Established 1865 LUCKNOW, MONDAY DECEMBER 2, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

WORLD 9AFTER ALEPPO, SYRIAN INSURGENTS ADVANCE TO

www.dailypioneer.com

: DELHI I LUCKNOW I BHOPAL I BHUBANESWAR I RANCHI I RAIPUR I CHANDIGARH I DEHRADUN I HYDERABAD I VIJAYWADA



AP ■ WEST PALM BEACH (FL)

President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday threatened 100 per cent tariffs against a bloc of nine nations if they act to undermine the United States' dollar. His threat was directed at countries in the so-called BRIC alliance, which consists of Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates. Turkey, Azerbaijan and Malaysia have applied to become members and several other countries have expressed interest in joining.

While the US dollar is by far the most-used currency in global business and has survived past challenges to its preeminence, members of the alliance and other developing nations say they are fed up with America's dominance of the global financial system.

The dollar represents roughly 58 per cent of the world's foreign exchange reserves, according to the IMF and major commodities like oil are still primarily bought and sold using dollars. The dollar's dominance is threatened, however, with BRICS' growing share of GDP and the alliance's described it as a "big mistake."

intent to trade in non-dollar currencies - a process known as de-dollarisation.

Trump, in a Truth Social post, said: "We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs, and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy."

At a summit of BRIC nations in October, Russian President Vladimir Putin accused the US

"It's not us who refuse to use the dollar," Putin said at the time. "But if they don't let us work, what can we do? We are forced to search for alternatives." Russia has specifically pushed for the creation of a new payment system that would offer an alternative to the global bank messaging network, SWIFT, and allow Moscow to dodge Western sanctions and trade with partners.

Trump said there is "no chance" BRICS will replace the US dollar in global trade and any country that tries to make that happen "should wave goodbye to America."

Research shows that the US dollar's role as the primary global reserve currency is not threatened in the near future. An Atlantic Council model that assesses the dollar's place as the primary global reserve currency states the dollar is "secure in the near and medium term" and continues to dominate other currencies.

Trump's latest tariff threat comes after he threatened to slap 25 per cent tariffs on everything imported from Mexico and Canada, and an additional 10 per cent tax on goods from China, as a way to force the countries to do more to halt the flow of illegal immigration and drugs into the

He has since held a call with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum, who said Thursday she is confident that a tariff war with the United States can be Canadian Prime Justin Trudeau averted. Minister returned home Saturday after meeting Trump, without assurances the president-elect will back away from threatened tariffs on Canada.

TRUMP THREATENS BRICS MAHABHARAT BEGINS IN MAHARASHTRA

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra's outgoing Chief Minister (CM) Eknath Shinde on Sunday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will decide on the new CM and assured his full support while ruling out differences among Mahayuti allies over the government formation. Amid speculations that Shinde's son Shrikant Shinde might get the Deputy CM's post and Shiv Sena is keen on the Home portfolio, Shinde said the Mahayuti allies, BJP, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Shiv Sena, will decide the government formation through consensus.

Notably, more than a week after the Mahayuti clinched a massive Mahayuti clinched a massive victory in Maharashtra polls with the BJP emerging as the single largest party with 132 seats, the new government is yet to be sworn in. BJP is moving cautiously as aspirations of its allies, especially Shiv Sena, are high after the

massive poll victory.

Interestingly, the BJP legislature party meeting to elect the leader, who will be the party's chief ministerial pick, is yet to be held, even though Shiv Sena and NCP allies have elected their respective leaders. The BJP has announced that the oath-taking ceremony of the new Mahayuti government will take place on December 5 evening at the Azad Maidan in south Mumbai and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend it.

According to BJP sources, Devendra Fadnavis, who has been CM twice and was Deputy CM in the last Eknath Shinde-led government, is the front-runner for the CM's post. A senior BJP leader said that the legislature party meeting may be held on December

The Mahayuti constituents will jointly decide whether only the CM and Deputy CMs will take oath on December 5 or ministers will also be sworn in, a senior leader of the alliance said.

Shinde had left for his native village in Satara district on Friday amid speculation that he was not happy with the way the new government was shaping up. He developed a high fever in his village. Talking to reporters in his village on Sunday before leaving for Mumbai, Shinde said that he has already talked about a decision on CM's post taken by the BJP leadership that will be acceptable to me and Shiv Sena and will have my full backing. On speculation that his son and Lok Sabha member Shrikant Shinde will be made a Deputy CM in the new government and whether Shiv Sena has staked the

claim for the home portfolio, Shinde replied, "Talks were on". "A meeting took place in Delhi last week with (Union home minister) Amit Shah, and now we three alliance partners will discuss the nitty-gritty of government formation," he said. Responding to a query on his health, the Shiv Sena leader said he was fine now and had come to his native village to get some rest. "I always come to my village. Why should there be any confusion when I made my stand clear last week," he added.

Senior BJP leader Raosaheb Danve on Sunday told a news channel that the name of the chief minister has been finalised and a confirmation is awaited from the party leadership. NCP chief Ajit Pawar on Saturday said the chief minister will be from the BJP, while there will be deputy CMs from NCP and Shiv Sena headed by Shinde.

Continued on page 8

AAP and Congress turn arch rivals in Delhi

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

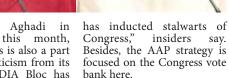
Aday after Delhi Congress president Devendra Yadav hinted that the party will go solo, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal, on Sunday, announced that his party will not form an alliance with the Congress for the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls, scheduled to take place in February. Kejriwal's statement comes despite both parties being a part of the Opposition INDIA Bloc and having contested the Lok Sabha elections in Delhi together earlier this year. However, their joint effort yielded no results, with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) winning all Lok Sabha seats in Delhi. Responding to a query during a press conference, Kejriwal made it clear, saying, "There will be no alliance in Delhi."

development This significant, as it clears the way for a triangular contest in the Delhi Assembly polls, with the AAP, Congress, and BJP vying for power. Kejriwal's decision



Maha Vikas Maharashtra this month, which Congress is also a part of, drawing criticism from its allies. The INDIA Bloc has adopted a flexible approach, contesting elections jointly in some states while going solo in others.

According to AAP insiders, Congress is a divided house in Delhi so there will not be any split in Muslim and Scheduled Caste voters. "Muslim will vote for AAP as they have no option. Similarly a large part of Scheduled Caste voters will also comes on the back of vote for AAP. To further



The AAP and Congress had also attempted to form an alliance ahead of the Haryana Assembly polls in October but failed to reach a seat-sharing agreement despite multiple rounds of talks.

The Congress and AAP had contested the Lok Sabha Elections this year in Delhi in alliance with each other under the umbrella of the INDIA Bloc. Both parties had even major poll drubbing of the strengthen its vote bank, AAP campaigned for each other.

Keiriwal, who was then out on interim bail for the election campaigning, had also campaigned for the Congress and had sought votes for its Opposition party (in the Delhi Assembly). The AAP had contested on

four seats while Congress contested in three seats out of seven parliamentary constituencies in Delhi. However, neither of the two parties could open their accounts, as the BJP swept all seven seats in the city.

