Mrs. Ramrati through GPA, ATS and Will dated 06.09 1984, 18.06.2002 and 17.04.2006 respectively. Further the said property has been transferred to Mr. Rishi Jain and after that to Mr. Abnashi Ram and thereafter to Mrs. Nariju Raghav and after that to Mr. Abnashi Ram and thereafter to Mrs. Nariju Raghav and after that to Mr. Abnashi Ram and thereafter to Mrs. Nariju Raghav and after that to Mr. Harish Sharma and after that to Mr. Intiyaz Sheikh and finally to the attorney holder/seller, Mr. Arvinder Singh through GPA, ATS and Will dated 04.06.2008, 13.10.2011, 21.2.2011, 07.05.2012 and 17.12.2012 respectively. The Attorney holder has also informed the purchasers that the said portion is not mortgaged anywhere and there is oc charge or dispute or any litigation pending regarding the said portion.

Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institution's, relative's having any claim, right,

M/s Intellective Law Offices A-74, LGF, Defence Colony, New Delhi -110024

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Nathu Ram Bhardwaj S/o Late Sh. Sona Ram Bhardwai R/o Flat No. B-42, Farihills, Sector 21-D, Faridabad, Haryana-121001 is also known as N. R. Bhardwaj. Both names refer to one and the same

PD(2341)C

I, Mamta W/o No.3180147Y Ex-Nk Sudesh Kumar, R/o- 498/1 Garhi Ward No. 7 Garhi Cantt, Dakra, Dehradun Uttarakhand-248003, have changed my name from Mamta to Mamta Thapa, vide affidavit dated 26/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

PD(2342)C Parmela Devi W/o-16011949H Ex Nk Yashdeep,

R/o- Krishan Vatika, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed my name from Parmela Devi to Parmila Devi, vide affidavit dated 26/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(2343)C I, Nirmla W/o- No.4195036P

Hav Vinod Chander, R/o- Vill-Chanehta, Post- Sadar, Teh & Dist- Bareilly, U.P.- 243001, have changed my name from Nirmla to Nirmala Devi, vide affidavit dated 26/06/2025 before Notary Public Delhi. PD(2344)C

Abdul Salaam S/o sh. Alihasan R/o, D-83, New Ashok Nagar, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Abdul Salam S/o Sh.Alihasan for all future purposes.

exposure where they are declared successful bidder in the time bound program as notified in the notice. Conditional and contingent bids are liable to be disqualified by the Bank. 24. Under no circumstances successful bidder can refuse to complete the transaction citing any reason or defects/objection in any loan exposure. If they do so, the matter will be reported to RBI/regulator & their association concerned for iking necessary action. The Bank may also consider not to entertain any future transactions with such pidder(s) in future, 25. By virtue of submission of the bids, it shall be deemed that the bidder(s) have

conducted their own independent due diligence at their own costs without relying on the information provided by the Bank, including verifying available securities/guarantees, various legal proceedings as well as ascertain the known and unknown liabilities, encumbrances and any other dues from concerned authorities or stakeholders to their satisfaction before submitting the bids. Any bid made shall be deemed authorities or stakeholders to their satisfaction before submitting the bids. Any bid made shall be deemed to have been submitted after complete satisfaction of bidder(s) thereto and or all claims there against and oroper inspection and hence the bidder(s) shall not be entitled to make any representation or raise any query/objection to AXIS BANK, as to the title or condition of the Secured assets or any part thereof or any islabilities/encumbraness/duestraxes/levies irrespective as to whether they are disclosed or undisclosed, t should also be noted that AXIS BANK does not make any representation as to the correctness, validity or adequacy, sufficiency or otherwise of any such information pertaining to liabilities, encumbrances and atutory dues of the loan exposure(s). The bidder(s) are expected to submit their bids with independen professional, financial and legal advice for studying, assessing and analysing the Stressed Loan Exposure(s) in respect of NPA account and value thereof before submitting their bids. Further, it would also be deemed that by submitting the bid, the bidder(s) have read, understood and have made a complete and careful examination of all information given in this notice. AXIS BANK as well as its official shall not be held responsible or liable for any of the consequences arising therein or relating to it. 26. In case stressed assets accounts shown in the web notice have any instance of frauds, detected by the Bank, the bidder(s) shall neither belong to the existing promoter group of such borrower shall not be a subsidiary/associate/related party etc. (domestic as well as overseas) of any person belonging to the xisting promoter group of such borrower. The details of the instances of fraud detected, if any, in the stressed loan account, shall be shared with the Bidder(s) after execution of NDA with the Bank. 27. Transferee shall furnish an undertaking regarding maintenance of all the required documents/records and Bank also reserves the right to declare the account as "Traud" or "ND raud" on future date. 28. Any taxes that may arise because of the transfer of Stressed Assets, shall be borne and payable solely

