



Riot sets Nagpur ablaze

N RAGHUNATHA ■ Mumbai

A massive war of words broke out in Maharashtra on Tuesday over the communal violence witnessed in Nagpur on Monday night, with chief minister Devendra Fadnis charging that the riots were "pre-planned" and the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) blaming the BJP-led MahaYuti for the disturbances in the otherwise peaceful orange city.



A fire set by miscreants amid violence following an agitation by a right-wing group demanding removal of Aurangzeb's tomb, in Nagpur

On a day when the chief minister said that the recently-released film "Chhaava" had ignited people's anger against Aurangzeb, the ruling MahaYuti and MVA traded charges on the circumstances leading to the massive violence - in which nearly 40 persons, including 33 police personnel, were injured and scores of vehicles were damaged in Bhalardapura area of Nagpur.

Fadnis said that the violence - which had broken out in Nagpur on Monday over the rumours that a holy book had been desecrated during a protest demanding the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb at Khuldabad near Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar (erstwhile Aurangabad) - appeared more like a "planned incident".

The violence broke out hours after the 200-odd workers of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the Bajrang Dal staged a protest near the Shivaji Maharaj statue in Nagpur demanding the removal of Aurangzeb's tomb and allegedly burnt the burnt an effigy of Aurangzeb. However, the protest sparked rumours that a holy book had been desecrated, leading to violence in Nagpur's Chitnis Park, Mahal, Kotwali and Ganeshpeth.

Making a statement in the Maharashtra Assembly, the chief minister said: "After the morning incident, there was peace in Nagpur. However, some people indulged in violence on Monday night in a pre-planned manner. We found a trolley full of stones and weapons were also found. The mob targeted specific houses and establishments. It (the attack) appears to be a premeditated conspiracy. We will not spare those behind the violence. The

police were trying to maintain peace but became a target of attack." "Thirty-three police personnel, including three DCPs, have been injured severely. Five citizens were injured, while one of them was admitted to the ICU... Irrespective of their religious identity, no one involved in the attack on police officers will be spared," Fadnis said.

Deputy chief minister Eknath Shinde, while making a statement in the State Legislative Council said: "Police have said that many people came from outside. Petrol bombs were also hurled. It is unfortunate that the Police were also attacked. Strict action will be taken in this incident. I appeal to all to maintain peace." Alluding to the recently released film "Chhaava" made on the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of legendary Maratha warrior-king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj - starring Vicky Kaushal (as Sambhaji Maharaj) Rashmika Mandanna (as Maharani Yesubai) and Akshay Khanna (as Aurangzeb), the chief minister said that the film had brought to the

Israel pummels Gaza, killing more than 400 Palestinians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Deir Al-Balah (Gaza Strip)

Israel launched airstrikes across the Gaza Strip early Tuesday, killing at least 404 Palestinians, including women and children, according to hospital officials.

The surprise bombardment shattered a ceasefire in place since January and threatened to fully reignite the 17-month-old war.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the strikes after Hamas refused Israeli demands to change the ceasefire agreement. Officials said the operation was open-ended and was expected to expand. The White House said it had been consulted and voiced support for Israel's actions.

The Israeli military ordered people to evacuate eastern Gaza, including much of the northern town of Beit Hanoun and other communities further south, and head toward the centre of



Palestinians Ali Marouf and his mother Aisha cook on fire on the roof of their destroyed house by the Israeli army's air and ground offensive in Jabaliya, Gaza Strip

the territory, indicating that Israel could soon launch renewed ground operations.

"Israel will, from now on, act against Hamas with increasing military strength," Netanyahu's office said.

The attack during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan could resume a war that has already killed tens of thousands of Palestinians and caused widespread destruction across Gaza, raising questions about hostages held by Hamas.

PM Modi pens note for Sunita Williams

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Astronaut Sunita Williams is set to return to earth from space early Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has, in a letter to her, prayed for her good health and success in mission. She is expected to return at three am IST after a nine-month stay at the International Space Station (ISS).

Williams expressed her gratitude for the Prime Minister's thoughtful gesture and the support from India during her time in space.

Prime Minister Modi's letter, written on March 1 and sent through former National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) astronaut Mike

Massimino, was shared on social media by Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh.

"Even though you are thousands of miles away, you continue to remain close to our hearts. The people of India are praying for your good health and success in your mission," Modi said in

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PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

the letter. "After your return, we are looking forward to seeing you in India. It will be a pleasure for India to host one of its most illustrious daughters," the prime minister said.

PM Modi recalled meeting Williams and her late father Deepak Pandya during his 2016 visit to the US.

He said he had met Massimino at a programme in New Delhi and Williams' name came up during the conversation. "During the course of our conversation, your name came up and we discussed how proud we are of you and your work. Following this interaction, I could not stop myself from writing to you," he said.

Trump, Putin talk Ukraine ceasefire, Zelenskyy unsure

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Washington

President Donald Trump is to hold talks on Tuesday with Russian President Vladimir Putin as he looks to get buy-in on a US ceasefire proposal he hopes can create a pathway to ending Russia's devastating war on Ukraine.

The White House is expressing optimism that peace is within reach even as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy remains sceptical that Putin is doing much beyond paying lip service to Trump as Russian forces continue to pound his country.

The engagement is just the latest turn in dramatically shifting US-Russia relations as Trump made quickly ending the conflict a top priority - even at the expense of straining ties with longtime American allies who want Putin to pay a price for the invasion.

"It's a bad situation in Russia, and it's a bad situation in Ukraine," Trump told reporters on Monday. "What's happening in Ukraine is not good, but we're going to see if we can work a peace agreement, a ceasefire and peace. And I think we'll be able to do it."

In preparation for the Trump-Putin call, White House special envoy Steve Witkoff met last week with Putin in Moscow to discuss the proposal. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had persuaded senior Ukrainian officials during talks in Saudi Arabia to agree to the

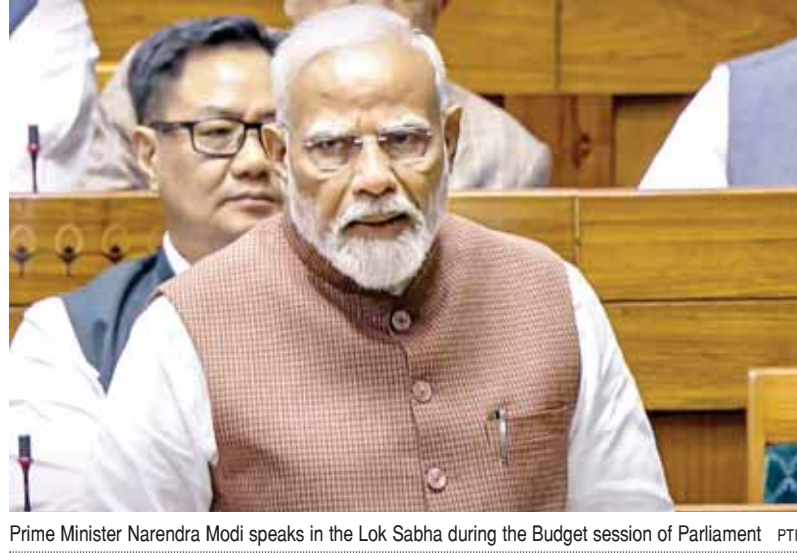
ceasefire framework. The US president said Washington and Moscow have already begun discussing "dividing up certain assets" between Ukraine and Russia as part of a deal to end the conflict.

Trump, who during his campaign pledged to quickly end the war, has at moments boasted of his relationship with Putin and blamed Ukraine for Russia's unprovoked invasion, all while accusing Zelenskyy of unnecessarily prolonging the biggest land war in Europe since World War II.

Putin's spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Tuesday that Trump and Putin will discuss the war in Ukraine but added that there are also a "large number of questions" regarding normalising US-Russia relations. The call will take place between 1 pm GMT and 3 pm GMT (9 am ET to 11 am ET), Peskov said.

Trump has said that control of land and power plants will be part of the conversation, which comes on the anniversary of Russia annexing Ukraine's Crimean peninsula 11 years ago. That bold land grab by Russia set the stage for Russia to invade its neighbour in 2022.

Witkoff and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt suggested that US and Russian officials have discussed the fate of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant - Europe's largest - in southern Ukraine.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks in the Lok Sabha during the Budget session of Parliament

PM speaks Maha Kumbh, Opposition cries stampedes

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi

Amid protests by Opposition seeking government to speak on the stampedes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the recent Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj was a defining moment in India's history, much like the revolt of 1857 and the Dandi March of Mahatma Gandhi that inspired the nation and paved the way for independence.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister said the Maha

Kumbh also strengthened the spirit of unity in the country and gave a befitting response to those who questioned India's collective strength to organise such a large congregation.

Opposition leaders including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi urged Speaker Om Birla to allow the Opposition members to speak and demanded the inclusion of the stampede deaths in the statement. Lok Sabha adjourned two times due to the protest of Opposition, leading to adjourning for the day around 2pm.

Pollution worsening in Indian metros

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi

The national capital remained India's most polluted megacity by a wide margin during the 2024-25 winter with an average PM2.5 concentration of 175 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³). However, a Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) analysis found that PM2.5 pollution in the national Capital declined in the 2024-25 winter (October 1 to January 31) compared to the 2023-24 winter (189 µg/m³). Kolkata was the second-most polluted megacity during the 2024-25 winter with an average PM2.5 concentration of 65 µg/m³.

Irrespective of their diverse geographic and climatic contexts, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai -- have seen worsening PM2.5 levels during the winter of 2024-25 (October 1, 2024-January 31, 2025). The overall level and the peaking points of pollution have, however, varied across cities depending on the meteorological conditions of different climatic zones.

The analysis showed that PM2.5 levels declined in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Kolkata compared to the previous winter but remained the same in Chennai and Hyderabad. The average PM2.5 levels during the 2024-25 winter were 52 µg/m³ in Hyderabad, 50 in Mumbai, 37 in Bengaluru and 36 in Chennai.

Delhi remains the most polluted megacity by a large margin during winter, even though its winter average has shown improvement over the previous winter

According to an analysis, Delhi with a winter average PM2.5 level of 175 µg/m³ remains the most polluted megacity by a large margin during winter, even though the winter average has shown improvement over the previous winter. Delhi's average PM2.5 concentration during winter increased by 1 per cent

compared to the average of previous three winters reaching 174 µg/m³, with peak pollution levels surging on November 18, 2024, to 602 µg/m³. In the other five megacities, the average winter PM2.5 level was 65 µg/m³ in Kolkata; 52 µg/m³ in Hyderabad; 50 µg/m³ in Mumbai; 36 µg/m³ in Chennai; and 37 µg/m³ in Bengaluru.

Delhi, located in the land-locked Indo-Gangetic Plains (IGP) with adverse meteorology, has recorded the highest level of pollution during winter, Kolkata -- also at the tip of the IGP -- ranks second. The megacities outside the IGP -- Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru -- despite having more advantageous climatic conditions and natural ventilation, have also experienced increases in average PM2.5 concentrations.

"When compared to the three-year average, Delhi remained the worst performer, with average winter pollution levels continuing to rise, even though by just 1 per cent higher than the average of the last three years," the analysis said.

Justice after a 44-year-old massacre

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ Firozabad

In a landmark judgment, a session's court has sentenced three individuals to death for their involvement in a gruesome massacre and dacoity that took place 44 years ago in Dihuli village of Thana Jasrana.

The crime, committed on November 18, 1981, saw a gang of dacoits led by Radhe and Santosha kill 24 people from the Dalit community and seriously injure nine others. The court found Rampal, Ramsevak, and Captain Singh guilty of murder and other serious offenses, imposing a death sentence on them. Additionally, Rampal and Ramsevak were fined ₹2 lakh each, while Captain Singh was fined ₹1 lakh.

As soon as the court pronounced the verdict, despair was evident on the faces of the three convicts. They broke down in tears, and their family members, who were waiting outside, also wept. Following the verdict, the police took them into custody and lodged them in jail.

The case had been pending in court for decades. During this time, several accused individuals died, while one was declared a fugitive by the court. The lengthy legal proceedings finally culminated in the historic verdict, bringing some closure to the victims' families and the community.

Following the court's ruling, the Dalit community in Dihuli erupted in celebrations, playing Holi to mark what they saw as justice delivered. Villagers Bhoop Singh and Chhote Singh stated that the brutal manner in which their community members were murdered has finally been answered with an appropriate punishment.

The convicts-Rampal, Ramsevak, and Captain Singh-can appeal the death sentence in the High Court within 30 days. The High Court will review the Sessions Court's judgment and may either uphold the death sentence or amend the punishment. After the sentencing, the three convicts were taken to Mainpuri district jail, where they will be kept in the quarantine barracks

for 14 days. During this period, they will be closely monitored to ensure their physical and mental well-being. Jail authorities will observe whether they are eating, drinking, and sleeping properly. After the quarantine period, they will be moved to the regular prison barracks.

Even before the final sentencing, the three convicts spent a restless night in jail on Monday. According to jail personnel, they appeared anxious and worried about their fate. Among them, Captain Singh seemed the most disturbed. On Tuesday morning, all three followed their routine and prepared to leave for the court, but the fear of their impending punishment was visible on their faces. They had even eaten less food on Monday evening, dreading the worst.

The case marks one of the longest-running trials in the country, highlighting the slow but eventual course of justice. The verdict serves as a reminder that crimes of such magnitude do not escape the legal system, no matter how long they take to be resolved.

