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WORLD 8
CHINA RETALIATES, BANS EXPORT OF CHIP-MAKING MINERALS TO US

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BANGLADESH CHALLENGES INDIA

PTI ■ DHAKA

Bangladesh on Tuesday summoned Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma to the Foreign Affairs Ministry office here, a day after Dhaka lodged a strong protest against the alleged vandalism of its mission in the Indian state of Tripura.

Describing the India-Bangladesh relationship as "multifaceted" and one that cannot be reduced to a single issue or agenda, Verma told reporters after his meeting with acting foreign secretary Riaz Hamidullah that New Delhi remains interested in working with Dhaka "to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development."



Police officers stand guard outside Indian High Commission after a call for anti India protests

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain said the Indian envoy was asked to come to the foreign office after the Agartala incident. India on Monday described as "deeply regrettable" the incident of the breach of the premises of the Bangladesh consulate in Agartala in the northeastern state of Tripura, bordering Bangladesh, by a group of people protesting the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das here.

Verma also pointed out the many interdependencies and Delhi is keen to build on that "for mutual benefits." India will keep ensuring that the mutual cooperation benefits the two peoples, and the number of positive developments that have taken place in the bilateral relationship in the last few months, "whether it is trade, it is power transmission, supply of essential commodities, we

have maintained lot of positive momentum in the relationship," he added. "We are willing to engage with the interim government of Bangladesh, and we remain interested in working with the Government of Bangladesh to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development," the envoy added. Meanwhile, Bangladesh announced that all consular services at its Assistant High Commission in Agartala will remain suspended until further notice "because of security reasons" with immediate effect. Earlier in the day, terming the vandalism at Bangladesh's diplomatic mission in Agartala as India's "failure,"

Law Affairs Adviser in the interim government Asif Nazrul asked New Delhi to reassess its neighbour afresh after the toppling of the Sheikh Hasina regime. "We believe in a friendship based on equality and mutual respect. While Sheikh Hasina's government followed a pro-India policy to cling to power without elections, India must realise that this is not Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh," he wrote in a Facebook post. Three days after Hasina fled to India following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system, Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the interim government. The tension between the two neighbours simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India, aggravated further with the arrest of the Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das last week. Nazrul alleged an outfit named Hindu Sangharsh Samiti was responsible for what he described as "the disgraceful act" when Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala was vandalised, and "Bangladesh's national flag was set on fire." He emphasised that Bangladesh is an independent, sovereign, and self-respecting nation driven by a "fearless and dynamic young generation."

Capital chaos continues

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital's roads, known for their infamous traffic jams, are also notorious for rampant disregard of traffic rules, with official data revealing a massive 150 per cent jump in "wrong lane driving" violations, as compared to last year, while incidents of "driving against traffic" increasing by about 70 per cent. While police credit this staggering rise in number of violations to better enforcement, the city's traffic congestion may also be pushing drivers to break rules, as they look for quicker ways to reach their destination. According to official data, till December 2, 2024, the police issued 4,662 challans on vehicle owners for not plying in designated lanes as compared to 1,732 challans in 2023 and 1,829 challans in 2022. The fine for this violation is Rs 1,000 for private vehicles and Rs 10,000 for commercial vehicles. Similarly, in the same period, 99,962 challans have been issued for driving against the flow of traffic marking a significant rise from the last year when 59,527 challans were issued in 2023 and 43,768 issued in 2022. Violations in this result in a fine of Rs 5,000 against the vehicle owners. Even for "no entry" restrictions, the city witnessed 1,37,318 challans this year while it was 1,14,646 in 2023 and 84,067 in 2022 even as a hefty fine of Rs 20,000 is slapped on drivers. According to Special Commissioner of Police



PHOTO: PTI

(Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary, the rise can be attributed to special drives conducted by the Delhi Police and coordinated efforts of the department to curb such violations on the roads. The streets of the Capital are also constantly cramped with vehicles parked improperly with a total of 4,88,602 such violations seen this year, marking a rise from 4,70,771 challans in 2023 and 3,58,067 challans in 2022. A fine of Rs 500 is issued for such violations by the police. They also towed 1,78,108 vehicles for improper parking as against 1,60,799 vehicles in 2023, and 1,33,800 vehicles in 2022. Additionally, a total of 4,56,189 vehicle owners have been slapped with challans, which amount to Rs 10,000, regarding non possession of Pollution under Control Certificate (P.U.C.C.), as against 2,32,885 in 2023 and 1,64,638 in 2022. The police have impounded 8,231 End of Life vehicles (ELVs) while only 528 were impounded in 2023 and 1,147 in 2022. In light of the air pollution in Delhi and the subsequent

pulling up of the Delhi Police by the Supreme Court for failing to implement the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) Stage 4 restrictions, police have also intensified its drive against non destined goods vehicles trying to enter the city. The police checked 2,28,235 such vehicles this year including 2,16,028 being checked when the GRAP came into force on October 15, marking a steep rise from 23,089 checked in 2023 and 12,268 checked in 2022. Out of the checked vehicles, 26,379 were returned in this year, 10,012 in 2023 and 3,274 in 2022. Add/CP (Traffic) Satyaveer Singh Katara added that the police will continue its drive and ensure that tough measures are implemented on the roads. "Some people think they can take shortcuts to avoid traffic but we all need to develop basic road sense. We will ensure that we curb such violations and take strict measures against these offenders," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shashank Jaiswal said.



Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi felicitates Divyang persons at his residence in Bhubaneswar on the occasion of the the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on Tuesday.

Navy's operational demo in Puri beach today

PNS ■ PURI

The Indian Navy is set to display an exhilarating operational demonstration on Wednesday at the pristine Blue Flag Beach, Puri, to mark the Navy Day 2024. President of India and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Droupadi Murmu has consented to be the chief guest for the event hosted by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi.



This event will showcase the Navy's prowess and commitment towards safeguarding India's maritime interests and will also highlight the historical connection of the State of Odisha as a maritime giant in medieval and modern history. 15 ships, more than 40 aircraft, submarines and the Marine Commandos along with personnel and equipment from the Indian Army will be participating in the show. The highlights include high-octane aerial dominance display by Mig-29K and Hawk fighter jets, breathtaking Combat Free Fall and Slithering demonstration by Marine Com-

President Murmu arrives in State

To attend several events during 5-day visit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

President Droupadi Murmu arrived here on Tuesday evening on a five-day visit to Odisha, during which she will attend the Navy Day celebrations and operational demonstrations at the Blue Flag Beach in Puri besides attending other programmes. Murmu was accorded a warm welcome at the Biju Patnaik International Airport here, where she was greeted by Governor Raghubar Das, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and other dignitaries. Then, the President unveil a statue of Santali writer and educator Pandit Raghunath Murmu and visit the Adim



Owar Jarpa Jaher in Bhubaneswar. On December 4, Murmu will have darshan and perform puja at the Jagannath Temple in Puri and then attend the

75th anniversary celebrations of Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Puri. On the same day, she will attend the Navy Day celebrations and operational demon-

strations at the Blue Flag Beach in Puri. On December 5, the President will attend the 40th convocation ceremony of the Odisha University of Agricul-

ture and Technology in Bhubaneswar. Later, she will inaugurate a judicial complex in the State capital. On December 6, Murmu will interact with students and residents at Uparbeda village, her birth place, in Mayurbhanj district and then interact with students and teachers at the Mahila Mahavidyalaya in Rairangpur. On the last day of her visit, the President will lay foundation-stone for various projects including Bangiriposi-Gorumahisani, Buramara-Chakulia and Badampahar-Kendujhargarh rail lines, the Tribal Research and Development Centre in Rairangpur, Dandbose Airport in Rairangpur and the Sub-Divisional Hospital in Rairangpur.

State's 403 migrant workers die in 10 yrs

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Labour and Employees' State Insurance Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia informed the State Assembly on Tuesday that 403 migrant labourers from Odisha died while working outside the State during the last 10 years. Replying to a query of BJP member Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister said the deaths took place during 2015 to 2024 (till November 27). The highest 59 migrant workers from Ganjam district died outside the State during the period. It was followed by Kalahandi district with 39 migrant workers' death in other States. Balangir, another migration-prone district of Odisha, recorded the death of 35 migrant workers outside the State since 2015. Among other districts, 32 such death cases were re-

ported from Kandhamal, 28 from Rayagada, 18 each from Boudh and Nuapada, 17 from Khordha and 16 from Nabarangpur, the minister stated. Singkhuntia informed that the government has issued 388 licences as per provision made under the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, for migration of 26,397 workers from Odisha in 2014. In 2024 (till October), 883 licences were issued for migration of 60,683 workers from Odisha, he stated. The minister said the government has set up a high-level taskforce under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister KV Singh Deo to address the issue of distress migration in the State. The taskforce is functioning through the Panchayati Raj Department.