by the successful Bidder(s). In the event, any of the tax is required to be paid by way of tax deduction/tax by the successful bloder(s). In the event, any of the dax is required to be plat by say of tax described in withholding/advance tax/or any other tax/interest/penalty in relation to the transaction with the Assignee under this Agreement, such tax amount shall be paid/reimbursed by the successful Bidder to the Bank, in addition to the agreed consideration. 29. The successful bidder will be intimated by the AXIS BANK after conducting auction. After approval/confirmation of transfer by the Appropriate Authority of the bank, the same will be intimated to the Successful Bidder, Within 15 banking days from receipt of final confirmation. r before 30th July 2025 (whichever is earlier), the successful bidder shall have to deposit the entire amount. If bid amount is not remitted to the Bank as prescribed above, in addition to bid amount, Bank reserves the right to instruct the bidder to pay interest at 11% compounded with monthly rest from 7th banking day from receipt of final confirmation till actual payment. This shall be without prejudice to the right of the Bank to cancel the bid, forfeit the advance amounts paid and initiate such other claims against ingind in the ball is the carried lie bit, other the advance amounts paid and initiate such come radiants against the bidder. Further, in such case, AXIS BANK shall have every right to retransfer the said Stressed Loan Exposure(s). 30. The details about the execution of the assignment deed and completion of other legal formalities shall be provided through the concerned Branches of the AXIS BANK. Further, takeover of the security documents and other related documents including documents of suit fields shall be arranged at a mutually convenient date and time at the respective branches wherein such documents are kept.31. Any extension in timelines/modifications in the content of this web notice will not necessarily be carried ou rough another advertisement but may be notified directly on the website and interested bidders should

stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however, not be sponsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars.

Place: Noida, Uttar Pradesh PD(2345)C

visit the website to keep themselves updated regarding clarifications, modifica-

Disclaimer: The particulars in respect of the aforesaid process/securities specified above have been

Authorized Officer

Swiftly pass on rate cut to customers: RBI to banks

RBI report has suggested that all banks should bring down Ltheir lending rates for speedy transmission of the policy rate, which was lowered by 50 basis points earlier this month. An article published in the Reserve Bank's June Bulletin stressed that the financial conditions remained conducive to facilitating an efficient transmission of rate cuts.

Most of the banks have already passed on the rate cuts. It may be mentioned here that several large banks, including SBI, Bank of Baroda, and HDFC Bank, have already passed on the benchmark lending rate-linked interest rate to borrowers by the same margin within days of the RBI cutting repo rate by a jumbo 50 bps on June 6. Besides reducing the repo rate by 50 bps earlier this month, the RBI had announced a reduction in the

cash reserve ratio (CRR) by



100 bps to 3 per cent of net release primary liquidity of demand and time liabilities (NDTL) in a staggered manner during the latter half of the year.

"Financial conditions remained conducive to facilitate an efficient transmission of rate cuts to the credit market," said article on 'State of the Economy' in the Reserve Bank's June 2025 Bulletin.

The reduction in CRR would

India. The article noted that the 50-bps cut in the policy repo rate during February-April 2025 reflected in banks' repo-linked external benchmark-based lending rates (EBLRs) and marginal cost of funds-based lending Consequently, the weighted

average lending rate (WALR) on fresh and outstanding rupee loans of banks declined by 6 bps and 17 bps, respectively, during the period February-April 2025.

the views of the Reserve Bank of

On the deposit side, the weighted average domestic term deposit rates (WADTDRs) on fresh and outstanding deposits moderated by 27 bps and 1 bp, respectively, during the same

According to the article, during the current easing cycle (February-April 2025), the decline in the WALR on fresh rupee loans was marginally higher for public sector banks (PSBs) as compared to private

Build trust into governance: Rapido co-founder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi

Rapido's co-founder Pavan Guntupalli believes 'trust' is a critical currency in building lasting businesses, and said founders must embed it into every aspect of their company from governance to product design and daily operations.

Guntupalli said in an interview that the founders of Rapido have middle-class roots, something that has deeply shaped their understanding of value and customer pain-points.

"Not just in the corporate governance aspect, but also in the aspect of your product, of the way we are running business, the key important ingredient for long-term foundation and growth is trust, earning the trust of your captains (drivers), users, and stakeholders," Guntupalli said in a recent interview. Trust, he said, cannot be 'binary' and must be upheld with consistent efforts to ensure total, and not partial, success. His advice to founders: Take every step after consider-

Atlanta University with a busi-

ness degree and 3.8 GPA. She

had several summer internships

in fields such as logistics and

real estate while getting her

Nobody was taking inter-

views or responding back to any

applications that I filled out,"

Lindo, who is from Auburn,

Georgia, said. "My resume is

full, there's no gaps or anything.

Every summer I'm doing some-

thing. It's just, OK, so what else

a master's program in supply

chain studies and has an intern-

ship this summer at a Fortune

500 company in Austin, Texas.

She's hopeful it will lead to a job

She has returned to Clark for

are you looking for?"

DSPL-149

degree, but no offer came.



ing if it is going to hurt the trust of stakeholders.

"That's the kind of a filter question that I would like all of us to ask. And that is something we ask ourselves every single time we do something," he said. Guntupalli was responding to a question on the advice he would give startup founders in the backdrop of corporate governance issues that have confronted the space in the recent past, with instances of weak oversight, unchecked founder dominance, and lack of

In the latest of the high-decibel cases, Gensol Engineering, its promoters and ride-hailing

(promoted by Anmol Singh Jaggi) faced regulatory heat over alleged fund diversions and corporate governance lapses. On the practices that he believes startups must embrace for upholding high standards of governance, Guntupalli said as a large gig economy job creator in the country, Rapido has always been of the view that it must act with a sense of

"So one of the things we at Rapido always believed is when you are the largest gig economy job creator in the country, when you are doing the doing almost 40 lakh rides every sin-

responsibility.

gle day we already feel a responsibility both towards our users, towards our captains (drivers), and towards our stakeholders who have been a part of this journey," he said.