Editor's TAKE

New vistas with New Zealand

The visit of the New Zealand Prime Minister reinforces the ties between the two nations

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon is on an official visit to India from March 16 to 20, 2025, marking his first trip to the country as Prime Minister. He is accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials, business leaders, media personnel, and members of the Indian diaspora community. New Zealand happens to be one of the most friendly nations India has in the southern hemisphere. The two countries share warm and friendly relations, rooted in historical ties as former British colonies and members of the Commonwealth. The Indian diaspora in New Zealand, which numbers around 2,40,000 also plays a crucial role in strengthening bilateral ties.

This visit of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon marks a significant step in the deepening of bilateral relations between the two nations. With discussions ranging from defence and security to counterterrorism measures, the visit underscores a growing alignment in worldviews between India and New Zealand.

One of the most noteworthy outcomes of the meeting between Prime Minister Luxon and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the signing of a comprehensive pact aimed at strengthening defence and security cooperation. This agreement reflects a shared commitment to maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, where both nations recognise the importance of collaboration in countering security threats. New Zealand supports a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific but is not part of security arrangements like the Quad.

During the bilateral discussions in New Delhi, Prime Minister Modi conveyed concerns over the activities of separatist groups that misuse democratic freedoms to promote terrorism and threaten Indian interests. In response, the New Zealand government reaffirmed its commitment to addressing such concerns and acknowledged India's perspective on these security threats. Indeed, a significant highlight of the discussions was the shared stance against terrorism. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Luxon emphasised that terrorism in any form is unacceptable, recalling tragic incidents such as the Christchurch attack in 2019 and the Mumbai 26/11 attacks.

Beyond security and counterterrorism, the visit also provided an opportunity to explore avenues for enhancing economic collaboration. Both leaders reiterated the need for stronger trade and investment ties, with a focus on sectors like technology, agriculture, and renewable energy. The two nations recognise the importance of fostering innovation and economic growth, paving the way for deeper economic integration. New Zealand is keen on a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with India, but progress has been slow.

India and New Zealand have been increasingly converging on global issues, including climate change, sustainable development, and maritime security. As responsible stakeholders in the Indo-Pacific, both countries aim to uphold international norms and work towards a stable and prosperous region. Their commitment to multilateralism and global governance is reflected in their ongoing cooperation with international organizations. From defence and security to economic collaboration and counterterrorism, India and New Zealand are steadily aligning their interests and working towards a shared vision for global peace and stability. Luxon's visit reflects a concerted effort to strengthen the multifaceted relationship between New Zealand and India, encompassing trade, security, education, tourism, sports, and cultural exchanges.

Leaderspeak

“ I really appreciate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not bring up New Zealand's Champions Trophy loss to India, and I did not mention our Test victories in India. Let's keep it that way and avoid a diplomatic incident. During PM Modi's tenure, the men in blue have been the most dominant side in cricket, most recently winning the Champions Trophy in Dubai against my men in black. They broke many, many New Zealanders' hearts in the process, including mine.”

CHRISTOPHER LUXON, PRIME MINISTER OF NEW ZEALAND

Nepal's monarchy debate reignites

Former King Gyanendra Shah, backed by the royalist Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), has launched a bold campaign to reclaim relevance. His recent high-profile return to Kathmandu has ignited political tensions

Returning to Pokhara, Nepal, during the current weather-fickle Holi season what struck me was the reignition of the debate on the revival of monarchy in a carefully orchestrated campaign driven by the royalist Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), other royalists and former King Gyanendra Shah. Not since the republic replaced monarchy in May 2008, has the debate and movement been so intense. The Republicans have hit back in Parliament and outside it. For the royalists, RPP parliamentary party leader Rajendra Lingden, vice president RPP Rabindra Misra and sister party stalwart, Kamal Thapa along with dissident CPN UML leader Durga Parsain, joined by members of civil society are backing Gyanendra. A battle royal is brewing between the two sides.

Gyanendra returned to Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport in a helicopter from Pokhara on March 9 greeted by tumultuous crowds, according to one estimate of around 100,000 supporters. The Royal convoy took nearly three hours to reach Gyanendra's Nirmal Niwas. Earlier on Democracy Day (February 19) he broke his silence through a video message on the restoration of the monarchy. Speaking directly to his countrymen in the third person 'we', he urged for their support for the progress and prosperity of the country.

"Now we are ready to sacrifice anything for the country. We have decided to solve the national problem". Gyanendra has taken the horse by the bit.

Royalists say the monarchy was removed by 'foreigners' and that the 2015 constitution was backed by 'foreigners'. One implied foreigner is India. Banners showing UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were prominently displayed on March 9. The House of Shahs, the royal dynasty began nearly 400 years ago and has an abiding connection with Gorakhnath Peeth whose founder Guru Gorakhnath blessed Prithvi Narayan Shah, founder of modern Nepal. Yogi Adityanath, is still its presiding priest and had in 2015 in Kathmandu publicly advocated the return of Nepal as a Hindu Rashtra. I am frequently asked here if India supports the revival of the Hindu state and monarchy in Nepal. I have said that India does not officially support either institution for Nepal. RPP has 14 seats in Parliament and secured 60,000 votes (out of 14 Million electorates) in the 2023 elections. Even in the local elections, their performance was below par. I met some well-wishers from Nepal at the Holi get-together in my village Anpu. Former Havaladar Durga Bahadur Gurung told me that during the monarchy, 'all the money' went to the



King's coffers; there were no 'vikas'. Now there is round development but "money goes to several ministers". But "vikas is essential and necessary". After the monarchy ended Nepal became secular, democratic and a republic enjoying the freedom of speech and people free to indulge in legitimate pursuits of happiness.



ASHOK K MEHTA

What Royalists forget is that monarchy was dismantled following a people's revolution (Jan Andolan) of 2006 — which was the culmination of the civil war, the 10-year-long Maoists insurrection that cost 17,000 lives and several thousand were victimised through disappearances and displacement. Further, Gyanendra had led a coup in 2005 dismissing Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba. He deleted democracy aspiring to return to absolute monarchy. It is therefore naive to think of turning the clock back.

The debate in and outside Parliament is continuing. Former Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai who has started a new party Nepal Samajbadi Party, had said after Gyanendra's Democracy Day speech, that he should be arrested. Prime Minister KP Oli has asked Gyanendra to start a political party and fight an election. The discussion in the lower

House has been civilised. Outside it, former prime minister and leader of the opposition, Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda the pathfinder of the republic, has said that the former King has found voice at this time due to the misgovernance of the ruling CPN UML and Nepali Congress.

He has also accused Gyanendra of murdering his brother Birendra and a statue smuggler. NC General Secretary Gagan Thapa has asked the government to withdraw Gyanendra's privileges. Gyanendra's alleged role in the 2001 Palace massacre has resurfaced. There are calls for a fresh enquiry into the royal tragedy; the initial enquiry was done hastily. Conspicuously Gyanendra and his notorious son Paras were among the few survivors of the tragedy.

On March 16, a royalist rally on the Durbar Marg between the main gate of the

palace and the statue of King Mahendra (Gyanendra's father) carrying a banner demanding the return of King Gyanendra for the third time to his throne. On March 28, republicans led by smaller Left parties will stage a counter-rally. And this duel will continue until governance and delivery improve which won't be any time soon.

How will the former King's clarion call resonate in India, and how will it resurrect the political fortunes of the royalists? Only elections and time will tell. The King will be pleased with his direct call, to the Nepali Janta to help him reclaim his throne. History will record February 19 and March 9, 2025, as dates of Gyanendra's riposte to return to Narayanhiti Durbar. Mr Shah will keep himself relevant to the discourse on monarchy at a time when many challenges confront Nepal not the least corruption which is at the heart of people's grievances. Unfortunately, the eight-month rule of the so-called stable alliance of two major parties has little to show to cheer Durga Bahadur.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. Views expressed are personal)

Gathered by love, glued by familial bonds

Opinion



ASHA IYER KUMAR

I had been a footloose solo traveller until health issues bogged me down and kept me cloistered in my home for nearly two years. In that period, I had nearly lost the innate verve to step out and see the world without being accompanied by the spouse. There was a certain blitheness to the spirit that came when I travelled alone and it was all taken away when an ailment robbed me of the confidence to wing out on my own.

Having come out of the phase for the most part, I had an opportunity to travel to India to attend a nephew's wedding earlier this month. However, I was caught between the nervousness of having to set out alone or giving the occasion a pass. The former meant steeling up to face whatever my mind and body would do to me during the time of travel. The former meant giving up a glorious opportunity to meet a horde of extended family members.

My dad came from a family of 13 siblings, most of whom have now moved on, leaving behind a sprawling clan of cousins who, over time, have built families of their own. Now with time, this family tree has grown phenomenally, with my cousins adding sons and daughters in-laws too. The invitation to the wedding meant having an enviable chance to meet many of them, and the list of people who had confirmed their attendance made me slaver. It was something I could not gloss over.

Good health or not, this was an occasion I did not want to miss because in a world that is getting polarised faster than a sneeze, one thing we need to preserve is the ties that transcend differences — the bonds of family that remind us, no matter how far we have drifted, there are roots that still hold us together.

The wedding promised to be more than just a celebration, it was a rare convergence of faces and stories I had not seen in years. A chance to relive old memories, forge new connections, and feel the warmth of belonging once again.

In the days leading up to my journey, I found myself replaying fragments of childhood spent with these cousins — the carefree gatherings on family occasions, the teasing banter that stitched us together, and the quiet comfort of knowing we belonged to the same expansive family tree. Life had since scattered us across continents, and while social media kept us loosely tethered, it was not the same as being in each other's presence — seeing familiar eyes light up, hearing voices unchanged by time, and embracing those whose touch still carried the warmth of home.

I knew this gathering would be more than just a reunion, it would be a gentle reminder that no matter how far we wander, we remain connected by unseen threads woven from shared memories, loud laughter, and the silent understanding that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. And so, with a heart both anxious and eager, I packed my bags, not just for a wedding, but for a journey back to the roots that

still held me fast.

And boy, was I overwhelmed! From the first hug I received from my paternal aunt when I walked into her room through the number of embraces I got from dozens of people I was meeting after a long time, it was two days of nonstop reminders about how deeply intertwined our lives were, despite the years and distances that had come between us. Each embrace seemed to unlock a memory. Conversations flowed like an unbroken river, as if it had never stopped, carrying with them the warmth of familiarity and the quiet reassurance that some connections never truly fade.

In those two days, I found myself moving through a reel of faces and voices, yet each encounter felt personal and profound as if no time had lapsed at all. It was not just a family gathering, it was a homecoming for the heart, a reminder that love, in its purest form, doesn't need constant tending to thrive. It waits patiently, ready to embrace us the moment we return.

All we need to nurture is a willingness to cruise into embraces and a bonding that are not encumbered by status, health conditions, time lapse, achievements or other highs and lows of a world that has no time to stand and share.

For this reason alone, I have resolved to attend any major celebration in the family if conditions are conducive, not just to enhance my experience of life, but also to let the bonds that time threatens to fray find their strength again, because some ties deserve to be nurtured, not merely remembered.

(The author is a Dubai-based columnist and children's writing coach. She has published six books. Views expressed are personal)

Letters to the Editor

INDIA TAKES CENTER STAGE

Madam—The on air podcast episode of American podcaster and YouTuber Lex Fridman in which he had interviewed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gone viral sensation on all the major internet platforms. Mr Fridman, who is known for interviewing the renowned personalities of the world, have so far achieved more than 1.5 Million views on his official YouTube channel for Modi's episode.

The exuberant interview of three long hours, make thought provoking discussion on so many critical issues including relationship with China, betrayal of Pakistan, his handling attempts of Godhara Riots, glimpses of his personal life, fast-ing, Donald Trump and his nostalgia of Howdy Modi to express the generous humility of Trump, Russia-Ukraine, war, peace, AI, education and so on.

He presented his bold words fearlessly on many of the controversial issues of his tenure as the Indian Prime Minister for three times. It seems like, not him alone voicing out locally about India, instead 1.46 Billion people's are being centre-staged for the Lex Podcast for the world to listen the roars of India and the Indians.

The whole interview is jam-packed about the life realities of PM Modi, stories of India and Indian legacy. He mesmerised the interview with his personal touch, depicting his entire age crisp snapshot in those three hours.

KIRTI WADHAWAN | KANPUR

TRUMP AND PUTIN EYE 30-DAY CEASEFIRE

Madam—It is with reference to the news article "Putin Trump to hold talks about Ukraine war today" (March 18). US President Donald Trump is going to speak with Russian President Putin about 30 days ceasefire in Russia-Ukraine war field. White House officials are curiously optimistic about a proposal that would stop the fighting between Russia and Ukraine for 30 days. It is really a welcome move.

Recently Ukraine's government agreed to the US proposal of 30 days ceasefire in talks in Saudi Arabia. Putin has praised Trump's efforts to end the war in Ukraine and has agreed in principle with the US ceasefire proposal. At the same time Putin has raised so many questions that may require further discussion before the agreement could be reached. His main demand is no NATO membership be given to Ukraine and international sanctions against Russia should be ended. Also Putin wants guarantees that Ukraine would not use the pause in fighting to resupply its forces or squirrel out Ukrainian fighters to avoid capture by Russians. Putin also questioned who would monitor the deal across the front-line as well as what penalties would be for violating its terms. Ukraine has already agreed a 30 days ceasefire if Russia signs on too so that a longer peace deal can be discussed. Ukraine demands an exchange of prisoners and a return of thousands of children who had illegally been taken to Russia.

