

Mega survey campaign for PMAY-R launched

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Tuesday launched a statewide survey campaign for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Gramin (rural) called 'Mor Dwar-Sai Sarkar Mahabhayan.'

Sai launched it at an event held at the Ghatpadampur village in Bastar district. Home Minister Vijay Sharma, Forest Minister Kedar Kashyap and BJP state chief Kiran Singh Deo were present.

The campaign will run until April 30 for Awas Plus 2.0 survey. It will identify rural families who have not been able to get a permanent house through any housing scheme.

The surveys will be conducted in every village of the state in three phases.

The first phase will be conducted from April 15 to 19 at district and block levels. In the second phase eligible families will be located through gram sabhas and door-to-door drives from April 20 to 28.

In the final phase, on April 29 and 30, the survey data will be scrutinised and a final report will be sent to the state



office. Sai assured that the survey work will be completed in a timely and transparent manner so that all those in need

get the benefits. Sharma spoke about the PMAY app and urged people to use it.

Revenue Inspector held on bribery charges



STAFF REPORTER GAURELA

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday apprehended a Revenue Inspector (RI) for accepting a bribe in the Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi district of Chhattisgarh.

Another RI, who sought the bribe money, managed to escape.

The arrested RI was identified as Santosh Kumar Chandrasen, while another RI, Ghanshyam Bhardwaj fled the spot, ACB Additional Superintendent of Police Chandresh Thakur said.

Both Chandrasen and Bhardwaj were posted at the tehsil office in Gaurela town. Bhardwaj sought Rs 50,000 from the complainant for delimitation work of a two acre land in the latter's name.

The ACB laid a trap and caught Chandrasen while he was accepting the bribe money.

Efforts were on to nab Bhardwaj.

Leadership is inspiring people to contribute: Narasimhan



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chief Executive Officer of Colgate-Palmolive India Ltd, Prabha Narasimhan, said in Raipur on Tuesday that leadership was about fostering a culture where people are inspired to contribute, feel valued, and share a collective vision.

She was addressing the 14th annual convocation of the Indian Institute of Management-Raipur (IIM-R) as chief guest.

During the function, 216 students from the e-MBA programme and 369 from the regular full-time Master of Business Administration programme, comprising 344 pupils from the 2023-25 batch and 25 from the 2022-24 batch, received their degrees from the chief guest.

Nine students received doctorate degrees.

Narasimhan emphasised that today's era is not just about achievements but recog-

nising the potential within individuals.

"The commitment to societal contributions is an opportunity for us to use our positions, our talents, and our knowledge to make a real difference," she asserted.

Professor Ram Kumar Kakani, Director of IIM Raipur, said, "We stand by the ethos of 'Sva-Karma Niratah Siddhim' - a belief that true excellence is achieved through dedicated action."

The IIM Raipur remains steadfast in its commitment to academic excellence, industry collaboration, and global outreach, he noted.

"We continue to expand our research footprint, forge impactful partnerships, and enhance our learning environment to prepare future leaders who are not just job seekers but aim to become business owners," Kakani said.

The IIM Raipur has expanded its academic, research, and institutional footprint through a series of MoUs and collaborations in 2024-25.

NSL achieves historic production highs

STAFF REPORTER JAGDALPUR

The Nagarnar Steel Limited (NSL) has delivered record-breaking production across all major units on April 13 and 14, they said on Tuesday.

On April 13, NSL's Blast Furnace achieved a landmark production of 10,169 tonnes of hot metal in a single day.

Similarly, on April 14, the Sinter Plant registered its highest-ever daily production of 12,385 tonnes, the Hot Strip Mill reached a new benchmark with 8,260 tonnes of HR Coil production, and the Steel Melting Shop achieved an output of 47 heats and 8,600 tonnes of liquid steel in a single day.

This performance in such a short period highlights their technical excellence and operational discipline, they said.

Chairman and Managing Director



(CMD), NMDC Steel Amitava Mukherjee said, "These achievements represent a bold

statement of NSL's readiness to take its place among India's leading steelmakers."