However, in contrast to Delhi, the AAP had contested all 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab on its own, ditching the Congress in the state. The AAP is in power in Punjab with a huge majority. In 2022 Assembly polls in Punjab, the Kejriwal-led party had swept the state winning 92 out of the 117 seats, dislodging Congress from power. Soon after Kejriwal's major announcement, the BJP took a

"friendship with benefits" jibe at the AAP and Congress and underlined the loopholes in the Opposition unity in the state and at the national level. Continued on page 8

Chinmoy Krishna Das' bail hearing on December 3



PTI DHAKA

Acourt in Bangladesh has set December 3 as the date for the bail hearing of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das arrested last week on sedition charges, according to a media report. Tuesday's hearing will be conducted by Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Saiful Islam, according to Deputy Additional Commissioner Mofizur Rahman of the Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

A Chattogram court official said that the date for the hearing had already been set but the announcement was delayed due to a boycott and work abstention by lawyers on Wednesday and Thursday. The hearing will

take place on December 3, bdnews24.Com reported. Das, a spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was arrested from Dhaka's Shahjalal Hazrat Internat Airport Monday for alleged sedition. He was denied bail and sent He was denied ball and sent to jail by a Chattogram court on Tuesday, triggering protests by his supporters. A lawyer was killed during violence in Bangladesh's southeastern port city of Chattogram over his arrest. On October 30, a sedition case was filed against 19 people, including Das, at Chattogram's Kotwali Police Station, accusing them of disrespecting Bangladesh's national flag in Chattogram's New Market area during a rally of the Hindu community. Bangladesh's authorities on Thursday ordered freezing for 30 days the bank accounts of 17 people associated with

International Society for

Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), including its

former member Das.



Waqt asked to provide property details

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

The Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has sought details from various State governments about the veracity and updated details of Waf properties which, according to the Sachar committee, they had occupied in an unauthorised manner, said. The sources Parliamentary Committee, whose tenure has been extended by Lok Sabha till the

last day of the next Budget

Session, has also sought from

the states details of the

properties claimed by Waqf

Section 40, an amendment effected during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government's tenure in 2013, is one of the most hotly contested features of the existing law as it has given Waqf boards the power to decide if any property belongs to the Waqf or not. The proposed law, which has faced flack from opposition parties and various Muslim groups for its alleged attempts to interfere in religious matters, has sought to curb this power while making a

slew of other changes in the

boards exercising Section 40

of the Waqf Act.

existing Act. Continued on page 8

DELHI AND DRUGS TO PART WAYS THIS DECADE, PROMISES LG

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

 $T_{witnessing}^{he~National} \begin{tabular}{ll} Capital & is \\ staggering \\ increase & in the circulation of illicit \\ \end{tabular}$ drugs. In 2024 so far, Delhi has witnessed over 6,000 per cent rise in cocaine seizures while more than 7,000 per cent rise in charas in comparison to 2023, reflecting on the increased mobility of drug traffickers in the city. During the current year till November 15, Delhi Police has arrested 1,520 Narco-offenders in 1,121 NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985,) cases. It has recovered about 1293.3 kgs of cocaine in the given period as compared to 21.14 kgs of the drugs recovered in 2023, including the recent big seizure of Rs 7,000 Crores worth of cocaine in October.

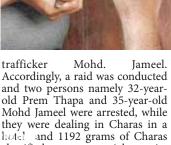
In comparison to 2023 when only 0.684 kgs of Charas was recovered, the police seized 50.5 kgs this year till November 15, a police officer said, adding that 73.3 kgs of heroin, 4257.3 kgs of Ganja, 103.7 kgs of Opium, and 80.5 kgs of poppy head were also recovered. In light of Delhi witnessing such a Majnu ka Tila area, to a local drug

surge in drugs and to prevent the public from falling in this trap, the Delhi Police on Sunday launched a 'One-Month Comprehensive Campaign as a Pilot Project' with the vision to eradicate drugs from the city within three years.

With the campaign in action, the Delhi Police on Sunday claimed to have recovered Rs 3 Crore worth of Charas and dismantled an international drug syndicate involved in smuggling drugs worth crores into the country using the dark web, cryptocurrency and fake documents with the arrest of its mastermind.

In the first instance of a sustained effort in making the city drug free, Delhi Police's Crime Branch dismantled a narco-syndicate indulged in supplying Charas with the arrest of five key operatives including three Nepal nationals. The syndicate was indulged in supply of drugs from Nepal and Kasol, Himachal Pradesh to Delhi-

A senior police official said that on November 20, a tip off was received regarding supply of Charas by a Nepal national in the



and two persons namely 32-year-old Prem Thapa and 35-year-old hotel and 1192 grams of Charas classified as a commercial quantity under the NDPS Act was recovered from them.

The investigation led to the arrest of three more traffickers including Ganga, who was indulged in supplying Charas at Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad. She was nabbed with 712 grams of Charas and later on, 13.766 Kg Charas was recovered from her bed room of her house. Ankit Buddha alias Thakren was also arrested, who was arrested from Kasol in Himachal Pradesh and is the main source who used to provide Charas to Prem Thapa. Police also arrested Pradeep Kumar, who used to buy Charas from Prem Thapa and supply it to drug addicts of Faridabad and Ballabgarh. In the second instance,

marijuana worth Rs 20-25 crore in over three months, strategically avoiding detection of commercial quantities of the contraband. According to the police, the illegally acquired assets worth Rs 1.5 Crore were also seized.

Police started tailing members of the gang after a parcel containing 1.5 kg of hydroponic marijuana valued at Rs 1 Crore was seized at the RK Puram post office on October 18. More searches led to additional seizures worth Rs 2 Crore in transit. An FIR was registered under the NDPS Act, police said. "The mastermind Lokesh Dhingra alias Loki and his associates, Vivek and Mansher Singh fled after the initial seizures. Vivek was arrested in November 2023 after returning from Thailand. Dhingra and Singh were traced to a Gurugram flat owned by one woman who was arrested for harbouring the fugitives," Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime branch) Satish Kumar said, adding that the syndicate used fake SIM cards, privacy tools and

the police nabbed mastermind fake IDs to avoid detection, Lokesh Dhingra on Friday, whose syndicate imported 48 kg of and Gurugram. Dhingra, a and Gurugram. Dhingra, a habitual offender, has been detained and sent to jail, he said. The ninth State Level Committee meeting of National Narcotics Coordination Portal (NCORD), was convened on November 20, at Delhi Secretariat. Subsequently, a review meeting was held on November 26, at Raj Niwas, Delhi, under the chairmanship of the LG where he emphasized upon interdepartmental coordination, timely reporting, and strict compliance with directives for making Delhi

drug free in three years.