MLAs demand salary hike to Rs 2.5 lakh

Speaker forms advisory committee

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Legislators in Odisha, cutting across party lines, on Tuesday demanded their salary increase to address rising costs and inflation. They proposed to raise their monthly salary to Rs 2.5 lakh and pension for former MLAs to Rs 70,000 for one term. They also requested an increase in constituency development funds. These demands were supported by leaders from various parties and endorsed by Speaker Surama Padhy, who committed to discussing the matter with the Chief Minister. The Speaker formed an advisory committee headed by MLA Bhaskar Madhei for giv-

ing a report in this regard. Raising the issue during the Zero Hour, Opposition Chief Whip and BJD leader Pramila Mallik urged that in light of soaring prices of essential commodities, the salary of MLAs should be raised to Rs 2.5 lakh and the pension for ex-MLAs should be increased to Rs 70,000 for one term. She also recommended raising the MLA LAD fund from Rs 3 crore to Rs 5 crore. Mallik further called for an increase in the Special Repair Fund and Critical Gap Funding and asked the Speaker to issue a ruling on the matter. Her request was backed by BJD MLA Pratap Keshari Deb. Deb pointed out that a committee set up by the previous BJD government, after studying the practices in several States, had recommended salary and pension hike for MLAs. However, this recom-

mendation had not been implemented for various reasons. He stressed that Odisha's MLAs earn significantly less compared to their counterparts in other States, with Odisha ranked 27th in terms of MLA salaries and pensions, and argued that an increase is necessary. Deb suggested that either the government implement the previous committee's report or form a new committee to address the issue. Several ruling party members, including Bhaskar Madhei and Sanatan Bijuli, and Congress leaders Rama Chandra Kadam and Tara Prasad Bahinipati also voiced their support for the hike. Speaker Padhy assured the Assembly that she would inform the Chief Minister and ensure the Parliamentary Affairs Minister raises the issue with the government.

Prez's native place lacks edu in Santali

Memo given to heads of Bamanghati institutions

PNS ■ RAIRANGPUR

The All-Odisha Santali PG Students Association has intensified its campaign to address the lack of Santali language education in the Bamanghati Subdivision, famously known as the birthplace of President Droupadi Murmu.

Under the leadership of President Bikram Beshra, the association submitted memorandums to various educational institutions, advocating for the introduction of Santali as a mother language at the intermediate level and as elec-

tive and honours courses at the graduation level.

In the latest phase of the campaign, memorandums were submitted to Rairangpur Degree College, Principal Sunil Kumar Jena, Gorumahisani Degree College, Principal Subrat Kumar Giri, Dhirajjal College, Bahalda, Principal Motilal Mohanta, Govt. Science Higher Secondary School, Tiring, Principal Meton Ulaka, Gorumahisani Higher Secondary School Principal Pradeep Kumar Sahu, Gouri Shankar Higher Secondary School, Khadiasole, Principal Ramkrishna Das, Kalinga Degree College, Manada, Principal Bhupati Kumar Mohanta, Rajanikanta Higher Secondary School, Luhasila, Princi-



pal Kabi Sangram Satpathy, Janaki Balava Higher Secondary School, Hatbadra, Principal Bhaba Sankar Parida, Badampahar College, Principal Bhupati Bhusan Giri, Badampahar Higher Secondary School, Principal Dillip Kumar Giri, Govt. SSD Higher Secondary School, Badampahar, Principal Dr Bibhuti Bhusan Sahu, among others.

Community leaders, activists, and members of ASECA (Adivasi Socio-Educational and Cultural Association) participated in the drive. The campaign highlights the urgent need to include Santali in educational curricula to preserve the language and culture of the tribal community while empowering the region's youths.



Film and television producer Ekta Kapoor calls on Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi at his State Assembly chamber on Tuesday and thanks him for making her movie 'The Sabarmati Report' tax-free

Int'l PwDs Day observed by PPA



PNS ■ PARADIP

The Paradip Port Authority (PPA) organised an event for differently-abled children on the occasion of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on Tuesday.

Gracing the occasion as chief guest, PPA Chairman PL Haranadh saluted the spirit and determination of the school children and said the PPA would take necessary steps within its ambit for the all-round development of the port township's schools. He assured that within short

time, regular sessions by occupational, speech, audio therapists would be ensured for the school children to bring smiles on their faces.

Haranadh also distributed mementoes to the 51 Divyang employees of the PPA. PPA Traffic Manager and Secretary-in-Charge G Edison was also present on the occasion. The PPA presented school kits to the children. PPA Welfare Officer Rama Chandra Pradhan offered a vote of thanks. Cultural performances by the school children enthralled the audience on the occasion.

'False propaganda on Gandhiji not good for nation'

Scribe Dev speaks at talk in LN Mahavidyalaya

PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA

Renowned journalist Rahul Dev emphasized the detrimental impact of false propaganda against Mahatma Gandhi, stating that such actions harm not only the leader's legacy but also the nation's interest.

Addressing the Pandit Lakshmi Narayan Mishra memorial lecture at Lakshmi Narayan Mahavidyalaya on Monday, Dev highlighted the misuse of social media as a tool for spreading misinformation about the Father of the Nation.

Dev underscored that India's freedom, achieved through Gandhiji's non-violent movement, stands as a global example. "Violence has no place in a nation's struggle

for independence. The success of India's non-violent path has cemented its unique position in the world," he stated.

The event, presided over by college principal Snehlata Mishra, featured a welcome address by noted journalist Mehboob Mehatab on behalf of the Gandhi Bichar Manch. Senior lecturer Tapan Kumar coordinated the proceedings.

As part of the ceremony, the guests paid floral tributes

to a portrait of Pandit Lakshmi Narayan Mishra. Dr Sudarshan Panigrahi, former principal of LN College and author of Gandhi Bicharak, along with other dignitaries including Narendra Panda, Bibhuti Bhushan Das, DAV School Principal PK Panda, Chamber of Commerce president Hiralal Lokchandani, and senior lawyer Chapas Roy Chowdhury, felicitated Rahul Dev with citations and mementos.

Pallahara to be agri hub in 5 yrs: MLA

PNS ■ PALLAHARA

Pallahara will be an agriculture, horticulture and veterinary hub within five years, said local MLA Ashok Mohanty attending as chief guest in the inaugural function of the three-day sub-divisional level agri implements exhibition here.

Pallahara block being a non-industrial and non-mining area and completely dependent upon agriculture, veterinary and horticulture, top priority will be given to these sectors to enhance the farmers' earnings, said MLA Mohanty. He also assured to set up a vegetable mandi and cold storage unit in each block under Pallahara constituency.

Under the chairmanship of DAO Angul Dillip Mishra, a meeting was held where MLA Mohanty was the chief guest and Priyanka Pradhan



(BAO), ADH Dharua, Biswaprakash Sahu (BVO) and Brajabandhu Swain (Assistant Executive Engineer) were present as guest of

honour. The programme will continue till December 4.

Many agricultural machinery products companies have opened their stalls in the ex-

hibition. Three female farmers and four SHGs of Pallahara block were awarded on the occasion by the MLA.

In Angul 9 members of dacoity gang held

Arms, jewellery, cash seized

PNS ■ ANGUL

Police on Monday arrested nine members of a dacoity gang in connection with an armed robbery at a house that was mourning the death of a person at Laxmipriyapur village in the Handapa area of Angul district.

As per reports, the police seized a country-made pistol, three machetes, an axe and a knife from the possession of the gang. The police also recovered a car, a motorcycle, 15

mobile phones, Rs 30,000 in cash, 10 gold earrings, a Mangalsutra, and a bracelet.

"We have seized weapons, cash, jewellery and several other items from the nine arrested persons and are further investigating the case," said Angul SP Rahul Jain.

On November 25, one Bijay Sahu died after falling from a tractor near Bagdia Barsahi. Incidentally, on the same day, the arrested persons had allegedly entered the house of the deceased, brandished lethal weapons and looted valuables while holding the family at gunpoint.

In Nabarangpur 2 convicts flee from court premises

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

Two persons escaped from police custody in a court after their conviction in an ATM loot case in Nabarangpur district on Monday.

According to sources, on January 31, 2024 the ATM kiosk of State Bank of India (SBI) located in front of Nabarangpur block office was looted. Following investigation, police had arrested five persons.

The arrested were Sakil Khan, Shahrulkh Khan, Fazal Khan and Jahul Khan from Haryana and Nikhil Kumar from Bihar. Later, Sakil and Shahrulkh were granted bail by the court.

All the five accused were produced in the court of the Nabarangpur Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) for hearing of the case. The court was scheduled to announce its verdict on Monday. After hearing the case and examining the evidences produced by police, the court convicted the five accused and sentenced them to seven years' imprisonment. Soon after the court announced its verdict, Sakil and Shahrulkh managed to police give a slip to and escaped from the premises.

Police have launched a hunt to trace the two convicts by carrying out checking and blocking operations in the town and its nearby areas.

60th Raising Day: BSF Koraput holds run



PNS ■ KORAPUT

The BSF Koraput organised a 5 km and 10 km run for both male and female at the Railway Ground here to commemorate its 60th raising day.

The event witnessed an overwhelming response from the local authorities, civilians of all age groups, students and security forces. Total 1,008 participants enthusiastically took part in the race. The run was flagged off by Collector Koraput V Keerthi Vasani along with DIG BSF Sector Koraput Satyavan Khanchi.

Apart from them Lalit Ranjan Sethy (Municipality Chairperson Koraput), Shrabani Nayak, (SDPO Koraput), Sanjay Das, Commandant 180 Bn BSF graced the occasion.

The winners of the run in both the categories were rewarded with cash prizes by the honoured guests.

