



# Crime Branch reopens Naba murder probe

Grills Gopal Das' kin in Brahmapur  
RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Crime Branch has intensified its probe into the sensational murder of former Health Minister Naba Das by interrogating family members of prime accused Gopal Das in Brahmapur on Friday. A team led by an Additional SP arrived in the city following several days of investigation in Jharsuguda.

The team is currently stationed at the Police Transit House in Hillipatna and examining new angles in the six-month-old case. The officers have re-interrogated five individuals closely related to the accused, including Gopal's brother Satyanarayan Das, son Manoj Das and nephew Pradeep Das. Satyanarayan, who was previously running a hotel in Jharsuguda, had

abruptly shut down the establishment and left the town just before the incident, raising suspicion of prior knowledge. He was summoned to the Brahmapur Town police station, where his fresh statement was recorded. Gopal's nephew and son were also subjected to lengthy questioning while his wife whose statement was taken earlier is likely to be interrogated again in the coming days. Crime Branch officials are also re-examining Gopal Das' mobile phone and collecting call detail records from the six months leading up to the murder. A few suspicious numbers that were in frequent contact with Gopal have drawn investigators' attention.

Sources indicate the reinvestigation aims to uncover the conspiracy behind the high-profile killing, which shook the State's political and police establishments earlier last year.

# Odisha to form 20 new NACs

Urbanisation push gains momentum  
RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

Aiming to transform emerging rural clusters into urban centres and strengthen the bridge between rural and urban governance, the Odisha Government is set to establish 20 new Notified Area Councils (NACs). The Housing and Urban Development (H&UD) Department submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Panchayati Raj Department for assessment on Friday. Final approval will come from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

District Collectors have been instructed to submit proposals through a prescribed format, and 20 such proposals have been received so far. "Currently, only 17% of the state is urbanised. The government has set an ambitious target to take this figure to 30%, and formation of new NACs and municipalities is

central to this plan," Urban Development Minister Krishna Chandra Mahapatra said.

Inclusion of new NACs is also a key recommendation from the State Core Committee on Urbanisation (SCOREC), which was constituted by the H&UD Department earlier this year. The committee, comprising senior bureaucrats, urban planners, and development experts, has flagged the urgent need to re-classify several fast-growing rural clusters as urban local bodies (ULBs) to ensure planned development and efficient service delivery.

Notably, before the 2024 Assembly elections, the previous BJD government had announced formation of 57 NACs and upgrade of six existing NACs to municipalities. Since assuming power, the BJP-led government has actively revived this plan and issued repeated instructions to districts for timely submission of NAC proposals.

# Real estate expo 'Govt making housing more accessible for slum dwellers'



PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

Housing and Urban Development Minister Krushna Chandra Mohapatra underscored the critical role of affordable housing in eradicating slums and ensuring dignified living for all citizens of Bhubaneswar.

Speaking at the inauguration of a major real estate and housing expo organized by CREDAI Odisha, the Minister highlighted the proactive steps being taken by the State Government to make housing more accessible for slum dwellers.

"Affordable housing is the key to building a slum-free Bhubaneswar. We are committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to safe and sustainable shelter," said Mohapatra, adding that the government initiatives are aligned with the goal of inclusive urban development.

Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous, who graced the occasion as the guest of the evening, praised CREDAI Odisha for hosting the grand event. "This expo will create valuable job opportunities for the local population and significantly contribute to the State's economy," she said.

Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari also graced the occasion.

Scheduled from April 20 to 29, 2025, the nine-day expo is a dynamic platform that has brought together a wide range of stakeholders - including leading builders, banks, building material manufacturers, electronics firms, interior designers, and tile manufacturers. The event is designed to cater to aspiring homeowners, real estate investors, architects, and design professionals. Attendees can explore the latest in smart home technologies, eco-friendly construction materials, and future-ready lifestyle innovations. Additionally, the expo will feature interactive sessions, expert panels, and discussions on current trends in urban housing, design, and infrastructure.

Other dignitaries present at the event were Chairman, CREDAI Odisha, DS Tripathy and vice chairman Binay Krishna Das.

# Cong to launch 'Save Constitution Day' drive from Apr 28



RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

Stepping up its campaign for a nationwide caste census and justice for backward and marginalised communities, the Odisha Pradesh Congress Committee (OPCC) on Friday announced a State-wide programme titled 'Save the Constitution Day', beginning April 28 in Bhubaneswar.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, OPCC President Bhakta Charan Das, AICC Odisha in-Charge Dr Ajay Kumar, and senior leader Santosh Singh Saluja alleged that the BJP-led Central Government is misusing Central agencies to target senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. They claimed that Gandhi is being harassed for consistently raising issues of caste census and OBC rights, and asserted that such political conspiracies will not deter the party.

The Congress leaders announced that 'Save the Constitution Day' would be observed across all districts and blocks in Odisha. A State-level rally is scheduled for April 28 in Bhubaneswar, to be followed by district-level programmes from May 3 to 10 and Assembly-level events from May 11 to 17. Between May 20 and 30, Congress workers will undertake a door-to-door campaign in villages to create awareness about the Constitution and the demand for caste-based enumeration.

The party also raised concerns over alleged land rights violations in tribal-dominated districts like Mayurbhanj and Koraput, accusing the BJP of attempting to usurp forest and homestead lands of tribal communities. They termed it ironical that such incidents are occurring in the native district of the President of India.

Citing data, the Congress pointed out that although OBCs constitute 54% of Odisha's population, their representation in government jobs is only 11.25%. The party pledged to continue its agitation until a nationwide caste census is implemented and social justice is ensured.

# 46 new Civil Judge (Jr) Courts set up

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha Government has constituted 46 new Civil Judge (Junior Division) courts across multiple districts of the State. This major expansion of the judicial infrastructure was carried out in consultation with the Orissa High Court and received formal approval from Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi.

A notification in this regard was released following the Chief Minister's approval of the proposal. These courts would be established in several revenue Tehsils across 23 districts, ensuring wider reach of judicial services, particularly in semi-urban and rural areas.

The move is expected to bring faster resolution to civil disputes and enhance the overall efficiency of the justice delivery system in the state.

The new courts would be located in the following regions:

- Baleswar district: Baliapal, Simulia, Soro, Bahanaga, Jaleswar, Sambalpur district: Rengali, Bamra, Kuchinda, Jamankira, Rayagada district: Rayagada, Puri district: Satyabadi
- Keonjhar district: S a h a r a p a d a , Harichandanpur, Mayurbhanj district: Bahalda, Raruan, Baisinga (Bishoi), Baripada, Jagatsinghpur district: Balikuda, Nuagaon, Sundargarh district: Balisankara, Lephripara, Bargaon, Kuarmunda, Cuttack district: Barang, Kantapada
- Subarnapur district: Ulunda, Bargarh district: Bhatli
- Jharsuguda district: Kolabira, Khordha district: Banpur
- Koraput district: Patangi, Jajpur district: Rasulpur, Korei, Dharmasala
- Kendrapara district: Mahakalapada, Garadpur, Marshaghai
- Kandhamal district: Tikabali, K. Nuagaon, Khajuripada, Bhadrak district: Tihidi, Malkangiri district: Khairput, Dhenkanal district: Dhenkanal, Balangir district: Patnagarh and Ganjam district: Kukudakhandi, Dharakote and Ganjam.