In the campaign, they have decided that they will focus on "targeted locations for surveys, awareness programs, and raids including 200 hostels, 200 schools, 50 colleges, 200 pan shops, 200 pharmacy shops, 200 bars/pubs/clubs/restaurants, all

shelter homes, all railway stations, three ISBTs, and other public places. It was also decided that there will be random checks on auto-rickshaws, taxi drivers, Courier/Parcel services, and e-Company(ies)

suppliers, to curb drug trafficking involvement." Police will also involve hostel wardens, school principals, and

university administrators to prevent drug-related incidents on their premises. "The LG also directed to give away handsome Cash Rewards to the general public for providing information related to "Drug Trafficking", with the assurance to keep his name secret. He emphasized upon leveraging various platforms like print/visual media, social media, radio, and DTC buses/public transport to enhance public awareness," a police officer said. In the campaign, police will also collaborate with celebrities, influencers, NGOs, community leaders to help ensure that the message resonates across all sections of society. All departments have been directed to appoint a Nodal Officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary or above, with clearly defined responsibilities. Further, all stakeholders will submit an Action Taken Report (ATR) by January 5, 2025, detailing the quantifiable outcomes of the December 2024 campaign.

Delhi businessman duped of ₹7.20L

PNS LUCKNOW

Fraudsters duped a Delhi businessman on the pretext of having a business meeting with him and deprived him of money and crypto currency. It is alleged that the miscreants stole the victim's phone and withdrew crypto currency worth Rs 3.20 lakh while tricking him. They also got transferred Rs 4 lakh from his bank account into their account. The victim has filed a complaint at Vibhuti Khand police station in Gomti Nagar and the police are investigating the matter.

As per reports, a person named as Rahul advised Rajesh Sharma, a resident of Pankh Road Chanakya Palace, New Delhi, to invest in online gaming. After this, Rahul called and messaged him on WhatsApp on November 14 and informed him about the entire investment plan. He convinced Rajesh and called him to Lucknow for a meeting. Rahul sent another message to the victim and called him to Selfie Chai Cafe located at Kathuta crossing in Vibhuti Khand police station

When Rajesh reached there on November 18, Rahul himself did not come to the meeting venue and sent a boy named

Shivam for the meeting Then Rahul told Rajesh on phone about the business plan which the latter did not understand. So Rajesh asked Rahul to explain the business while meeting him in person but he refused to come citing urgent work. During this, Shivam kept him engaged in his talks till evening. The next day, Shivam again called Rajesh to meet at the cafe. But the meeting did not take place. On November 20, Shivam called Rajesh again to in the cafe and waited for

alist organisations participating

in a convention here have raised

temples in Mathura and Kashi

through fast-track courts. The

convention was organised by

the Hindu Janajagruti Samiti in

Vrindavan, Mathura district, on

The event also focused on two

additional demands — imple-

menting a complete and effec-

gal halal certifications across

मेरे पासपोर्ट संख्या B2882326

में मेरा नाम त्रुटिवश सनोवर हसन

अंकित हो गया है जबकि मेरा सही नाम

NOTICE

NOTICE

I, Smt. Uma Devi (Smt. UMA

DEVI) wife of Tulsi Ram (TULSI

RAM) Army No. 6292587 Nayak

(NK) Village- Mahamdapur

(Matiyara) Post Mahamdapur

District- Pratapgarh (UP) have to

change my date of birth from 06

April 1948 to 01 July 1951 as per

the guidelines of Single Record

Jabalbur, so that I can get the

benefit of family pension. My

477755162595 and PAN Card No.

NOTICE

is ETYPD4420A.

Lucknow

Saturday.

Woman accused of giving poison to injured son

Lucknow (PNS): A woman lowing her decision to leave the has been accused of giving poison to her teenage son, who is admitted at a hospital in Gomti Nagar police station area. The doctors, however, saved his life.

The teenager met with an accident on November 17 and is undergoing treatment in a hospital. The woman's husband Manish

Kumar Shukla, a property dealer and resident of Saraswatipuram Khargapur in Gomti Nagar Extension, alleged that his wife, Heena Mishra, came to the hospital and gave their son prasad laced with poison, saying its divine power would heal him.

Manish has been having some dispute with Heena for the past one year. Presently, Heena lives with another man with her daughter while Manish lives separately with his two sons. Both the sons are not on talking terms with their mother fol-

meet him outside BBD

University regarding crypto

Then Shivam brought him back

to a cafe. Shivam picked up Rajesh's mobile phone while getting down from the car. Rajesh thought he would take his mobile phone from Shivam once they both entered the

cafe. But as soon as he got off

the car, Shivam took his mobile

with him and went away saying

that he was going to withdraw

money from the ATM. He

asked Rajesh to wait for him

inside the cafe and the latter sat

Mathura (PTI): Hindu nation- India and taking decisive action Research Centre in the US, he

to address alleged atrocities and persecution of Hindus in

complex, the convention saw

the participation of representa-

tives of several Hindu organisa-

Dr Charudatta Pingale, nation-

Samiti, said, "Establishing a Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation)

is essential to preserving India's

Citing a report by the Pew

al guide of the Hindu Janajagruti

the demand for expedited hearings of disputes concerning Held at the Balaji Dham temple

tive ban on the issuance of ille- cultural identity and integrity."

tions.

currency.

house for an outsider.

after his son met with an accident. Heena came to meet him. "I told her that she could from feeding him anything. She got infuriated by this and started shouting. A crowd gathered on the road. She called the man with whom she stays presently and a group 5-6 men came to the spot and started beating

attack but no action was taken. I got myself medically examined and complained to the DCP (East) after which a case was registered," Manish said. Inspector Rajesh Tripathi confirmed that there is a dispute between the husband and wife and the woman had registered a case earlier. He said the matter was being investigated and the allegations against the woman were being probed.

Shivam for a long time but he did not return. Shivam had seen the password of the

Rajesh's mobile while travelling along with him in the car. With

the help of the password, he withdrew Rs. 3.20 lakh in two

installments from the Binance

crypto currency account of the

victim. Along with this, he withdrew Rs. 2.22 lakh from the

victim's bank account and Rs.

2.11 lakh from the victim's

Inspector Vibhuti Khand said

that a case had been registered

and the matter was being inves-

Hindu groups call for fast-track courts for Mathura and Kashi temple disputes

warned that by 2050, India is projected to have the world's

largest Muslim population.
Pingale also raised concerns

over alleged threats, including

efforts to create separate

Christian nations in Manipur

and Mizoram, and the misuse of

Waqf laws for what he referred

Anurag Krishna Pathak, a spir-

itual speaker, said, "There is a

need for fast-track court hear-

ings for temple-related disputes

in Mathura and Kashi".

to as "land jihad".

tigated on the basis of ev

another bank account.

Manish alleged that four days see our son and forbade her me," Manish alleged.
"I informed the police about the

> with global appeal.
> Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh highlighted the state's growing prominence in the tourism sector, noting that over 480 million tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2023. Iconic destinations such as

Uttar Pradesh Tourism Department will organise

Heritage Conclave on December 7 under the leader-

ship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath at Taj Hotel in

The event aims to revitalise

the state's historic forts,

palaces and mansions by

transforming them into vibrant heritage hotels, wed-

ding venues, wellness centres, and cultural hubs. The

conclave will bring together

more than 60 members from

royal families, alongside over 250 prominent hotel owners,

investors, real estate develop-

ers and consultants from across India.This collabora-

tion is set to position Uttar Pradesh as a leading heritage

tourism destination, along-

side Rajasthan and Gujarat,

Lucknow.