DIG Khanchi thanked all the participants, civil dignitaries, police and BSF troops specially the Commandant 180 Bn BSF Sanjay Das and his team for organising such enthusiastic events in the Naxals affected regions.

Sexagenarian held for raping minor in K'pada

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Pattamundai Rural police arrested a sexagenarian person on Sunday on the charges of raping a 9-year-old minor girl of Pattamundai Rural PS area on Friday evening, informed SDPO Pattamundai SDPO Khyamasagar Panda.

According to Panda, the arrested has been identified as Batakrushna Sahoo (65), a neighbour of the victim. Accused Sahoo allegedly raped the minor victim while she was alone at her house.

The accused also assaulted the victim, resulting in injuries

on her cheeks, shoulder and other parts of the body. He also threatened her not to disclose the matter to anybody, else she would face dire consequences, stated the victim's mother in her FIR.

Acting on the FIR, the Pattamundai Rural police registered a case under various section of BNS and POCSO Act. Meanwhile, accused Sahoo has confessed to his crime before police.

He was later produced before the local court where his bail plea was rejected and the court remanded him in judicial custody, stated SDPO Panda.

In Balangir Tension after security guard dies in mishap

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Local residents staged a road blockade after a security guard of jewellery showroom was run over by a truck at Patna Chowk in Balangir town on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Sidharth Pradhan.

As per reports, a speeding truck rrammed into a

jewellery shop and ran over Pradhan who was on duty there.

Following the mishap, tension prevailed in the area. Locals kept the body in front of the Collector's office and demanded compensation for the family of the deceased. They also staged a road blockade in the area.

Several vehicles were

stranded on both sides of the road due to the protest. The protestors had a scuffle with police when they tried to clear the road blockade.

Pradhan was the only earning member of the family and he lost his life due to the rash driving of the truck driver who was in an inebriated condition.

"A person lost his life in a

road accident in the area. Some local residents staged the road blockade in protest. We don't know about their exact demand. We are trying to clear the road blockade," said a police official.

"I have lost my only son in the accident. Now we are completely helpless. I don't know what to do," said the deceased's mother.

149 HIV+ in K'pada shy away from enrolling in MBPY

For fear of their identity being disclosed

RAJESH BEHERA

■ KENDRAPADA

The district administration is very much alert and trying its level best to create awareness on AIDS. But the ground reality is somewhat different in the district as many AIDS positive persons are shying away from availing the Madhubabu Pension Yojana

because of fear of identity disclosure.

According to District Nodal Officer of HIV/AIDS Dr PK Behera, as many as 903 persons were affected with HIV/AIDS in the district from 2003 to 2024 October and among them at least 730 persons have been detected as HIV positive. While 358 HIV positive patients have registered their names at the ART centre of the district, 347 HIV affected persons were getting medi-

cines from the Health Department. As many as 577 HIV positive patients have been getting benefits under Madhubabu Pension Yojana in the district. But the striking fact is as many as 149 HIV positive patients have denied to enrol their names in Madhubabu Pension Yojana due to various reasons.

Though the Union and State governments have been funding crores of rupees to create awareness among the

locals, apart from their rehabilitation but the awareness in this regard is yet to reach to the remotest corner in the district. This might be the reason for these patients to skip enrolling their names in Madhubabu Pension Yojana, said sources.

Most of the affected patients are from weaker sections which include drivers, plumbers and daily labourers, who are going in search of work to places like Kolkata, Delhi, Surat and

other big cities. After being affected with the deadly disease, they return home and spread the high risk diseases by keeping relations with their spouses and others.

It can't be ruled out that in some cases the stigmas related to HIV/AIDS have a role to play. The Health Department has not been able to wipe out the stigmas by creating awareness and discussing with the locals.

Nodal Officer Dr Behera said HIV/AIDS affected per-

sons are shying away to get Madhubabu pension as there is every possibility that their identity would be disclosed publicly. The State government sponsored Madhubabu Pension Yojana to provide financial assistance every month to the AIDS affected persons. But the reluctance among the AIDS-hit to avail its benefits is primarily attributed to the procedure which is never fool-proof in hiding their identity.



FIRST COLUMN

THE ETERNAL JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

Life and death are interwoven in an eternal cycle of renewal, granting the soul opportunities for growth



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

Very few humans know when death will come, how it will occur and where it will lead because death is inevitable and it keeps no calendar. Life may not be fair to all, but death deals equally with all, whether rich or poor, mighty or meek, deity or demon, saint or a sinner. Death has many shades to it. Dying for a noble cause such as for patriotism, or a social cause brings glory to the dead. Such deaths win over a lot of sympathy and goodwill for the soul.

Then some die a silent death without suffering much illness or pain. Such deaths happen to fortunate souls who perform good actions. There are also violent deaths such as accidents, murders, suicides, executions etc. Such deaths are preceded by suffering and bitterness and followed by more agony for the soul. So! Are there any happy deaths or can death be a rewarding experience? Well!!

To understand this, we have to first understand life. For this, we need to ask a few questions to ourselves as to what is it that lives when a human being is alive. What is it that ceases to exist when death occurs? On one hand, we say that a person has died and on the other hand, we talk of the body as the mortal remains. So what is mortal? The person or the body? In essence, life is a phenomenon that unfolds when a soul enters a body and death is simply a state when a soul leaves one body and enters a new one. Hence the person who passes away is the soul



that was living in the body. So, what is a soul? A soul is a sentient energy that manifests itself in three levels, the mind, intellect and sanskaras. A common saying goes that when you die the world is dead for you. Hence, what ends with death is the soul's connection or attachment to the limited world that it is related to whilst in the body, such as relationships, possessions, roles, etc. However, an amazing trait of the soul is that it carries over the karmic debts and sanskaras into the next life.

We all know that everyone has to die one day yet we never think about our death. This may be because as souls, we have been living in different bodies birth after birth for ages. Our attachment to the body is so strong that even in old age people buy bigger and better properties and continue to invest for the future so that they can live in comfort. Death is not the end of everything but it marks a major turning point in the journey of the soul in the human world.

Death also means newness. It fills the soul with freshness and renewed zest for life and broadens the scope for the soul to enrich itself and evolve with new experiences with different souls in different roles, bodies and places. This renewal is what makes the concept of eternity meaningful. The cycle of life and world drama could not go on eternally if there were no death. For a spiritually enlightened soul, death means final liberation from earthly bondages; it's an ascension to a higher realm of existence where the soul can experience total freedom and bliss because an enlightened soul takes rebirth in a golden age where it will not suffer untimely or painful death.

So, how does one get over the fear of death? For that, we need to understand that the root cause of our fear that leads us to sin & suffering is the consciousness and attachment of the body. Hence the awareness that we are eternal souls is the key to conquering the fear of death. Immortality is the awareness of our eternity and mastery over the body. It does not imply that we will go on existing in the same body forever. NO. A spiritually empowered soul becomes immortal by practising soul consciousness whilst living in the body. On the other hand, for sinful souls life itself is a living death for they die every day out of fear, remorse and suffering but those who die alive i.e. those who live in the world with no attachment to worldly matters are indeed liberated even in life.

(Writer is a spiritual educator and popular columnist; views are personal)

Delhi's pollution crisis: A call for sustainable solutions



RAJDEEP PATHAK

A comprehensive approach to urban mobility, affordability and infrastructure is the need of the hour to reclaim Delhi's air and ensure a healthier, sustainable future



As India aspires to emerge as the world's third-largest economy, it continues to grapple with the challenge of crafting a robust policy framework to combat the persistent environmental crises (read pollution) in its capital city, Delhi. Thankfully, the stubble-burning season officially concluded on November 30, 2024, and it is perceived as the end of the annual apocalypse of Delhi's air pollution. But, it needs to be seen that although the practice was outlawed in 2015, it continues unabated, contributing to approximately 35 per cent of Delhi's pollution. However, the core issue extends far beyond stubble burning, encompassing broader atmospheric and industrial factors. Decisive action in addressing these deeper challenges – and not prolonged silence – is the need of the hour. After weeks of smog and burning eyes and a high Air Quality Index (AQI), on December 2, 2024, Delhi's air quality showed marginal improvement for the second consecutive day, with the AQI that was recorded at 273 in the morning – though still within the 'poor' category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's 24-hour average AQI on December 1 stood at 285, providing a modest reprieve after 32 consecutive days of 'very poor' and 'severe' air quality (AQI levels exceeding 400). However, despite these minor improvements, the Supreme Court on December 2, 2024, refused to ease emergency restrictions under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for air pollution in Delhi. The Court emphasised that any relaxation of measures would depend on a consistent and substantial downward trend in AQI levels. The schools have nevertheless opened giving a fresh breath to the students from the online or hybrid mode. Although experts caution that pollution levels could potentially worsen, the past three days have seen clear skies and sustained, stronger winds from the northwest, which have facilitated the dispersion of pollutants. One of the most contributing factors of pol-