Mother, daughter found murdered in Raigarh



STAFF REPORTER RAIGARH

A 45-year-old woman and her 24-year-old daughter were found murdered in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, police said on Tuesday.

The bodies of Urmila and her daughter Purnima were found on Monday late night adjacent to their under-construction house in Pusaur village, Raigarh Superintendent of Police Divyang Kumar Patel said.

The gory incident came to light after the younger daughter of the victim noticed bloodstains inside the under-construction house and alerted the police.

The bodies were reportedly covered with a blanket and stones and dumped next to their residence.

The police recovered a cricket bat from the crime spot that was allegedly used to bludgeon the two women to death.

A case was lodged, and further probe is underway.

Property tax to be paid until April 30

STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

The Urban Administration and Development Department in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday announced the extension of the deadline to deposit property tax and



return in the urban bodies until April 30. The work of collecting tax revenue was affected in the financial year 2024-25 due to urban body personnel being engaged in election works.

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited advertisement with logo and contact info.

Appendix IV [Rule 8(1)] POSSESSION NOTICE (For immovable property) with legal details.



People in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district created artworks with colour and vegetables on Tuesday to raise awareness about the importance of a balanced diet as part of the Nutrition Fortnight.

Two held with 56 kg silver slabs worth Rs 52L



STAFF REPORTER RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Police on Tuesday arrested two persons and seized 56.30 kg of silver slabs valued at Rs 52 lakh from them in Raipur city.

Omkar Jadhav and Ajay Gejje, both from Maharashtra, have been taken into custody, Raipur Senior

Superintendent of Police Lal Umed Singh said.

The police intercepted their motorcycle at the Bhanpuri Chowk in the Khamtarai area. The police seized 115 silver slabs lookalike aluminium weighing 56.300 kg and an electric scooter from them.

Further probing into the matter is underway.

Police recruitment notice for Raipur with details of posts, qualifications, and application process.

Procurement tender notice for construction work by the Public Works Department, Durg Circle Durg (C.G.).

Advertisement for the Raigarh District Office regarding the construction of a road and other public works.

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Bihar polls: Tejashwi meets senior Congress leaders

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Patna/New Delhi

With Assembly elections due in politically versatile state of Bihar, the stakeholder leaders and partners have started putting their weight as the ruling alliance member JD(U) asserted on Tuesday that Nitish Kumar will be the NDA's chief ministerial face in the Bihar Assembly polls, former Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav met senior Congress leaders.

the ground. The meeting also comes weeks after Congress firmed up its strategy for the upcoming Bihar assembly polls at a meeting. Last month, the Congress said it would contest the elections as part of the INDIA bloc and asserted that the alliance partners would take a "collective decision" on the chief ministerial face. The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan is looking to wrest power from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the Assembly polls, which are due later this year.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge with LoP in the Lok Sabha and party leader Rahul Gandhi and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav during a meeting in New Delhi

20 years in Bihar and PM Modi is at the helm for 11 years... Amid all this, Bihar has been given step-motherly treatment. Bihar is the most economically backward (state), with the lowest per capita income, lowest farmers' income and highest migration.

he said. The RJD leader asserted that it is certain that there won't be an NDA government in Bihar and an INDIA bloc government will be formed. "Today we met the former Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, and discussed the strength of the Mahagathbandhan. In the coming elections, we will give the people of Bihar a strong, positive, just and welfare option. Bihar will be freed from BJP and its opportunistic thug alliance," Kcharge said in a statement on social media.

ing alliance faces no crisis over its chief ministerial face in Bihar. Saini had said at an event on Monday that the BJP's victory march will continue in polls, and it will be achieved under Choudhary's leadership in Bihar. "The Bihar elections will be held under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, and he will be the face of the National Democratic Alliance. CM Nitish Kumar will head the NDA government which is certain to be formed after the elections for a full term till 2030," Prasad said.

No protest against Waqf Act in Assam, says Himanta

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Guwahati

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday said no protest against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 will be allowed in the state and suggested that the agitators present their side before the Supreme Court.