Ayodhya, Kashi, Mathura and Prayagraj continue to attract attention.

UP to host Heritage

Conclave on Dec 7

He also pointed out the vast potential for heritage tourism, given the state's rich collection of historic properties. In recent developments, the Tourism Department has taken steps to enhance six major sites under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. These include Chunar Fort (Mirzapur), Baruasagar Fort (Jhansi), Chhattar Manzil (Lucknow), Barsana Mahal (Mathura), Shukla Talab (Kanpur Dehat) and Roshan-ud-Daula (Lucknow). Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) for these properties will be signed during the conclave, with further plans to develop additional sites.

The event aims to foster direct dialogue between royal families and industry leaders, paving the way for innovative collaborations. Jaiveer Singh expressed confidence that the conclave would be a milestone in enhancing heritage tourism and creating substantial employment opportunities for local communities.

Speeding truck crushes old man to death

Lucknow (PNS): A speeding truck crushed an old man to death near Bhithauli crossing on Sitapur road here around 4 pm on Sunday. The wheel of the truck passed over the old man's head, killing him on the spot. Police took the body in its custody and sent it for post-mortem. After the accident, the truck driver fled with the vehicle towards Sitapur.

According to reports, the 62-year-old victim, Niaz Mohammad of Sairpur in Kamalabad Badauli police station area, was crossing the road after purchasing bananas from near Bhithauli intersection when the truck hit him. The victim was identified by the electricity bill receipt found in his pocket. He had gone to deposit the electricity bill. After depositing the bill, he reached Bhithauli overbridge on foot from Jankipuram at 4 pm when the speeding truck coming from IIM road hit him.

Pawan Sinha of the Pawan human rights of its Hindu Chintan Dhara Ashram sup-

track breaks in Pilibhit

Pilibhit (PTI): A portion of a railway line was found broken near Dudhiya Khurd railway station after a goods train crossed it here on Sunday

morning, officials said. Rail tracks often develop cracks in the winter season but a detailed probe has been ordered, they added.
The incident occurred on the

Puranpur-Mailani broad gauge railway track in Pilibhit after a goods train left Puranpur railway station for Dudhiya Khurd station around 6:30 am.

According to villagers, while the train was passing Dharmapur village, they heard a loud noise, after which they found the track broken.

Dharmapur Khurd station master informed senior officials of the department after seeing the broken track. An engineer of the technical department and other staff reached the spot and began repair work.

Passenger trains in the meantime were asked to travel at a speed of 10-30 km per hour. Public Relations Officer of Northeast Railway Izzatnagar Division Rajendra Singh told reporters that cracks in the rail tracks are common in the winter season, and this also seemed to be such a case. The broken track has been repaired and the matter is being investigated in detail, he said.

Cop held in robbery case

Muzaffarnagar (PTI): Four people, including a suspended PAC constable, have been arrested for robbing two persons of their motorcycle at gunpoint in Shamli on November 28.

The arrests were made on Saturday, police said.

Portion of rail | UPSACS spreads awareness on World AIDS Day

Lucknow (PNS): Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Control Society organised a programme on the theme 'Take the Right Path' on the occasion of World AIDS Day on Sunday. The programme organised at Janeshwar Mishra Park was inaugurated by District Magistrate Suryapal Gangwar by lighting the lamp.

Addressing the programme, he stated that on AIDS Day should remember that AIDS is a big challenge which can be overcome only through awareness in the community.

"Understanding the seriousness of this problem, the government is running many programmes and has taken many steps to pro-mote social unity. We need to break the misconceptions about AIDS and make people aware,"

He pointed out that hat we have to ensure that our behaviour towards people suffering from AIDS is compassionate and more work needs to be done for high risk groups like transgenders, sex workers. He called upon everyone to come forward for collective efforts.

Amrita Soni, Project Director, Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Society and Ravindra Kumar, Additional Project Director, Uttar Pradesh State AIDS Society also addressed the people in the programme. People were made aware about HIV/AIDS through exhibition, street plays by students, dance and fashion show in the programme. Information about HIV/AIDS related health services was given through sever-

HDFC Bank Ltd, 2nd Floor, Experio Building, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226010 HDFC BANK

POSSESSION NOTICE APPENDIX IV [RULE 8[1]]
Whereas, the undersigned being the authorized officer of the HDFC Bank Ltd. under the Secularization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 read with rule 3 of the Security Interes (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued demand notice dated 24-08-2024 calling upon the porrower(s) 1. M/s Nm Embroidery Through Its Proprietor Mr. Gul Mehandi Hassan Rizvi (Borrower) 2. Mr. Gul Mehandi Hassan Rizvi S/o Mr. Ibne Hasan Rizvi (Guarantor 3. Mrs.Naaz Hasan W/o Mr. Ibne Hasan (Guarantor & Mortgager) to pay the amoun mentioned in the notice Rs.18,81,327.00/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Eighty-One Thousand Three Hundred And Twenty-Sevan Only!-) within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act

on the read with rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules, on this 26/11/2024 The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to charge of HDFC Bank Ltd. for an amount of notice Rs.18,81,327.00/- (Rupees Eighteen Lakhs Eighty-One Thousand Three Hundred And Twenty-Sevan Only/-) and interest thereon together with expenses and charges etc. less amount paid, if any.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY
Part Of Bhawan No. 395/86ga, Admeasuring-172.676 Sq. Mtr, Situated At-Rustam Nagar, Wardmaulana Kable Abid, City & District Lucknow. (property Owned By Mrs. Naaz Hasan.). Bounded As Under: - East: Road 8 Ft. Wide, West: Wall Of Mrs. Yadgare Hussain, North: House

Of Mrs. Sabira Begum, South: Part Of Land Of Seller Property. Date: 26.11.2024., Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer, For HDFC Bank Ltd.



OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DIVISION.CUTTACK
MAHANADIBHAR; CUTTACK-753004

Bid Identification No. rwssctc- 05 /2023-24

Bid Identification No. rwssctc- 05 /2023-24

The Superintending Engineer, RWS&S Division, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites lump sum bid rough e-procurement in double cover system according to norm of e-procurement.

Nature of work: PWS Schemes under RWSS, Division, Cuttack.
No. of tenders: 1 Nos.

Tender Paper Cost: 1 0000/Value of Work: Rs. 132.53

Class of Contractor: "8"& "A" Class

Date and time of availability
of bid document in portal: 11 hour of 06.12.24 to 17.12.24 up to 17 hours.