# BJD slams govt for Panchayatiraj Day change

Says it is distortion of history  
RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has sharply criticised the State Government for shifting the celebration of Panchayatiraj Day from March 5, the birthday of the legendary Biju Patnaik, to April 24. The party claims the move disrespects the former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik and distorts Odisha's history.

BJD spokesperson Dr Lenin Mohanty stated that the BJD reiterated that for the past three decades, Panchayatiraj Day had been celebrated on March 5 to honor Biju Patnaik's crucial role in establishing the Panchayati Raj system across India. The change in date, the BJD argues, is an attempt to erase the monumental contributions made by Patnaik to grassroots democracy in the State.

Dr Mohanty highlighted that Biju Patnaik's government passed three key bills in March

1991, the Odisha District Council Bill, the Odisha Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, and the Odisha Gram Panchayat Bill. These bills reserved 33% of seats for women and empowered local elected representatives, marking a landmark step towards decentralizing power in India. Odisha became the first state in the country to take such a pioneering initiative, thanks to Biju Patnaik's leadership.

He noted that while the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments were passed by the central government on April

# Contractor held for embezzling Rs 57L

PNS ■ Cuttack

The Vigilance police on Friday arrested and forwarded to court Laxmidhara Routaray, a contractor for allegedly misappropriation of government funds of approximately Rs 57 lakh.

Earlier, the Vigilance had registered a case registered on April 24, 2024 against Routaray for siphoning of government funds of Rs 56, 93,957 in connivance with Harishchandra Bentkar, the Soil Conservation Overseer, office of the Assistant Director Soil Conservation cum Project Implementing Agency, Watershed, Khariar in Nuapada district without executing 22 numbers of Loose Boulder Check Dams.

Efforts are underway to arrest the agriculture official Harishchandra Bentkar, who is the main accused, and another contractor Abhilash Meher.



# In govt sector in Eastern India

# AIIMS BBS conducts 1st robotic knee surgery

Milestone in public healthcare  
RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

The AIIMS Bhubaneswar has successfully performed its first robotic knee replacement surgery on a 66-year-old woman marking the first such procedure in the government sector across Odisha and Eastern India.

The landmark surgery was recently carried out by the institute's orthopaedics department using its newly-installed robotic-assisted system. The patient is reported to be in a stable condition and recovering well post operation.

"This marks a new chapter in our clinical journey," Bhubaneswar AIIMS Executive Director Prof Dr Ashutosh Biswas said. "With this, we have not only brought next-generation surgical precision to the government sector but also ensured that such advanced care is accessible to patients from all walks of life."

"Robotic surgery enhances accuracy, reduces the margin for human error, and improves implant alignment resulting in faster recovery and better long-term outcomes for patients", Orthopaedics Department HoD Dr Bishnu Prasad Patro said.

AIIMS Bhubaneswar's move to incorporate robotic technology is part of a broader institutional vision to elevate public healthcare standards and expand minimally invasive, high-precision procedures in orthopaedics, urology and oncology.



# Antyodaya Gruha scheme

# Govt to distribute another 1L houses in May

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

The Odisha government is preparing to take a major leap in its mission to provide housing for the underprivileged by distributing another one lakh houses under the Antyodaya Gruha (Housing Scheme) next month.

The initiative is aimed at extending the benefits of secure shelter to more economically and socially backward families across the State, thereby promoting inclusive growth and welfare.

Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water Minister Rabi Naik informed that the Odisha government has resolved to add one lakh more beneficiaries to the flagship housing programme in the upcoming phase.

The Minister further said that the decision comes after the successful rollout of the first phase,

where 60,000 beneficiaries were included and provided houses under the scheme.

"We have set a target of 1 lakh houses under Antodaya Gruha Yojana. We have already sent letters to Collectors and other officials and soon the work will be executed. Those who are disabled, widows, and other eligible beneficiaries will be included as they were earlier left out for some reason," said the Minister.

To ensure that the benefits reach all eligible citizens, the State government has launched an extensive housing survey, which is currently underway and expected to continue until the end of May. The survey is designed to identify and register those in need of housing assistance, particularly individuals and families who are yet to be covered under any existing government housing schemes. Minister Naik also

informed that so far, over 29 lakh potential beneficiaries have already been identified and added through the ongoing survey. He emphasized the importance of community awareness and participation, highlighting that the State administration has undertaken a massive awareness campaign across rural and remote areas to ensure that no eligible family is left out.

Officials involved in the implementation of the scheme said that the new phase of distribution would involve close coordination with block-level and panchayat-level authorities to ensure transparency, timely allocation, and proper execution of the construction process. Beneficiaries will also be encouraged to participate in the construction of their homes, further boosting local employment and ownership.

# Latest survey: Similipal houses 40 RBTs

Target set to increase number to 100

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

A day after the Odisha government declared Similipal a national park under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, there is more good news for the wildlife lovers and conservationists.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), Prem Kumar Jha on Friday shared encouraging data that reflects the success of tiger conservation efforts in the region. As per the latest findings from camera trap surveys conducted this year, there are currently 40 Royal Bengal tigers in Similipal, including six cubs. The increase comes follow-



ing the successful breeding of well-known tigresses Zeenat and Yamuna, whose lineage has contributed notably to the park's tiger population.

Apart from Zinat and Yamuna, the Forest Department has identified 13 adult male tigers and 17 tigresses, while the gender of two other adult tigers is yet to be confirmed. A particularly noteworthy

Forest Department has set a target to increase the tiger population to 100 within the next 10 years through focused conservation programmes, habitat improvement, and stringent anti-poaching measures.

The ambitious goal reflects Odisha's commitment to preserving its natural heritage and protecting one of the most endangered big cat species in the world.

The figures come on the heels of the 2024 State Tiger Census, Odisha's first dedicated tiger population assessment, which had reported 27 adult tigers and 8 cubs in Similipal. The fresh numbers clearly indicate a positive trend in population growth and successful breeding cycles.

aspect of this year's report is the presence of 18 black tigers, or melanistic Royal Bengal tigers, which are a rare genetic variant found only in Similipal. This includes 9 male and 9 female black tigers. The presence of these unique species not only adds to the park's biodiversity but also enhances its global ecological significance. According to the PCCF, the

# In Ganjam Man held for staging robbery

PNS ■ Brahmapur

The police have arrested a person for staging a fake robbery and claiming that he was looted of Rs 41,000 by bike-borne miscreants in Ganjam district.

The arrested was identified as Ashok Kumar Panigrahi (43) of Gandala village under the Nimakhandi police station in the district.