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma attends Sri Sri Vishnu Hajanta at Barnadi in Nalbari district on Tuesday

be able to differentiate between good and bad. If anyone opposes the Waqf Act, I have nothing to say and I suggest him to go to the Supreme Court.

ASSAMESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATED WITH FERVOUR

Guwahati: The Assamese New Year was welcomed with festive fervour by people across the state on Tuesday, with all praying for a prosperous and fulfilling year ahead.

But we will not allow anything to take place on the roads," Sarma said. Agitators and the police clashed during a rally against the Waqf (Amendment) Act in Cachar district of Assam on Sunday. The protesters pelted the police with stones while the law enforcers dispersed them with batons.

West Bengal is burning, but CM is silent, says Yogi

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Hardoi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee-led West Bengal government on Monday, accusing it of inaction amid the recent violence in Murshidabad during protests against the Waqf Amendment Act.

Congress and Samajwadi Party, accusing them of maintaining a "conspiratorial silence" on the Bengal violence. "They (the rioters) are issuing threats shamelessly. If they admire Bangladesh so much, they should go there. Why should they be a burden on India?" he said.

Modi to inaugurate 250 key projects in Kanpur

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Kanpur

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Kanpur on April 24, where he is likely to address a massive public rally at the Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSA) grounds. Preparations for the high-profile visit have already begun, with senior administrative and party officials on the ground to oversee arrangements.

structed Panki Power Plant and the Neyveli Power Plant in Ghatampur, which are already operational and supplying electricity to both the state and the central grid. These projects will be inaugurated virtually from the rally venue.

Coast Guard seizes sea cucumber in Tamil Nadu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on Tuesday said it has seized 145 kilograms of sea cucumbers worth ₹58 lakh during an anti-poaching operation at Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu.



145 kg of illegal sea cucumbers seized by Indian Coast Guard during an anti-poaching operation

Bomb threat to Ram Temple triggers panic

KAMLESH SRIVASTAVA ■ Ayodhya

A threatening email claiming a plan to blow up the under-construction Ram Temple in Ayodhya triggered a wave of panic late Monday night. The email, received on the official account of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, warned authorities to "increase the security of the temple."

Jaishankar inaugurates gymnastic hall

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Rajpipla (Gujarat)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, a Rajya Sabha MP from Gujarat, on Tuesday inaugurated a new gymnastic hall upgraded with modern equipment, as well as a smart classroom and an anganwadi built with MPLAD funds in Narmada district.



External Affairs Minister inaugurating a gymnastic hall at Rajpipla in Narmada district of Gujarat

I visited there after a long time, and it is working fine with 30-40 appointments a day. Facilitates for passports have increased, and people think I have done something good for them as the External Affairs Minister," he said.

UP gears up for assistant teacher exam at 52 centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Lucknow

As part of its Mission Rozgar initiative, the Uttar Pradesh government has made comprehensive preparations to ensure that the upcoming written examination for the post of Assistant Teacher (Sahayak Acharya) is conducted in a fair, transparent and free manner. The examination will be held on April 16 and 17 across two shifts at 52 centres in six districts — Agra, Meerut, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gorakhpur and Varanasi.

also been granted authority to enforce prohibitory orders if required. A total of 82,876 candidates are expected to appear for the exam. Among them, the highest number — 18,240 — will take the exam in Prayagraj, followed by 16,010 in Meerut, 15,602 in Gorakhpur, 13,528 in Lucknow, 10,958 in Varanasi, and 8,538 in Agra.

Bridging education and employability

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 promises a sweeping transformation of India's education system. Its success hinges not just on vision, but on action, investment, and a unified national commitment to reimagining education for the 21st century

FIRST Column



DINESH SOOD

with a vocational training kit, could promote enrollment. An increased stipend of ₹1,000 per month for students who continue in vocational training through their higher classes would further incentivise sustained commitment. Graduating students should receive certification after four years, bolstering their employability both domestically and internationally.