Guntupalli further noted that "... In our governance, whether or not we are fundraising, we make sure our audits are done by external and verified third parties. And our boardroom discussions are definitely a lot more deeper, wherein we discuss not just growth numbers, but also profitability, which is also one of the reasons why as a company, we have been able to maintain both growth as well as prof-

On innovation, another major touchpoint for the startup space, Guntupalli said for him innovation is not merely the final product but rather "the entire journey". Founded in 2015 by founders Guntupalli, Aravind Sanka, and Rishikesh SR, Rapido has been expanding its integrated mobility portfolio over the years, and now provides bike taxis, auto-rickshaws, and cab services across more than 250 cities, offering over 4 million rides daily.

Graduates face toughest job market in decades

about ₹ 2.5 lakh crore into the

banking system by December

2025. "Besides providing durable

liquidity, it will reduce the cost

of funds for banks, thereby

facilitating monetary policy

transmission to the credit mar-

The central bank, however,

said that the views expressed in

the Bulletin article are those of

ket," the article added.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thile completing a master's degree in **V** data analysis, Palwasha Zahid moved from Dallas to a town near Silicon Valley. The location made it easy to visit the campuses of tech stalwarts such as Google, Apple and Nvidia.

Žahid, 25, completed her studies in December, but so far she hasn't found a job in the industry that surrounds her.

"It stings a little bit," she said. "I never imagined it would be this difficult just to get a foot in the door.

Young people graduating from college this spring and summer are facing one of the toughest job markets in more than a decade. The unemployment rate for degree holders ages 22 to 27 has reached its highest level in a dozen years, excluding the coronavirus pandemic. Joblessness among that group is now higher than the overall unemployment rate, and the gap is larger than it has been in more than three decades. The rise in unemployment has worried many economists as well as officials at the



could be an early sign of trouble for the economy. It suggests businesses are holding off on hiring new workers because of rampant uncertainty stemming from the Trump administration's tariff increases, which could slow growth.

Young people are bearing the brunt of a lot of economic uncertainty," Brad Hersbein, senior economist at the Upjohn Institute, a labour-focused think tank, said. "The people that you often are most hesitant in hiring when economic conditions are uncertain are entry-level positions." The growth of artificial intelligence may be playing an additional role by eating away at positions for beginners

Federal Reserve because it in white-collar professions such as information technology, finance, and law.

Higher unemployment for younger graduates has also renewed concerns about the value of a college degree. More workers than ever have a fouryear degree, which makes it less of a distinguishing factor in job applications. Murat Tasci, an economist at JPMorgan, calculates that 45 per cent of workers have a four-year degree, up from 26 per cent in 1992.

While the difficulty of finding work has demoralised young people like Zahid, most economists argue that holding a college degree still offers clear lifetime benefits. Graduates earn higher pay and experience

much less unemployment over their lifetimes.

The overall US unemployment rate is a still-low 4.2 per cent, and the Government's monthly jobs reports show the economy is generating modest job gains. But the additional jobs are concentrated in health care, Government, and restaurants and hotels. Job gains in professions with more college grads, such as information technology, legal services, and accounting have languished in the past 12 months.

The unemployment rate has stayed low mostly because layoffs are still relatively rare. The actual hiring rate — new hires as a percentage of all jobs — has fallen to 2014 levels, when the unemployment rate was much higher, at 6.2 per cent. Economists call it a no-hire, nofire economy. For college graduates 22 to 27 years old, the unemployment rate was 5.8 per cent in March — the highest, excluding the pandemic, since 2012, and far above the nationwide rate.

Lexie Lindo, 23, saw how reluctant companies were to hire while applying for more than 100 jobs last summer and fall after graduating from Clark

Pre-poll sops to women to hit ₹1 lakh crore in FY26: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Chandigarh

→op 18 States will spend ₹1 lakh crore on prepoll sops to women this fiscal, Crisil Ratings said on Thursday. States' spending on social sector schemes will be at an elevated 2 per cent of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) in FY26 and is likely to impact capital expenditure, it added.

The social sector spends used to be in the range of 1.4-1.6 per cent of GSDP between fiscals 2019 and 2024, and climbed up to 2 per cent last fiscal, the rating agency said.
"This fiscal (FY26), the

elevated spending will result in high revenue deficit, thereby limiting the flexibility of the States to undertake higher capital outlays," the agency said. The analysis includes 18 top States accounting for over 90 per cent of aggregate GSDP of all States, and added that social sector spends includes revenue expenditure for welfare of backward classes, women, children and labour, as well as assistance to certain demographics in the form of

social security pensions.

Its senior director Anuj Sethi said the overall expenditure across States will come at ₹2.3 lakh crore, and of this, ₹1 lakh crore is towards direct benefit transfers (DBT) to women primarily as "election commitments".

It may be recalled that concerns were raised about the impact of the pre-poll sops to women, and with the electoral success of such schemes, a larger number of Governments were feared to announce similar mea-Crisil said such tendencies

will make this a key monitorable factor going ahead.