Ashok in his complaint to the police alleged that he was going to deposit the money in the bank, when he was intercepted by two miscreants at Marthapalli Chhack when persons wearing helmets on a

Pulsar bike snatched his bag after attacking him.

The police after verification of CCTVS, questioning people near the spot and the complainant himself ascertained that Ashok was the culprit. After interrogation, Ashok finally revealed that he has stolen the money himself.

He also revealed that he had spent lot of money in constructing a house and when he was entrusted to deposit the money in the bank by the owner of Arjun Trader, he thought of the robbery plan.

The police have recovered the stolen cash from Ashok and forwarded him to court.

# Odisha advances ethanol mission to boost clean energy

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

In a major step towards environmental sustainability and cleaner fuel alternatives, the Odisha Government is prioritising the use of second-generation (2G) ethanol. A presentation was held on Wednesday at Lok Seva Bhawan by Midwest Energy Company, outlining plans to establish ethanol production plants across the state.

Company representative Prabhakar Reddy proposed utilizing crop residues particularly post harvest paddy straw for the production of ethanol. The initiative also envisions ethanol-blended fuel for boats operating in the ecologically sensitive Chilika Lake.

Aligning with the Union Government's roadmap to achieve 5% ethanol blending in diesel by 2030, Odisha is taking proactive strides. "We are committed to turning this vision into action," Deputy Chief Minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo said. Currently, agricultural

stubble is often left to decay or burnt in fields, contributing to pollution. The new initiative proposes to convert this residue into biofuel, reducing emissions while creating an additional revenue stream for farmers. In addition to paddy, crop waste from sugarcane, maize, millet, and jowar will also be used. The company will procure these raw materials directly from farmers for ethanol production.

"This will not only promote clean fuel but also generate rural employment and reduce seasonal migration," Singh Deo added.

Also present were Law and Works Minister Prithviraj Harichandan, Industries Minister Sampad Charan Swain and senior bureaucrats including Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Principal Secretary Dr Arabinda Kumar Padhee, Energy Principal Secretary Vishal Kumar Dev, Tourism Commissioner and Secretary Balwant Singh and IDCO MD Bhupendra Singh Poonia.

# In Kendrapada Youth gets 20-yr-RI for kidnap, rape of minor

PNS ■ Kendrapada

The Additional District and Session Judge-cum-Special Court under POC SO Act of Kendrapada on Thursday sentenced 20 years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of Rs 57,000 to a 28-year-old person of Jagatsinghpur for kidnapping and raping a minor girl in November 2020.

The convict has been identified as Jagan Samal of Gandikipur under Kujanga PS of Jagatsinghpur.

According to Special Public Prosecutor Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Samal had kidnapped a 17-year-old girl on November 18, 2020. The victim's fa-

ther lodged an FIR at Tantiapala Marine police station on November 19. Acting on the FIR, Tantiapala Marine police registered a case and started an inquiry. Police later apprehended Samal and rescued the victim girl on March 14, 2021.

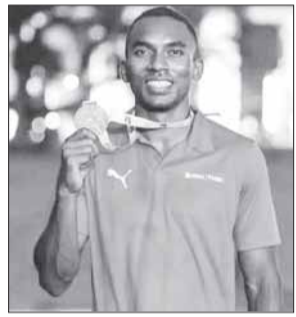
While adjudging the case, Additional District and Session Judge-cum-Special Court Prangya Paramita Raul, verifying evidence and cross examining 11 witnesses, pronounced the sentence. The court also recommended to the government to provide a compensation of Rs 6 lakh to the minor victim for her proper rehabilitation.

# Animesh breaks Nat'l 200m record

Secures spot in Asian Athletics Championships

RAJEEV RATHAN ■ Bhubaneswar

Odisha's sprinting sensation Animesh Kujur blazed the track at the 28th National Federation Senior Athletics Championships, clinching gold in the men's 200m with a stunning time of 20.40 seconds, a new national record. The Odisha native, who trains at the Reliance Foundation Athletics High-Performance Centre in Bhubaneswar, achieved this feat on Thursday at the ongoing championship



being held at the Maharaja's College Ground in Kochi, Kerala.

Kujur shattered the previous national record of 20.52 seconds set by Amlan Borgohain in 2022 and booked his berth for the Asian Athletics Championships

2025 by comfortably breaching the qualifying mark of 20.53 seconds.

Although he narrowly missed the World Championships cut of 20.16 seconds, the 21-year-old's electric sprint has placed him among the top emerging sprinters in Asia. "I want to thank my coach, the Odisha government, and the entire team at Reliance Foundation for always supporting me," Kujur said after the event.

Thursday's final also turned out to be the fastest 200m race ever run on Indian soil, with four athletes finishing under 21 seconds, a rare occurrence in national athlet-

ics. Kujur, however, stood out with his explosive pace and flawless execution.

Earlier this season, he had clinched gold at the Uttarakhand National Games (20.58s) and topped the Indian Open Athletics Meet in Chennai (20.63s), steadily progressing towards his national breakthrough.

Kujur will now lead India's 58-member squad at the Asian Athletics Championships, scheduled to be held from May 27 to 31 in Gumi, South Korea, where he is seen as a strong medal prospect and a beacon of Odisha's rising sporting profile.

# In Jharsuguda 5 get lifer for death of college girl

PNS ■ Jharsuguda

A court here on Friday sentenced five people to life imprisonment in connection with the death of a college girl during a bizarre ritual in 2017 in the district.

The incident took place on March 2, 2017 in Bijapali village under the Rengali police station. The victim, a college student named Sanjukta Jayapuria, was unwell when the accused allegedly performed a superstitious ritual on her. She died on the spot.

The case had triggered statewide outrage at the time, prompting a probe by the Crime Branch. During the in-

vestigation, police arrested two women who performed the ritual, along with their three accomplices. The victim's parents were also arrested in the case.

After trial and examination of evidence, the Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADJ) Court in Jharsuguda convicted five persons, Saudamini Jayapuria (22), Santosini Jayapuria (23), Patramaa Naven Bhoi (22), Sahadev Jayapuria (19) and Akshay Jayapuria (19) and awarded them life imprisonment.

The court acquitted the deceased girl's parents due to lack of evidence against them.

# Home and Decor Expo celebrates new ideas

Guv, MLA Firdous visit event

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

CREDAI, Odisha's annual Home and Decor Expo 2025, is going strong, as the special event goes beyond just real estate to celebrate new ideas in home décor, construction, and lifestyle solutions.

Governor Dr Haribabu Kambhampati visited various stalls of the expo. Cuttack MLA Sofia Firdous also visited the expo.

Scheduled from April 20 to 29, the grand showcase brings together a diverse array of participants, including leading builders, banks, building material manufacturers, electrical and electronics firms, interior designers, tile manufacturers, and other industry leaders.

On the occasion, Credai



Odisha chairman DS Tripathy highlighted the importance to ensure house for homeless by 2036 to realize the vision of Vikshit Odisha. He talked about role of real estate developer and Government to fulfil the need of affordable housing in the State. All stakeholders need to work in close relation with each other to make a house accessible to everyone, he added.