Bridging the Skill Gap

India, with over 260 million students in 1.5 million schools and more than 40 million in higher education, holds one of the largest student populations globally.

Yet, the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) stands

INDIA, WITH OVER 260 MILLION STUDENTS IN 1.5 MILLION SCHOOLS AND MORE THAN 40 MILLION IN HIGHER EDUCATION, HOLDS ONE OF THE LARGEST STUDENT POPULATIONS GLOBALLY

at approximately 32 per cent, compelling many to seek employment in the unorganised sector — a domain fraught with exploitation and underpayment.

Vocational education has the potential to effectively address this gap. By focusing on industry-relevant skills, these programs not only enhance employment opportunities but also foster the development of future entrepreneurs.

Countries like Germany and Switzerland exemplify successful dual vocational education systems, blending classroom learning with hands-on industry experience.

India could adopt similar frameworks, ensuring students gain practical exposure, which is increasingly necessary in an evolving job landscape.

Adapting to Emerging Technologies

As technological innovation accelerates, vocational programs must incorporate modern skills relating to AI, IoT, and cloud computing. The Central

Board of Secondary Education's (CBSE) initiative to introduce AI and IoT into the curriculum for Classes VI to X is a step in the right direction. With over 20,000 teachers trained in these areas, reaching approximately 350,000 students, substantial progress is evident.

However, a 2022 survey indicated that 31 per cent of teachers are still not proficient with digital tools, while a 2023 report found that 49 per cent feel unprepared to address the impact of AI on education. To tackle these challenges effectively, the public and private sectors must invest in comprehensive teacher training that equips educators for a changing marketplace.

Collaborations with ed-tech companies to bring AI-powered learning tools into classrooms can further support this transition, ensuring that students receive training that is both modern and relevant.

Addressing Regional Disparities Although the Union Education Minister has asserted that states are beginning to implement NEP 2020, the pace of implementation varies greatly.

Reports indicate that Haryana has set an ambitious target to fully implement the National Education Policy (NEP) by 2025, aiming to increase the gross enrollment ratio of girls in higher education from 32 per cent to over 50 per cent by 2030.

However, discrepancies across states — due to funding shortages, trained faculty shortages, and bureaucratic inertia — not only create inconsistencies but also significantly undermine the policy's potential.

To ensure a level playing field, a centralised monitoring mechanism is essential to track progress and enforce uniform implementation across states.

Conclusion NEP 2020 presents a transformative opportunity for integrating vocational education into mainstream schooling, but its success hinges on strategic implementation, sufficient funding, infrastructure development, and robust teacher training.

As India aspires to become a \$10 trillion economy, investing in a comprehensive vocational education system is not just an educational imperative — it's a vital economic strategy.

By addressing the barriers to implementation, India can empower its youth with essential skills, fostering innovation and adaptability that contribute to national growth.

A well-implemented vocational skills education framework represents a win-win for both students and the government, laying the groundwork for a skilled and self-reliant workforce that is pivotal to India's economic future.

(The writer is a Training Partner with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and a Network Member of India International Skill Centres, an initiative of the Government of India. Views are personal)

How PM Modi's vision revitalised BIMSTEC

Over the years, through initiatives like the 'Neighbourhood First and Act East policies,' the MAHASAGAR vision, and a consistent push for institutional reform and regional connectivity, PM Modi has transformed BIMSTEC into a vibrant platform for cooperation



SHEFALI GUPTA

tion of the BIMSTEC Charter. This milestone endowed the organisation with an international legal identity, clearly defined principles, and an institutional architecture that allows it to function with more coherence and purpose.

Further boosting its multilateral capacity, India appointed Indra Mani Pandey — an experienced diplomat known for his multilateral acumen — as the Secretary-General. India also committed USD 1 million to enhance the Secretariat's institutional and capacity-building efforts.

India's active diplomatic engagement has also seen it hosting the BIMSTEC Foreign Ministers' Meeting in July 2024, followed by an informal meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in September 2024. These events marked a new phase of energised diplomacy and

engagement, laying the foundation for greater regional integration.