THE STATE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN DELHI REMAINS DEEPLY INADEQUATE. ACCORDING TO A REPORT DELHI CURRENTLY HAS APPROXIMATELY 45 BUSES PER 100,000 RESIDENTS, BASED ON DATA FROM THE 2011 CENSUS

lution, according to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), is 'vehicular pollution' which remains the most significant contributor to Delhi's air pollution, accounting for 51.1 per cent of emissions from all local sources, despite technical interventions aimed at reducing emissions. CSE's analysis highlights a persistent 'mobility crisis' in the city, characterised by systemic shortcomings in the public transport infrastructure despite years of investment. This crisis has driven a sharp increase in the number of private vehicles, which now play a substantial role in fuelling winter air pollution. Notably, even during periods of reduced stubble burning, Delhi's air quality frequently remains in the 'poor' or 'very poor' categories. CSE's report draws attention to several critical issues undermining public transportation, including its lack of reliability. For instance, instances of buses breaking down during transit rose significantly, from 781 in 2018-19 to 1,259 in 2022-23. Furthermore, high waiting times at bus stops reveal a fundamental inefficiency in the system: less than 1 per cent of bus stops offer waiting times of less than 10 minutes, while approximately 50 per cent require passengers to wait over 15 minutes. The state of public transportation in Delhi remains deeply inadequate. According to a report Delhi currently has approximately 45 buses per 100,000 residents, based on data from the 2011 census. This figure is significantly below the benchmark set by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which recommends a ratio of 60 buses per lakh of the population. In comparison, major global cities such as London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Seoul exhibit considerably higher ratios, ranging from 69 to 90 buses per 100,000

residents, highlighting a significant disparity in Delhi's public transportation infrastructure. While the Delhi Metro has been championed as a cornerstone of urban mobility, its impact remains constrained. With an average daily ridership of only 2,700 passengers per train, the Metro's limited capacity – that poor labourers aren't able to afford – and reach is evident, failing to address the broader needs of the city's commuters. According to The Economic Times, an unskilled daily-wage labourer in Delhi spend approximately 8 per cent of their income on travel via non-air-conditioned buses, 14 per cent on air-conditioned buses, and an alarming 22 per cent on the Metro. These figures underscore the economic burden placed on vulnerable sections of the population. The challenge is addressing the issue of 'affordability'. Data from the 'Economic Survey of Delhi 2023-24' further paints a stark picture of the city's growing vehicle population. Delhi currently has 7.9 million registered vehicles, with an additional 650,000 vehicles added in 2023-24, a figure that surpasses the pre-pandemic (COVID) annual average of 610,000. Moreover, the city experiences a daily influx and outflow of 1.1 million vehicles. The annual growth rate of two-wheelers and cars stands at 15 per cent, contributing significantly to transport-related pollution. Notably, according to the CSE, the transport sector accounts for 81 per cent of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the capital, further worsening its air quality challenges. There is a reports that the number of vehicles in the capital doesn't correspond to the size of its population, showing how a small proportion of the population has an outsized contribution to the air pollution crisis. According to data obtained in

the latest cycle of the National Family Health Survey, only a small proportion of families residing in Delhi own cars – 19 per cent in its rural areas and 28 per cent in its urban centers. Yet, Delhi streets are often congested by this small proportion of car-owners." However, an equally concerning factor lies in the extensive proliferation of industries across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), which persist as major and consistent sources of pollutants. These industrial emissions subject the residents of Delhi to a form of 'slow violence (read poison)'. Therefore, enhancing public transportation systems is a pivotal strategy for addressing the challenges posed by urban mobility and environmental sustainability in Delhi. Key measures such as improving last-mile connectivity, reducing fares to ensure affordability for a broader demographic, and expanding the public transport fleet to accommodate the city's growing population are essential for reducing the dependence on private vehicles. By prioritising these initiatives, it is believed that a significant decrease in traffic congestion and vehicular emissions can be achieved, contributing to a cleaner and healthier urban environment. Moreover, such measures would improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the city, enabling individuals without personal vehicles to navigate Delhi more efficiently. In the long term, a robust and affordable public transport network would not only promote environmental sustainability but also enhance the overall quality of life for all residents by fostering greater equity and mobility within the city.

(The writer is Programme Executive, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; views are personal)

The impact of COVID-19 and lessons for preventing future pandemics

By strengthening healthcare systems and fostering global collaboration, we can minimise the risk of future pandemics write SUMER SINGH AHLUWALIA and SAISHA ANAND

COVID-19 has caused over 7,000,000 deaths worldwide, with countless others affected. These statistics barely begin to convey the immense impact of the pandemic, which brought loss to almost everyone. Wearing masks became the norm, schools transformed into virtual classrooms, and homes turned into makeshift workspaces. For a time, the world seemed to turn into a vast cemetery. Addressing and preventing future pandemics requires both personal behavioural changes and strict government regulations. These efforts can significantly reduce the risk of COVID-19 and similar health crises in the future.

The origin of COVID-19 remains controversial, though it is widely believed to have stemmed from an animal sold at the Huanan Seafood Market in China. The consumption of meat, normalised for centuries, has often been linked to the emergence of infectious diseases. Diseases arising from the butchering of animals highlight the need for dietary shifts. Vegetarianism, for instance, is a proactive step that could reduce the likelihood of zoonotic spillovers and the spread of diseases like COVID-19. This also raises an ethical question: is it justifiable to kill animals merely to satisfy human taste preferences? **The Role of Vaccination** Vaccination has long been a topic of debate, and the

COVID-19 vaccines faced significant backlash. Many were hesitant due to concerns about the intentions of pharmaceutical companies and the fact that the vaccines did not provide sterilising immunity. However, vaccinations remain essential to eradicating diseases. According to the National Center for Immunisation and Respiratory Diseases, individuals who received the COVID-19 vaccine were 54 per cent less likely to contract SARS-CoV-2. Achieving herd immunity is crucial, requiring the transmission rate (Rt) to fall below 1, meaning each infected individual transmits the virus to less than one other person. The concept of the "socialism of the microbe" emphasises our responsibility to protect

others by safeguarding ourselves from infectious diseases. For instance, self-isolation, mask-wearing, and vaccination not only protect individuals but also shield vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated. **Preventative Measures** Personal precautions, such as wearing masks, self-isolating, and following hygiene protocols, are critical in containing the spread of viruses like SARS-CoV-2. A study in Bangladesh revealed that mask usage significantly reduced COVID-19 infections. As an RNA virus, SARS-CoV-2 evolves quickly, facilitating asymptomatic transmission. Research by Wang and Tong, published in the 'National Library of Medicine,' stresses the importance of strict quar-



antine measures for asymptomatic individuals to control the pandemic. **Government Interventions** Not everyone maintains the same hygiene standards, underscoring the need for government intervention. Investments in research and healthcare infrastructure are essential for pandemic preparedness. Projects like the

Global Virome Project and DEEP VZN aim to identify high-risk regions, animals, and viruses, enabling better predictions and preventive measures. India's 2021 healthcare crisis serves as a stark example of unpreparedness. A lack of oxygen, hospital beds, and essential facilities led to thousands of deaths daily. Despite this, the country still faces a deficit in healthcare infrastructure, highlighting the urgent need for increased healthcare budgets. Economic barriers also prevent many from accessing necessary care. A study published in the 'National Library of Medicine' found that one in six adults avoids healthcare due to cost. Governments could address this by subsidising

basic health insurance, covering vaccines, health check-ups, and screenings. This would ensure equitable access to healthcare and encourage public participation in disease eradication efforts. **Education as a Tool for Change** Education plays a vital role in fostering behaviour change. Courses like "Global Change and Infectious Disease," offered at Wesleyan University, teach valuable skills for reducing infection risks. Such courses should be mandatory to instill a lifelong sense of personal and social responsibility. Teaching hygiene practices, such as proper handwashing, should start at a young age, while mass educational campaigns can raise awareness about infectious diseases across all age

groups. Social media can amplify these messages, encouraging responsible behaviours and helping curb the spread of future diseases. **Conclusion** Minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics requires a combination of personal behavioural changes and robust government interventions. These pandemics are a wake-up call, reminding us of the harmful impacts of human activities on the planet. By promoting practices like vegetarianism, personal hygiene, and social responsibility, we can mitigate the dangers of pandemics and build a hopeful future. *(Ahluwalia & Saisha are studying economics at Wesleyan University; views are personal)*

Palestinians say Hamas, Fatah close to agreement on committee to administer post-war Gaza

PALESTINIAN officials say Fatah and Hamas are closing in on an agreement to appoint a committee of politically independent technocrats to administer the Gaza Strip after the war. It would effectively end Hamas' rule and could help advance ceasefire talks with Israel.

There was no immediate comment from Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is dismantled and scores of hostages are returned.

Fire agreement with Israel, the Hamas official said. American and Arab mediators have spent nearly a year trying to broker such an agreement, but the negotiations have repeatedly stalled.

Floods wreak havoc in Malaysia, southern Thailand; over 30 dead



Severe floods caused by monsoon rains killed more than 30 people and displaced tens of thousands in Malaysia and southern Thailand, officials said Tuesday.

South Korean declares emergency martial law

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared an "emergency martial law" Tuesday, accusing the country's opposition of controlling the parliament, sympathising with North Korea and paralysing the government with anti-state activities.

Three climbers missing on New Zealand's highest peak

Three mountain climbers from the US and Canada are missing after they failed to return from a planned ascent of New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki, authorities said Tuesday.

The Americans — Kurt Blair, 56, from Colorado and Carlos Romero, 50, of California — are certified alpine guides, according to the website of the American Mountain Guides Association.