Spanning nine days, the expo will host a diverse range

of participants, including top builders, financial institutions, building material manufacturers, electronics and electrical firms, interior designers, tile and sanitary ware brands, and more. The event aims to cater to aspiring homeowners, real estate investors, architects, and interior design professionals alike.

Attendees can explore the latest in smart home technologies, sustainable building solutions, and future-ready

lifestyle products. The expo will also feature interactive sessions, expert panels, and industry discussions on current and emerging trends in housing, interior decor, and urban living. Other dignitaries present at the event were Credai Odisha vice chairman Binay Krishna Das, secretary Anil Agrawal, president Swadesh Kumar Routray, president (Elct) Uma Sankar Panigrahi and vice president Umesh Khandelwal, among others.

# Dhenkanal Heritage Walk 'History, heritage shows us avenue to growth'

PNS ■ Dhenkanal

History and the heritage are never dead. Rather they are just showing us the future avenues to grow, prosper and progress in a positive way.

Experts speaking at the second anniversary celebration of the Dhenkanal Heritage Walks (DHW) also observed that by remembering our past and "ashmita" we always tend to get a peg of extra energy.

Well-known expert on temple architecture and especially on the Kalingan style of architecture, Professor Sanjay Acharya in a lucid and engaging presentation spoke about the genesis of the temple architecture in Odisha and how it has evolved through the patronage of the various dynasties and clans, who ruled the region. However, in an interesting observation he also added that the "evolution process and the refinement of the Kalingan style was carried for-



ward by the various dynasties from where their predecessors left. This, in a way has given rise to a very rich and mature manifestation of the temple art and architecture and it, thus forms a major form, which through the maritime link also got replicated in the faraway lands of South-East Asia."

The second anniversary celebration of DHW at Old Zilla Parishad Building on Sunday

was presided over by convener of Cuttack Heritage Walks Dipak Samantarai. The scion of Gadamadhapur Palace Aparna Dhir Narendra Singh Bharadwaj and convener of Puri Heritage Walks Sanjay Baral were present on the dais.

While the event was coordinated by convener of DHW Suresh Mishra, well-wishers and patrons were felicitated. They include: Sadasiv

Mohapatra, Ratan Nayar, Sishir Satapathy, JK Pattanaik, Aditya Prasad Ghosh, Bibhuti Bhusan Barik and Dr Suresh Mishra.

Biswaranjan Dehury of Odisha Heritage Walks and convener of Jagatsinghpur Heritage Walks Srikant Singh along with 50 students of History from Dhenkanal Autonomous College, were also present.

# CIFA holds farmer-scientist interface prog

PNS ■ Bhubaneswar

The ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture, Bhubaneswar, organised a one-day Farmer-Scientist Interface programme on freshwater aquaculture at Padmashree Batakrushna Sahoo's Aquaculture Field School at Sarakana village under Baliana block in Khordha district on April 23.

The programme, conducted under the Farmers FIRST Project, aimed to enhance the skills of both men and women in the farming community. It witnessed the enthusiastic participation of around 120 beneficiaries, including 70 women from seven Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) and 50 farmers, reflecting a positive community response.

On the occasion, a scientific seminar by ICAR-CIFA, comprising Dr GS Saha, Dr CK Mishra and DP Rath took part in the event.

Dr Saha highlighted the sig-



nificance of fish-based integrated farming systems and motivated the women SHGs to adopt scientific fish farming practices to increase yield and improve their livelihoods.

Dr Mishra provided insights into two hatchery technologies: plastic and cement hatcheries. He elaborated on fingerling production techniques for 20 different species of fish and scampi being carried out in ICAR-CIFA. He also made the community aware about the improved fish

breeds developed by ICAR-CIFA, such as Jayanti Rohu, AmritvCatla, GI Scampi, and Improved Silver Barb, an ornamental fish to assist farmers in enhancing productivity.

Additionally, he encouraged WSHGs to explore biofloc technology for ornamental fish farming and discussed about fish disease management using medicines like Immuno Boost-C, Cifax, and Butox. He also emphasized the importance of using mustard and groundnut oil cakes

for fish nutrition and maintaining adequate plankton growth in ponds.

Progressive fish farmers, including Narayan Sahoo and Bikramsen Nayak shared their hands-on experiences in the field. ADFO, Khordha, Ajay Kumar Bastia spoke about various government schemes available for fish farmers. Hrushikesh Panda, Share Partner in the business venture of Padmashree awardee Batakrushna Sahoo, coordinated the event.







## Building a new world economic order

A new, multipolar economic order is taking shape, led by nations like India, whose demographic strength, resource wealth, and deeply rooted ethos of fairness position it as a key architect of a more just and sustainable global economy

FIRST Column



ic growth of these countries through the eighties and nineties of the twentieth century could not be matched by the economically saturated and stagnating first-world block, WTO and a set of trade rules thereunder, like GATT and TRIPS, were established.



ATUL SEHGAL

But these also could not give the intended growth impetus to the first-world block, because of the working of immanent natural laws of economics. It is time again today to look at the above natural laws. The capitalistic, debt-based model of world is unnatural and unsustainable. The plunder or exploitation-based model is inhuman and naturally unsustainable too. The world is staring at a new economic order because of the changing power equations across