A Holistic Agenda

One of the standout features of BIMSTEC under India's leadership has been the expansion and organisation of its agenda.

The grouping now operates through seven key pillars, each led by a different member nation, allowing for greater ownership and specialised focus.

India leads the all-important Security pillar, while Bangladesh helms Trade, Investment, and Development.

Bhutan focuses on Environment and Climate Change, Myanmar leads on Agriculture and Food Security, Nepal on People-to-People Contacts, Sri Lanka on Science and Technology & Innovation, and Thailand on Connectivity.

This structured approach has allowed BIMSTEC to evolve into a results-oriented body, addressing challenges and harnessing opportunities across the spectrum — from trade and security to climate action and innovation. And the

change is visible in its approach.

India's Pillars of Focus

India's leadership in the Security domain has seen the development of a robust legal framework to tackle terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational crimes — issues of shared concern across the region. Efforts are underway to harmonise counter-terror frameworks, intelligence-sharing, and maritime cooperation. On Connectivity, India has placed particular emphasis on developing physical, digital, and energy links. The BIMSTEC Energy Centre, hosted in Bengaluru, coordinates initiatives toward regional grid interconnectivity.

This aligns with PM Modi's bold vision of "One World, One Sun, One Grid", which aims to create a globally interconnected solar energy grid. In the area of Sustainability and Disaster Management, India has positioned itself as a responsible regional partner. It hosts regular disaster management exercises involving member countries and leads the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate in Noida, playing a critical

role in forecasting, climate data sharing, and early warning systems. Given the region's high vulnerability to natural disasters, this collaboration holds immense practical value.

Fostering Regional Identity

Beyond policy and security, PM Modi has consistently championed the softer dimensions of regional cooperation — particularly culture, youth engagement, and environmental consciousness. These elements have been brought to the forefront through a series of vibrant events that promote shared identity and regional pride. Recent highlights include the BIMSTEC Aquatic Championship in Delhi (Feb 2024), the BIMSTEC Business Summit (Aug 2024), and cultural showcases like the BIMSTEC Pavilion at the Surajkund Mela (Feb 2025) and the BIMSTEC cultural troupe's performance at Bali Jatra in Cuttack (Nov 2024). Youth engagement, too, has been given a fresh thrust through the BIMSTEC Youth Summit in Ahmedabad and the BIMSTEC Youth-Led Climate Change Conference in Delhi, both held in February 2025. Another notable milestone was the launch of the BIMSTEC-India Marine Research Network in February 2024, which aims to foster scientific collaboration and ocean sustainability.

From Goa to Bangkok

The vision articulated by PM Modi during the 2016 Goa Retreat continues to shape BIMSTEC's trajectory. The decisions taken during that seminal retreat are coming to fruition, most recently in Bangkok, where two key developments have been unveiled: the adoption of the BIMSTEC Vision 2030 and the Eminent Persons Group Report. These initiatives provide a long-term roadmap and intellectual foundation.

Conclusion

Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, BIMSTEC has transitioned from a dormant regional forum to a vibrant, forward-looking grouping. India's proactive engagement — rooted in strategic vision and people-centric diplomacy, has redefined the role of BIMSTEC in the 21st century. What began as a diplomatic gesture in Goa has evolved into a robust regional movement. As BIMSTEC continues to chart its course, India's leadership remains central to its strength, stability, and success, ensuring the Bay of Bengal becomes a beacon of cooperation, connectivity, and shared prosperity.