Public Notice

My client Mrs. Geeta W/o Mr. Balraj owner of built-up Property of Plot no. 86, area measuring 233 sq. yds. i.e. 194.818 sq. mtrs. Signal Storey with roof rights, out of Kharsa no. 109 min. situated in the area of Village Mayur Vihar, Delhi. Through registered gift deed dated 28.11.2024 executed by Mr. Balraj S/o Mr. Shripal in favour of Mrs. Geeta W/o Mr. Balraj Vide Reg. no. 2024/4/11784, at SR-VII Delhi the above-mentioned property is going to be mortgaged with Federal Bank Financial Services Limited.

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कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद, दमोह (म.प्र.)

Table with 6 columns: क्र., टेंडर नं., कार्य का नाम एवं विवरण, अनुमानित लागत, निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य, अमानत राशि, समयावधि. It lists tender details for various works.

निम्नलिखित कार्य हेतु केन्द्रीयकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत टेन्डरों से ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट https://mptenders.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

- 1. इच्छुक निविदादाता विस्तृत निविदा एवं अन्य समस्त जानकारी ई-टेंडरिंग पोर्टल www.mptenders.gov.in पर Key-Date अनुसार देखी जाकर निविदा प्रपत्र ऑनलाइन क्रय किये जा सकते हैं।

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी नगर पालिका परिषद दमोह

Public Notice

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Seema had acquired Property bearing No. H-23/2, area measuring 23 sq. yards, Kharsa No. 685, situated at Village Chondia Gauran Khadar, in the abadi of H-Block, Gali No. 27, Jai Prakash Nagar, Ghonda, Ilaqa-Shahdara, Delhi vide G.P.A. Dt. 19.03.2024 along with ATS &amp; executed by Mr. Ved Prakash and Now Mrs. Seema is the undisputed owner of the said property.

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भोपाल

Table with 6 columns: क्र., ऑनलाइन टेंडर नं., कार्य स्थल का नाम, निविदा अर्घ्य, अनुमानित राशि, प्रपत्र की कीमत, कार्य हेतु का प्रकार, कार्य व अवधि. It lists tender details for metering infrastructure.

नियम व शर्तें :- 1. निविदा प्रपत्र को निर्धारित राशि एवं धरोहर राशि एवं अन्य आवश्यक दस्तावेज ऑनलाइन प्रस्तुत करने होंगे अन्य समस्त विस्तृत जानकारी www.mptenders.gov.in पर देखी जा सकती है।

CONSTRUCTION OF ETP WASTE WATER RECYCLING PLANT

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-24-25; dated: 30-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Tender No. KYQ-CDO-ETP-02-24-25. Name of work: Construction of ETP waste water recycling plant for reuse of discharge water of mechanized laundry/Kamakhya at Coach Maintenance Depot Kamakhya.

INTRODUCTION OF AUTOMATIC BLOCK SIGNALLING SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No. S&T/APDJ/18; dated: 29-11-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SN.1. E-Tender No.: AP-ST-18-2024-25. Name of Work: Introduction of Automatic Block Signalling System for trainees at Operating Model Room at MDZT1 / Alipurduar Jn. Advertised Tender Value: ₹59,82,635/-; Bid Security: ₹1,19,700/-.

CONSTRUCTION OF PCEE CONFERENCE HALL AT GROUND FLOOR

E-Tender Notice No. 36 of 2024 Dated: 29-11-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. DCESTMLG-25-2024. Name of work & Location: At Maligaon (HQ): (i) Construction of PCEE Conference hall at Ground floor of West block (ii) At Nambari-Construction of CCTV control room at Nambari officer's colony.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.) Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from firms / contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & https://etender.up.nic.in.

महत्त्वपूर्ण सूचना-

नवीन ओखला औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के अधिसूचित क्षेत्र में शासन से स्वीकृत मास्टर प्लान एवं उत्तर प्रदेश औद्योगिक क्षेत्र विकास अधिनियम, 1976 के विपरित प्लॉटिंग या किसी भी प्रकार का अन्य निर्माण पूरी तरह अथवा आगह किया जाता है कि इस प्रकार की अथवा कोलोनियों एवं अथवा निर्मित भवनों में भूखण्डों/अपार्टमेंट/दुकान/गोड्डाऊन/फार्माहाउस की खरीद-फरोख्त से पूर्णतः सचेत रहें तथा कोलोनियाँ/अथवा भवन एवं भ्रामक विज्ञानों से बचें। साथ ही नौएडा अधिसूचित क्षेत्र के हिण्डन एवं यमुना नदियों के डूब क्षेत्र (Flood Plain Zone) में अतिक्रमण/अथवा प्लॉट एवं फार्म हाऊसों के कारोबार में संलिप्त भूमिकाओं के चंगुल में न फँसे।

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot

VACANCIES Online applications are invited w.e.f. 05-12-2024 to 24-12-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfhuhs.ac.in to the recruitment of 02-Professor, 04-Associate Professor and 16-Assistant Professor on regular basis at Tertiary Cancer Care Centre, Fazilka constituent institute of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences Faridkot

VACANCIES Online applications are invited w.e.f. 09-12-2024 to 31-12-2024 from eligible candidates through University website i.e www.bfhuhs.ac.in to the recruitment of Professor (Physiotherapy)-01 (UR) on regular basis at constituent colleges/ institute of Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Faridkot.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL

REGISTERED OFFICE: Indian Rayon Compound, Veraval, Gujarat-362266. Branch Office: First Floor, Vijaya Bank Building, 17, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001. DEMAND NOTICE (US 13/2) OF THE SARFAESI ACT - 2002

You the below mentioned borrower has availed loan by mortgaging the schedule mentioned property and you the below mentioned has default in payment of the said loan.

Table with 3 columns: Loan Account No./Name and Address of the account, Date of Demand Notice, Amount Due as per Demand Notice. It lists loan details for ABND_LAP000000615821 & ABND_LAP000000748207.

"DETAILS OF SECURED ASSETS TO BE ENFORCED" All that piece and parcel of: "Unit No. 1001 and 1002, 10th Floor, Gulshan One 29, Plot No. C3/E1, Sector- 129, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201304"

You are hereby called upon to pay Aditya Birla Finance Limited within the period of 60 days from the date of publication of this Notice the aforesaid amount with interest and cost falling which Aditya Birla Finance Limited will take necessary action under the Provisions of the said Act against all or any one or more of the secured assets including taking possession of secured assets of the borrower / Co - borrower / Mortgagor.

ASHWANI MINDA

General Secretary / Secretary: ANIRUDH MINDA. Treasurer: VINOD GARG

JANTA PRITI NIDHI MANDAL

Any one has any objection to the registration of JANTA PRITI NIDHI MANDAL (name of the proposed party) they may send their objection with reasons therefor, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvanchar Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EOI Notice No. : C1470/AP/OSOP/2023-VIII dated : 29-11-2024. Applications are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Scope of work: Participation in One Station One Product Scheme by showcasing/selling indigenous/ local products at 37 Nos. Station over Alipurduar Division.

Office of the Superintending Engineer 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora

Letter No. : 5461(i) Nivida-01/2024-25 NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (E-Tendering) Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, PWD Almora invites tender through E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 04/12/2024 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

Table with 7 columns: Sl. No., Name of Work, Cost of Tender Form, Earnest Money (Rupee in Lakh), Validity of Tender, Time of Completion, Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering. It lists two tender items: CD PWD Ranikhet and PD PWD Bageshwar.

Dharavi redevelopment project revolutionises slum mapping with drones and LiDAR technology

PTI ■ MUMBAI
In a first for any slum rehabilitation project in India, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) has embraced cutting-edge technologies to survey and document Asia's largest slum, officials said. Drones and remote sensing technology Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) are being used to map the 620 acres densely populated Dharavi slums. This is to ensure accuracy, transparency, and efficiency in a redevelopment project of this scale and complexity. The Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd, in which the Adani Group holds an 80 per cent stake along with the state government, plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three-quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About 7 lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums, close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats up to 350 square feet free of cost. Officials said advanced digital tools are being used to map the entire area and



identify the beneficiaries. Traditionally, surveys for Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects relied on conventional methods such as total station surveys and manual collection of physical documents. However, the modern tools such as drones, LiDAR technology, and mobile applications has been implemented to collect and evaluate data digitally. These tools are being used to create a 'digital twin' of Dharavi - a virtual replica that facilitates better data analysis and decision-making, a Dharavi Redevelopment Project-Slum Rehabilitation Authority (DRP-SRA) official said. LiDAR is an active remote sensing technology which plays a pivotal role in this project. Known for its ability to rapidly capture geospatial data, LiDAR uses laser light to measure distances and create highly accurate 3D representations of terrain, buildings, and objects. A portable LiDAR system, such as a backpack-mounted scanner, is being used to navigate the narrow and congested lanes of Dharavi. Drone technology supplements this by capturing aerial images of the area, providing an overhead perspective that aids in mapping and planning. On the ground, survey teams use mobile applications for door-to-door data collection. These apps ensure that information is gathered at the actual location of each slum dweller, with all data stored and evaluated digitally. This not only improves

accuracy but also reduces the scope for errors or data loss. "The creation of a digital twin - a virtual representation of Dharavi - marks a significant step forward," the official said. According to him, this is the first time such advanced technologies are being used in a slum rehabilitation scheme in India. The digital model will allow authorities to evaluate data more effectively, especially when determining the eligibility of residents for rehabilitation at the end of the survey. It also enables faster resolution of disputes and reduces the chances of oversight. While an estimated one million (10 lakh) reside in Dharavi, about 7,00,000 are thought to be eligible because of the resident definition of one having proof of living in the area prior to January 1, 2000. The Maharashtra gov't had recently approved the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land for the Dharavi redevelopment. The land will be used to build low-cost and affordable housing for residents of Dharavi. A survey of existing residents and businesses is being done to determine who would be rehoused in Dharavi or be relocated. The survey process, however, is not without challenges. To address concerns of Dharavikars like fear of fraud or misuse of data, the P-SRA is conducting extensive information, education, and communication (IEC) activities. These include meetings, pamphlet distribution, and the establishment of call centres to inform residents about the survey process. Most importantly, the residents are explained about P/SRA which is a government entity overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the project, including the smooth execution of the survey. The field supervisors help residents by ensuring they provide the right documents. If the documents are complete, residents get an acknowledgement slip signed by the P-SRA officer and details about the next steps. Residents, who fail to furnish the correct documents at the time of the survey, are explained about the importance of the survey and are helped in retrieving them.