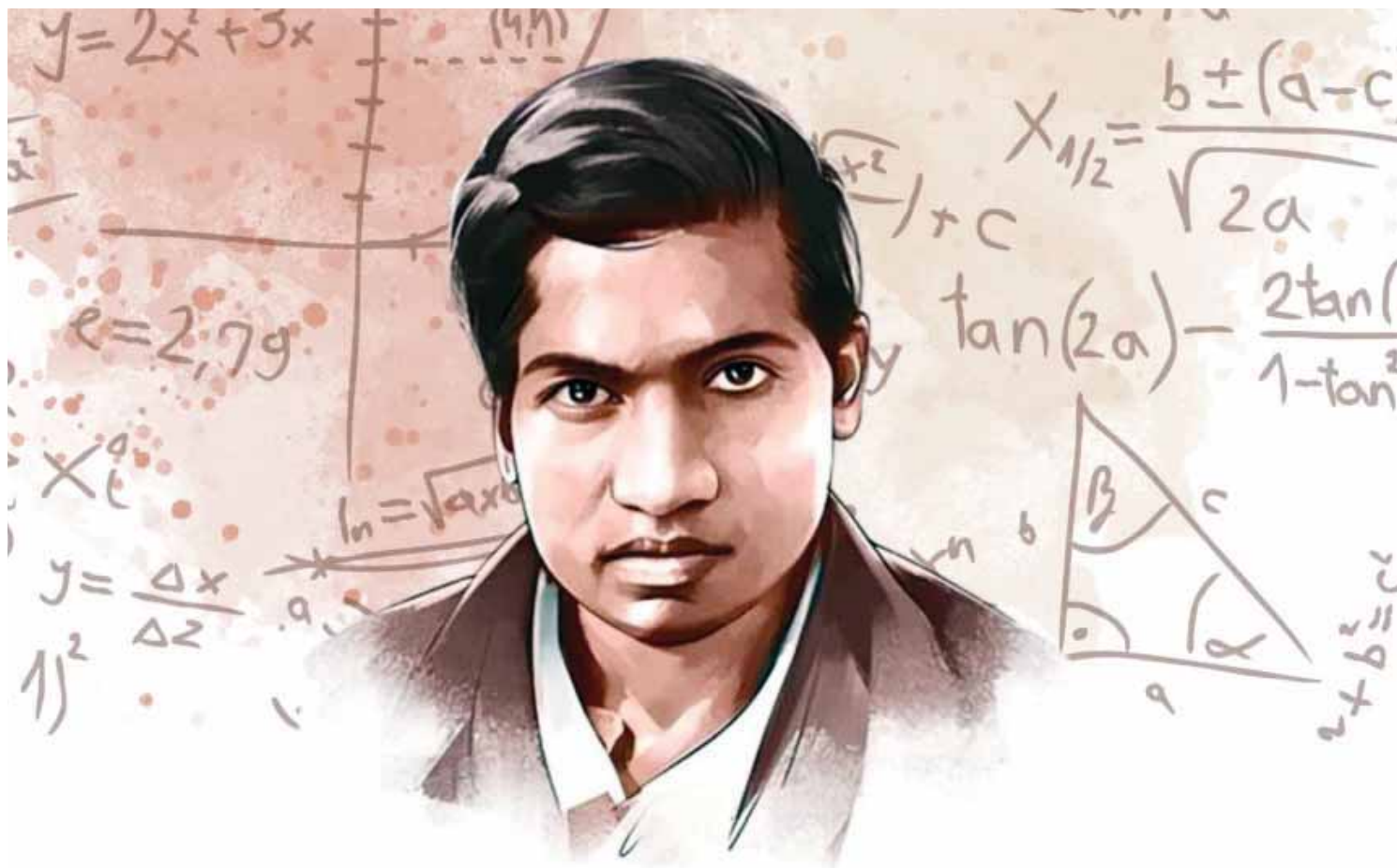
MILITARY MIGHT CREATED POLITICAL HEGEMONY AND THIS GRADUALLY TRANSFORMED INTO ECONOMIC HEGEMONY THROUGH ONE-SIDED TRADE RULES THAT PERPETUATED THE POVERTY OF THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES AND FURTHER ENRICHED THE FIRST-WORLD COUNTRIES

the globe. Today, military and industrial technology is not the sole preserve of the designated first-world nations of the twentieth century. China, India, Brazil, and Iran are some of the ex — third-world countries that, besides being resource-rich, also have industrial and military technologies. China and India possess nuclear arsenals, and even Iran is on its way to acquiring nuclear capability. So, neither military might nor economic might of the erstwhile powers can sustain the old world economic order. The mammoth debt of China, pegged at 300 per cent of GDP, and of the USA, estimated at 36 trillion US dollars (more than 100 per cent of its GDP), is already showing its detrimental effects in both these countries, evidenced by the economic recession, inflation, and unemployment. The Belt and Road initiative of China has landed in a quandary, and WTO rules are being thrown to the winds by the Trump administration in the USA. The new world economic order will, inexorably, see the decline and demise of the US dollar as the

dominant currency and the emergence of a multiple — currency basket for trade. The natural laws of economics are manifesting their work in the resurgence of India, and there seems to be no stopping the slow-stepped elephant after the dragon in its neighbour seems to have fagged out. The unique positive naturally endowed features of India are its plentiful, productive Human Resources and its economically strategic agro-climatic location along with its rich mineral resources. Today, this country is mostly free from exploitative interference and arm-twisting by global powers and is poised for rapid take-off to become a developed nation. The new economic order will, therefore, inevitably, see a strong economic resurgence of the Indian subcontinent, regression of the eurozone countries, and a relatively slow growth of Latin American and African countries. The latter will pick up growth led by a resurgent India in the years and decades to come. The Indian subcontinent, in its growth and development journey, will not indulge in the exploitation of the smaller and weaker states, unlike its colonial masters and their new avatars. It is not in the DNA of India to invade, conquer, and plunder other nations. The Indian ethos underlines the philosophy of 'live and let live' instead of 'survival of the fittest'. That is another area where India is different and unique. In conclusion, the global economic landscape is undergoing a profound transformation driven by the unsustainability of a debt-fuelled, capitalistic model and the waning dominance of the US dollar. The era of Western economic hegemony — rooted in military might, exploitative trade practices, and the artificial supremacy of fiat currency — is rapidly eroding. Emerging economies like India, China, Brazil, and Iran, rich in resources and technological capabilities, are reshaping the balance of power. Among these, India stands uniquely poised for sustained and inclusive growth, bolstered by its demographic advantage, strategic location, and ethical economic philosophy. As the global order pivots toward a multi — currency trading system and more equitable partnerships, India's non-imperial ethos positions it as a natural leader in the evolving economic era. The new world economic order will not just be about wealth accumulation but about fairness, sustainability, and mutual progress — principles deeply embedded in India's civilisational values. A future rooted in cooperation, not domination, is now within reach. (The writer is a management consultant based in New Delhi. Views are personal)

## Ramanujan: Eternal lamp in the temple of mathematics

On April 26, 1920, the nation lost Srinivasa Ramanujan a rare mathematical genius. His mathematical consciousness illuminated the world for eternity. This is not merely his death anniversary; it is a celebration of a saint — like devotee of numbers who elevated mathematics to the realms of philosophy and the divine



RK JAIN ARJEET

— thousands of formulas, many without proofs, that took mathematicians decades to fully understand. His mock theta functions, penned during his final days, baffled mathematicians for nearly a

FROM A YOUNG AGE, NUMBERS WERE HIS COMPANIONS AND HIS PLAYGROUND. WHILE OTHER CHILDREN PLAYED WITH TOYS, HE DELVED DEEP INTO THE MYSTERIES OF MATHEMATICS

century but are now essential in quantum physics and string theory. His contributions to the Riemann zeta function continue to influence research on one of mathematics' most profound mysteries — the Riemann Hypothesis. Yet, Ramanujan's journey was not without immense struggle. At Cambridge, he battled cultural isolation, dietary challenges, and the harsh English climate. Diagnosed with tuberculosis in 1917, his health deteriorated, and he returned to India in 1919. Just a year later, on April 26, 1920, at the age of 32, he passed away in Kumbakonam. But though his mortal life ended, his spirit lives on through his work. The discovery of his 'Lost Notebook' in 1976 reignited excitement and opened new doors in mathematical research. Ramanujan's influence goes far beyond mathematics. His story is a bea-