Date & time of seeking
tender clarification: 16.12.24 up to 17 hours

Date & time of opening of tender: 18.12.24 at 11:30 Hours in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RWS&S
Division, Cuttack

The bidders have to participate in online biding only. Further details can https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda Possession Notice

Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330, 1st Floor, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur - 12

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the

borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time

available to redeem the secured assets

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date

Borrower: Shri Ankit Kanaujiya S/o Shri Munna Lal Kanaujiya, R/o: 15/76, Baba Ghat, Civil

Lines, Green Park Stadium, Tehsil Pargana, Kanpur, Demand Notice Date: 09-08-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 27-11-2024

Property: Residential Flat No. C-6/10, Himalay Sulabh Residence (2nd Floor), Shatabdi Nagar, Phase-4B, (Panki Gangaganj) Sulabh Awas Yojna Type-1, Kanpur in the name of Shri Ankit Kanaujiya S/o Shri Munna Lal Kanaujiya Area: Covered Area 61.25 Sq. Mtr. & Undivided Share in Land 22.50 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North: Flat No. C-6/11, South: Flat No. C-7, East: Flat No. C-6/9,

Branch: Sisamau, Kanpur West: Open Space O/s Amount as per Demand Notice Dated 08-08-2024: Rs. 18,24,195.31 + Intt. +Others Charges Total Dues Amount as on Dated 27-11-2024: Rs. 18,91,102.88 + Intt. +Others Charges

Place : Kanpur Date: 27-11-2024 **Authorised Officer**

Borrower: Shri Ashish Kumar Mishra S/o Shri Santosh Kumar Mishra and Smt. Harshi Dixit W/o Shri Ashish Kumar Mishra, Both R/o: 27A, Lavkush Puram, Purana Shivli Road, Kanpur Nagar & 436, EWS, Single Storey Barra-2, Kanpur Nagar and also at B-7/16, 3rd Floor, Block-B, Himgir Sulabh Awas Yojna, Type-2, Shatabdi Nagar, Phase-4B, Panki Gangaganj, Kanpur Nagar. Demand Notice Date: 24-07-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 28-11-2024

Property: Residential Flat at B-7/16, 3rd Floor, Block-B, Himgiri Sulabh Awas Yojna, Type-2, Shatabdi Nagar, Phase-4B, Panki Gangaganj, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Harshi Dixit W/o Shri Ashish Kumar Mishra, Area: 35.21 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North: Flat No. B-6, South: Flat No. B-7/13, East: 7.50 Mtr. Wide Road, West: Flat No. B-7/15

Branch: D.I. Office, Kanpur O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 12,15,864.60 + Intt. +Others Charges Total Dues Amount as on Dated 28-11-2024: Rs. 12,66,231.37 + Intt. +Others Charges

Borrower: Shri Manoj Kumar Das S/o Shri Moran Chand Das and Smt. Reena Das W/o Shri Manoj Kumar Das, Both R/o : 3/797/1, Ambedkarpuram, Awas Vikas-3, Near Kaleshwar Temple, Kanpur & Plot No. 31, Block MIG, Scheme No. Nagar Nigam Enclave Awasiya Yojna, Maswanpur, Kanpur Nagar and also at Plot No. 701, Guttaiya, Gol Chauraha, Kanpur.

Demand Notice Date: 07-09-2024 • Demand Notice Publication Date: 23-09-2024 Date of Constructive Possession: 28-11-2024 Branch: D.I. Office, Kanpur Property: Plot No. 31, Block-MIG, Scheme No. Nagar Nigam Enclave Awasiya Yojna Situated Date of Constructive Possession: 28-11-2024 Mohisanpur Alias Maswanpur, Kalyanpur, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Manoj Kumar Das S/c Shri Moran Chand Das and Smt. Reena Das W/o Shri Manoj Kumar Das. Area: 101.25 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North: Plot No. 32, South: Plot No. 30, East: Green Area-1, West: 9 Mtr. Road.

O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 61,60,422.53 + Intt. +Others Charges Total Dues Amount as on Dated 28-11-2024: Rs. 63,12,323.34 + Intt. +Others Charges

Borrower: Shri Parth Tiwari S/o Shri Ajay Tiwari, R/o: C-88, Shatabdi Nagar, Phase-1 Panki, Pankh Bahadur Nagar, Panki, Kanpur and also at Plot No. RATMP 113-E-1/256-C, Scheme 8 Mohalla Mirzapur (Ratanpur Vistar Part-1), Kanpur Nagar, Demand Notice Date: 18-07-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 28-11-2024

Property: Land and Building Builtover Residential Plot No.113-E-1/256-C, Block-EWS, Scheme & Mohalla Mirzapur (Ratanpur Vistar Part-1), Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Parth Tiwari S/o Shri Ajay Tiwari. **Area**: 30 Sq. Mtr., **Bounded-North**: Plot No. E-1/214, **South**: 9 Mtr. Road, **East**: Plot No. E-1/256-D, West: Plot No. E-1/256-B Branch: Azad Nagar, Kanpur O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 16,79,699.59 + Intt. +Others Charges

Borrower: Shri Ashwani Kumar S/o Shri Suresh Kumar, R/o: L-1/304, LIG-1, Scheme Chandra Nagari, Kanpur Nagar and also at 5/53, Seetaram Colony, Shuklaganj, Katri Piper Khera, Unnao. Demand Notice Date: 18-07-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 28-11-2024 Property: Land and Building Builtover Residential Plot No. L-1/304, LIG-1, Scheme and Mohalla Chandra Nagari, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Shri Ashwani Kumar S/o Shri Suresh Kumar. Area: 48 Sq. Mtr., Bounded-North: Plot No. L-1/305, South: Plot No. L-1/303, East: Plot No. 6 Mtr. Wide

Road, West: Plot No. L-1/329 Branch: Azad Nagar, Kanpur O/s Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 30,53,747.53 + Intt. + Others Charges
Total Dues Amount as on Dated 27-11-2024: Rs. 31,39,280.58 + Intt. + Others Charges

Total Dues Amount as on Dated 27-11-2024: Rs. 17,29,417.77 + Intt. + Others Charges

Date: 28-11-2024 Place: Kanpur **Authorised Officer**

Ganga Jamuni Foundation to organise | 900 bags of fake

heritage walks during Maha Kumbh Signs MoU

with UPSTDC PNS LUCKNOW

¬he Uttar Pradesh State सनोवर इस्लाम है। इसे रिकार्ड में दर्ज 1 Tourism Development किया जाय। सनोवर इस्लाम निवासी Corporation (UPSTDC) has – डी 41, डिफेंस कालोनी, जाजमऊ, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ganga Jamuni Foundation, a renowned organisation known for conducting heritage walks, to organise and manage her-This is to inform everyone that itage walks in Prayagraj during the upcoming Maha Kumbh Mela 2025. This partnership after marriage my name got changed to Rashmi V wadhwani in my official aims to enhance the cultural marksheet/Documents Rashmi and spiritual experience for Verma is mentioned. So in future millions of visitors by showcas-I should be known by Rashmi ing the rich history and signif-Verma . Rashmi Verma D/o R B Verma R/o Gomati Nagar,

icance of Prayagraj. Under the terms of the MoU, UPSTDC and Ganga Jamuni will collaborate to design and conduct well-researched and engaging heritage walks. These walks will highlight Prayagraj's most important historical, spiritual, and cultural landmarks,

Akshaya Vat, and Anand Bhavan, among others.