Markets rally on easing geopolitical tensions; Sensex surges 1,000 points

allying for the third consecutive session, equity seculve session, 1 Sensex and Nifty surged over 1 per cent on Thursday, powered by intense buying in market heavyweights HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank as geopolitical tension in the Middle East eased off.

international markets and a strengthening trend in the rupee following a weak US dollar against major currencies also bolstered sentiment, traders said The 30-share BSE Sensex

Stable crude oil prices in

jumped 1,000.36 points or 1.21 per cent to settle at 83,755.87. During the day, it surged 1,056.58 points or 1.27 per cent to 83,812.09. As many as 2,097 stocks advanced while 1,900 declined

and 156 remained unchanged on the BSE. The 50-share NSE Nifty ral-

→he National Stock

Exchange (NSE) on Thursday said it will

launch electricity futures con-

tract — a product which will

allow power buyers, sellers,

traders, industrial and retailers

to manage price risks — in the

next 2-3 weeks. "We have all

approvals in place...We are

talking to all stakeholders. Our

internal team is fully pre-

pared...Within 2-3 weeks we

will announce the launch date,"

NSE head of sustainability,



lied 304.25 points or 1.21 per cent to 25,549. 'The benchmark index

reflected strong investor confidence, underpinned by the apparent stability of the Middle East ceasefire, which has eased concerns over potential supply chain disruptions.

"FIIs continued to pare holdings due to the narrowing yield spread between US and Indian 10-year bonds; DIIs emerged as net buyers, buoyed by improving liquidity conditions and a rebound in domestic consumption," Vinod Nair, Head of

tract will become functional on

the NSE within a few days of

the announcement of the

launch date. The monthly

contract will be available

throughout the year, he said,

adding, it will commence on

the first business day of every

month and expire a day before

To promote the product,

Business

Chief

the contract ends.

Research, Geojit Investments

Limited, said.

From the Sensex constituents, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance, Bharti Airtel, Adani Ports, Eternal, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, HDFC Bank, Reliance Industries and Axis Bank were among the major gainers.

Shares of Reliance Industries climbed nearly 2 per cent on Thursday, with its market valuation again breaching the coveted ₹20 lakh crore mark.

In contrast, Trent, State Bank of India, Tech Mahindra, Maruti and Mahindra 8

The BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.56 per cent, and smallcap index went up by 0.12 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, metal jumped 2.28 per cent, oil and gas (1.88 per cent), energy (1.68 per cent), commodities(1.39 per cent), financial services (1.25 per cent), utilities (1.24 per cent) and power (1.13 per cent).

On the other hand, IT, realty and BSE-focused IT were the laggards.

"Markets witnessed a decisive session on the monthly expiry day, gaining over a per cent. The tone was positive from the start, supported by stable global cues, followed by a range-bound move in the first

"However, momentum picked up as the session progressed, driven by strong buying in select heavyweights



''ବିଶ୍ୱ ଭ୍ରାତୃତ୍ୱ ଓ ସର୍ବ ଧର୍ମ ସମନ୍ୱୟର ପ୍ରତୀକ ପବିତ୍ର ଘୋଷ ଯାତ୍ରା ଅବସରରେ

ରଥଯାତ୍ରା-୨୦୨୫

ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ପାଇଁ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ମାର୍ଗଦର୍ଶିକା

- ବୟୋବୃଦ୍ଧ/ ଭିନ୍ନକ୍ଷମ ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଓ ପିଲାମାନଙ୍କୁ ଏକୁଟିଆ ଭିଡ ଭିଡରକୁ ଛାଡନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ
- ବିଶୁଦ୍ଧ ପାଣି ପିଅନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ ଖାଇବା ପୂର୍ବରୁ ହାତ ଭଲଭାବେ ଧୁଅନ୍ତୁ
- ଖୋଲା ବିକ୍ରି ହେଉଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ, କୃତ୍ରିମ ରଙ୍ଗ ଦିଆ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ବାସି ଓ ଦୁର୍ଗନ୍ଧ ଖାଦ୍ୟ, ମାଛି ବସୁଥିବା ଖାଦ୍ୟ କିୟା ପଚାସଢା ଫଳ ଓ ପନିପରିବା ଖାଆନ୍ତ ନାହିଁ
- ଅଂଶୁଘାତରୁ ରକ୍ଷା ପାଇବାକୁ ମୁଞ୍ଜରେ ଧଳା ଟୋପି କିନ୍ୟା ଓଦା କପଡା ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ ଏବଂ
- ସମୁଦ୍ର ସ୍ନାନ ସମୟରେ ଦୁର୍ଘଟଣା ଏଡାଇବା ପାଇଁ ସଡର୍କ ରହନ୍ତ
- ରାତ୍ରି ରହଣି କରୁଥିଲେ ମଶାରି/ ମଶାନିବାରକ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରନ୍ତୁ
- ଅସୁସୁ ଅନୃଭବ କଲେ ନିକଟସୁ ଆଶୁ ଚିକିହା କେନ୍ଦ୍ରରେ ଚିକିହିତ ହୁଅନ୍ତୁ

ସର୍ଦ୍ଦି, ଜୃର, କାଶ କିୟା ଫୁ ଭଳି ଲକ୍ଷଣ ଥିବା ବ୍ୟକ୍ତି ଜନଗହଳି ସ୍ଥାନକୁ ଯାଆନ୍ତୁ ନାହିଁ

ଜରୁରୀ ଫୋନ୍ ନୟର :