P VICTOR SELVARAJ | TAMIL NADU

SOUTH INDIA'S TRIPLE WHAMMY

Madam—In a surprising coincidence, three major issues have simultaneously bounced to centre stage causing anxiety in the southern states. These issues are the linguistic burden placed upon them by the National Education Policy 2020, the upcoming report of the 16th Finance Commission and the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies in 2026. The explicit and implicit support for Hindi, along with its aggressive promotion, is perceived as a calibrated effort to impose the language on the non-Hindi-speaking states. The subtle manoeuvres in the Hindi heartland to replace English with Hindi, labelling the former as a colonial legacy and imbuing the exercise with nationalist sentiment, reinforce the suspicion. Ironically, India is the second-largest English-speaking nation in the world and some estimates suggest it may soon become the top nation. The percentage of people who can speak at least some English is higher in the South, where more people are now inclined to acquire proficiency. Revenue allocations from the central divisible pool to southern states have been scaled down. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent assurance to the southern states that "not even one seat is reduced pro-rata" could be considered a mollifying statement, at best. India's unity lies in addressing all regional linguistic aspirations, celebrating diverse cultures and sharing resources fairly.

HARIDASAN RAJAN | KOZHIKODE

HIMACHAL PRADESH APPLE GROWERS FEAR US TARIFF THREAT

The adverse impact of trade war will be visible in Himachal Pradesh if the apple of the United States (US) is allowed to enter in India. Here it is worth mentioning that a few years back there was proposal of entry of diary products from Scandinavian countries and strong protest was lodged by the Punjab and Gujarat because the livelihood of many is dependent on these dairy products and ultimately deal was cancelled.

Now, the apples of US will pose a serious threat to the Indian growers if the deal is matured. With import duties already slashed from 70 per cent to 50 per cent in 2023, orchardists fear another cut would flood the market with cheap, high-quality American apples, devastating domestic growers. The numbers tell a sobering story. When tariffs were hiked in 2018, US apple imports plummeted from 1.28 lakh metric tonnes to just 4,486 metric tonnes by 2022-23. But after the duty was reduced, imports surged nearly 20 times.

How the import duty can adversely impact the economy of the country it can be seen the impact on Canada where there is total fear psychosis what will happen in the near future and as per media reports many are thinking to return to own country and there is total uncertainty among the Indians settled in Canada.

All are aware that apple growers are already facing stiff competition from cheap Iranian imports and struggle with high production costs due to the rugged Himalayan terrain which makes mechanisation which ultimately adversely impact the sale in the competitive market, because the mechanisation become impossible. Whereas, the American apples benefit from highly mechanised farming and large-scale subsidies. Due to this high imbalance the India's apple industry extremely vulnerable to unregulated imports. And if the tariff is further cut without protective measures it would cripple an industry already on the edge.

YASH PAL RALHAN | JALANDHAR

Transforming education in a globalised era

True progress lies in integrating cognitive discourse, ethical values and innovative methodologies to bridge the gap between ancient wisdom and contemporary demands. By fostering inclusivity and transparency, we can cultivate responsible, knowledgeable and globally competitive individuals

FIRST Column

The increasing liberalisation and globalisation have fostered the concept of a global village, deeply interwoven with society, markets, freedom, choice, empowerment, peace, opportunities, and political linkages. However, its far-reaching impact has also created a somewhat confusing situation. Over the years, there has been considerable debate on reforms in education. It is crucial to identify new ways to assess candidates' qualitative competence by emphasising the improvement of their analytical and observational skills. This can be achieved through cognitive discourse, exploring multiple perspectives, and formulating integrated texts and questionnaires.

Students' lives are undergoing a significant transformation, largely due to rapidly changing value systems across the globe. However, this transformation, driven primarily by acquisition rather than genuine learning, risks turning education—a highly pious institution—into a business venture, where success is measured by material possessions alone. Our traditional knowledge system has long been known for embracing values and approaches that have nurtured students' creativity for centuries. Yet, we must acknowledge the challenges posed by the increasing complexities of this transitional phase.

Despite the historical challenges posed by imperialism and colonialism, our education system has grown richer in content and more diverse in ideas. Continuous efforts have been made to expose students to the nuances of socio-economic, political, and international issues. Kudos to the Ministry of Education for consistently updating curricula, placing a strong emphasis on enhancing students' comprehension skills, and fostering their all-round personality development. The introduction of the National Education Policy (NEP) has provided a robust framework to upgrade, innovate, and evolve new educational methods. This ensures that our education system remains on par with the best in the world.

The inquisitiveness of the new generation is evident in their ideas and remarkable achievements globally. However, the demands of changing times and the rise of social media, coupled with its negative influences, have made students increasingly vulnerable to shortcuts, criminal activities, and anti-social elements. This has compelled policymakers to revisit the glory of our traditional education system, which is rooted in immense knowledge and wisdom. The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is a commendable initiative in this direction. Its mission aims to create a confluence between our rich traditional values and modern educational advancements. This can help cultivate a culture of liberal literature and



SUDHIR HINDWAN

nurture a spirit of selfless service and brotherhood.

Recent transformations in India's higher education system deserve applause. Efforts have been made to ensure equitable access and partnerships among institutions, demonstrating a strong commitment to empowering students and faculty members. Additionally, the NEP's emphasis on school, adult, and higher education, as well as the promotion of Indian languages and online learning, signifies a tremendous effort to

enhance the overall educational landscape.

The essence of these reforms is to ensure clean governance and accountability in education while maintaining synergy among various stakeholders, particularly the youth. Establishing clear norms for structuring new educational frameworks ensures affordability and promotes social justice. Many positive changes have been implemented through fresh perspectives.

Another welcome regulation is the introduction



STUDENTS' LIVES ARE UNDERGOING A SIGNIFICANT TRANSFORMATION, LARGELY DUE TO RAPIDLY CHANGING VALUE SYSTEMS ACROSS THE GLOBE. HOWEVER, THIS TRANSFORMATION, DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY ACQUISITION RATHER THAN GENUINE LEARNING, RISKS TURNING EDUCATION INTO A BUSINESS VENTURE

of monitoring mechanisms that assess institutions based on research output, academic excellence, industry linkages, and employability. The clear framework for decision-making regarding the establishment and closure of institutions ensures transparency.

There has been considerable debate among academicians regarding selection processes in higher education.

One of the major challenges is adapting selection criteria to the contemporary context of increasing global interdependence. Recent developments have laid the foundation for a deeper understanding of the evolving nature of politics and society.

However, modifying the examination system is crucial, without it, reforms may remain theoretical rather than practical. The strength of the higher education system lies in fostering internal dynamism and ensuring inclusive growth. Even the best systems are shaped by the people who drive change.

Tremendous efforts have been made to create a robust higher education apparatus, yet there is always room for improvement to make the sys-

tem more cost-effective and people-centric. Academicians play a vital role in this fast-changing world, which faces increasing challenges from cyber fraud, the misuse of artificial intelligence, and the influence of social media. The blurred distinction between virtual (reel) and real life is a growing concern. As beacons of wisdom and sacrifice, academicians must relentlessly pursue knowledge, contribute to society, and help students navigate the paradoxes of the transitional phase.

Students should be encouraged to engage in practical learning experiences that bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications.

A constant focus on conceptualising knowledge can help students carve out a niche for themselves. Since the ultimate goal of life remains happiness and contentment, we must delve deep into the vast ocean of knowledge and retrieve the pearls of forgotten wisdom.

Conclusion

The transformation of India's education system, driven by globalisation and policy reforms, reflects a broader shift toward a more inclusive, innovative, and skill-oriented framework. While challenges persist, including the commercialisation of education, social media's negative influence, and the evolving global landscape, the efforts to modernise learning while preserving traditional wisdom are commendable.

The National Education Policy (NEP) has laid a strong foundation for enhancing analytical skills, fostering research excellence, and improving employability. A well-balanced approach—integrating cognitive discourse, ethical values, and advanced methodologies—can bridge the gap between traditional knowledge and contemporary demands.

The role of academicians remains crucial in guiding students to think critically and engage meaningfully with society. With a focus on inclusivity, transparency, and lifelong learning, India's education system is poised to create a generation of responsible, knowledgeable, and globally competitive individuals. Ultimately, education should not merely be a tool for financial success but a means to cultivate intellectual curiosity, selfless service, and a deep appreciation for knowledge.

As we continue to refine our educational policies, the goal should be to nurture individuals who contribute positively to society while upholding the rich legacy of Indian wisdom.

A holistic, student-centric approach will ensure long-term success and sustainable progress.

(The writer, a recipient of the Bharat Gaurav Award, is a professor. Views expressed are personal)

Global AI framework: Learning from nuclear arms race and climate change

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is fast becoming the defining technology of our era, shaping everything from retail and finance to warfare and surveillance. Unlike run-of-the-mill general-purpose technologies, AI is truly path-breaking: it holds the power to transform the foundational structures of society, from how we work and learn to how we govern and secure ourselves. Much like nuclear technology and climate change, AI transcends national borders and individual interests. While celebrating technology's limitless potential, we must heed Geoffrey Hinton, dubbed the "Godfather of Deep Learning" and a 2024 Nobel laureate, who warns of the existential risks of rapidly advancing AI.

A few technocrats and major corporations now steer AI's development, potentially reshaping economies and societies. To ensure AI benefits humanity rather than endangering it, we must adopt a global governance framework akin to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) or the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

The peril of few holding the future

Economists Daron Acemoglu and Jhonson warn that a small elite controlling technological development can lock society into pathways that primarily benefit the privileged. This echoes historical moments when narrow interests drove massive decisions: for example, Ferdinand de Lesseps undertook the Panama Canal project after his success in Suez, only to misjudge engineering challenges and trigger disastrous outcomes. By analogy, big-tech leaders might have grand AI visions but overlook ethical hazards, job displacement, or societal well-being. When vision and capital become so concentrated, even a minor misstep at the top can ripple across the globe.

Moreover, this dynamic reflects what Cornell economist and India's former chief economic advisor Kaushik Basu calls the "Samaritan's Curse." Well-intentioned or philanthropic AI solutions—like free educational software from tech giants—could still undermine local autonomy and accountability.

In this scenario, communities become dependent on external providers who extract data and set the terms for entire regions. Over time, local institutions weaken, and the global majority is left beholden to decisions made just in the tech hubs. Likewise, an overreliance on purely "rational" frameworks—common in game theory—can exacerbate these inequalities. If tech elites optimize only for short-term interests or market dominance, they risk creating suboptimal outcomes that harm societal well-being—much like a Prisoner's Dilemma, in which self-interested actions lead everyone astray.

Lessons from nuclear non-proliferation

The parallels to the nuclear age are not accidental. In the early Cold War, world leaders recognised that nuclear weapons posed an existential threat, motivating treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Although imperfect, the NPT regime has provided an institutional channel for monitoring, compliance, and the promotion of peaceful nuclear uses.

AI, too, carries existential dimensions—whether from fully autonomous weapons, large-scale manipulation through algorithmic propaganda, or poorly controlled superintelligence. If major actors pursue an "arms race" mentality, each will race to deploy ever more powerful AI systems without adequate safety checks. In this Hawk-versus-Dove dynamic, those who prefer cautious regulation (the Doves) risk being overtaken by more aggressive competitors (the Hawks).

History shows that unrestrained competition with no global oversight can lead to destabilising deployments, leaving the rest of humanity at risk.

A climate governance

Meanwhile, the IPCC provides another model. By assembling scientific findings from around the world and presenting them in plain language, the IPCC has anchored climate negotiations for decades.

Although climate action remains insufficient overall, the IPCC demonstrates the value of an inclusive, science-driven body that informs international treaties and inspires national policy.

AI would benefit from a similar body—an "IPCC for AI." Such an institution could pool data, consolidate research, and highlight both the benefits and dangers of emerging AI applications. It would not, by itself, end competition or guarantee ethically deployed AI. However, it could foster a shared understanding of risks, develop transparent benchmarks for testing AI systems, and guide negotiations on international standards.

The need for equitable participation

If we want to avoid replicating the inequities of past global governance efforts, we must ensure that developing nations and historically marginalised communities have a real seat at the table. In nuclear and climate frameworks, wealthier nations often dominate the agenda, while poorer nations struggle to make their voices heard. When it comes to AI, the stakes are just as high-

if not higher—because the technology permeates jobs, education, healthcare, and human rights.

Without equitable participation, we risk a scenario in which AI is developed primarily by and for affluent societies, leaving much of the world behind. Local languages, cultural contexts, and social needs might remain unaddressed. Worse, data could be harvested from vulnerable communities without meaningful consent, reinforcing a cycle of dependency and exploitation. Moreover, if large companies or governments leverage AI to automate industries, job losses may disproportionately impact regions lacking the resources to adapt or retrain.

Towards a global architecture

A robust AI governance framework would combine elements of the NPT (agreements limiting destructive uses and encouraging responsible technology sharing) with the IPCC's approach (transparent, collaborative scientific assessment). Governments, industry, civil society, and academia should unite in a formal institution that:

1. Sets global standards for data governance, algorithmic transparency, and ethical AI usage.
2. Establishes monitoring and verification protocols to identify dangerous or manipulative AI deployments.
3. Facilitates capacity-building so that lower-income countries can develop or adapt AI ethically, rather than become passive recipients of technology shaped elsewhere.
4. Promotes open research on AI safety, interpretability, and fairness, ensuring that breakthroughs are not locked behind corporate or governmental secrecy.