The heritage walks will offer visitors a deeper understanding of the city's heritage, connecting them with its profound cultural and spiritual roots.

Officials stated that to ensure a high-quality experience, Ganga Jamuni will develop detailed itineraries and train guides to provide accurate and engaging narratives.

"Multilingual guides will be available to cater to international visitors, adhering to global tourism standards. Additionally, the foundation will manage the booking, ticketing, and scheduling of the walks, providing a seamless experience for participants. Safety, comfort, and adherence to environmental and crowdcontrol guidelines issued by UP Tourism will be prioritised throughout the event," said a

tourism official. He stated that UPSTDC will actively promote the heritage ing social media platforms and websites such as the UPSTDC website and the Uttar Pradesh Tourism web-"The walks will be linked to

ported the Uttar Pradesh gov-

ernment's decision on regulat-

ing halal certifications and

advocated for a nationwide ban

on illegal halal certification

Acharya Mahamandaleshwar

Pranavanand Saraswati expressed concerns over the

plight of Hindus in Bangladesh

and urged the Indian govern-

ment to pressure the interim

government in the neighbour-

ing country to safeguard the

practices.

Ganga Jamuni's official website for bookings. This collaboration will also provide branding opportunities for Ganga Jamuni as an official partner of UPSTDC and Uttar Pradesh Tourism during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025," he added. Additionally, UPSTDC will facilitate the necessary permissions and clearances, provide logistical support such as designated routes, security, crowd management, and access to heritage sites. A dedicated kiosk will also be set up at the Kumbh Mela to assist visitors with information and book-

This collaboration between UPSTDC and Ganga Jamuni Foundation reflects the shared commitment to promoting the cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh and elevating the visitor experience during the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025.

DAP fertiliser seized in Jalaun, 5 arrested

Samiti announced an online

petition to advocate for the

establishment of fast-track courts for temple disputes in

Pathak said the convention was

attended by over 120 represen-

tatives, including seers, lawyers,

intellectuals, temple trustees,

editors, entrepreneurs and RTI

activists, of 54 Hindu national-

ist groups from UP, Puniab,

Rajasthan, MP, Haryana,

Uttarakhand and Jammu.

Mathura and Kashi.

Jalaun (PTI): The district police, in collaboration with the Agriculture department, raided a fertiliser store allegedly selling fake DAP fertiliser and arrested five people, officials said on Sunday.

Nearly 900 bags of counterfeited DAP fertiliser were also seized during the raid on the shop at Nadi village in the Kotwali police station area on Saturday, they said.

Superintendent of Police Durgesh Kumar said a joint team comprising officials from agriculture department, local police and Special Operations Group was formed to carry out the operation. District Agriculture Officer Gaurav Yadav headed the team, the SP said. The raid was conducted after a tip-off about a counterfeit DAP manufacturing unit operating out of Nikhil Khad Bhandar, located in Nadi Village, police said, adding the joint team launched a raid on Saturday which continued until Sunday.

including key sites like walks through its official com-Sangam, Allahabad Fort, munication channels, includ-

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

Dreparations for the Maha Kumbh 2025 are being fast-tracked ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Prayagraj on December 13. This is to inform that Anjali Srivastava The Public Works Department had purchased shop no B1-133 DLF my is working diligently to com-Pad at Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar plete key infrastructure pro-Lucknow. Due to her sudden death on jects, including road renova-26/9/24, allotment/agreement of the above mentioned shop no is being tions and the construction of transferred in the name of her legal heir's pontoon bridges. So far, 27 husband Arun Kumar Srivastava and son roads have been renewed, with Ankit Srivastava. If anyone has objection the remaining roads set to be in this regard may inform within 21 days completed by December 10. at my address C 1480 Indira Nagar In addition to road renewal, Lucknow or at the office of DLF My Pad beautification work on 17 roads Vibhuti Khand Gomti Nagar Lucknow is expected to be finished by

December 5. Out of the 89 total projects assigned to PWD, 60 have already been finished, and the remaining projects are slated for completion by December 10.

PWD Chief Engineer AK Dwivedi stated that the department has been tasked with renovating 92 roads, out of which 27 have already been completed. All renewal work is proceeding as planned, and the supply of raw materials has been fully completed at all sites. He added.

Notably, the supply of 488-km of checkered plates for the fair area has been completed. While there was a minor issue with sand, Dwivedi assured that it would be resolved quickly, allowing the department to stay on track and complete all tasks within the scheduled time frame. Dwivedi shared that the beau-

tification of 17 roads, originally set for completion by December 10, is expected to be finished by December 5, ahead of schedule. Additionally, renovations on Airport Road, Rasulabad Ghat Road, and Phaphamau-Sahso Road are nearing completion, along with are on track and are to be completed by December 10. Out of 83 projects outside the fair area, most have already been completed. The department is reviewing which of these projects will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi, with a Meanwhile, as preparations

dling six projects, all of which

gain momentum, the event is providing livelihood opportuof Prayagraj.

decision expected soon.

nities to labouers and craftsmen from various states are contributing to the construction of temporary camps and infrastructure in the holy city

work on 15 junctions. In the fair area, PWD is han-

Road renewal to be completed before PM's visit

UP govt has facilitated 3.84 L marriages in last 7 years: CM

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Sunday, announced that the Uttar Pradesh government has successfully facilitated 3.84 lakh marriages under its mass marriage programme in the last seven years with the number expected to exceed four lakh by the end of this wedding ses-

Addressing a gathering at a mass marriage ceremony held on the Hindustan Urvarak and Rasayan Limited premises, Yogi stated that the state government's mass marriage programme, organised by the Social Welfare Department, symbolises both social equality and a strong stand against the dowry system, a deeply ingrained social ill.

He emphasised that the programme is inclusive, with no restrictions based on caste, religion, region or language. "Hindus, Muslims and followers of other faiths are all uniting in marriage according to their respective traditions. The programme also serves as a government-led campaign against dowry, child marriage and untouchability," he assert-

At the ceremony, 1,200 couples, including Hindus and Muslims, were married. Chief Minister Yogi praised the couples for setting an example by not accepting or giving dowry, emphasising the government's commitment to ensuring that no daughter remains unmar-

ried due to dowry.
The chief minister remarked that good governance leads to positive changes. He mentioned key initiatives launched by Prime Minister Narendra



CM Yogi Adityanath meets a newlywed couple at the mass wedding ceremony in Gorakhpur

Modi, such as the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao campaign, free LPG connections, and individual toilets in every village to protect women's dignity

Additionally, free ration and housing were provided to those in need, and Ayushman cards were issued to ensure medical treatment coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh, he added. Chief Minister Yogi empha-

sised that before these initiatives, the lack of toilets and the harmful smoke from wood and coal stoves compromised women's dignity and health.
"With LPG cylinders now available in every home, this issue has been resolved, and the government also provides free cooking gas cylinders during Diwali and Holi," he stat-

ed further. The chief minister noted that

the government's welfare measures, such as the establishment of Atal Residential Schools offering free education to workers' children and the provision of an annual pension of Rs 12,000 to one crore people, including the destitute and disabled, benefit all sec-tions of society. Under the Kanya Sumangala Yojana, a package of Rs 25,000 is being provided to empower 20 lakh daughters, he added.