ପୁରୀ ହସ୍ପିଟାଲ କଞ୍ଜୋଲ ରୁମ୍ : ୦୬୭୫୨-୨୨୧୭୫ ରାଜ୍ୟ ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟସେବା ହେଲ୍ପ ଲାଇନ୍ : ୧୦୪, ଆୟୁଲାନ୍ସ : ୧୦୮

ity futures contracts for the first maximum order size of 2,500 six months after launch. The lot size of the one-

equivalent to 50,000 units of electricity in one contract. The price will be decided by

month electricity futures con-

tract will be 50 MWh, which is

MWh. Besides, the NSE is

NSE to launch electricity PRESS TRUST OF INDIA New Delhi listing Harish K Ahuja said. The electricity futures con-

taking the 30-day weighted average spot price of the three energy exchanges — Indian Energy Exchange Ltd, Hindustan Power Exchange Ltd and HPL Electric and Power Ltd. The monthly elec-

exploring a contract for difference (CfD) that enables renewable projects to achieve stable revenue. Last month, NSE received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to launch monthly electricity futures contracts. India's journey toward achieving its net-zero emissions target demands substantial investment, estimated at over \$250 billion year-on-year till 2047 as per the Niti Aayog

(44)

ସ୍ୱାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ ଓ ପରିବାର କଲ୍ୟାଣ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର

Development Officer Sriram Krishnan said the exchange tricity contracts will have plans to waive off transaction 50MWh as the trading unit, ₹1

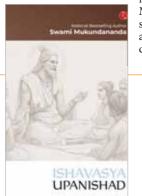


he **Ishavasya Upanishad** is the first and one of the shortest yet most profound Upanishads, forming a cornerstone of Vedantic philosophy. It has just 18 mantras, which hold the essence of Indian spiritual philosophy.

It says that the entire universe is pervaded by the divine (Isha), and that one should enjoy life through renunciation rather than attachment. It explores the tension and harmony between action and renunciation, the path of knowledge (jnana) and the path of work (karma), and culminates in a call for self-realisation through surrender to the divine truth within all beings. At its core, the Ishavasya Upanishad asks a simple question: How can we live in the world, act in it, and yet not be bound by it? Its answer lies in a life and beyond would be able to relish it

vision of oneness, detachment, and duty, which has influenced thinkers from Adi Shankaracharya to Mahatma Gandhi.

The book by wellknown writer Swami Mukundananda's explores this aspect in depth and in simple yet profound way describes the rather complex and difficult postulates of Ishavasya Upanishad. Of course, the book is not meant for everyone only those who have interest in philosophy and are keen to understand the Indian approach to



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Ishavasya Upanishad Author: Swami Mukundananda Publisher: Rupa

more. In his book Swami Mukundananda, the renowned spiritual teacher brings clarity, accessibility, and philosophical depth to this ancient scripture. Vedic canon, and

practical relevance.

His style is lucid,

yet rooted in rig-

orous scriptural

knowledge, which

makes the book

suitable for both

casual as well as sea-

One of the strengths

of Swami's interpretation of

Upanishad is its balance: it neither

dilutes the text for easy consumption, nor

does it alienate the reader with abstruse

scholarship. For instance, when elaborating

on the concept of Isha vasyam idam sarvam

God"), Author explores the implications of

divine immanence in a world driven by

materialism. He emphasises inner renunci-

ation while fulfilling outer duties-an ideal

that resonates powerfully in today's fast-

"Everything in this universe is pervaded by

soned seekers.

His commentary does not merely explain the verses; it is an attempt to interpret Upanishads and their timeless wisdom in the modern context so it becomes more relatable and understandable.

Swami Mukundananda begins each mantra with a Sanskrit verse, a transliteration, and a translation, before offering a detailed exposition. He weaves together traditional interpretations, philosophical context from the broader

paced, success-oriented societies.

Upanishads or for that matter all of Indian philosophical approach is paradoxical it is not digest the concepts without opening up your mind to new ideas. It is therefore very important for any book on such subjects to rather thread bear such concepts for the understanding of the seeker. This is where the book scores high. The way the book addresses the paradoxes of the Upanishadsuch as the co-existence of knowledge and ignorance, or action and renunciation-by drawing on the Bhagavad Gita and other Vedantic texts. This integrative approach enriches the reader's understanding

reflects Swami Mukundananda's broad spiritual vision.

Swami Mukundananda's Ishavasya Upanishad is not just a commentary on Ishavasya Upanishad; it is a spiritual guidebook. By unpacking dense metaphysical ideas with clarity and heart, he transforms a terse and ancient text into a luminous manual for modern

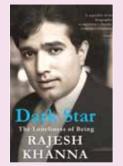
spiritual living. The book speaks to today's thinking individual navigating chaos and craving clarity. Whether you are a student of Vedanta, a spiritual seeker, or simply someone yearning for inner peace and purpose, this book offers timeless insights with immediate relevance. This 183page book is both a gateway and a journey into the heart of Vedic wisdom for all those who are drawn to Vedic literature but are daunted by its complexity. This book would be must read for them.



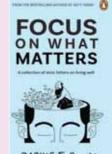
FOR THE MODERN SEEKER Swami Mukundananda's Ishavasya Upanishad

reads like a quiet, thoughtful conversation with a teacher who understands the pulse of both the seeker and the sceptic. This is a book that brings the spirit of the ancient text into focus without overwhelming the reader. The explanations flow with clarity, offering space for reflection rather than preaching. His thoughts on living with detachment, while staying true to duty, feel especially relevant in a world that rarely slows down. The writing feels anchored, honest, and deeply rooted in the Indian spiritual tradition. For readers curious about . Vedanta or looking to engage with the Upanishads in a meaningful way, this book provides a steady path. The author doesn not rush through the verses, he pauses, interprets and draws from a wider spiritual canvas including the Bhagavad Gita and Vedic thought. This is a reflective, gentle guide that encourages the reader to look inward. The approach stays respectful to the text while making space for modern understanding.