Conclusion

AI's immense promise should not blind us to its potential perils as AI has already transformed the planet's strategic and economic landscape. To avoid a future shaped solely by a powerful few, we must proactively craft a global governance system.

Such an institution can harness the best of AI innovation while safeguarding against misuse, exploitation, job losses, and catastrophic misjudgments.

The lesson from nuclear arms and climate policy is clear: when technology poses risks on a planetary scale, neither laissez-faire market forces nor unilateral national approaches will suffice, instead, a cooperative international framework, informed by science and rooted in fairness, is our best hope.

(The writer is an officer of the Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers and is presently pursuing MPA at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore. Views expressed are personal)

Purity and well-being: The true foundations of health

Health is Wealth is an old maxim that's relevant even today in this modern age. It's a fact that health is very essential to happy and natural living. And without good health, one does not have a feeling of stamina, suppleness and well-being. Today, nobody wants to be sick and physically distressed to spend their hard-earned money on doctors and medicines and that is why people all over the world have become more health conscious than they were a few years back.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease. Since there is an intimate connection and interaction between mind and body, most of the time a physical disease causes some symptoms of ailment in the mind and vice versa. And to treat it, there are many systems or parties as we call them. Usually, the doctors give medicine so that the symptoms of the disease disappear or, at most, the disease in its present form disappears. However, there are only very few systems that feel concerned with the eradication of the causes of the disease and with the restoration of health.

Various systems define 'disease' and its causes differently and their philosophy of health and disease is very different from that of the other systems. For example, the allopathic system of medicine is based on the philosophy that it is the virus that causes a disease and hence allopaths consider viruses as living microorganisms.

They also think that many diseases are caused by bacteria if not by viruses. So, their system attempts to kill these viruses or bacteria to help the body recover from their attack. But the hygienist school of thought or the nature curists say that viruses are not living entities and they consider viruses as the proteinaceous debris of spent cells that create a condition of intoxication, called toxemia or toxicosis. They say that which is called 'virus' is always dead, it never shows any signs of life, such as metabolism or control mechanisms.

As to the bacteria, they say that bacteria have always been with us because they are our symbiotic partners. So, according to nature curists, the real culprit is the accumulated toxic matter and hence they consider a disease not as a result of attack by viruses or bacteria but the result of the toxic matter, generated within or taken from outside, and also the result of the body attempting to throw this toxic material out of it.

So, according to them, all diseases are toxemia in origin and most diseases are a remedial effort or a struggle by the body to purify or repair itself. Now, if we consider 'disease' as the manifestation of a signal concerning the accumulated debris,

waste or toxic matter, then we will have to say that purification of the body is the mother of health. In this purification, 'purity of mind' plays a very great role because purification of the body requires fasting or less eating, avoiding toxic food, and having control over sensual pleasures that lead to waste of body-vitality.

It also means control over our behaviour and emotions, for these also lead to debility, innervation and unhealthy functioning of our nervous or glandular system. Even if we believe in the existence of viruses, bacteria or microorganisms as the causes of our disease, it would be hard to deny the fact that the main culprit is the accumulated toxic matter in our body because that provides a suitable breeding ground for the virus or the bacteria. In sum, it would be correct to say that spiritual and physical purity is the factor that promotes natural health.

Hence, without positive emotions of love, enthusiasm etc, one cannot have the vitality to maintain normal functions of all body parts because the negative emotions cause a great drain on one's vitality and debilitate the whole organism. It would therefore be proper to emphasise that purity is the main ingredient to achieve good health.

So, while doctors talk of holistic health, hypertension, psychosomatic diseases, and drug addiction, we wish that due attention is also paid to the turmoil caused by one's negative thoughts which is making the atmosphere of society polluted and unhealthy.

In conclusion, maintaining good health requires a holistic approach that encompasses physical, mental, and emotional well-being. While medical systems like allopathy focus on eliminating viruses and bacteria, natural hygiene emphasises detoxification and purification as the key to health. The debate over the causes of disease highlights the importance of keeping the body free from toxic accumulation. Furthermore, emotional health plays a crucial role in overall well-being, as negative thoughts and stress can weaken the body's vitality. True health is not just the absence of disease but a balance of mind, body, and spirit. Cultivating purity—both physically and mentally—through proper nutrition, controlled emotions, and positive thoughts is essential to achieving lasting wellness.

As society becomes more health-conscious, a shift toward preventive care and natural healing methods can help reduce dependency on medications and promote a healthier way of life. Ultimately, health is indeed wealth, and nurturing it should be a priority for all.

(The writer is spiritual teacher and a popular columnist. Views expressed are personal)



ISHOO RATNA SRIVASTAV



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

3 terrorists neutralised by Pakistan's security forces

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Peshawar

Security forces killed three terrorists during an intelligence-based operation in Pakistan's northwestern Province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa...

In a statement, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said security forces conducted the IBO in the general area of Tor Darra of Khyber district...

"During the conduct of the operation, own troops effectively engaged the khwarji [terrorists] location, as a result of which, three khwarji were sent to hell," it added.

Weapons and ammunition were also recovered from killed terrorists, who remained actively involved in numerous terrorist activities in the area, the ISPR added.

A sanitization operation was launched to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area as the "security forces of Pakistan are determined to wipe out the menace of terrorism from the country".

Last week, the Pakistan Army thwarted a terrorist attack on a check post and killed 10 militants following a suicide attack in the Jandola area of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's South Waziristan district.

The military's media wing had said that the

attempt to enter the post was effectively thwarted by the troops, forcing the terrorists to "ram an explosive-laden vehicle into the perimeter wall".

The country witnessed a sharp increase in terror attacks in January 2025, surging by 42 per cent compared to the previous month, according to data released by the Pakistan Institute for Conflict and Security Studies (PICSS), a think tank.

The data revealed that at least 74 militant attacks were recorded nationwide, resulting in 91 fatalities, including 35 security personnel, 20 civilians, and 36 militants.

Another 117 individuals sustained injuries, including 53 security forces personnel, 54 civilians, and 10 militants.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa remained the worst-affected province, followed by Balochistan. In KP's settled districts, militants carried out 27 attacks, resulting in 19 fatalities, including 11 security personnel, six civilians, and two militants.

The tribal districts of KP (erstwhile Fata) witnessed 19 attacks, leading to 46 deaths, including 13 security personnel, eight civilians, and 25 militants.

Balochistan also experienced a surge in militant activity, with at least 24 attacks, which claimed 26 lives, including 11 security personnel, six civilians, and nine militants.

Canada's Carney meets with European allies as Trump targets his country's sovereignty, economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney met with leaders of Britain and France on Monday during his first official overseas trip, seeking support from two of Ottawa's oldest allies as US President Donald Trump targets Canada's sovereignty and economy.

Canadians have criticized the leaders of the two countries that founded Canada for their muted response to Trump's attacks. The president has imposed tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminum and repeatedly commented on turning Canada into the 51st state.

Carney and French President Emmanuel Macron did not take journalists' questions, and a joint news conference was not scheduled with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, either. An official familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly, said the Canadians proposed a press conference in Paris but the French declined.

Starmer has called Canada a friend and ally of the UK but has declined to directly call out Trump's talk of annexation — though he went further than he has before by stressing Canada's sovereignty.

"The relationship between our two countries has always been strong," Starmer told Carney inside the British leader's 10 Downing St. residence. "Two sov-

reign allies, so much in common — a shared history, shared values, shared king."

Carney dismissed the notion that he is seeking the support of other countries to affirm Canada as a nation. "We don't need another country to validate our sovereignty, we are sovereign," he said. "We can stand up for ourselves. The disrespect is not helpful and needs to stop before we sit down about a broader partnership." Macron did not address Trump's attacks on Canada ahead of their talks but noted that tariffs only bring inflation and damage to supply chains.

"In the current international context, we want to be able to develop our most strategic projects with our closest, more loyal partners," Macron said.

In London, Carney was received at Buckingham Palace by King Charles III, Canada's head of state, before his talks with Starmer. The monarch, wearing a red tie and an Order of Canada lapel pin, congratulated Carney on his recent victory. He was sworn in on Friday.

"Canada is fortunate to have a steadfast defender in our sovereign," Carney posted on X.

On Tuesday, Carney will travel to the edge of Canada's Arctic to reaffirm the country's security and sovereignty.

Why Paris and London?: Carney has chosen the two European capitals that shaped Canada's early existence. During his swearing-in, he noted the country was built on the bedrock of three peoples, French,

English and Indigenous.

He added that Canada is fundamentally different from America and will "never, ever, in any way shape or form, be part of the United States."

"I want to ensure that France, and the whole of Europe, works enthusiastically with Canada, the most European of non-European countries," Carney said, but vowed to "maintain the most positive relations possible with the United States."

Daniel Béland, a political science professor at McGill University in Montreal, said other leaders are "playing it safe" and making sure to avoid gaffes at a time of international tension around Trump's actions and rhetoric.

Carney's choice of itinerary emphasizes Canada's strong connection with the two former colonial powers, Béland said, and noted that "the fact that Canada never broke away from the UK in a violent fashion is a key historical and institutional difference between the United States and Canada."

The trip to London was a kind of homecoming. Carney became the first non-British governor in the Bank of England's 319-year history when he took the job in July 2013. He served until March 2020.

No Washington trip planned: Carney said he won't sit down with Trump until the U.S. is ready to have a more comprehensive discussion on trade and security. "When the US is ready to have that conversation we're ready to sit down," he said.

Last surviving pilot from Battle of Britain dies at 105

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

The last surviving pilot of the world war by their prowess and by their devotion," Churchill said. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

Britain has ever since revered "the few" for saving the country during its moment of peril. The Battle of Britain Memorial on the English Channel coast lists the names of 2,941 Allied aircrew who took part in the battle.

Hemway was just 20 years old when he and his comrades in the Royal Air Force took to the skies to fight off wave after wave of Nazi aircraft that sought to pound Britain into submission during the summer and autumn of 1940.

In August of that year, when German bombers were relentlessly targeting airfields in southern England and the outcome of the battle was still in doubt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill famously stood before the House of Commons to pay tribute to the young pilots who were defending Britain. "The gratitude of every home in our island, in our empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the enemy, goes out to the British airman who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal dan-

ger, are turning the tide of the world war by their prowess and by their devotion," Churchill said. "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

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Secret Service protection for Biden's adult children ends

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ London

President Donald Trump said Monday he was ending "immediately" the Secret Service protection details assigned to Democrat Joe Biden's adult children, which the former president had extended to July. The Republican president on social media objected to what he said were 18 agents assigned to Hunter Biden's protective detail while in South Africa this week. He said Ashley Biden has 13 agents assigned to her detail and that she too "will be taken off the list."

There was no immediate reaction from the former president's office. Former presidents and their spouses receive life-long Secret Service protection under federal law, but the protection afforded to their immediate families over the age of 16 ends when they leave office, though both Trump and Biden extended the details for their children for six months before leaving office.

While touring the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Monday afternoon, a reporter asked Trump if he would revoke the protection for the former president's son. "Well, we have done that with many. I would say if there are 18 with Hunter Biden, that will be something I'll look at this afternoon," Trump said, who added this was the first time he heard about the matter. "I'm going to take a look at that," he said.

मध्य प्रदेश पुलिस आवास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास निगम

कार्यालय परियोजना यंत्री, इंदौर संभाग क्रमांक-02 जी-13, प्रथम 'तल' एम.आई.जी. कॉलोनी, एम.आई.जी. थाने के पीछे, इंदौर (म.प्र.) मो. नं.-9425601512, दूरभाष : 0731-2550472 E-mail-Id:- mpphidclindore2@gmail.com

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना - 27/2024-25

म.प्र.प.ए. एवं अधो.वि.नि., इंदौर संभाग क्र.-02, इंदौर द्वारा पुलिस वैरिक (महिला), सर पुलिस लाईन, इंदौर, पुलिस वैरिक (पुरुष) 15वीं बटा, इंदौर, एनजीओ ट्रांजिस्ट कैम्प मॉडल, थाना सनावद, पुलिस आवास थाना महेश्वर, ओ.आर. ट्रांजिस्ट हॉस्टल थाना बड़वाह, ओ.आर. ट्रांजिस्ट हॉस्टल थाना मण्डलेश्वर, जीओएस ट्रांजिस्ट हॉस्टल थाना महेश्वर, जिला खराोन के निर्माण कार्यों हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 01.04.2025 तक खरीदे जा सकते हैं, जिसकी विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं अन्य विवरण https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

म.प्र. माध्यम/119270/2025 परियोजना यंत्री

NORTHERN RAILWAY (E-AUCTION NOTICE)

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager/PS, Northern Railway Delhi Division invites bids through e-Auction through IREPS (http://ireps.gov.in) for the allotment of Automated Teller Machine/ Digital Banking Unit/ Banking e-Lobby Contracts, at following Railway Stations/ Locations:-

Table with columns: E-Catalogue No., Date & Time of Bidding, Railway Stations/Locations/ Sites. Includes entries for DLI-ATM-05-2025, New Delhi-Baroda House, etc.