Chief Minister Yogi, who attended the ceremony along with several public representa-tives, called the mass marriage programme a grand festival. He remarked that while it is rare for him to attend individual weddings, this event is unique, with the administration personally inviting the couples. At the ceremony, the

chief minister blessed the newlyweds and presented gift kits to ten couples. He also visited the main pavilion to inspect the arrangements and extended his best wishes to the newlyweds and their families. Noticing children among the baraatis, Chief Minister Yogi smiled and handed out chocolates and gave his blessings to them.

them.
The ceremony was attended by Mayor Dr Manglesh Shrivastava, Chillupar MLA Rajesh Tripathi, Pipraich MLA Mahendrapal Singh, MLA Fateh Bahadur Singh, Vipin Singh, Dr Vimlesh Paswan, Pradeep Shukla, Sarwan Nishad, Bharatiya Janata Party district president Yudhishthir district president Yudhishthir Singh and metropolitan president Rajesh Gupta, among

Adopt sensitive approach to resolve complaints: Yogi

In a notable display of commitment to the people, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted a Janata Darshan at the Gorakhnath Temple on Sunday morning.

Directly interacting with the public, the chief minister attentively listened to their griev-ances and reassured them that no one would be subjected to iniustice.

'No one will face injustice," he assured the gathering, and added, "Every complaint will be addressed, and justice will be delivered to all."

He instructed officials to handle all grievances promptly, efficiently, and transparently. During the Janta Darshan, Chief Minister Yogi visited the

area outside the Mahant Digvijayanath Smriti Bhawan in the temple complex, where he met with around 300 people. He listened patiently to each individual's concerns, directing officials to resolve all complaints swiftly and satisfac-

He emphasised the importance of a sensitive approach, urging transparency and fairness in

addressing grievances.
He also warned against any negligence in handling the complaints. In response to issues related to land disputes. Chief Minister Yogi advocated for mediation in family matters and suggested legal action where necessary. For cases involving illegal land grabs, he called for firm action against the perpetrators.

Many individuals sought financial assistance for medical treatment. In response, the Chief Minister directed officials to expedite the process of provid-ing estimates and ensure timely government support. He also urged swift and impar-

tial resolution of cases related to revenue and police matters. emphasising the importance of justice for all.

Earlier in the morning, during a tour of the temple, Chief Minister Yogi warmly interacted with children visiting the temple with their families. He asked them their names, shared light-hearted moments, and encouraged them to focus on

their studies. Before they left, he gifted chocolates to the children, bringing smiles to

Govt transforms 'BIMARU' UP into 'healthy' state

Over the past seven and a half years, the Yogi Adityanath government has significantly enhanced Uttar Pradesh's healthcare infrastructure, workforce and facilities. Today, the state offers accessible, affordable and highquality medical treatment to people. Once labeled a BIMARU state, Uttar Pradesh now stands as a model of health sector transformation. Since coming to power in 2017, the Yogi government has undertaken historic initiatives to strengthen the state's health infrastructure, leading to unprecedented expansion.

According to Mission Director of National Health Mission, Dr Pinky Jowal, continuous efforts are being made under Chief Minister Yogi's leadership to strengthen the health sector. She said, "Currently, over 352 community health centres (CHCs) are equipped with First Referral Unit (FRU) facilities. Additionally, 72 health units now have solar-powered electricity, promoting environmental sustainability and energy alternatives." She added, "In the past year alone, more than 10,000 health subcentres have been electrified, improving healthcare access in rural areas. Dialysis services have been launched in all districts, providing crucial sup-

port to kidney patients, while affordable CT scan facilities are now available in 74 districts, ensuring better diagnostic services across the state." A special campaign is under-

way to enhance the recognition of health service quality across Uttar Pradesh.

As part of this initiative, more than 800 health units have received the National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) certification, a testament to the significant improvements in the state's healthcare services. Additionally, the introduction of on-call private specialists and gynecologists has further elevated healthcare delivery in both rural and urban areas.

ASI files court response, seeks control of Mughal-era mosque

Sambhal (PTI): The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has submitted its response in a court — which had allowed a survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid here — seeking control and management of the Mughal-era mosque as it is a protected heritage structure. Representing the ASI, lawyer Vishnu Sharma said the agency submitted its counterargument in the court on Friday, stating

veys of the site. He said the ASI also highlighted an incident from January 19, 2018, when an FIR was filed against the mosque's manage-ment committee for installing steel railings on the mosque's steps without proper authorisa-

that it faced resistance from the

mosque's management commit-

tee and locals in conducting sur-

The mosque, notified as an ASI-protected monument in 1920, is under the purview of the agency and as such, public access to the structure should be permitted, provided it adheres to ASI regulations, Sharma stated. The ASI argued that control and management of the monument, including any structural modifications, must remain with it. It also raised concerns that unauthorised changes to the mosque's structure by the management committee are unlawful and should be restricted.

The court is expected to deliberate on the matter in the coming days. Violence erupted in Sambhal on November 24 during a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid there, killing four people and injuring many

Man gets ₹10 cr extortion demand from Bishnoi gang, case lodged

Ballia (PTI): Police have registered a case against unidentified people based on a former nagar panchay-at chairman's complaint of an extortion demand of Rs 10 crore by a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, officials said on Sunday.

Station house officer of the Ubhaon police station Vipin Singh said Dinesh Kumar Gupta, a former chairman of the Belthara Road Nagar Panchayat, received the extortion demand through a letter and approached the police.

Accordingly, a case was registered against unidentified people under section 351(4) (criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication) of the BNS, Singh said, adding that police are investigating the matter.

Rasra area Circle Officer (CO) Mohammad Fahim Qureshi told PTI on Saturday that police have received the complaint and legal action

was being taken. Gupta told reporters on Saturday evening that he received a letter through the postal service two days ago in which he was asked by someone claiming to be from the Bishnoi gang to pay extortion money of Rs 10 crore.

BJP, SP gear up for Milkipur bypoll

With the decks cleared for the bypoll to the Milkipur seat in Ayodhya, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party hopes to continue its winning streak while the opposition Samajwadi Party is seeking to retain its hold over the high-profile constituency. The BJP is likely to rely on the Hindu unity pitch through slo-gans like 'batenge toh katenge' (divided we perish) while the SP is expected to bank on its 'PDA' plank. PDA is a coinage

opposition party's plan to connect with pichhda (OBCs), Dalits, and alpshanyak (minorities), the mainstays of the SP's impressive show in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in UP, when it won 37 Lok Sabha seats against the BJP's 33.