con for dreamers and doers who dare to rise above adversity. In 1987, India marked his birth centenary by declaring it National Mathematics Year. His legacy continues in the world's top institutions, and his life inspired Robert Kanigel's biography 'The Man Who Knew Infinity', later adapted into a global film. In his honour, December 22 is now celebrated as National Mathematics Day in India. Ramanujan's life is proof that genius needs no degree, wealth, or privilege. His journey is a testament to passion, faith, and the boundless potential of the human mind. His discoveries not only advanced science but also revealed a deep philosophical truth — that within each of us lies the power to touch the infinite. Today, as we remember him on April 26, we do more than pay tribute — we renew our commitment to nurturing the spark within us. Like Ramanujan, may we turn our dreams into devotion. Equations may evolve and theorems may change, but there will never be another Ramanujan. He is the eternal lamp in the temple of mathematics — forever radiant. His legacy is not India's alone — it belongs to all of humanity. As long as numbers are written and equations are solved, Ramanujan will remain immortal — a soul who touched infinity and offered its light to the world. Srinivasa Ramanujan was not just a mathematician — he was a visionary who transformed numbers into a divine language. On April 26, we don't just mourn his passing; we celebrate a life that elevated mathematics into art, spirituality, and cosmic truth. Despite humble beginnings and relentless hardships, his passion and genius blazed trails that continue to shape modern science. His discoveries — ranging from infinite series to mock theta functions — remain cornerstones of mathematics, physics, and beyond. Ramanujan's journey proves that brilliance needs neither privilege nor pedigree. His life is a testament to what the human spirit can achieve with faith, curiosity, and devotion. Today, his legacy lights the path for dreamers, thinkers, and seekers of truth across the world. As we remember him, we also honour the infinite potential within us all. Ramanujan lives on, not just in equations, but in the eternal quest for knowledge he so passionately embodied. He is, and always will be, mathematics' guiding flame. (The writer is a columnist and a blogger. Views are personal)





'Will support India,' says Tulsi Gabbard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York/Washington

US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard on Friday said America stands with India as it hunts down those responsible for the heinous Pahalgam attack that killed 26 Hindus. The State Department too said the US stands with India and called for Pahalgam attack perpetrators to be brought to justice.

Terrorists opened fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We stand in solidarity with India in the wake of the horrific Islamist terrorist attack, targeting and killing 26 Hindus in Pahalgam," Gabbard said in a post on X.

"My prayers and deepest sympathies are with those who lost a loved one, PM @narendramodi, and with all the people of India. We are with you and support you as you hunt down those responsible for this heinous attack," she said.

"We pray for the lives of those lost and for the recovery of the injured and call for the perpetrators of this heinous act to be brought to justice," Bruce added.

Responding to a question on whether the US sees Pakistan as potentially being behind the attack and if Washington is playing any role in trying to de-escalate tensions between the two South Asian nations, Bruce said the issue was highlighted due to the severity of the situation but added that no further comment would be made at this time.

"What I can tell you is, of course, as we all know, it's a rapidly changing situation and we are monitoring it closely, as you might imagine. And we, of course, are not now taking a position on the status of Kashmir or of Jammu either, so that's really going to be the extent of what I can say today."

When asked if President Donald Trump had offered to mediate between India and Pakistan in his first term, she said, "I'm not going to be remarking... As I mentioned." Meanwhile, Congresswoman Elise Stefanik, who had been nominated by US President Donald Trump to be the US ambassador to the United Nations, said America is deeply saddened by the horrific mass terror attack in Kashmir, India.

PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to be informed that Sh. Vikas Kalra is the owner of Plot No. 4 Block-K, Green Park (Main), New Delhi 110016. That he have lost/Misplaced the original Sale deed which is executed by (i) Sh. Ajatshatru Sehgal (ii) Sh. Rajat Sehgal (iii) Dr. Shobha Sehgal in favour of Sh. Bhagirathi Lal Kalra which is registered as Doc. No. 7859 dated 18.12.1981.

PUBLIC NOTICE: To be known to all that I, Smt. Harjit Kaur, W/o Late Sh. Jaswant Singh Madan, R/O Flat No.-43, Ground Floor, Block-A, Pocket-N, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088, declare that I have lost the original DDA possession letter issued by DDA in respect of Flat No.-43, Ground Floor, Block-A, Pocket-N, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110088.

भारतीय प्रबन्धन संस्थान, राँची Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi Recruitment for the position of Corporate Relation Manager at IIM Ranchi

NORTHERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice The Sr. Divisional Engineer-I, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work: Outsourcing of maintenance activities by hiring skilled and unskilled staff for day-to-day maintenance of colonies and service buildings in the section of SSE/W/MTC & SSE/W/MOZ under ADE/NMUT.

PUBLIC NOTICE: The Director Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh has granted In-Principle approval vide memo no. LC-5058-IV/JE(SK)/2025/15074 dated 25/04/2025 for transfer of part licensed area measuring 22,7505 acres from Yesha Developers LLP to M/s Signatreglobal Business Park Private Limited against License No. 121 of 2024 dated 14/08/2024 granted for setting up of Industrial Plotted Colony over an area measuring 125.60 acres in the revenue state of Village Bhandosi, Ghamroj & Mahendwara, Tehsil Sohna, District, Gurugram

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS Delhi Transco Ltd (A Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking) intends to invite online tender for the following work: Tender No. T24R220431: Design, Engineering, Supply, Laying, Joining, Testing and Commissioning of 220kV D/C U/G 1200 Sq.mm XLPE Cable for upcoming 220kV TSS of Northern Railway (at Tughlakabad) from 220kV Substation BTPS and Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 02 No. 220kV feeders for Northern Railways with associated civil work at 220kV Substation BTPS New Delhi (India) on Turnkey Basis.

Sd/- Authorised Signatory Signatreglobal Business Park Private Limited CIN: U70109DL2019PTC346164 Regd Off- 13th Floor, Dr. Gopal Das Bhawan, 28 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001 Place- Gurugram

SUPREME HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT, 2002"). We, SUPREME HOUSING FINANCE LTD., a Housing Finance Bank Company under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987 and incorporated under the provision of Companies Act, 2013 and having its registered office presently at 2nd Floor, Block-E, Harsha Bhawan, Middle Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110021 (Earlier at RD Chambers 16/11, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005) and also having CIN: U67190DL2014PLC272457, do hereby serve upon you the following notice U/Sec. 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'), the contents whereof may be noted accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE: FLAT NO-A-302, 3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO - 18/C-4, SECTOR-18, VASUNDHARA, GHAZIABAD-201001. That our client Mrs. Manoj Kumar Tripathi and Mrs. Sunita Tripathi propose to purchase the above said property from Aradhana Ahuja, who has assured our client that she is absolute owner in possession of the said property vide Sale deed No. 20818 dated 13.08.10 having purchased the same jointly with Ved Prakash Arora and Phoolwati. The said Ved Prakash Arora and Phoolwati died leaving behind two share will dated 13.08.10, bequeathing their separate will dated 13.08.10, bequeathing their share in favour of Aradhana Ahuja, the said Will(s) dated 13.08.10 are the last and final will of late Ved Prakash Arora and Phoolwati.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public, Bank/Financial Institutions or other persons, organization/s, company/s, government authorities, having any claim, rights, 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 AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned herebelow within 15 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Aradhana Ahuja to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any claim, charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा (e-tendering) महामहिम राज्यपाल उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, चतुर्थ वृत्त, लोन्निविं रुद्रपुर (उधम सिंह नगर) द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग द्वारा टू-बिड सिस्टम के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें वेबसाईट http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 28.04.2025 से उपलब्ध होंगी।