Domestic air traffic to rise to 164-170 million in FY25: Ica

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Domestic air traffic is projected to rise 7-10 per cent to 164-170 million in the current fiscal year, while the aviation industry's loss is pegged at Rs 2,000-3,000 crore during the same period, according to rating agency Ica. In the first half of 2024-25, Ica said domestic air passenger traffic stood at 79.3 million, marking a 5.3 per cent annual growth that was partly impacted by the severe heat wave and other weather-related disruptions. The international passenger traffic growth for Indian carriers increased and stood at 16.2 per cent in the first half of the current financial year. On Tuesday, the rating agency said domestic air traffic is expected to jump 7-10 per cent on an annual basis to 164-170 million in FY25. Ica maintained a 'stable' outlook on the Indian aviation industry, amidst continued growth in domestic and international air passenger traffic. Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head at Ica, said the industry is expected to report a net loss of Rs 20-30 billion in FY25 and FY2026 each, significantly lower than the losses witnessed in the past supported by improved pricing power of the airlines. "The spread between revenue per available seat kilometre and cost per available seat kilometre saw some moderation in H1 FY2025 over FY2024 due to higher fuel prices and overall increased costs amid grounding of aircraft, while yields moderated marginally as airlines strove to maintain adequate passenger load factors. "Nonetheless, the same is expected to pick up in H2 FY2025, amid healthy passenger traffic," Shah said. Airlines' cost structure is typically driven by two key components - Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices and the INR-USD movement. On a year-on-year basis, Ica said average ATF prices eased by 6.8 per cent to Rs 96,192/KL in the first eight months of FY2025, though exceeding the levels seen during pre-Covid period (first eight months of FY2020) of Rs 65,261/KL. Fuel costs account for around 30 to 40 per cent of an airline's costs, while about 35-50 per cent of the operating expenses, including aircraft lease payments, fuel expenses and a significant portion of aircraft and engine maintenance expenses are denominated in dollar terms.

Tata Power-DDL and THDCIL sign MoU to develop skilled professionals for energy sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) and THDC India Limited (THDCIL) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a robust pool of skilled and qualified professionals to meet the needs of both the domestic energy sector and international markets. The MoU was signed by Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resource, Industrial Relations, Facility Management & Health Services of Tata Power-DDL and Dr. A.N. Tripathy, General Manager (HR & A) of THDCIL in the presence of Anoop Nandi, Head (BD & Collaboration), Tata Power-DDL, Ravi Budhlakoti (HRD-THDCIL) and other senior officials from both the organisations. The MoU aims to establish a mutually beneficial framework for collaboration between Tata Power-DDL and THDCIL to organize leadership, wellness & other training programs, workshops, seminars, research initiatives and consultancy projects with a focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in the energy sector. This strategic partnership will leverage the infrastructure facilities of the HRD Takshshila - SLDC in Rishikesh and the Learning Centre of Tata Power-DDL in Delhi to develop and deliver advanced training programs in cutting-edge domains such as smart grids, grid automation, and complementary technologies.

Speaking about the partnership, Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resources, Industrial Relations, FM and Health Services, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said, "This privileged partnership with THDCIL - an institution of national importance, is indeed a landmark collaboration in the area of cutting-edge training programs for the energy sector. Given the changing landscape of energy sector worldwide, we aim to prepare a highly trained and qualified resource pool both for India and international stakeholders. This initiative also underscores our commitment to enhancing skill development, empowering individuals to meet the dynamic demands of the industry effectively."

Imposition of additional duty on steel imports to hit exports by MSMEs says Exporters

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
MSME exporters from the engineering sector on Tuesday said that any move to impose additional duties on steel imports would make domestic products uncompetitive and impact the country's outbound shipments from the sector. Hand Tool Association Chairman S C Ralhan said that the MSME engineering exporters are already facing problems on the liquidity front and high prices of steel in the domestic market. "Increasing prices of steel by domestic steel makers are hurting us and now we have seen in the media reports that the government is planning to impose a 25 per cent safeguard duty. This will severely impact MSME exporters," Ralhan said. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that if the government imposes additional duty, they should ensure that the domestic steel companies do not increase the prices of the inputs. "Increase in input prices will impact exports of value-added steel products," Sahai said. The steel ministry has proposed for a 25 per cent safeguard duty on import of certain steel items into the country. The proposal came at a meeting between Union Minister of Steel H D Kumaraswamy and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here on December 2. Domestic steel players are raising concerns over rising cheap steel imports from select nations like China. Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report has claimed that thousands of containers carrying imported steel remain stranded at JNPT and other ports due to complex clearance procedures imposed by the Ministry of Steel (MOS). "The Customs clearance delays have disrupted production lines and

tarnished India's global reputation, with even countries like Japan formally requesting the government to release stranded shipments," GTRI said. India's steel imports are neither excessive nor unwarranted, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding half of these imports are critical raw materials for domestic production, while 40 per cent consist of specialised items that India does not produce in sufficient quantities. He said that steel imports are just 6 per cent of domestic production and an estimated over 70 per cent imports are done by large steel firms. An impression has been created that India's steel imports are high, lack quality and supplied at below market prices and hence need iron clad controls and data does not support high import theory, Srivastava said. "In FY2024, domestic production met 94 per cent of India's steel demand, with imports contributing just 6 per cent. Over half of these imports consist of steel scrap (33.8 per cent) and semi-finished steel (17.3 per cent), both of which support domestic steel production. Such imports are made by large steel producers," he added. The remaining 43.4 per cent imports are of high-end flat-rolled steel products used in critical industries like automotive, construction, and household appliances. "Domestic stainless steel prices are 25-30 per cent higher than comparable imported steel for certain thicknesses, even after accounting for duties. This price disparity, driven by import restrictions, significantly boosts the profit margins of large steel firms while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) bear the brunt," the think tank said.

Hyundai Motor Group ties up with IITs to advance battery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Hyundai Motor Group on Tuesday said it has tied up with three IITs to establish a collaborative research system in the fields of batteries and electrification entailing an investment of USD 7 million over five years. The South Korean group, which has presence across multiple segments including mobility, has tied up with IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. Hyundai Motor Group plans to invest around USD 7 million over five years, from 2025 to 2029, to jointly conduct battery and electrification-related research with the IITs. As part of the collaboration, Hyundai Center of Excellence (CoE), will be set up within IIT Delhi and would operate through sponsorships from Hyundai Motor Group, the group said in a statement. The primary objective of the Hyundai CoE is to take the lead in driving advancements in batteries and electrification, specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of the Indian market, it added. "We believe that Hyundai CoE will cultivate a strong network of talented individuals from India's academic landscape, driving innovation and future growth," Hyundai Motor Group Head of Research and Development (R&D) Planning & Coordination Center Naksup Sung said. The Hyundai CoE will not only conduct joint research on a c a d e m i c - i n d u s t r i a l cooperation tasks but also facilitate technical and human exchanges between battery and electrification experts from Korea and India, the group said.

Govt should leverage sports industry for economic growth: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
The government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth and frame policies to encourage more investment in sports infrastructure, events, and related goods and services, according to a report. The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report, titled 'Future of Sports in India', also suggested that the government could provide incentives to the private sector to fund large-scale, holistic sports programmes to support talent development as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities. CSR contributions could be leveraged to establish and run high-performance training centres with facilities, including international coaches, nutritionists, and mental and physical trainers. It said that the government may formulate policies to establish and support comprehensive skill development programmes for sports coaching, sports management, and sports-related ancillary industries to boost employment generation through sports, especially in tier-2 and rural areas. While the sports industry has seen remarkable advancements, challenges such as financial insecurity for athletes, underutilised infrastructure, and the need for greater inclusivity persist. Expanding financial aid programmes, developing robust career transition pathways, and fostering a culture of inclusivity can

address these issues, the report said. "The Indian government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth, in addition to developing the capacity of Indian athletes to compete at higher levels," said the Future of Sports in India report. The report also suggested that the government must actively bid for and host international competitions and sporting events. It may also diversify sports offerings in multiple states by promoting winter and traditional sports, thereby also encouraging sports tourism. The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report also said that the Indian sports industry is experiencing a period of dynamic growth, with projections to expand from USD 27 billion in 2020 to USD 100 billion by 2027. This transformation is driven by various factors, including the commercialisation of sports leagues, technological advancements, and a growing emphasis on diverse sporting disciplines. Sectors such as sports goods, apparel, and media rights are contributing significantly to this growth, with the sports media market alone expected to grow from USD 1 billion in 2020 to USD 13.4 billion by 2027. Additionally, landmark achievements by Indian athletes at the 2023 Asian Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics highlight the nation's increasing competitiveness on the global stage, it added.