All bidders who intend to participate in the e-auctions conducted through E-Auction Leasing module of IREPS should fulfill following mandatory requirements before they can submit their bids: Registration on IREPS for E-Auction Leasing module - Active IREPS User Account for E-Auction Leasing Module...

Railway Authority to contact, in case of any query. No. 3PUB/ATM/DLI-DIV/E-auction/2022 Dated: 03.2025 843/2025 SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of HEMANT SAINI with respect to Property Bearing No. RZ-26-P/91, area measuring 43 Sq. Yds. out of Khana No. 891308, ARE 115 SQ. YDS. KHASRA No. 300, VILLAGE KHAMPUR RAYA MANDIR WALI GALLI, SHADI KHAMPUR, NEW DELHI and Village Nasirpur colony known as Indra Park, Palam Colony New Delhi-110045...

It is notified to the general public that my client Rajender son of Late Shri Jai Singh R/o C-1/243-244, Sultan Puri Delhi-110086, has debarred and disinherited his son Shanu from all his movable/immovable properties and severed all his relations both legal & social with his wife to disrespectful behavior...

Sanjeev Dwivedi (Advocate)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Sh. Dharam Veer S/o Sh. Raghuveer & Smt. Usa Devi W/o Sh. Dharam Veer are the owners of Residential Plot of Land Area Measuring 55.00 Sq. Yds. out of Khana No. 827, Situated at in Village Dabri Tassil Dabri Distt Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. by virtue of Sale Deed dated 21/08/1997, regd. as Doc. No. 2075, executed by Sh. Amar Singh, unfortunately Sh. Dharam Veer, leaving behind the legal heirs namely (1) Usa Devi, (2) Vansha Chauran, (3) Rajat Chauran & (4) Vinod Chauran, and these are intending to sell to Devali Handwala/Intending Broker, same to be finance by SMCFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address, within 07 days of the present. Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate...

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Sh. Jag Pal Singh S/o Sh. Charan Singh is the owner of Plot No. 22, land area measuring 89 Sq. Yds. Out of Khana No. 2625, Situated in the Abadi of Village Karawal Nagar Ilaqa Shahdara Delhi., by virtue of GPA Dated 10/07/2008, regd. as Doc. No. 1540, executed by Smt. Dharamwati, same to be finance by SMCFG India Home Finance Company Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Rahul Raj Pathak, Advocate...

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Aman Verma who intends to purchase Entire First Floor Portion upto Ceiling level, Property Bearing No. 42814, Old Property No. 194-N16-A, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., comprised in Khana No. 622mm, Situated in the abadi of Gali No. 5, Ram Colony, S.S. Block, Bhoja Nath Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, in the area of Village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110032, earlier the entire subject property was owned by Mrs. Kunti Devi Sharma and after her demise same was transferred to her sons Mr. Rohtash Kumar Ashwari, Mr. Ashok Kumar Sharma and Mr. Dharmendra Kumar vide Relinquishment Deed dated 27.01.2012 further by virtue of a Partition Deed dated 07.09.2014 bearing Document No. 2206, Book No. 1, Volume No. 237, area 647.72, dated 01.09.2014 (SRO-VV VIVEK VIHAR DELHI), Mr. Ashok Kumar Sharma owned the Entire First Floor of the subject property, now Mr. Aman Verma intend to purchase and mortgage against the financial assistance from AXIS FINANCE LIMITED. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFPC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Legal LLLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046318

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mr. Aman Verma who intends to purchase Entire First Floor Portion upto Ceiling level, Property Bearing No. 42814, Old Property No. 194-N16-A, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., comprised in Khana No. 622mm, Situated in the abadi of Gali No. 5, Ram Colony, S.S. Block, Bhoja Nath Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, in the area of Village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110032, earlier the entire subject property was owned by Mrs. Kunti Devi Sharma and after her demise same was transferred to her sons Mr. Rohtash Kumar Ashwari, Mr. Ashok Kumar Sharma and Mr. Dharmendra Kumar vide Relinquishment Deed dated 27.01.2012 further by virtue of a Partition Deed dated 07.09.2014 bearing Document No. 2206, Book No. 1, Volume No. 237, area 647.72, dated 01.09.2014 (SRO-VV VIVEK VIHAR DELHI), Mr. Ashok Kumar Sharma owned the Entire First Floor of the subject property, now Mr. Aman Verma intend to purchase and mortgage against the financial assistance from AXIS FINANCE LIMITED. To comply the requirements of BANK/NFPC, we give this public notice that if any person having any type of claim/right/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, liens etc. Legal LLLP Plot No.136, (Basement) Uday Park, New Delhi-110049, Contact # 011-40046318

PUBLIC NOTICE

On behalf of M/S MAXHEIGHTS TOWNSHIP & PROJECTS PVT. LTD having its registered office at 408, 4th floor, Ring Trade Tower, Netaji Subhasi Place, Pitampura, New Delhi-110024, the undersigned public hereby informed that on the basis of application documents submitted by S. Manish Grover S/o. Late Smt. Kailash Grover and Late Sh. Avinash Chander Grover R/O. N-2, Parvana Vihar, Plot No. 52, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi-110085, The Developer M/s Maxheights Township & Projects Pvt. Ltd is circulating the above said Sh. Manish Grover in place of late Smt. Kailash Grover, qua allotment of Flat No. K-071, 7th Floor, Maxheights Metro View Apartments, Sector-35, Sonapat, Haryana:- If any person has any objection/claim on the said property or against the said substitution, they may file his/her claim/objection within 15 days to the company and thereafter no claim will be entertained in this regard. Kshilji Sharda Advocate (D/1516/2008), 285, Lawyer Chambers, Block-II, Delhi High Court Complex Sher Shah Road New Delhi-110033

LOST & FOUND

I, Krishan Kumar S/o Sh. Daryao Singh have lost original Share Certificate and Possession Letter of Flat No. B-604, Rajasva CGHS Ltd., Plot No. 33, Sector-4, Dwarka, New Delhi, finder please contact: Mob. 9999451977. PD(1698)A

CHANGE OF NAME

I Chesta D/o Shri Suhil Kumar, R/o WB - 163, Ganesh Nagar, Shakarpur, Delhi-110092 Have Change my Name Chesta to Chesta Chaurasia for all future purpose. PD(1697)C

I, Shivani Chauhan D/O Ved Prakash R/O H.No. -190, Nagali Wazidpur Sector-135, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -201301, hereby declare that my father name is also ved prakash chauhan. Hence, Ved Prakash Chauhan should be used for any official purposes. PD(1699)C

I, Chaitanya Arora S/o Mr. Sanjay Arora R/O H.No-2602, Gali No-4, Shadipur Main Bazar, Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008, changed my name from Chatney Arora to Chaitanya Arora for all future purposes. PD(1701)C

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Name of Work/Notice Tender, Opening Date, Closing Date, Amount/EMD, Website of the Board, Nodal Officer/Contact Details. Includes tender for Annual Rate Contract for purchase of centrally stored items.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 32982-12-7

INDIRA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, MEERPUR - REWARI

(A State University Established under Haryana Act No.29 of 2013) (Recognized u/s 12 (b) & 2 (f) of UGC Act 1956)

NIQ (NOTICE INVITING QUOTATIONS)

Table with columns: Sr. No., Name of Department, Name of Work/Notice, Opening Date, Closing Date, Website of the Department, Nodal Officer/Email, NIQ issued vide No. Includes tender for Annual Rate Contract for purchase of centrally stored items.

RO 32938-C-27-7 Deputy Registrar (P&S) IGU, Meerpur, Rewari

Office of the Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh

Letter No. : 1247/962C(Yata-C)-03/2025 Dated : 18/03/2025

National Competitive E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer 3rd Circle, Public Works Department, Pithoragarh invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of "Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand" for following works. All other information will be available online from date 22-03-2025 at 5.00 PM onward on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

Table with columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Earnest Money, Cost of Tender, Validity of Tender, Period of Completion, Contractor's Category of Registration. Includes renewal work by SDBC in Km 62.00 to Km 71.00 and Km 75.00.

CLIX HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Registered Office: Aggarwal Corporate Tower, Plot No. 23, 5th Floor, Govind Lal Sikka Marg, Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110008

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(f) of the Securitization (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) of the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Clix Housing Finance Limited (CLIX) (Secured Creditors), the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Clix Housing Finance Limited (CLIX), Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" basis on 22.04.2025, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditors from following Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s). The reserve price and earnest money to be deposited is mentioned below respectively

Table with columns: Name of Borrower, Co-Borrower/Guarantor(s) with address/es, Description & Owner(s) of Properties. Includes Deepak Pawar S/O Jai Pal Singh, Sunita W/O Deepak Pawar, Manish Grover in place of late Smt. Kailash Grover, etc.

Reserve Price (RP) & EMD Amount 10% of the Reserve Price & Incremental Amount. Recovery Amount as per Demand Notice. Date & Time of On-Site Inspection of Property. Date & Time of E-Auction with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each.

1. MANISH BERA S/O PRASENJIT A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL STREET ALL PIECE AND PARCEL OF BUILT-UP PROPERTY NO.14-A-1, MEASURING AREA 166 SQ. YDS. MEASUREMENT 30FT X 50FT. I.E. 138.79 SQ. METRS. PLINTH COVERED AREA 111.03 SQ. METRS. CONSISTING OF ONE DRAWING CUM DINNING ROOM, THREE BED ROOMS, DELHI-110031. 2. PRASHANT KUMAR W/O DALIP BERA A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL STREET, DELHI-110031. 3. Pawan Kumar Mehta S/O Late Bal Kishan P. No. 53, Fitted With Electricity And Water Tap Connection Alongwith The Concerned Meters, With Common Rights Of Use The Entrance, Passage, Slairs, With Undivided, Unshared, Impartable Proportionate, Ownership Rights, In The Land, With The Water Tanky Which Is Installed On The Roof Of The Top Floor Of The Building And Having The Rights To Go For The Inspection Of The Same At Any Reasonable Time, Situated At Village Chandrawali Alias Sandhya W/O Dilip Kumar Bera A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL WITH UNDIVIDED, IMPARTABLE, PROPORTIONATE OWNERSHIP RIGHT IN STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. 4. DILIP BERA A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL WITH UNDIVIDED, IMPARTABLE, PROPORTIONATE OWNERSHIP RIGHT IN STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. 5. Universal Unique Enterprises, through its Proprietor Deepak Pawan District Gurugram, Baruwa Bayanawa Waska No. 104927, East: Others Property, North: Others Property, West: Wide 20ft Road, South: Others Property.

Reserve Price (RP) & EMD Amount 10% of the Reserve Price & Incremental Amount. Recovery Amount as per Demand Notice. Date & Time of On-Site Inspection of Property. Date & Time of E-Auction with unlimited extensions of 5 Minutes each.

1. Pawan Kumar Mehta S/O Late Bal Kishan P. No. 53, Fitted With Electricity And Water Tap Connection Alongwith The Concerned Meters, With Common Rights Of Use The Entrance, Passage, Slairs, With Undivided, Unshared, Impartable Proportionate, Ownership Rights, In The Land, With The Water Tanky Which Is Installed On The Roof Of The Top Floor Of The Building And Having The Rights To Go For The Inspection Of The Same At Any Reasonable Time, Situated At Village Chandrawali Alias Sandhya W/O Dilip Kumar Bera A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL WITH UNDIVIDED, IMPARTABLE, PROPORTIONATE OWNERSHIP RIGHT IN STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. 2. Pawan Kumar Mehta S/O Late Bal Kishan P. No. 53, Fitted With Electricity And Water Tap Connection Alongwith The Concerned Meters, With Common Rights Of Use The Entrance, Passage, Slairs, With Undivided, Unshared, Impartable Proportionate, Ownership Rights, In The Land, With The Water Tanky Which Is Installed On The Roof Of The Top Floor Of The Building And Having The Rights To Go For The Inspection Of The Same At Any Reasonable Time, Situated At Village Chandrawali Alias Sandhya W/O Dilip Kumar Bera A-14/1 2ND FLOOR NEAR MOONGA HOSPITAL WITH UNDIVIDED, IMPARTABLE, PROPORTIONATE OWNERSHIP RIGHT IN STREET NO.04 KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI-110051. 3. Universal Unique Enterprises, through its Proprietor Deepak Pawan District Gurugram, Baruwa Bayanawa Waska No. 104927, East: Others Property, North: Others Property, West: Wide 20ft Road, South: Others Property.

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EMD amount shall be remitted through NEFT/RTGS/Funds Transfer in favour of "Clix Housing Finance Limited", Account No. 341905000653. ICICIBANK. IFSC-ICICI0003419. The balance 25% of final purchase price minus EMD amount shall be deposited by the successful bidder, latest by the next working day by way of RTGS / NEFT in the E-Auction account of Clix. The balance 75% of the final purchase shall be deposited by way of RTGS / NEFT within 30 days from the date of auction in the same E-Auction account as above. The refund of EMD to the unsuccessful bidders shall be made only in the account number mentioned by such bidder in the Bid form within 5 working days. Terms and Conditions : E-auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS" basis and will be conducted "Online". The auction will be conducted through Clix's approved service provider C1 India Pvt. Ltd. at the web portal www.banksauctions.com. Bid Documents, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available at www.banksauctions.com. To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the properties. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of properties put on auction and claims/rights / dues/ affecting the properties, prior to submitting their bid, in this regard, the e-auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of Clix. For any details with respect to any bid, procedure and online training in respect of the auction process please contact +91-7291981142/2525 and E-mail ID - delhideli@india.com. For any details regarding the property please contact Mr. Ayush Gupta, (M) 9999916811, Mr. Amit Aggarwal (9717792407). It may please be noted that in case of any discrepancy/ inconsistency between auctions notices published in English and in Hindi then the contents of the notice published in English shall prevail. The Authorized Officer/ Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any such claims or disputes. The auction will be subject to rules/ conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFESI ACT, 2002.