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. Notice inviting e Tender. e-tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following item :-

NERES XVI POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED CORE - 4, SCOPE COMPLEX 7, LODHI ROAD, DELHI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI, INDIA 110003. PUBLIC NOTICE: M/s. NERES XVI Power Transmission Limited having its registered office at Core-4, Scope Complex 7, Lodhi Road, Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi, India 110003 intends to apply to the Government of India to confer upon him all the powers under Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for the placing of electric lines or electrical plant for the transmission of electricity or for the purpose of telephonic or telegraphic communications necessary for the proper coordination of works which telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with respect to the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purpose of a telegraph established or maintained, by the Government or to be so established or maintained and will undertake the survey, construction, installation, inspection, erection and other works to be followed by commissioning, operation. Maintenance and other works for the following transmission scheme.

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency, First Floor, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Opp-IT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun. PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) e-Procurement Notice-01(Relaying Works)/2025-26

NERES XVI Power Transmission Limited having its registered office at Core-4, Scope Complex 7, Lodhi Road, Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi, India 110003 intends to apply to the Government of India to confer upon him all the powers under Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for the placing of electric lines or electrical plant for the transmission of electricity or for the purpose of telephonic or telegraphic communications necessary for the proper coordination of works which telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with respect to the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purpose of a telegraph established or maintained, by the Government or to be so established or maintained and will undertake the survey, construction, installation, inspection, erection and other works to be followed by commissioning, operation. Maintenance and other works for the following transmission scheme.

Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of works under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Bageshwar for 03 number of packages with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 5.73 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors(Class-A and above) registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent.

NERES XVI Power Transmission Limited having its registered office at Core-4, Scope Complex 7, Lodhi Road, Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi, India 110003 intends to apply to the Government of India to confer upon him all the powers under Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for the placing of electric lines or electrical plant for the transmission of electricity or for the purpose of telephonic or telegraphic communications necessary for the proper coordination of works which telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with respect to the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purpose of a telegraph established or maintained, by the Government or to be so established or maintained and will undertake the survey, construction, installation, inspection, erection and other works to be followed by commissioning, operation. Maintenance and other works for the following transmission scheme.

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF THE SECURITIZATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002. The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of CLIX Housing Finance Limited, a Housing Finance Bank Company under the National Housing Bank Act under the provision of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "SARFAESI Act, 2002") having its registered office: W/2/14, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, Delhi, 110008 (hereinafter referred to as "CLIX"), is engaged in the business of providing financial assistance to meet the needs of over millions of its customers all over India, hereby issues to you the following notice:

ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL, SRINAGAR BB, CANTT, BATWARA (J&K)- 190004 Website: www.apssrinagar.co.in INVITING QUOTATIONS 1. On behalf of the Chairman Army Public School BB, Cantt Srinagar invites quotations for the Printing & Supplying of various stationary and other items. Details of the same can be had from the school website.

Manibhavnam Home Finance India Private Limited ("Company") (U65990DL2016PTC298946) Registered Office: Farm No. 10 Tropical Drive, Ghilorni, M.G Road, New Delhi - 110003. Mob-9310100001; email-customer@manibhavnam.com

Table with 6 columns: क्र.सं., कार्य का नाम, धरोहर धनराशि (लाख में), निविदा प्रत्युत्तर (रु में), निविदा की वैधता (दिवस), कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय (माह में), ठेकेदार की श्रेणी. Row 1: राज्य योजना के अन्तर्गत जनपद रुद्रपुर के अन्तर्गत ट्रांजिट कैम्प में झील से चामुण्डा मन्दिर तक Thin White Topping द्वारा मार्ग का पुनः निर्माण एवं चौड़ीकरण का कार्य. (शिवनगर से ट्रांजिट कैम्प मुख्या मार्ग का अवशेष भाग)।

NERES XVI POWER TRANSMISSION LIMITED CORE - 4, SCOPE COMPLEX 7, LODHI ROAD, DELHI, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI, INDIA 110003. PUBLIC NOTICE: M/s. NERES XVI Power Transmission Limited having its registered office at Core-4, Scope Complex 7, Lodhi Road, Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi, India 110003 intends to apply to the Government of India to confer upon him all the powers under Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 for the placing of electric lines or electrical plant for the transmission of electricity or for the purpose of telephonic or telegraphic communications necessary for the proper coordination of works which telegraph authority possess under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 with respect to the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purpose of a telegraph established or maintained, by the Government or to be so established or maintained and will undertake the survey, construction, installation, inspection, erection and other works to be followed by commissioning, operation. Maintenance and other works for the following transmission scheme.



# A Sacred Step

A powerful dance drama that brings the Ramayan to life with grace, strength, and deep emotion, says SAKSHI PRIYA

## CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Ms. Rekha Gupta, the Chief Minister of Delhi, whose presence added prestige to the event and highlighted the cultural significance of the evening. Her support for the arts is well-known and her attendance at this dance drama reflected her dedication to promoting India's rich cultural heritage.



Ram's birth in Ayodhya to his return as king, through classical dance, dramatic expression and layered symbolism. Guru Ajay Bhatt and Aamrapali Bhandari's choreography respected the epic's soul.

Every movement was chosen with care. Ram's journey began with the celebration of his birth in Ayodhya. The air was alive with movement and colour. But celebration gave way to duty. Ram's departure into vanvaas was a haunting moment, his farewell to Kaushalya staged with restraint, as dancers encircled him like time closing in. The lighting shifted to capture the weight of sacrifice.

The forest scenes were among the most visually captivating. With nothing more than cloth, shadow and body formations, the dancers created rivers, trees, and wild animals. Sita stood tall with presence and dignity, while Lakshman reflected Ram's sense of duty with measured steps.

Then came the heart of the epic — Ravan's entrance. Played with authority and presence, his character carried pride and ego that ultimately led to his fall. The abduction of Sita was staged in stillness: a tight spotlight, the sudden clash of cymbals, and her hands rising in despair.

No cries — only silence, and it was deafening. Hanuman's scenes brought a shift in energy. His entry was spirited and charged, with leaps and spins that filled the stage. The youngest performing alongside the seasoned artists, especially in the search for Sita, held their own with focus and honesty, proving that emotion carries more weight than age or training.