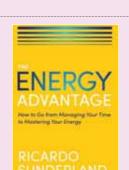


Book: Dark Star Author: Rajesh Khanna Publisher: Rupa **Price:** ₹395

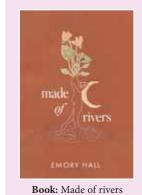


Book: Focus on what matters **Author:** Darius Foroux Publisher: Penguin

Price: ₹350



Book: The Energy Advantage Author: Ricardo Sunderlan Publisher: HarperCollins **Price:** ₹499



Author: Emory Hills Publisher: Penguin Price: ₹499

Simplified Life Teachings



BY ABHI SINGHAL

¬lowers Bloom is a collection of thought-provoking and spiritually enriching stories that illuminate timeless human values through simple, poignant narratives. It has short stories that give you valuable lessons and teach you a lot about life and teachings that will help take life in a smoother way. Written by Dr Krishna Saksena, the book draws lesson from Indian culture, moral philosophy, and lived experience, each tale offers a gentle yet profound lesson on life, character and conscience.

Through themes such as humility, devotion, compassion, integrity and the

importance of inner strength, the book encourages readers to reflect, grow, and live with greater awareness. Written in an accessible and engaging style, Flowers Bloom is both a moral guide and a tribute to the enduring beauty of virtuous living.

With chapters such as The Baggage, The Silence, The Devotee, The Diamond, The Map, The Mother, The Squirrel the book gives many useful insights. The stories gives lessons like:

* The world, our

Book: Flowers Bloom Author: Dr Krishna Saksena Price: ₹395/-

Dr. Krishna Saksena

Flowers

Bloom

friends and family may communicate with us in harsh wavs

We cannot control how others will behave with us

* If we accept or respond to their communication and react to it, we can lose our peace of mind, thinking about the communication to us and feeling hurt * Hence do not react to what seems

instigating and hurtful.

Silence speaks louder than words. * Prioritise your peace of mind.

* Our Past is our memory. Every present becomes a past the following day. * Memories should remain in the past. * Clinging on to memories increases our mental baggage.

"The flower does not hurry, nor does

it strive, it simply unfolds, fully alive. Bathed in the light of the boundless One, It blooms in silence, needing none. No trumpet

declares its gentle rise, yet all who see it feel the skies. For in each petal, God does gleam, a fragrant trace of the eternal dream. My thoughts, my wisdom of a life lived long I hope to blossom in the pages that come O gentle reader, please read with care For hidden in simplicity are thoughts divine." says Dr Krishna Saksena.

The Road to Freedom Is Never Quite Straight

Amidst 1947 India's chaos, an intelligence officer races against time in a riveting espionage thriller, says SAKSHI PRIYA

magine standing on a precipice, one foot in the dying embers of colonial rule, the other trembling on the brink of an unknown, independent future. What if India's independence had begun with a devastating explosion instead of a midnight speech? What if one man, living between two worlds, stood as the last defence against chaos? This is the question that drives The Greatest Game by Stephen Alter, a historical espionage novel set in the charged and volatile weeks of March 1947, when the subcontinent teetered on the edge of freedom and division. Kimball O'Hara, the protagonist first introduced to the world in Rudyard Kipling's Kim, returns here as a seasoned intelligence officer in the Imperial Secret Service. No longer a playful street urchin, he is now older, weathered and deeply embedded in the dangerous world of espionage. In a country burning with communal riots and growing distrust, Kim finds himself racing against time to prevent an assassination that could shatter India before it takes its first steps as an independent nation.

The story opens in Lahore, where Kim is nearly killed in an attempted assassination. Riding his Norton motorbike through the curfew-bound city, he is ambushed near the Victoria Memorial. The air is thick with the fear and tension that defined those final months before Partition. The attack sets in motion a larger mission, uncovering a plot by Sir Denys Bromley-Pugh, a British officer and Nazi sympathiser, to bomb a Congress rally where Jawaharlal Nehru is expected to speak. If the plan suc-

ceeds, the dream of a united India may die before it is realised. From the very first chapter, Alter captures the sights, sounds and smells of pre-independence India with stunning clarity. Lahore's empty roads, its shadowy bazaars, and the threat of violence lurking around every corner are portrayed with quiet precision. The book draws readers deep into a world

Book: The Greatest Game

Author: Stephen Alter Publisher: Aleph Price: ₹799/-

where trust is rare and danger waits around every corner. Kim remains a man of many identities. Fluent in languages and customs, he slips easily between roles, sometimes a horse trader. sometimes a sadhu, sometimes an English officer. His ability to read a room, adapt in seconds and disappear in plain sight makes him an asset in an increasingly unstable landscape.

Yet there is also a deep loneliness in him. Having grown up

between two cultures, Kim belongs fully to neither. His understanding of India is intimate, but his position as a British agent isolates him from the very people he tries to protect. The novel follows him through safe houses, train journeys, Government buildings and crowded markets. Each location is brought to life with unforced detail. The journey by train from Lahore to Amritsar during a violent mob attack stands out as one of the most harrowing sections of the book. The fear of passengers locked inside, the threat of fire, the confusion and panic, all are rendered with care and control. The Greatest Game is a powerful and intelligent novel set during one of the most turbulent periods in Indian history. With O'Hara at its heart, Alter has created a story of espionage and survival.