Japanese firms keen to set up semiconductor units in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Japanese firms are keen to set up semiconductor units in India and they have all the expertise and specialisation to partner with domestic firms, Deloitte has said. It also said that skilled workforce, funds and continuation of support measures are key to push growth of the semiconductor sector in India. Japanese firms are "super enthusiastic" about India, Shingo Kamaya, Deloitte AP and SRT Leader, Deloitte Japan said. In July, Japan became the second Quad partner after the US to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain. The two countries signed the memorandum for semiconductor design, manufacturing, equipment research, talent development and to bring resilience in the semiconductor supply chain. With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem. Japan houses companies that are global leaders in raw form of semiconductor wafers, chemical and gases, lenses that are used in chip manufacturing equipment, and display technologies. India aspires to have 10 semiconductor manufacturing plants in 10 years. "Given the technology, given the specialization, there is no better partner to get on to developing such an ambitious and a critical ecosystem of semiconductor than Japan," Rohit Berry, President - Strategy, Risk and Transactions, Deloitte India, said. He said that the semiconductor story in the country is not just about setting up one factory, but it is about that entire ecosystem. "And that is where many Japanese companies who have set up such ecosystems in Japan or in any other places are going to be absolutely critical to set it up (in India). So this is the vision. This is a grand plan. This is the investment. This is the commitment," he added. Berry also said that developing the right kind of partnerships between Indian and Japanese firms are fundamental for the growth of the sector. "This is not a one year game, it's not a two year game. This will basically benefit us and Japan for generations," he noted. He also emphasised that the government incentive program on a sustained basis will also be a key factor for the sector's growth in India. When asked if Japanese firms are looking for any specific support measures from states, he said that a "centre-state partnership, together with the private and Japanese partnership, all four of them coming together will be a prerequisite to create a once in a lifetime setup".

Mother Dairy to market co-operative society NCOL's organic products in Delhi-NCR



PTI ■ NEW DELHI
Mother Dairy on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with the National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL) to exclusively distribute the latter's organic products under the 'Bharat Organics' brand in Delhi-NCR. In a statement, Mother Dairy said it has "signed up with 'Bharat Organics' as the exclusive distribution partner for their range of organic

staples to the Delhi NCR market." Under the initiative, Mother Dairy will ensure distribution of packed and certified brand 'Bharat Organics' produce for consumers across NCR through its network of booths across the region. The collaboration marks the launch of 'Bharat Organics Atta' and 'Bharat Organics Sweetener (Jaggery)' in the NCR market. "With this partnership, Mother Dairy aims to build a healthier and more sustainable India. By combining NCOL's expertise in organic farming with our extensive distribution

network and deep consumer trust, we are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between premium organic products and affordability," Mother Dairy Managing Director Manish Bandish said. Mother Dairy has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NCOL to distribute the 'Bharat Organics' brand across multiple channels and geographies. The Bharat Organics range will be made available at 300 Safal stores and around 10,000 general trade outlets in Delhi NCR, as well as through modern trade and e-commerce platforms. Vipul Mittal, Managing Director of NCOL, said "Atta is just the beginning. Our vision is to offer an entire basket of organic staples that cater to the daily needs, while ensuring fair returns for organic farmers." Mother Dairy was commissioned in 1974. It is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Mother Dairy is a leading dairy player which manufactures, markets & sells milk and milk products including cultured products, ice creams, paneer, ghee, etc.

Under the 'Mother Dairy' brand. The company also has a diversified portfolio with products in edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand and fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables & snacks, unpolished pulses, pulps & concentrates, etc. Under the 'Safal' brand. NCOL is a multistate cooperative society, supported by NDDB, NAFED, NCDC, GCMF Ltd, and NCCF. It has been formed to promote organic farming through the cooperative model, creating organic clusters, and ensuring fair trade practices.

India to host first ever women's T20 World Cup for Blind in 2025

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Pakistan will play its share of matches in next year's inaugural blind women's T20 World Cup in either Nepal or Sri Lanka after a hybrid model for the event was finalised at the World Blind Cricket Council's (WBCC) Annual General Meeting in Multan. The development comes a few weeks after India withdrew from the men's T20 Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan owing to security concerns. The hosting rights for the women's event were awarded to India last year and affirmed at the AGM on Monday in which 11 member countries were present. India, England and New Zealand joined the meeting virtually. "The hosting rights of the tournament was awarded to India last year (2023) only. It was also decided back then that in case there is visa issue with the Pakistan team's coming to India, the tournament will be held in Hybrid Model. Pakistan will play all its matches at a neutral venue," GK Mahantesh, president of the Cricket Association of Blind in India (CABI), told PTI. Asked where would Pakistan's



matches be held, Mahantesh informed that they have zeroed in on two countries. "Pakistan's visually challenged women's team will be based either in Nepal or in Sri Lanka for the entire duration of the tournament," he stated. "The Indian team will travel to Nepal or Sri Lanka to play against them. The cost of the entire event will be borne by our cricket board. We will pay for Pakistan team's entire stay in either of these two countries," he added.

The CABI is neither affiliated to BCCI, nor the ICC. Several other key decisions were also taken at the AGM, including the appointment of India's Rajanish Henry and Chandrasekhar KN as the Secretary General and Director Finance respectively, for a two-year period. Henry, who previously served as Vice President of WBCC, is also the President of the Cricket Association for the Blind in Kerala. While Chandrasekhar, a founder member of the CABI, has previously served as its Treasurer. It was confirmed that the next men's T20 World Cup will be held in 2027, the date and venue for which will be finalised during the AGM in 2025. The members also decided that all international tournaments for cricket for the blind will now adhere to the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) Sight Classification rules, ensuring uniformity and inclusivity across the sport. It was also decided that CABI will lead efforts to promote cricket for the blind in the USA and UAE, facilitating the formation of men's and women's teams in these regions.



World No. 4 Indian Arjun Erigaisi to compete at Norway Chess 2025

PTI ■ STAVANGER

Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi, who recently became the second Indian after the legendary Viswanathan Anand to reach the gold-standard ELO rating of 2800, will make his debut at the prestigious Norway Chess tournament next year. Norway Chess 2025 will take place from May 26 to June 6. At just 21 years old and ranked world No. 4, Arjun is expected to bring youthful ambition and exceptional talent to one of the most premier tournaments in the chess calendar. Reflecting on his style and growth, Arjun remarked, "I used to lose games because of over-ambition and a lack of objectivity, but now I strive to channel my ambition in a balanced way." As anticipation builds up for the tournament, Arjun expressed his enthusiasm about the event's innovative format. "There are a lot of exciting things about Norway Chess, but for me, I would say the time control and Armageddon format stand out the most to me," he said. Arjun's journey to the top has been nothing short of phenomenal, with 2022 being his breakout year, when he claimed several high-profile victories. In January, he won the prestigious Tata Steel Chess Challengers, and by March he was crowned the national champion. That summer, he dominated the 28th Abu Dhabi International Chess Festival, showcasing his

ability to thrive in various formats. To cap off the year, Arjun claimed victory at the Tata Steel Chess India Blitz, strengthening his reputation as a rising star. He continued in same vein in 2023 and emerged as the outright winner of the Sharjah Masters, and later in the year he reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup. This year, Arjun reached new heights as he began with victories at the Menorca Open A, the Stepan Avagyan Memorial, and the WR Chess Masters Cup in London, proving his consistency and dominance in competitive play. In September, Arjun led Team India to gold at the Chess Olympiad, delivering a standout performance on board three with a breathtaking rating performance of 2968. The remarkable performance also earned him an individual gold medal. The same month, Arjun became India's top-rated player, reaching a career-high live rating of 2801 in December. By crossing the prestigious 2800 threshold, joining an elite club of players. The Norway tournament brings together the top male and female players in a distinctive six-player double round-robin format. The introduction of Norway Chess Women in 2024, with equal prize funds for men and women, underscores the event's commitment to gender equality and innovation in the sport.