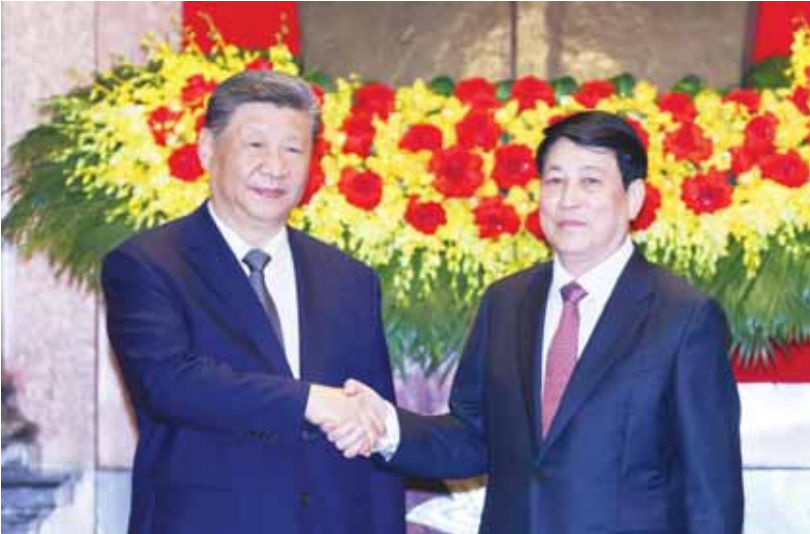
(The writer is Founder President, Om Aarohanam Sansthan (Janani Suraksha Yojana) and a BJP functionary. Views are personal)

Xi makes case for free trade as he tours Southeast Asia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

China's Xi is making the case for free trade as he tours Southeast Asia this week, presenting China as a source of "stability and certainty."

al free trade system, and keep global industrial and supply chains stable," he added, according to a statement from China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Vietnam's President Luong Cuong shaking hands at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi in Vietnam on Tuesday

Xi will meet with King Sultan Ibrahim on Wednesday morning and Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim later in the day. ASEAN Secretary-General Kao Kim Hourn told Chinese state media that the agreement will eliminate many tariffs between China and the bloc's members.

International Affairs. However, the trip's timing and the fact that Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia, were all countries impacted by Trump's tariffs, provides Beijing an opportunity to project how it would act as a "responsible" superpower.

Fresh warrants against Hasina, her son

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Dhaka

A court in Bangladesh on Tuesday issued fresh arrest warrants against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her son Sajeb Wajed and 16 others in two cases related to alleged irregularities in allocating residential plots on the outskirts of the capital.

Kartripakkha. Earlier, the High Court had formed a three-member committee headed by a former judge of the same court to investigate irregularities in the allocation of the plots.

Attack by gunmen leaves 40 dead in Nigeria: President

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Abuja (Nigeria)

Nigeria's president said on Monday that at least 40 people were killed when Muslim gunmen, believed to be herdsmen, attacked a Christian farming community in the north-central part of the country, the latest in an increasing wave of violence in the West African country.

Singapore Parliament dissolved General Election set for May 3

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Singapore

Singapore's parliament was dissolved Tuesday, paving the way for general elections in which the city-state's long-ruling People's Action Party will seek to strengthen its dominance under Prime Minister Lawrence Wong.

fourth leader in May last year, wants to clinch a stronger win after the PAP suffered a setback in 2020 polls over voters' rising discontent with the government.

The same court earlier issued arrest warrants against Hasina, her daughter Saima Wajed Putul, her sister Sheikh Rehana, British MP Tulip Rizwana Siddiq, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq and 48 others in connection with the alleged illegal acquisition of land by abusing political power.



"No one from the Bangladeshi authorities has contacted me. The entire time, they've done trial by media," she told the Sky TV network in the UK.

Such attacks have become common in this part of Africa's most populous country, where gunmen — typically herdsmen from Fulani, a Muslim tribe — exploit security lapses to launch deadly raids on farmers in a fight over land resources.

Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar Tender Notice Reference No.GNDU/Gen/06/2025

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New York City declares April 14 as Dr BR Ambedkar Day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New York

New York City Mayor Eric Adams has proclaimed April 14, 2025 as Dr BR Ambedkar Day in New York City, with its 8.5 million residents celebrating the day, a top official in the mayor's office said here.

role in social movements that fought for the rights of Dalits and untouchables, had received his PhD in Economics from Columbia University in 1927 and an honorary degree in 1952.