Place : Delhi NCR, Date: 19.03.2025

Authorized Officer, Clix Capital Services Pvt. Ltd.

I always knew my strengths, abilities: Shreyas Iyer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

He fought perceptions about a so-called technical short-coming, was "typecast", and had his contract torn up within months of being a World Cup hero but Shreyas Iyer was indefatigable through it all, trusting his sincerity and uncomplicated mind to steer him through.

The result of the perseverance has been pleasing, to put it mildly. The 30-year-old has built himself into one of India's most consistent number four batters in recent times and was declared a "silent hero" by his captain Rohit Sharma after the team's Champions Trophy triumph a few days ago. "Maybe, the perception was created or maybe I was typecast. But I always knew my strengths, my abilities and (there was also) the belief (that) I had in myself," Iyer said in an interview when asked about his perceived lack of ability to play the short ball that became a talking point in the last couple of years.

The numbers back him. In the last eight ODIs, including the home games against England and the subsequent Champions Trophy, Iyer has averaged 53 batting at number four and had only one low-scoring outing in eight knocks. "An athlete needs to constantly evolve as the sport keeps changing its dynamics. I am glad I kept a positive frame of mind, and trusted my process,"



he said.

Last year, he sustained a back injury during the home Tests against England and then lost his central contract after showing up for his then IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders' training instead of Ranji Trophy duties after his recovery.

He was stripped of his central contract as BCCI set out to assert the importance of domestic cricket by

seemingly punishing him. Iyer kept his head down and led Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL trophy weeks later before forcing his way back into India's 50-over set-up.

His was a classic case of performance doing all the talking for him.

"I kept my process simple. Tried not to over-think the situation and to continue doing my work honestly. I always had the belief that my perfor-

mance and my sincerity will bring back the opportunity," said the prolific batter, who will be captaining Punjab Kings this IPL season. The difficult time also made him a better learner. "It allowed me to learn a lot, reassess the situation and prepare a routine to add additional skills in my armoury."

"Looking back, I am happy with the outcome, the way I managed the situation and importantly, belief in my abil-

ities. Lots and lots of hard work went behind it. "From my coach Pravin Amre sir to my trainer Sagar, everyone worked around my needs. The two of them really helped me create power and the force which you see in my batting now," he recalled.

Number 4 is where I belong

The right-hander, who averages close to 50 (48.22) after 70 ODIs, said ever since his impressive run in the 2023 World Cup, in which he scored 530 runs, he has felt comfortable batting at number four.

He was also India's top-scorer in the

Champions Trophy, finishing with 243 runs in five games.

"I feel I belong to the No.4 position. Whether it was in the 2023 World Cup or now in the Champions Trophy, I enjoyed the most coming as Number 4. It gives me a sense of belonging and that's where I am able to flourish."

Iyer had one of the most tricky jobs during the Champions Trophy and that was to manoeuvre the strike against spinners in the middle overs. And he did it quite well, proving himself to be as good a player of spin as his stroke-making skipper on the slightly slow surfaces of Dubai.



Kohli to focus on playing smart cricket: AB De Villiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

South African batting great AB de Villiers believes Virat Kohli should focus on playing smart cricket and continue controlling the game this season as RCB possess immense firepower with Phil Salt expected to ease the pressure on the Indian superstar.

Despite being one of RCB's most consistent performers, Kohli's strike rate was a topic of discussion past two seasons. However, with the Bengaluru franchise acquiring the English duo of Salt and Liam Livingstone, along with Australian Tim David and West Indian Romario Shepherd all fearless strikers of the ball de Villiers feels Kohli can play with more freedom.

"Virat seems to be enjoying his cricket. I don't think he's going to have to up his strike rate batting with Phil Salt," de Villiers said on JioStar Press Room on Tuesday. "Salt is one of the most attacking players we've ever seen. I think he's going to take a lot of pressure off Virat. Virat needs to continue what he's been doing for so many years...Control the game, play smart cricket. He's got the best instinct of any player out there. He knows when to up the ante a bit and when to lower it."

The South African, who played for RCB for 11 seasons, said Kohli needs to ensure there are no batting collapses.

"Virat needs to be the captain of the batting department in this tournament and really just keep things together, play smart cricket to make sure they don't find those collapses in the batting order."

The former Proteas skipper feels that Kohli has been subjected to "unnecessary criticism over the last few seasons".

"There's no doubt some of the outside noise has maybe influenced him a bit. He's only human, he's definitely got those doubts in his head.

"But the one thing about Virat is that he's always had the ability to, when it matters most, when he crosses that line for his team, block everything out and it's business time." With Faf du Plessis' departure, RCB enters the season with a new captain in Rajat Patidar.

De Villiers opined that Patidar's biggest challenge would be dealing with self-doubt while stepping into the shoes of past captains like du Plessis and Kohli.

"His biggest challenge will be insecurity, stepping into the big boots of the past captains like Faf and Virat... Having Virat around and constantly almost doubting yourself.


"He needs to stay true to who he is and not try to captain like Virat or like Faf. And use the experience of Virat, use the experience of Andy Flower and some of the other players." RCB will be on the road consistently throughout the season, frequently alternating between home and away fixtures.

"Their scheduling is going to be a big obstacle. The team is balanced and that bodes well for them, especially with their scheduling, where they hop around to different venues all the time, right throughout the tournament. They've got the trickiest schedule of them all."

Despite this challenge, de Villiers believes RCB has a strong and balanced squad.

"They're only lacking an X-factor spinner, right? Krunal Pandya is a wonderful spinner. We've seen him over the years perform very consistently and he can chip in with the bat as well. They have some other options as well.

"But I mean, look at that batting lineup. It is pure power. There's a mix between power and also control."



ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
(A STATUTORY BODY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA)
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi - 110070
Website: www.aicte-india.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

It has come to the notice of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) that fraudulent emails and letters being circulated, offering appointment to various positions within the organization. They are using AICTE's name and similar email IDs, and even include name of AICTE officers / authorities. Such fraudulent email(s), offering appointment may also seek charges/money in the form of demand draft(s)/ UPI or through any other digital format for providing application form/conducting test/interview/Government accommodation/ Uniform/Mess charges etc.

Further, this is to inform that AICTE does not issue appointment offer through unsolicited email or letter, and also does not seek charges/money for performing any procedure involved for appointment. All official communication regarding employment opportunities at AICTE is done through its official website (www.aicte-india.org). AICTE is committed to maintain the integrity of its recruitment process.

Job aspirants are advised to exercise caution and verify the authenticity of any appointment offers purportedly from AICTE.

Advt. No. **Prof. RAJIVE KUMAR**
AICTE/Administration Bureau/01(03)/2025 Member Secretary, AICTE

CBC 21300/12/0016/2425



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MRP ₹500 **GUARANTEED** DRAW ON 22.03.2025 8PM onwards

1st PRIZE AMOUNT FOR WINNER

₹ 2.50 CRORES

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PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLER: ₹ 20 LAKHS
PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKIST: ₹ 5 LAKHS

TOTAL PRIZE AMOUNT ₹ 2.75 CRORES

1st PRIZE WILL BE DRAWN OUT OF SOLD TICKETS ONLY

SL. NO.	NO. OF PRIZES	PRIZE AMOUNT FOR WINNERS	PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SUB-STOCKISTS	PRIZE AMOUNT FOR SELLERS
1st	1	2,50,00,000	20,00,000	5,00,000
2nd	5	30,00,000	2,00,000	1,00,000
3rd	5	10,00,000	1,00,000	50,000
4th	5	5,00,000	50,000	20,000
5th	600	5,000	500	100
6th	600	5,000	500	100
7th	600	3,000	300	50
8th	24,000	1,000	100	10

(₹20 Lakhs x 5 Prizes) (₹5 Lakhs x 5 Prizes)
(₹5 Lakhs x 5 Prizes) (₹10 Lakhs x 5 Prizes)
Total Prize Amount = ₹ 1.15 Crores Total Prize Amount = ₹ 57.50 Lakhs


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MEGA E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE ZONAL OFFICE: BATHINDA

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF MOVABLE & IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
LAST DATE & TIME OF SUBMISSION OF EMD AND DOCUMENTS (ONLINE) ON/BEFORE 28.03.2024 UPTO 04:00 PM

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002) Whereas, the Authorized Officer of Punjab & Sind Bank had taken possession of the following property/ies pursuant to the notice issued under Sec 13(2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 in the following loan accounts with our Branch with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS AND AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for realization of Bank's dues. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the <https://baanknet.com/>

Name of the Branch and Borrower's/Guarantor's	Amount Outstanding Demand Notice Date Possession Date Type of Possession	Details of Property/ies	Reserve Price EMD Bid Increase Amt.	EMD Submission Account Details	Date/Time of Inspection of Property	Date/Time of e-Auction	QR Property Photo	QR Property Location	QR BankNet
1 Rampura Phul 1. M/s Kalsi Industries Prop. Manpreet Singh S/O Major Singh, 2. M/s Major Singh & Sons, 3. Major Singh Manpreet Singh, 4. Kulwant Kaur and Rajwinder Kaur.	Rs. 1,67,88,987.18 as on 29.02.24+interest up to date+ Litigation & other expenses. 13.11.2018 11.12.2020 Physical	Residential House 48'6" X 61" = 328.72 Sq. yd and super structure thereon MC no. B-10/00252 in the name of Major Singh S/o Hazura Singh vide Sale deed no. 1705 dated 25.06.1997 situated at Mehraj Basti, Rampura Phul, Teh- Phul Distt. Bathinda bounded by North-Street; South - Street; East - Balwinder Singh & South - Gurdev Singh. As per Section/	Rs. 33.90 Lacs Rs. 3.40 Lacs Rs. 0.20 Lacs	A/c.No.80105040070003 Name of Account: NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT IFSC Code: PSIB0008010	27.03.2025 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM	28.03.2024 12.00 PM to 04.00 PM			
2 Malout M/s Geet Sweet House Sole Proprietor, Smt. Rani Bai W/o Lachman Dass R/o Rathrian, Malout, Sri Muktsar Sahib	Rs. 2,90,170.60 as on 29.02.24+interest up to date+ Litigation & other expenses. 05.06.2023 04.09.2023 Symbolic	Kheawat No. 834, Khatoni No. 1385 Khasra No. 373/1/3 (13 - 11) Vakya Rakha Village, Dameswala Tehsil Malout Sale Deed No. 2018 - 19/ 52/ 1/232 dated 25.02.2019. as per deed area of property is 3510 Sq. Ft. and as per actual area is 3834 Sq. Ft. so for Valuation least area is taken	Rs. 85.00 Lacs Rs. 8.50 Lacs Rs. 0.20 Lacs	A/c.No.80105040070003 Name of Account: NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT IFSC Code: PSIB0008010	27.03.2025 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM	28.03.2024 12.00 PM to 04.00 PM			
3 BARIWALA MANDI M/s Pawan Kumar & Sons Sh. Munish Kumar S/o Pawan Kumar, Ward No. 5, Grain Market, Mandi Bariwala, Tehsil & Distt Sri Muktsar Sahib.	Rs. 37,86,300.05 as on 29.02.2024+interest up to date+ Litigation & other expenses. 22.04.2021 28.01.2022 Symbolic	Commercial cum Residential Property measuring 1884 Sq.ft or 209.33 Sq. Yds as per Title Deed No. 304 dated 10.07.2014 for 7 Maria 2 Sarsal) Kheawat No. 645 Khatoni No. 623, Khasra No. 296 (0 - 8) Hadbast No. 93 Jamabandi Year 2009-10 situated at Ward No. 5, Grain Market, Bariwala, Teh & Distt. Sri Muktsar Sahib.	Rs. 65.00 Lacs Rs. 6.50 Lacs Rs. 0.20 Lacs	A/c.No.80105040070003 Name of Account: NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT IFSC Code: PSIB0008010	27.03.2025 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM	28.03.2024 12.00 PM to 04.00 PM			
4 GIDDERBAHA M/s On & Co., Satia Wali Gali Ward No. 19, Roop Nagar, Gidderbaha, Muktsar.	Rs. 27,73,820.59 as on 28.01.25+interest up to date+ Litigation & other expenses. 19.01.2023 08.06.2023 Symbolic	Sale Deed no. 1589 dated 11.08.2014 30'x90' or 10 Marlas, Kheawat No. 1731, Khatoni No. 2717, 2718, Khasra No. 696 min(14-0), 696 min (6 -18), Jamabandi 2009-10, Near Jain Sons Showroom, Satia Wali Street, Gidderbaha Muktsar.	Rs. 84.00 Lacs Rs. 8.40 Lacs Rs. 0.20 Lacs	A/c.No.80105040070003 Name of Account: NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT IFSC Code: PSIB0008010	27.03.2025 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM	28.03.2024 12.00 PM to 04.00 PM			
5 GIDDERBAHA M/s Chahal TV Center Prop. Sh. Baldev Singh S/o Sohan Singh R/o House No. 32, Water Works, Park Road, Gidderbaha, Distt. Muktsar.	Rs. 45,91,417.38 as on 29.02.24 +interest up to date+ Litigation & other expenses. 03.10.2019 10.03.2021 Physical	Property measuring 659.91 Sq. yd. bearing Kheawat No. 1022, Khatoni No. 2302, Mustile no. 197 Killa no. B(12-12), 8/3(2-15) situated at Opposite Marked Street, Malout Road Gidderbaha, Distt. Muktsar in the name of Smt. Gurwinder Kaur W/O Baldev Singh by depositing original sale deed no. 732 dated 05.06.2008 (40'x60') and sale deed no. 896 dated 23.06.2008 (60'x60') bounded as South: Surinder	Rs. 22.00 Lacs Rs. 2.20 Lacs Rs. 0.20 Lacs	A/c.No.80105040070003 Name of Account: NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT IFSC Code: PSIB0008010	27.03.2025 10.00 AM to 04.00 PM	28.03.2024 12.00 PM to 04.00 PM			