## AND THEN THE WEDDING SEQUENCE

Of all the moments, this stood out as the most poetic. Ram and Sita's swayamvar was staged with dignity. The breaking of Shiva's bow was done through a symbolic gesture — the clap and sudden illumination. But it was what followed that left the audience completely still: the phoolon ki baarish. There were no real flowers, yet one could see them. Each dancer opened their palms to the sky, then turned their hands downward, releasing imaginary petals in slow motion. It was the suggestion that created magic. The hall watched in stillness, as if the gods themselves were blessing the union. The battle between Ram and Ravan was marked by strong choreography, precise and deliberate, reflecting the conflict both within and around. And when Ram returned to Ayodhya, it was the sight of the people lighting lamps, forming the deepmala with their bodies that brought home the meaning of Diwali.

The dialogues were few, spoken with clarity at the right moments — Ram's declaration of duty, Sita's quiet resolve, Hanuman's pledge. The lighting throughout was purposeful — never overpowering, always in line with the mood of each scene. This was the Ramayan performed with clarity, discipline and respect. Dr Mehra and her team brought together talent, tradition and a deep sense of purpose.



## DEVOTION CAPTURED IN EVERY STEP AND MOTION

Every scene, every expression, every beat of the foot was in service of the story, what stayed was the feeling that something timeless had passed before our eyes, an offering of art, devotion and truth that will remain with those who witnessed it.

There are moments when art stops being performance and becomes prayer. When the movement of feet, the strength of hands, and the silence between gestures speak louder than words. **Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram**, presented by the Urvasi Dance Music Art & Cultural Society, was one such offering. The dance carried with it the weight of legacy, the fire of devotion, and the strength of truth.

It began in silence — no fanfare. Just the stage slowly lighting up to the sound of a conch, a chant rising through the Kamani Auditorium and the sight of dancers entering barefoot, as if walking into a sacred space. From that very first moment, the performance became an experience. Among the distinguished guests in attendance was Ms Rekha Gupta, the Chief Minister of Delhi, whose presence highlighted the cultural significance of the evening. Directed with remarkable sensitivity by Dr Rekha Mehra, the production traced the arc of the Ramayan from



## Art as a form of Reflection

A moving journey through colour and memory, where quiet forms speak to something deeply human

BY TEAM VIVA

Art, in its purest form, communicates feelings that words cannot capture. Through the play of form, colour, and texture, it creates a space for personal reflection. The exhibition, **Beyond Myth & Metaphor** by Shabir Hussain Santosh and curated with an essay by Archana Khare Ghose, is being held at Shridharani Gallery, New Delhi and is presented by Sanchit Art.

It invites the viewer into a world where myth is not retold but felt. Santosh's paintings do not aim to deliver a heavy narrative; instead, they evoke a deeper feeling, a subtle undercurrent of emotion that emerges through his use of abstract forms. He doesn't seek to tell stories in the traditional sense. Instead, he captures the essence of myth in a way that goes beyond its literal meaning. The figures in his paintings are often soft, undefined, allowing for a sense of fluidity and openness. The colours employ a particularly striking. Warm, earthy reds and glowing yellows are infused with a quiet energy, evoking both the warmth of the earth and the depth of memory.

Standing in front of these paintings, viewers often find themselves captured by the quiet stillness of the artwork. They stare, perhaps searching for a clearer understanding of what the painting is about, but it is precisely this uncertainty that makes the work so compelling. The figures are often incomplete or fragmented, and yet they evoke such a powerful emotional response.

Artist ability to convey such powerful emotions with the simplest of forms speaks volumes about his understanding of the human condition. His work is not about spectacle but about evoking a quiet space for thought and reflection.



EXHIBITION THAT ENCOURAGES SLOWING DOWN AND ALLOWING THE EMOTIONS IN THE PAINTINGS TO TAKE ROOT. IT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL APRIL 30, 2025. GO SEE IT - NOT TO UNDERSTAND EVERY DETAIL, BUT TO FEEL THE MESSAGE.



## The Rediscovery of a 17th-Century Masterwork

BY TEAM VIVA

Art, in its essence, is an exploration of human emotions, experiences, and ideas. **Caravaggio's Magdalene in Ecstasy** offers a vivid representation of these elements, capturing a raw and sincere moment in a remarkable way. This painting, rediscovered after centuries, provides an intimate view into the depths of Mary Magdalene's emotional state, offering more than just a visual experience, but a deep reflection on penitence and spiritual devotion.

Mary Magdalene in Ecstasy (1606), 40.75 in x 36 in, showcases the artist's masterful use of chiaroscuro — the dramatic contrast between light and shadow — which imbues the painting with both realism and emotional intensity. Roberto Longhi, a key researcher of Caravaggio, noted that the subject was interpreted in a unique and innovative manner, with Caravaggio placing the figure in a diagonal position that draws the viewer into the 17th century.

The rediscovery of this painting is a remarkable event in the art world. Mina Gregori, an expert in Caravaggio's work, recalled the emotional experience she had when first encountering the painting, describing how it felt like an act of devotion. This painting is not only significant for its artistic merit but also for its historical value in understanding the role of images and faith during the Counter-Reformation period.

One of the most notable aspects of Magdalene in Ecstasy is the rendering of the hands. Caravaggio's attention to detail in these hands, with their vivid colours and naturalistic depiction, is considered one of the defining elements of the original painting. These hands, full of tension, convey a deep sense of emotion that goes beyond technique, showing the artist's ability to bring life into his work. The face of Magdalene is another focal point of the painting. The careful blending of light



and shadow on her face gives it an inner mobility, which, in turn, heightens the emotive impact of the piece. Caravaggio's treatment of the eyes, especially the tears, merging the emotional depth of the subject with the natural world around her. The striking red hair of Magdalene, cascading over her shoulder, is depicted with equal intensity.

Caravaggio's use of light to highlight this feature contributes to the painting's dramatic effect, and the folds of her red cloak, executed with bold, vigorous brushstrokes, further emphasise the dynamic tension within the composition. The cross and skull, symbols of death and devotion, are placed strategically in

## HISTORIC BAROQUE MASTERPIECE

In an exciting cultural milestone, **Magdalene in Ecstasy** will be unveiled in New Delhi as part of a historic exhibition. The Cultural Centre of the Italian Embassy, in partnership with The Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, proudly announces the arrival of Caravaggio's masterpiece in Delhi on the occasion of the visit of Italian Deputy Prime Minister Antonio Tajani and Minister for University and Research Anna Maria Bernini. The exhibition will be opened to the public at KNMA Saket till May 18, 2025. The rediscovery of this work is a powerful reminder of the timeless nature of Caravaggio's art. His ability to capture the essence of human emotion, through light, shadow, and form, continues to resonate with modern viewers, offering them a glimpse into the complexities of the human soul.

the painting to prompt reflection. The positioning of these elements invites the viewer to contemplate not only the life of Magdalene but also the broader themes of redemption and eternal life.

The crown of thorns, situated above Magdalene, speaks to her sacrifice and connection to the suffering of Christ, urging viewers to meditate on the spiritual significance of her actions.

Through his masterful technique and vivid portrayal of the human experience, he conveys not only the visual appearance of his subjects but also their internal emotional state. In **Magdalene in Ecstasy**, every brushstroke carries the weight of human struggle, spirituality, and devotion.