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

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NORTHERN RAILWAY INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Former Singapore PM warns of unprecedented global uncertainty

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Singapore

Singapore has gone through and overcome many crises in the past, but the current global uncertainty caused by the US-imposed tariffs is unprecedented and will last a very long time, warned Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

(severe acute respiratory syndrome) and, more recently, the Covid-19 pandemic, where the country has been able to "batten down (the) hatches and see it through."

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More US tariffs on key imports, including drugs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

The Trump administration has taken its next steps toward imposing more tariffs on key imports, launching investigations into imports of computer chips, chip making equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 permits the president to order tariffs for the sake of national security. The probe includes assessing the potential for US domestic production of computer chips to meet US demand and the role of foreign manufacturing and assembly, testing and packaging in meeting those needs.



“sector specific” tariffs. “And those are not available for negotiation,” Lutnick said. “They are just going to be part of making sure we reshape the

core national security items that need to be made in this country. We need to make medicine in this country,” he said. “We need to make semiconductors.”

The investigation into pharmaceutical imports includes ingredients used to make such drugs and touches on many of the same aspects of relying on imports to make them. Asked about his plans for more tariffs on pharmaceuticals, Trump said Monday, “Yeah, we’re going to be doing that.” He said it would be in the “not too distant future”.

production at 92 per cent of all fabrication capacity according to the International Trade Administration, with South Korea making 8 per cent. Products like laptops, smartphones and the components needed to make them accounted for nearly \$174 billion in US imports from China last year.

India’s gems, jewellery exports decline in FY25, says GJEPC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

India’s overall gems and jewellery exports declined by 11.72 per cent to \$28.5 billion (around ₹2.41 lakh crore) in 2024-25 compared to the previous financial year on continued geopolitical tensions, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

16.75 per cent at \$13,292.0 million (₹1.12 lakh crore) compared to \$15,967.02 million (₹1.32 lakh crore) for the same period of the previous year.

The overall gems and jewellery exports stood at \$32.2 billion (₹2.67 lakh crore) in 2023-24, according to GJEPC data. However, in March, the exports improved slightly, witnessing a growth of 1.02 per cent at \$2,582.97 million (₹22,340.89 crore), compared to \$2,556.97 million (₹21,228.71 crore) in the same month of the previous year, it added.

The export of polished lab-grown diamonds for the period of April 2024-March 2025 declined by 9.64 per cent at \$1,267.26 million (₹10,716.13 crore), against \$1,402.44 million (₹11,612.36 crore) in the previous year.

Passenger vehicle demand surges to over 43 lakh units in FY25, says SIAM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Passenger vehicle (PV) dispatches in India from factories to dealers rose to record levels at over 43 lakh units in FY25, with utility vehicles accounting for 65 per cent of the total sales in the segment, industry body SIAM said on Tuesday.

SIAM said. Growth in exports has been driven by the demand of global models being manufactured in the country, it added. Two-wheeler dispatches to dealers rose 9 per cent to 1,96,07,332 units in the last fiscal year, up from 1,79,74,365 units in FY24.

fiscal as compared to FY24. Total commercial vehicle wholesales declined one per cent last fiscal year to 9,56,671 units as against 9,68,770 units in 2023-24 fiscal.

The high base effect of FY24 resulted in moderate growth last fiscal year, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) said in a statement. Utility vehicles continued to drive growth, now contributing 65 per cent of total passenger vehicle sales in FY25, up from around 60 per cent in FY24, it added.

The passenger vehicle segment also recorded its highest-ever exports in FY25, reaching 0.77 million units, a 15 per cent increase compared to FY24

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it has decided against activating countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) as it is not needed in the present circumstances. The framework on CCyB was put in place by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in terms of guidelines in February 2015.

Not activating countercyclical capital buffer: Reserve Bank

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday said it has decided against activating countercyclical capital buffer (CCyB) as it is not needed in the present circumstances. The framework on CCyB was put in place by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in terms of guidelines in February 2015, wherein, it was advised that the CCyB would be activated as and when the circumstances warranted and that the decision would normally be pre-announced.