EMD TO BE TRANSFERRED BY BIDDERS IN THEIR OWN WALLET PROVIDED ON E-AUCTION PORTAL I.E. <https://baanknet.com/> BY NEFT/RTGS/CHALLAN

DETAILS OF ACCOUNT IN WHICH REMAINING AMOUNT AFTER EMD IS TO BE DEPOSITED THROUGH RTGS/NEFT: A/C NAME: NEFT INWARD STP PARKING ACCOUNT, A/C NUMBER: 80105040070003 - IFSC Code: PSIB0008010

FOR DETAILED TERMS & CONDITIONS OF THE SALE, PLEASE REFER TO <https://punjabandsindbank.com.in/module/sarfaesi-list> & <https://baanknet.com/>

STATUTORY 15 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 9(1) & 8(i) SARFAESI ACT, 2002

DATE: 19.03.2025 AUTHORIZED OFFICER, PUNJAB & SIND BANK

PGTI introduces Kapil Dev Grant Thornton Invitational

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Aiming to revolutionise golf in a manner akin to T20 cricket, PGTI has introduced a groundbreaking mixed format at the ₹2 Crore Kapil Dev Grant Thornton Invitational, where India's top male and female golfers will compete together for the first time.

Co-sanctioned by the Professional Golf Tour of India and the Women's Golf Association of India, the third edition of the tournament will be held at the Prestige Golfshire in Bengaluru from April 23 to 26.

"It is something new that is happening. We want to do something like T20. More thrills in a short time," Kapil, who is the PGTI president, told reporters on Tuesday. "We can bring more people to the golf course and more sponsors. The golfers need more opportunities. Today cricket reached at this stage because cricket board has given them the opportunity to play at the highest level."

"I think it is very important for the



golfers also to enjoy something new. Because they are playing day in day out, same type of game. The world is moving and we have to move with the times."

The tournament will begin with a practice round on April 23, followed by a three-day, 54-hole championship in which 60 men and 12 women professionals will compete for the same prize purse.

The event will also feature three Pro-Am rounds in a rotational format, with 48 professionals teeing off in the morning, while the remaining 24 pair up with 72 amateurs in the afternoon session.

Each Pro-Am team will comprise one professional and three amateurs, with scores combining the pro's stroke play and the amateurs' scramble format.

Prize money will be awarded to the top three professionals in the Pro-Am standings, making this tournament a thrilling blend of high-stakes competition and camaraderie.

Defending champion Karan Pratap Singh, who had a standout season on the PGTI in 2023 with two wins, is hoping for a turnaround in his fortunes when he tees

off at Prestige Golfshire next month.

"I had a rough patch after 2023. I was looking to improve myself and made a few swing changes in April last year and it backfired. But I have now changed back to my old swing and I feel I am not too far away," Karan said.

"I have missed out almost every event this year but this tournament is close to my heart, this is the second event that I won as a professional and I think I can get my game up in this event."

Tvesa Malik, who was also present at the event, was excited to compete alongside the country's top male golfers.

"Its incredible to play alongside with the best golfers in the country and the extra money is also great," said Malik.

"I had a good start last season, I had a low patch before that, so it was a good feeling that I still have it. I learnt so much and the game is good but I feel I am learning every week. I am really excited this season." The event was also attended by Vishesh C. Chandio, CEO, Grant Thornton Bharat, and Amandeep Johl, CEO, PGTI.

Coco Gauff heads home to Miami Open

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Miami Gardens

Coco Gauff shrugged her right shoulder and chuckled a bit at the notion that she seems to illicit concern from others when she goes through a two or three-match losing streak a rough patch in the course of a long season. "Sometimes when I don't do well, people think there's something personally wrong with me," Gauff said on the eve of the Miami Open, where the women begin main-draw play on Tuesday and the men get started Wednesday.

Bow out early at one event or two or drop a trio of outings consecutively, as she did at the Australian Open, Qatar and Dubai in January and February and fans or former players will ask the 2023 US Open champion, who just turned 21 last week, whether she's OK.

"I'm like, I just lost a couple of matches! I'm chillin', said Gauff, who has a first-round bye because she is seeded Number 3 at the hard-court Masters 1000 event and will get started by taking on another past Grand Slam champion Petra Kvitová or Sofia Kenin in the second round later in the week. "I'm obviously not happy with those past results, but it's

one of those things that, in the history of my career, I've had ups and downs. I still feel like I have a couple more years ... (to reach) that point where every week is a great week, I guess," said Gauff, who is based not far from where the Miami Open is played. "I'm also in the middle

I'm obviously not happy with those past results, but it's one of those things that, in the history of my career, I've had ups and downs.

— COCO GAUFF, TENNIS PLAYER

of changes in my game; it's been difficult." She's spoken frequently about those switches, which began with adjusting her coaching staff after last year's US Open and also included adapting her serve with a particular eye on shoring up second serves so as to avoid double-fault issues and her forehand.

It's been clear ever since she burst onto the scene as a 15-year-old qualifier at Wimbledon in 2019, beating seven-time major champion Venus Williams along the way to reaching the fourth round, that Gauff's backhand is nothing if not elite, while her forehand is the shot that oppo-

nents tend to go after.

The American's most recent match was a three-set loss to Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Belinda Bencic at Indian Wells, California, in the fourth round last week. Afterward, Bencic spoke about what her thinking was at 4-all in the final set.

"I felt like she was more tense," Bencic said about Gauff, "so I felt like that was the right time to go for her forehand."

Gauff called the event held over the next two weeks at the stadium used by the NFL's Miami Dolphins as her "home tournament." She's 6-5 in Miami and has not made it beyond the fourth round there.

No matter what others might say to her, or about her, after setbacks, Gauff doesn't like to harp on it too much even if she expects more from herself, too.

That's what comes with being ranked as highly as she is. And with having won Grand Slam titles in singles and doubles, along with the season-ending WTA Finals last year. "I will say that it is tough, sometimes, when everyone is (saying), 'Oh, (lost) two matches in a row', and things like that," she said Monday. "Because if I wasn't a top-five player it wouldn't, probably, be a conversation. That comes with being at the top."

KIPG is lifting standards, making us more competitive, says Harvinder Singh

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Eager to compete at the second edition of the Khelo India Para Games (KIPG), Paris Paralympic gold medalist archer Harvinder Singh lauded the selection process and competition standards, stating that they inspire athletes to perform at their best.

The KIPG is scheduled to be held across three venues in New Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium, and the Dr Karni Singh shooting range from March 20 to 27 and will feature six sports archery, athletics, badminton, powerlifting, shooting, and table tennis.

"The top 16 athletes at the national level are selected for the Khelo India Para Games. It motivates all athletes to win medals at the national level," the 34-year-old Harvinder told SAI Media.

"If an athlete is unable to win a medal, then they try their best to finish in top 16 to be eligible to compete in the KIPG."

"This kind of procedure and system inspires athletes to perform to the best of

their abilities. This is the second edition of KIPG 2025, so it feels good to see para sports growing in India."

Harvinder finished first in the rankings stage and went on to win the gold medal in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Para Games, which took place in December 2023.

After his remarkable performance, he went on to become a double Olympic medalist in Paris last year, adding a gold medal in individual recurve open, the same event in which he had won the bronze medal at the Tokyo Paralympics.

"I was very happy that a tournament of this level is organised. Last time when I competed in KIPG, it felt like we were in an international level event. The set-up,

I was very happy that a tournament of this level is organised. Last time when I competed in KIPG, it felt like we were in an international level event

— HARVINDER SINGH, ARCHER

schedule and the arrangements were of the highest quality.

"Since then, I knew that India is capable of hosting any international tournament. This time around, I am expecting a similar scale and I am eager to return to the field," Harvinder said.

The World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 concluded recently in New Delhi, which will also host the World Para Athletics 2025 in August.

Reflecting on the surge of domestic tournaments and the government's support for para sports, Harvinder said: "The top schemes of the government are putting focus on para sports. There is also growing interest in para athletes among private organisations. They are supporting para athletes and society is becoming more inclusive."

"India is now adopting and recognising para sports and our performances. In tournaments such as KIPG 2025, the participation of athletes is constantly increasing, which is a sign that India is developing overall in the sports sector," he said.

BCCI set to form organising committee for Women's ODI World Cup

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

BCCI will form the organising committee of the Women's ODI World Cup besides taking a call on the venues for the ICC event it will be hosting later this year at its Apex Council emergent meeting in Kolkata on March 22. The meeting will take place ahead of the IPL opener between defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Eden Gardens.

The BCCI last hosted a Women's ODI World Cup back in 2013. The exact schedule of the tournament slotted in October is yet to be worked out.

According to the agenda accessed by PTI, there will be a "discussion on formation of LOC for Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 and discussion regarding venues for Women's Cricket World Cup 2025".

India have made two finals of the 50-over event but fell short at the final hurdle. Harmanpreet Kaur's team will be

aiming to end the long ICC trophy wait at home.

The Apex Council will also finalise the structure for the 2025-26 domestic season. As part of the home season, India are scheduled to host West Indies and South Africa and therefore, the members are likely to decide on the venues for the Test series. With a new set of office-bearers in place, an approval for change in signatories to the bank accounts operated by BCCI will also be taken.

Following government's directive, BCCI set to ban tobacco sponsorship

Earlier this month, the health ministry instructed the BCCI to ban all forms of tobacco and alcohol promotions, including surrogate advertisements, during the IPL beginning March 22.

The Apex Council will take up that matter in the meeting, including sponsorships related to tobacco as well as crypto currency. "Discussion regarding sponsorship from tobacco and crypto brands," read item No.9 on the agenda.

Lionel Messi out of World Cup qualifiers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Buenos Aires

Lionel Messi will miss Argentina's World Cup qualifiers against Uruguay and Brazil over the next eight days because of an injury to his adductor.

The 37-year-old Messi was not included in the 25-man squad announced on Monday by coach Lionel Scaloni.

Later Monday, Inter Miami said Messi the reigning Major League Soccer MVP underwent an MRI "to assess the extent of the discomfort in his adductor region," an injury that the team said occurred in Sunday's win over Atlanta United.

"The examination's findings confirmed the presence of a low-grade injury in the adductor muscle," Inter Miami said. "His clinical progress and response to treatment will determine his availability for competition."

Argentine media initially reported Messi suffered a sore left thigh on Sunday during Inter Miami's 2-1 victory. Argentina, which leads South America, will visit second-placed Uruguay on Friday and host fifth-placed Brazil four



days later at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires. Messi was not the only absentee for the two matches that could seal Argentina's qualification. Also ruled out were Paulo Dybala, Gonzalo Montiel and Giovanni Lo Celso.

Scaloni also dropped Alejandro

Garnacho and Claudio Echeverri from the larger squad announced on March 2.

Messi, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner who captained and led Argentina to the 2022 World Cup title, has been sidelined several times by Inter Miami this season because of injury concerns.

Time for India to win hockey World Cup gold again, says Ashok Kumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

World Cup-winning striker Ashok Kumar, son of the legendary Major Dhyani Chand, on Tuesday said it is high time India reclaimed hockey's top prize to commemorate the golden jubilee of its historic 1975 World Cup victory.

Fifty years ago, on March 15, India won their first and only hockey World Cup in Kuala Lumpur under the captaincy of Ajitpal Singh with Kumar scoring the winning goal.

Kumar, 75, feels Indian hockey is back to its best after two back-to-back bronze medal wins in the Olympics (Tokyo and Paris). "It was different when we used to play hockey. We played on natural grass but now the game is played on astro-turf. So the dynamics have changed but the skill set remains the same," Kumar said during a book launch function to celebrate 50 years of India's World Cup-winning feat.

"After 1980, our last and eighth gold medal in the Olympics, the game changed drastically when astro-turf was introduced." Titled 'March to Glory: The Story of India's 1975 World Cup Triumph', the book was co-authored by hockey historian K Arumugam and veteran journalist Errol D'Cruz.

"In 1990s and 2000s we had some very good players who kept the game alive although we continued to adjust to astro-turf. But now we have back-to-back Olympic bronze medals, we are also dominating Asian hockey," Kumar said.

"So it would be fitting if we can celebrate the 50 years of the only world title by winning the crown again next year."

The next men's World Cup will be jointly held in Wavre, Belgium and Amstelveen, Netherlands from August 14 to 30, 2026.

Besides the only gold, Kumar was also part of India's bronze and silver medal winning teams in 1971 and 1973 World Cups. He had also won a bronze medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

But Kumar still recalls he was never satisfied with second and third place finishes and had never had the courage to show that medals to his illustrious father and uncle Roop Singh, who had won two Olympic gold medals.