Australian Tennis Legend Neale Fraser Passes Away At 91

AP ■ MELBOURNE

Neale Fraser, who won three Grand Slam singles titles and guided Australia to four Davis Cup titles during a 24-year career as team captain, has died at 91. Tennis Australia released a statement Tuesday saying the sport "has lost one of its giants." Fraser beat Australian tennis great Rod Laver to win Wimbledon in 1960, in between sweeps at the U.S. Open where he won the singles, men's doubles and mixed titles in 1959 and '60. He won 11 major men's doubles titles, including at least two at each of the four Grand Slam tournaments. Laver, the only man to twice win all four singles majors in a calendar year, posted a tribute to his "dear mate and fellow lefty" on X, formerly known as Twitter. Fraser "was a true gem in a golden era of Australian tennis legends -- an incredible World No. 1, a Grand Slam

Al-Sadd clinches Asian Champions League playoffs spot after beating Al-Nassr

AP ■ RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo was absent when Al-Nassr lost for the first time in the AFC Champions League Elite, to Al-Sadd of Qatar 2-1 on Monday. Al-Nassr was already guaranteed a place in the round of 16 so Ronaldo, who has five goals in his last three matches, was rested. He watched from the sidelines. Al-Sadd took the lead through Akram Afif, named the Asian player of the year in November, eight minutes after the break. While Sadio Mane and Anderson Talisca went close for Al-Nassr, an own goal from close range by Romain Saiss made it 1-1 with 10 minutes remaining. However, Afif was brought down in the area and, in the ninth minute of added time, Algeria's Adam Ounas converted the penalty. The win ensured 2011 champion Al-Sadd booked a place in the round of 16, moving into fourth in the 12-team group, a point behind Al-Nassr in third. The top eight from each of the two groups progress to the knockout stage. "It was a tough and close game," Al-Sadd coach Felix Sanchez said. "We worked hard to stop Al-Nassr having the ball, and to win at their home stadium. The players showed their character." Al-Ahli was first in the group after the Saudi Arabian side was held by Esteghlal of Iran to 2-2. Ivan Toney scored both goals for the host in Jeddah. Raphael Silva opened the scoring for the Tehran team after 42 minutes but Toney made it 1-1 just before the break from the spot. Mohammad Hossein Eslami restored Esteghlal's lead six minutes after the restart but Toney scored his second penalty four minutes from the end, a fourth goal in Asia for the England striker in the space of a week. Elsewhere, Persepolis of Iran beat Al-Shorta of Iraq 2-1, while Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates drew with Al-Rayyan of Qatar 1-1.



Mollie Marcoux Samaan stepping down as LPGA commissioner

AP ■ FLORIDA

Mollie Marcoux Samaan is resigning in January as LPGA commissioner, a surprise announcement Monday after record growth in prize money along with criticism the LPGA wasn't gaining in popularity during the surge in women's sports. Marcoux Samaan is leaving on Jan. 9, three weeks before the LPGA begins its 75th season. Liz Moore, the chief legal and technology officer, will be interim commissioner until a search committee hires a new one. Marcoux Samaan did not cite a specific reason for resigning except to mention spending more time with her three children. She will serve the third-shortest stint among nine LPGA commissioners dating to 1975, behind only Jim Ritts (1996-99) and Bill Blue (1988-90). "With the LPGA positioned for continued growth, it's time for me to have more time to cheer on our three amazing children as they live their dreams while I continue to pursue my passion for building leaders, uniting communities and creating value through sports, particularly women's sports," Marcoux Samaan said in a statement. The LPGA said prize money increased by more than 90% under Marcoux Samaan, a big part of that the major championships. The five majors had a combined prize fund of \$23.4 million in 2021. Next year, the majors combine to offer at least \$47.8 million in prize money. She announced the end of her tenure a week after the season-ending CME Group Tour Championship awarded \$4 million to the winner, Jeeno Thitikul, from an \$11 million purse. "Since joining the LPGA in 2021, Mollie has been instrumental in solidifying our position as the global leader in women's professional golf, realizing record growth in player earnings and fan engagement," said John B. Veihmeyer, chairman of the LPGA board. "Mollie has been a steadfast advocate for equity in the sport and has worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for women and girls through the game." The LPGA said the average earnings for the top 100 players topped \$1 million this year, compared with an average of just over \$570,000 in 2021. Women's sports across the



landscape has seen a spike in money and interest, though Marcoux Samaan was criticized for the LPGA not getting enough attention behind remarkable story lines this year. Nelly Korda tied an LPGA record with five straight wins, and Lydia Ko won Olympic gold to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame, and then won another major at the Women's British Open at St. Andrews. The Americans also won the Solheim Cup, but not without a transportation mess on the opening day at the Robert

Arne Slot aims cheeky dig at Manchester City

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

Days after leading Liverpool to a convincing win over Manchester City, Arne Slot aimed a cheeky dig at the beleaguered English Premier League champion over its charges for allegedly breaching financial rules. Slot was asked at a news conference on Tuesday for the latest news about the future of Mohamed Salah, who is out of contract at the end of the season and said on Sunday that the 2-0 victory over City might be his last game against Pep Guardiola's team at Anfield. Smiling, Slot replied: "Maybe Mo knows more about the 115 (charges) that are done, so he expects them not to be in the Premier League next season." He immediately emphasized that was a joke. City faces more than 100 charges, ranging over the period from 2009-18, for financial breaches allegedly committed when the club was trying to establish itself as the biggest force in English soccer. Punishment could be as extreme as expulsion from the league.



City denies the charges and a closed-door hearing is taking place. A verdict is not expected until early next year. Slot has kicked City while it is down. The champion has lost four straight games in the Premier League amid a seven-match winless run, easily its worst streak in Guardiola's tenure that started in 2016. Slot was speaking ahead of Liverpool's match at Newcastle on Wednesday. The Reds hold a nine-point lead in the league after 13 games, and are 11 clear of fifth-placed City.

India women's team heads to Oman for Junior Asia Cup title defence

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Indian junior women's hockey team departed for Muscat on Tuesday to defend its Asia Cup title which would also help the side qualify for next year's FIH Junior World Cup. The Junior Asia Cup is scheduled to be held from December 7 to 15 and India will begin their campaign against Bangladesh on Sunday. The top three teams in the showpiece will make the cut for the World Cup scheduled in Santiago, Chile. India will be up against China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh in Pool A while Pool B will feature South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. India's campaign will be spearheaded by captain Jyoti Singh along with vice captain Sakshi Rana and the squad also features players who have had the experience of playing with the senior side. These players are Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo, Mumtaz Khan, Deepika and Beauty Ddungdung. The team is being coached by former India captain Tushar Khandker. "We are very confident and upbeat about our campaign. We have a good, experienced team. We have worked hard



over the past few months and the team is quite eager to do our best in Muscat, Oman," Jyoti said ahead of the team's departure. "It's heartening to see the men's team enter the knockout stage and they are cruising towards the title. We have been following their matches and we will be there to cheer for them in the remaining matches," added Sakshi, referring to the men's continental event currently being held in Muscat.

Carey backs Australia's 'world-class' batters to counter Bumrah threat

Alex Carey on Tuesday maintained Australia are a 'united group', confident that their 'world-class' batters will come up with better plans to counter India's pace threat Jasprit Bumrah in the upcoming pink-ball Test here.



do that, I think you're at times disappointed," Carey said. "But we're a very united group. We all do get the opportunity to bat and we're all keen to continue to put those big runs on the board and I trust the guys to do that," he added.



Gilchrist advises Australian batters to stay longer at crease

The legendary Adam Gilchrist has advised the beleaguered Australian batters to stay longer at the crease to nullify the threat posed by the Jasprit Bumrah-led Indian bowling attack in the pink-ball second Test here.

New Zealand penalised WTC points, drop to fifth in table

New Zealand's aspirations of qualifying for the World Test Championship Final suffered a setback after they were docked three penalty points due to slow over-rate against England leading to a drop in the ranking table, the ICC stated on Tuesday.



New Zealand now have a points percentage of 47.92 percent and can only move as high as 55.36 percent with victories from their remaining two fixtures against England. South Africa (59.26), Australia (57.26) and Sri Lanka (50) are placed second, third and fourth respectively.

World Chess Championship: Gukesh squanders advantage to settle for draw in Game 7

The youngest-ever challenger to the world crown, D Gukesh let go of a very promising position and had to settle for a fourth consecutive draw against defending champion Ding Liren of China in a marathon seventh game of the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday.

Todd Greenberg appointed new Cricket Australia CEO

Former National Rugby League boss Todd Greenberg will succeed Nick Hockley as the chief executive officer of Cricket Australia next year, the governing body announced on Tuesday.



Former England captain Alastair Cook Praises India for being 'Brave' in Perth Test

Opting to go in without a proven performer like R Ashwin and batting first in an opening Test of a high-pressure series in Australia are reflections of an Indian team that is brave and supremely confident in its ability to win from any situation, feels England's all-time great Alastair Cook.

Ashwin from the playing XI, Cook said, "... Just think of how brave they were? They didn't bother playing Ashwin who has got 500 Test wickets. They're kind of played a couple of like, not makes you spinners, but you know, I thought Ashwin would have been outstanding, but you know, great thinking by them.

got that opportunity come Friday," Carey said. "Carey did not want to draw much attention to the last contest here in which India were shot out for their lowest-ever Test total of 36. "There are obviously amazing days in cricketing history but we don't expect to go out there and do that again. We have a process and a plan that we try to execute and whatever happens, happens. I was not here for that Test match."

Notice Inviting Tender for electrical works in Odisha. Details include estimated cost, class of contractor, and submission date.

Procurement Notice for Building works. Details include estimated cost, class of contractor, and submission date.

Procurement Notice for Construction of Building work. Details include estimated cost, class of contractor, and submission date.

Invitation for Bids from Khariar Road NAC. Details include bid reference number, tender call notice, and a table of work items.

Corrigendum from Panchayat Raj & Drinking Water Department. Details include bid identification number and a table of work items.