Sensex, Nifty surge over two per cent

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged over two per cent on Tuesday, tracking a rally in global markets after US President Donald Trump relaxed some of the tariffs on electronics products and hinted at duty revision for automobiles.

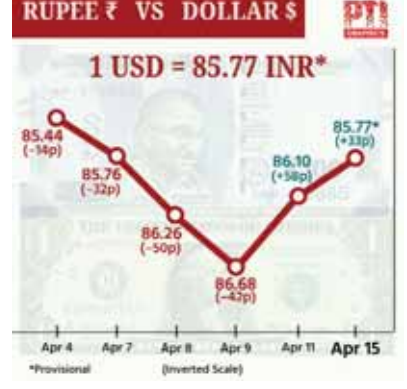
IndusInd Bank was the lead gainer among Sensex shares, surging by 6.84 per cent. Tata Motors rallied 4.50 per cent. Larsen & Toubro, Axis Bank, Adani Ports, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and HCL Tech were also among the gainers.

All BSE sectoral indices ended higher. Realty zoomed 5.81 per cent, Industrials soared 3.76 per cent, capital goods (3.67 per cent), auto (3.39 per cent), consumer discretionary (3.12 per cent), financial services (2.94 per cent) and metal (2.75 per cent).

Rupee gains 33 paise against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Rising for the second straight session, the rupee jumped 33 paise to end at 85.77 (provisional) against the US dollar on Tuesday due to a sharp rise in equity markets and continuing weakness in the American currency amid global uncertainties.



“Overall weakness in crude oil prices may also support the rupee at lower levels. However, importer buying of dollars and FII outflows may cap sharp gains. Traders may take cues from Empire State manufacturing index data from the US,” he said and projected the USD-INR spot price to be in the range of ₹85.40 to ₹86.

Bharti-Airtel partners with Blinkit to deliver SIM cards

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chennai

Bharti Airtel has partnered with quick commerce platform Blinkit for delivery of its new SIM cards to customers in Chennai within 10 minutes at a fee of ₹49, the telecom major said on Tuesday.

MP Dairy Federation, NDDDB sign agreement to build robust dairy cooperative ecosystem

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Anand/Ahemdabad

Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Dairy Federation (MPCDF) and the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) has signed a collaboration agreement to build a robust dairy cooperative ecosystem in Madhya Pradesh in the august presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh CM Mohan Yadav.

erative societies are established in 50 per cent villages, then the milk processing capacity in the cooperative sector will increase manifold and make the farmers prosperous.

encouraged to increase milk production and the state government is committed to ensure that milk is purchased directly from dairy farmers at fair prices.

Karamjit Singh Chahal takes charge as Registrar of GNDU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ Amritsar

Distinguished academican and architect, Prof Karamjit Singh Chahal has officially taken charge as the new Registrar of the Guru Nanak Dev University in the presence of VC Prof Karamjeet Singh, Prof Palwinder Singh, Dean Academic Affairs and university officials including S Hariqul Singh, OSD and S Parminder Singh, OSD.

series under the aegis of CHAT 2025, themed “Feeding Tomorrow: Revolutionising Safety and Hygiene in India’s Small-Scale Food Industry.” The event was held under the patronage of Prof Karamjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, whose visionary leadership guided the initiative.

Jashan-2025 postponed

Guru Nanak Dev University has announced the postponement of the Inter Department Cultural Competitions ‘Jashan-2025’, which was originally scheduled to take place from April 16 to April 19, 2025, in the Dasmesh Auditorium and various venues of the University. The event will now be held from April 17 to April 19.

Lecture on ‘Empowered Women Power Society’ today

Under the Prof (Dr) Karamjeet Singh, Vice Chancellor, the Guru Nanak Dev University in collaboration with the Shaheed Nanak Singh Foundation is organising the 1st Late Sardarni Harbans Kaur Annual Memorial Lecture on the theme “Empowered Women Power Society.” The lecture is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 2:30 pm at Shri Guru Granth Sahib Bhawan of the University.

Colloquium on food safety

The Department of Hotel Management and Tourism, Guru Nanak Dev University inaugurated a colloquium