ALLEGIANCE AND BURDEN

Through Kim's journey, the story explores the burden of allegiance and the cost of belief. There is no illusion of clear good and evil. The enemy wears a British uniform, but so does Kim. The people he must save include both the hopeful and



AT ITS CORE

The novel does not move with haste, but with purpose. The reader is offered a portrait of India that is both personal and political, filled with moments of silence and sudden violence. The paci mirrors the tension of the time, controlled but always alert to the next spark. A story that brings the past alive without dilution



PLEASE SCORE DOUBLE HUNDREDS: RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN TO PANT

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ndia should focus on extending their batting time and Rishabh pant must convert his hundreds into double centuries against an "average" England attack in the ongoing Test series, said senior off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin in his detailed post-mortem of the team's five-wicket loss in the lung-opener at Leeds.

Despite five centuries from their batters across both innings, India allowed England to chase their second highest target of 371 to concede a 0-1 lead in the five-match series.

"One thing that the Indian team's batting can focus on is in every innings, can you extend your batting with time — not by runs. Increase the amount of time England is fielding and increase the amount of time you keep them on the field,"Ashwin said on his YouTube channel Ash Ki Baat.

'...I will say one thing don't panic and change drastically. India could and might level the series in the next Test. But if we don't understand the tactics England are using, this series could very well go away from us quickly.

Ashwin stressed that the game slipped out of India's hands the moment they were bowled out early on the fourth day. "When you didn't extend your batting into Day 5, the

team has openly advertised that they will go for the target whatever may be the target. So as a batting lineup, we've to keep in mind that we have to give them less time but give a bigger target," he explained.

If you want to set a target, you will have to keep a minimum of 400-450. I would say 450 with as little time as possible is the best way to win a Test match in England at this point of time. If the wicket is such.'

COMPARE PANT WITH KOHLI NOT DHONI

Lauding the twin centuries by Pant, Ashwin said comparing him to Mahendra Singh Dhoni was not appropriate, as the latter never batted at the reasonably high Number 5 position.

Rishabh Pant should be compared with the likes of Virat Kohli...He is a mainstream batter. Because he has got so much time," he said.

Ashwin compared Pant's ability to pick a delivery with Pakistani great Inzamam-ul-

Some of these special batters have that knack of picking the ball early. They pick the line quickly, pick the length quickly and they get into lovely positions. Rishabh Pant is one of those rare players who has got that special skill," he said.

Hailing Pant's twin centuries as a rare feat, Ashwin suggest-

taken. Cummins followed tra

dition in Bridgetown when

he won the toss and chose to

bat first. What looked like a

bat-first pitch — mainly

bare and dry — was revealed

as a trap gifting the pacers

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ed that the wicketkeeper-batter should look to stretch those

efforts further.

shot in the book that he cannot

you're batting at 130? Because,

play. "Can I request you to make

a double 100 next time when

in your situation, I request you to please take the team to the last day." He also requested Pant to avoid his now famous front flips especially in Tests.

'I've only one request, please don't do that front flip. In Tests, your body gets tired unlike in IPL where you will not play more than 50-60 balls. He is a bona fide top batter in the Indian lineup. So he has nothing to prove.

KULDEEP MUST PLAY

Calling Kuldeep Yadav an "artist", Ashwin strongly advocated his inclusion for the second Test beginning July 2 in Birmingham.

"I want to see how England go about when they face him. If Kuldeep can get you a 3/100 and reduce the first-inning score to 350, then you have a lead of 125," he said.

"I 100 per cent believed that Kuldeep had a role and he would be a decisive factor. If Kuldeep had played, it might have been a different game.

Ashwin also defended Yashasvi Jaiswal, who dropped multiple chances at slip, calling for perspective.

'Jaiswal has been one of the most improved fielders in the slip cordon. The Dukes ball feels a little bigger and harder. So, that feel is very important. You know how much sledging is done by the crowd. So, I do

inconclusive that the ball car-



ICC introduces stop clock in new WTC cycle

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

he ICC has introduced stop clock in Test cricket to deal with slow over rates while allowing fielding teams to decide which batter should be on strike in case of a 'deliberate' short-run as part of the playing conditions for 2025-27 World Test Championship cycle.

The new rules have been implemented from the 2025-World Test Championship which got underway with the first of the two Tests between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Galle.

According to the ICC Test Match Playing Conditions on the governing body's website, the use of the stop clock - like in limited-overs cricket — has been implemented to eradicate the issue of slow over-rate.

'The fielding side shall be ready to start each over within 60 seconds of the previous over being completed. An electronic clock will be displayed at the ground that counts up seconds from zero to 60," the ICC said.

The fielding side will thus be given two warnings and in case of a third infraction, the batting side will be awarded with five penalty runs.

These warnings will be reset to zero after the completion of 80 overs, the ICC said. Meanwhile, ESPNcricinfo reported that the ICC no longer mandates the umpires to change the ball once they discover saliva on it as the ban on the use of saliva remains in force.

The website said fielding teams may deliberately apply saliva on the ball to force a ball-change but the current document available on playing conditions for men's Test cricket does not mention any such change.