"I still remember I never had the courage to show my Olympic bronze or World Cup silver and bronze medals to my family especially my father," Kumar recollected. "In my heart, I was thinking 'I can't show these medals to my family. I was not satisfied till I won a gold.'"

Rory McIlroy takes drama out of playoff to win The Players Championship

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Ponte Vedra Beach

The playoff was only three holes. Rory McIlroy needed only three swings. And yet his victory over JJ Spaun in The Players Championship revealed so much about the state of his game and the cruel nature of the notorious TPC Sawgrass.

McIlroy delivered an early knockout against JJ Spaun with his best drive of the week that set up a simple birdie, followed by a three-quarter 9-iron into a cold, cackling wind that found land on the island green at the par-3 17th.

"By no means did I have my best stuff this week," McIlroy said after becoming the eighth multiple winner of The Players. "But I was still able to win one of the biggest tournaments in the world. That's a huge thing." It's the first time in his career he has won twice going into the Masters, the major that for more than a decade has kept him from joining golf's most elite group with the career Grand Slam.

Spaun thought he had the perfect answer until he saw his 8-iron sail over the island on the second playoff hole, ending his hopes of the biggest win of his career.

"Can I watch this?" Spaun said as he sat at a table, his eyes trained on a television in the back of the media center showing a replay of his tee shot on the 17th. It was his first time seeing where the ball landed just beyond the wooden frame and into the water. He had heard only groans from the gallery. And he still couldn't believe it. "I never thought it was long," he said



quietly. "I never thought it was long."

So ended a memorable week at golf's richest tournament, where thousands of spectators showed up in the cold and wind for 47 minutes of golf between McIlroy among the most celebrated players who now has 39 worldwide wins and Spaun,

a 34-year-old with one PGA Tour title who until this week had never broken 70 on the TPC Sawgrass.

McIlroy said he woke up at 3 a.m. And couldn't get back to sleep. Whether this was about trying to win or trying not to lose he had a three-shot lead with five

holes to play in the final round Sunday did not matter. He worked on his tee shot with the same helping wind off the right. To practice in the right wind for the 17th, McIlroy turned and hit balls from the range toward the third green.

McIlroy had been spotty off the tee all week, missing nearly half of his fairways. He set the tone with his best of the week, a 336-yard blast right down the middle that set up a pitching wedge from 176 yards into the par-5 16th for a two-putt birdie from 35 feet.

"I thought if I could get the ball in the fairway there, it sort of puts a little bit of pressure on JJ," he said. "To step up and make that swing was awesome."

And then it effectively ended on the 17th. "When my ball was in the air, I was telling it to get down," McIlroy said. Spaun hit his 8-iron with a higher trajectory into a hurting wind off the right, and his first instinct was to yell, "Get up."

"It just looked like it was going to be short," Spaun said. "I was stunned. I couldn't believe it was long. I'm happy with the swing I put on it I am. The wind must have just laid down just a little too much, and it just went through the wind. Wasn't my time." The first three-hole playoff in 10 years at The Players was caused by a four-hour rain delay on Sunday. McIlroy had to make a 4-foot par putt on the 72nd hole. Spaun had a 30-foot birdie putt for the win that stopped inches short.

McIlroy, disappointed and having lost a three-shot lead on the back nine, looked ahead to the playoff by saying, "Make five good swings tomorrow morn-

ing and get this thing done."

Turns out he only needed three the driver and wedge on No. 16, the 9-iron on No. 17 to beat Spaun and claim the \$4.5 million prize from the \$25 million purse.

It was reminiscent of a 2008 playoff between Sergio Garcia and Paul Goydos, back when the 17th was used in sudden death. Garcia hit the green. Goydos came up short and into the water, and there is no lonelier walk than to the drop zone knowing it's over.

Spaun wound up three-putting from 45 feet for triple bogey. McIlroy ran his 30-footer well past the hole for a bogey, giving him a three-shot lead. Both hit drives well right on the 18th. McIlroy took a safe bogey and Spaun didn't bother putting the 10-footer he had left for bogey.

Any mention of The Players being the fifth major or even resembling one is not where McIlroy wants to go right now because he knows the real one the big one is a month away at Augusta National. The trick now is to keep his game in good stead. He also won the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am last month. He plans to add one more start in Houston or San Antonio before the Masters.

"Everything feels like it's in good working order at the minute," he said. "Just keep practicing and doing the right things and practicing the right habits, and day after day, week after week, they all add up to days like today."

Spaun won \$2,725,000 for his runner-up finish and moved to No. 25 in the world ranking, high enough that he is assured a spot in the Masters.

LIC to buy stake in a health insurer in two weeks: CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Life insurance behemoth LIC is confident of buying a stake in a health insurer in the next two weeks, its chief executive Siddhartha Mohanty said on Tuesday.

Without identifying the company it will be buying a stake in, Mohanty said the state-owned company is in final stage of talks and hoped that a deal gets announced before March 31.

"It is a natural choice for LIC to be in health insurance, discussion is going on at final stage," he told reporters on the sidelines of the GCA25 event here.

Mohanty said LIC will not buy a controlling stake of 51 per cent or more in the target company and the exact quantum of the stake buy depends on factors like the decision of LIC board and valuations.

At present, life insurance companies are not allowed to offer health covers which include covering up hospitalisation and other expenses for the insured. There was a suggestion for a composite licence for insurers, but no announcement was made in this regard in the Union Budget.

As per some media reports, LIC is said to be eyeing a stake in ManipalCigna in a deal pegged at ₹4,000 crore.

At present, life insurance companies are not allowed to offer health covers which include covering up hospitalisation and other expenses for the insured

In a regulatory filing issued later, the Corporation said it is in advanced talks to pick up a substantial stake in a "standalone" health insurer and no binding agreements have been signed so far. "The execution and ultimate consummation of the deal is subject to various factors, including approval of the Board, regulatory approvals and other approvals, if any, before executing any binding agreements. There can be no guarantee or assurance of the execution/ consummation of the potential deal," it said.

Meanwhile, the managing director and chief executive of the largest life insurer said there has been a "slowdown" in the growth

of life insurance, particularly in terms of penetration lately.

The slowdown has happened even as there has been a focus on enhancing the principles of insurance facilitation and moving towards a principle-based regulatory framework, he said, adding that this "dual reality" calls for a "comprehensive review" of LIC's approach.

He said actuaries will play an important role in addressing such challenges by providing objective and data-driven insights into emerging risks, developing innovative solutions to address the challenges of a changing world, ensuring the financial stability and sustainability of insurance companies. In the third quarter of FY25, LIC reported a 9 per cent decline in its net premium income at ₹1.06 lakh crore, even though the standalone net profit increased 17 per cent to ₹11,056 crore.

Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said that actuaries will help reduce the premiums paid by the general public by using the most scientific ways of assessing risks. This will help increase the insurance penetration in the country, he said.

Majority of Indians are long-term investors: NSE CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

Majority of Indians are long-term investors as only 2 per cent actively trade in derivatives out of the 110 million market participants, National Stock Exchange (NSE) MD and CEO Ashish Kumar Chauhan has said. This suggests the growing culture of disciplined, sustainable investment in the country. Out of 110 million market participants, only 2 per cent actively trade in derivatives. The majority are committed to long-term investing," he stated.

At a recent panel discussion in Singapore, he dispelled the notion that India's stock market is driven primarily by speculative trading.

According to a statement issued by the exchange, Chauhan provided deep insights into the evolving financial landscape, the rise of technology-driven capitalism, and the increasing complexities of global markets.

He redefined conventional perspectives on financial stability, asserting that volatility is not a weakness but an inherent feature of economic progress. Chauhan argued that market disruptions often result from geopolitical shifts

rather than purely economic factors. "Geopolitics eats economics for breakfast," he remarked, highlighting how international power struggles are reshaping financial markets in unpredictable ways.

One of the most striking themes of his address was the emergence of "Capitalism without capital." Traditionally, wealth creation depended on large financial investments, but Chauhan pointed out that technological advancements are rewriting the rules.

"With AI, blockchain, and digital platforms allowing businesses to scale with minimal capital, the economic model is shifting away from traditional capital-intensive structures," he said.

The NSE chief cited India's booming startup ecosystem and the rise of micro-IPOs as proof that wealth creation is no longer restricted to large financial institutions. He also highlighted the increasing threats posed by cyber warfare in financial markets.

He revealed that stock exchanges are under relentless attack from cyber-criminals, underscoring the importance of digital security in the financial sector.

India partners with Meta on digital consumer protection initiative

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Tuesday announced a partnership with tech company Meta to launch a consumer awareness campaign called "Be an Empowered Consumer" aimed at enhancing digital literacy and protection for online consumers.

The initiative, unveiled by Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi and Meta's Chief Global Affairs Officer Joel Kaplan, will operate under the government's existing "Jago Grahak Jago" (Wake Up Consumer) campaign framework, an official statement said. "Consumer awareness is key to a sustainable and secure digital experience," Joshi said at the launch event, adding that the collaboration would extend the department's consumer protection efforts to remote areas of the country.

The joint campaign will focus on educating Indians about recognising online threats and promoting better digital safety habits, including using strong passwords, verifying online information, and reporting suspicious activity.

Rupee settles 25 paise higher against US dollar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

The rupee appreciated for the third consecutive session and registered gains of 25 paise to close at 86.56 against the US dollar on Tuesday, amid positive domestic equity markets and a weak American currency.

Forex traders said the US dollar declined on disappointing economic data from the US. Moreover, the strength of the Asian currencies also supported the rupee. However, a surge in crude oil prices capped the gains.



At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee witnessed high volatility. It opened at 86.71 then touched the intraday high of 86.54 and the low of 86.78 against the greenback.

The unit ended the session at 86.56 against the dollar, registering a gain of 25 paise from its previous closing level.

On Monday, the rupee had appreciated 24 paise to close at 86.81 against the US dollar. On Thursday, the rupee surged 17 paise to settle at 87.05 against the US dollar. Forex market was closed on Friday on the occasion of Holi festival.

This is the third straight session of gain for the rupee, during which it has added 67 paise. "We expect the rupee to trade with a positive bias on positive global equities and weak American currency. However, rising crude oil prices and FII outflows may cap sharp upside. Traders may take cues from industrial production and housing sector data from the US," said Anuj Choudhary - Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.

Investors may remain cautious ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, Choudhary said, adding that the USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 86.3 to 86.80.

Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said the robust economic data, optimistic market sentiment, and expectations of foreign fund inflows provided substantial support to the domestic currency. "In the near-term, the USD-INR spot rate has immediate support at 86.42 and resistance at 86.90. The technical outlook is becoming increasingly favourable for rupee bulls."

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.04 per cent lower at 103.32.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 1.31 per cent to USD 72 per barrel in futures trade.

On the domestic macroeconomic front, India's trade deficit fell to a three-and-half-year low but the point of concern was exports contracting sharply, Bhansali said, adding that imports too witnessed the most significant decline in 20 months driven largely by a fall in oil imports and gold imports.

Additionally, US President Donald Trump's plan to impose broad reciprocal tariffs and sector-specific trade restrictions on April 2 could create further pressure on the rupee, traders said.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged 1,131.31 points, or 1.53 per cent, to settle at 75,301.26, while the Nifty advanced 325.55 points, or 1.45 per cent, to close at 22,834.30 points.

RBI, Bank of Mauritius sign pact for bilateral transactions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Mumbai

Reserve Bank and the Bank of Mauritius (BOM) have signed a pact for establishing a framework to promote the use of the Indian Rupee and the Mauritian Rupee (MUR) for cross-border transactions.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra and BOM Governor Rama Krishna Sithanen G C S K, the central bank said in a statement on Tuesday. "The MoU documents were exchanged in Port Louis, Mauritius in the presence of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Mauritius Navinchandra Ramgoolam, on Wednesday, March 12, 2025," it said.

The RBI said the MoU aims to promote the use of INR and MUR in bilateral trade. The MoU covers all current account transactions and permissible capital account transactions as agreed upon by both the countries. The framework would enable exporters and importers to invoice and pay in their respective domestic currencies, which in turn, would enable the development of a market in the INR-MUR pair. Use of local currencies would optimise costs and settlement time for transactions. "This collaboration marks a key milestone in strengthening bilateral cooperation between RBI and BOM," RBI said.

“कृषि हो या ग्रामीण विकास, इन्वेस्टमेंट हो या इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर- हमारी सरकार ने बजट के जरिए चौरफा विकास को एक नई गति देने का प्रयास किया है।”
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

Haryana's Inclusive Budget (2025-26): A Commitment to Public Welfare

Reflecting the Priorities and Aspirations of the People

Non-Stop Efforts
Top Results

Budget (2025-26) of ₹1372.10 Crore dedicated to Women Empowerment

- 1 **Lado Lakshmi Yojana**
Financial assistance of ₹2100 for women
- 2 **Kishori Yojana**
For girls in all districts
- 3 **Interest-Free Loans**
Up to ₹1 lakh to women farmers to establish dairy business
- 4 **Women Hostels**
for working women in Panchkula, Panipat, Sonipat, Rewari, Faridabad and Gurugram
- 5 **One third of the tenders**
for running canteens in Government buildings are for women self-help groups

ट्रिपल इंजन सरकार, तिगुनी रफ्तार!

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