The ICC also said in case there are instances of referrals being made by both player and the on-field umpire, the process will be carried out in a chronological order, effectively as per the order of their

Cummins prised out Keacy

Barbados Test match: Wickets tumble as Australia routed for 180 by West Indies **Seales mopped up the**

ASSOCIATED PRESS Bridgetown

⊣ he West Indies shot out Australia for 180 and discovered how tricky the Kensington Oval pitch was by losing four wickets on day one of the test series opener. The home side was 57-4 at stumps on Wednesday with Brandon King 23 not out on debut, trying to make up for his three dropped catches in the field.

Teammate Jayden Seales took 5-60, his third test five-for, all at home, but Shamar Joseph was the more impressive bowler with 4-46. In nine tests, he has 34 wickets, 17 of them Australians. He owned the morning session.

Australia was all out inside 5/ overs for its lowest total in the West Indies after batting first.

Only three batters got into double figures: Usman Khawaja (47), Travis Head (59) and captain Pat Cummins (28).

Number of Civil works: 4 (Four)

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seam, swing and the odd shooter. Of the day's 14 wickets, 10 came from edges.

After an hour, Australia was 22-3

Sam Konstas, replacing the dropped Marnus Labuschagne, was out for 3 in the fourth over, lbw on the back leg to Shamar Joseph. Cameron Green came in and was dropped in the same over at gully by King. Green was still bagged by Shamar Joseph on 3 after nicking to second slip.

Josh Inglis, covering for There was some deja vu for an injured Steve Smith at No. 4, pulled Seales but Australia from the World Test Championship final against top-edged high up for wick-South Africa less than two etkeeper Shai Hope, playing weeks ago at Lord's. Australia his first test in four years. It was out for 212 on the first day was the first of Hope's four when 14 wickets were also catches.

Khawaja had been been

hunkering down but when Head arrived they counterpunched. They continued after lunch, when Khawaja was dropped, again by King, on 45.

game as a batter. But I would like

to repeat that Rishabh has got a

great defence. There is not one

Head passed Khawaja to 50 off 57 balls, but Khawaja was out for 47 off 128 after nicking Shamar Joseph. Their 89-run partnership was the longest of

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सचित किया जाता है कोरोमण्डल फर्टीलाजरर्स एंड केमिकलस प्राइवेट लिमिटिड गाँव-मसतपुर, डाकखाना-चौड मसतपुर-134007, अम्बाला, हरियाणा का नाम बदलकर नोवामंडल फर्टीलाइजर्स एंड केमिकलस प्राईवेट लिमिटिड गाँव-मसतपुर, डाकखाना-चौड मसतपुर-134007, अम्बाला, हरियाणा कर दिया है।

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER Ph. No. - 0674-2301787 Fax No.- 0674-2300965 E.Mail I.D. -RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHUBANESWAR - Online - BBSR Divn. - 07 Date :- 19.06.2025 e-Procurement NOTICE Renair / renovation / constn. of building work : 3 Nos. of Building Total No. of Building Class of contracto 'B' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of a) Above Rs. 20 lakh and upto 3 crore 'C' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of D' Class (of Odisha PWD) or equivalent class of : Rs. 42.00 lakh to 44.00 lakh Estimate cost of Individual project Time for completio

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Last Date /Time of seeking Tender Clarification: 10.07.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.
Date & time of opening of Tender: 11.07.2025 at 11.00 A.M.
Further the details can be seen from the web site (http://www.tenderodisha.gov.in). 1 07 2025 a 01.07.2025 a 11.00 A.M. Engineer, Rural Works Division, Bhubaneswar.

Sd/-Block Development Officer Chilika Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in OIPR-19387/11/0004/2526 **AFFIDAVIT** I, SIBA DAS KUNDU resident of yono • SBI Village: Damodarpur, Po: Motiganj , Dist: Balasore-3,Odisha, ପବିତ୍ର ରଥଯାତ୍ରା ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଶୁଭକାମନା have changed my Name from पवित्र रथयात्रा की हार्हिक शुभकामनाएँ SIBA DAS KUNDU to SIBDAS HEARTFELT GREETINGS ON THE AUSPICIOUS OCCASION OF RATHYATRA KUNDU vide Affidavit no- 7479 dated -26/06/2025 at Balasore

AFFIDAVIT

I, Mohammad Arman, aged about 40 years, S/o-Md. Rahaman, At/po-Neulpur, Ps-Dharmasala, Dist-Jajpur, Pin-755024 Odisha solemnly declared by this affidavit No-6045 dtd.23-6-2025 that now onwards, I shall be MOHAMMAD known as ARMAN instead Mohammed Arman for future purposes.

> Sd/-Mohammed Arman



When Beau Webster was ried to Hope. Seales got his seclast three wickets Carty for 20, and Josh castled, Shamar Joseph had 4ond wicket after Alex Carey Kraigg Brathwaite couldn't get Hazlewood joined the party by 25 off 12 overs. edged to first slip on 8 right on through the fifth over of the removing nightwatchman Shamar Joseph also appeared tea. Head was out straight after West Indies' reply, nicking Jomel Worrican for a duck. tea on 59 off 78 balls, includ-Mitchell Starc on 4. Starc also That forced new captain to then claim Head, who under-edged behind. But the ing nine boundaries. He edged got the edge of the other open-Roston Chase to join King, and third umpire said video was Justin Greaves behind. er, John Campbell, on 7. they survived the day's last 3.



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