In the just concluded bypolls to nine seats, the BJP reclaimed its prestige, winning six seats, including SP's bastions like Kundarki in Moradabad, while its ally Rashtriya Lok Dal won one, making it a hugely impressive 7-2 show.

The two seats that SP retained in the bypolls — the Karhal seat in Mainpuri and Sishamau seat in Kanpur Nagar — were won with markedly reduced win margins, which is why the Milkipur contest would be keenly watched. The seat assumes importance as after victory in the Faizabad parliamentary seat, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav aggressively attacked the BJP, questioning Hindutva politics of the saffron

party, and reached Parliament ernment. Ayodhya has set an with Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad, who vacated the Milkipur seat on becoming MP. The bypoll on this seat is due after withdrawal of pleas against the 2022 Milkipur poll in the

Going by the caste equations of Milkipur, Dalit votes hold the key here. Of the 3.5 lakh voters in Milkipur, 1.2 lakh are Dalits, around 55,000 are Yadavs (OBCs), and 30,000 are Muslims. Political experts feel whosoever secures support of Dalits along with 60,000 Brahmins, 25,000 Kshatriyas, and OBCs would emerge a winner.

It is to be seen whether SP's PDA formula would work on this seat in the same way as it did in 2022 UP polls or if the BJP manages to bridge the caste divide to

its advantage. In 2002, SP's Awadhesh Prasad won the seat, defeating BJP's Baba Gorakhnath. While Prasad had secured 49.99 per cent votes (1,03,905), Gorakhnath got 41.83 per cent (90,567) votes. While the SP has given ticket to

Awadhesh's son, Ajit Prasad, the BJP is yet to finalise its candidate. The Bahujan Samaj Party has already announced not to contest the bypolls, while Congress is likely to continue its support INDIA bloc partner SP. Former MLC and head of SP's

state backward unit, Rajpal Kashyap, said, "Our victory in Milkipur is certain. In the bypolls, official machinery was openly misused. This time our PDA will give a reply to the govexample by discarding commu-nal politics by giving support to Awadhesh Prasad by electing him in Parliament, and the trend will continue."

The BJP is, however, confident of winning the seat.

"We have worked not only in Milkipur but in the entire Ayodhya. Due to the work of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the people made us successful in the bypolls, and this trend would continue. Only BJP can ensure the development of Milkipur. Those pursuing caste and dynastic politics will be defeated," Uttar Pradesh BJP secretary Abhijat Mishra said.

"We talk of safety of people and development. The SP supports those who talk against the country. People have understood this difference between BJP and SP," he added.

The Allahabad High Court on Monday allowed the withdrawal of two petitions challenging the election of SP leader Prasad from Milkipur constituency in 2022 assembly polls, paving the way for holding bypoll to the

The Milkipur assembly seat fell vacant after Prasad was elected to Lok Sabha from Faizabad (Ayodhya) in the 2024 parliamentary elections.

Former MLA and BJP leader Gorakhnath and another petitioner had sought permission from the court to withdraw their petitions, which the court granted and dismissed both the peti-

Govt's governance model transforms UP into a prime investment hub

PNS LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's commitment to security and transparent governance has redefined the state's industrial landscape over the past seven years, evident in the remarkable growth fig-

This was admitted even by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar who commended the Chief Minister Yogi governmen progressive industrial policies during the UP International Trade Show in Greater Noida on September 25, 2024. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted Uttar Pradesh's rapid transformation into a leading enterprise hub, crediting Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's proactive governance.
"Chief Minister Yogi is playing on

the front foot, ensuring good governance, which has brought about a 360-degree transformation in the

Today, UP is a top choice for global investors, thanks to its world-class infrastructure, including airports, expressways, and highways, Dhankhar had remarked. Noida and Greater Noida have

emerged as benchmarks for industrial development, with the upcoming Jewar International Airport set to propel the region further.

The area is poised to become a premier global investment destination. attracting interest from multinational corporations. Similar growth trajectories are vis-

ible in Bundelkhand and fertiliser factory, now with enhanced Purvanchal, which are driven by enhanced connectivity and infrastructure.

Bundelkhand, now a solar energy hub, is witnessing a defense manufacturing corridor boost.

The government's ambitious plan to develop 33 villages across 36,000 acres between Kanpur and Jhansi under the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) surnass Noida's industris scale, marking the beginning of a new era of economic prosperity in the state.

The Yogi government has established the State Capital Region (SCR) by integrating five districts around Lucknow, modeled after the National Capital Region (NCR). Plans include a 1,162-acre textile

park on the Lucknow-Hardoi border and a 40-acre industrial hub in Lucknow's Amausi Industrial Area, featuring an IT Park, STP Park, incubation centre and state data centre.

This development aims to position the SCR on par with the NCR in the coming years.

In Bundelkhand, the government is linking the Bundelkhand Expressway to Chitrakoot via a new expressway, with a sanctioned budget of Rs 13 billion. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath prioritises the development of Bundelkhand and Purvanchal, envisioning a prosperous future through initiatives like the defence manufacturing corridor. Additionally, the revived Gorakhpur

production capacity, symbolises the region's industrial resurgence.

Further boosting Gorakhpur's industrial growth, an 800-acre corridor along the Gorakhpur Link Expressway is underway. Plans for a new 5,500-acre industri-

al city in Dakshinanchal aim to transform barren lands near Dhuriyapar into a thriving investment hub, positioning Gorakhpur as kev economic centre between Patna and Kathmandu. The Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

government's special incentive scheme for industrial development focuses on Bundelkhand and Purvanchal. Industrial corridors along state

expressways will provide significant benefits, particularly with projects like the Bundelkhand-Chitrakoot Link Expressway and Purvanchal-Gorakhpur Link Expressway, driving regional economic growth and prosperity.

Some investment-related figures are proof of how keen industrialists from the country and the world are to invest in UP.

They include MoUs worth more than Rs 4.68 lakh crore signed and projects worth more than Rs 4 lakh crore implemented in UP Investors Summit: work has started on about 1,500 projects worth Rs 10.11 lakh crore in Groundbreaking Ceremony 4.0; 28,029 MoUs were agreed in UP Global Investors Summit, with investment proposals worth more than Rs 40 lakh crore.

IDFC FIRST Bank

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd)

Yogi has enhanced Sanatan Dharma's global prominence: Akhara Parishad

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

scetic Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has elevated the prominence of Sanatan Dharma globally in an unprecedented manner, said Mahant Ravindra Puri, president of the Akhil Bharatiya Akhara Parishad.

Praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for enhancing the stature of Hindutva, he noted that while the 2019 Kumbh was a grand, divine spectacle, the upcoming 2025 Maha Kumbh under Yogi's leadership is set to surpass it in both scale and splendor.

He stated, "Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is dedicated to transforming the Maha Kumbh into an extraordinary event, attracting enthusiastic participation from saints and

underway, with revered mahatmas arriving from across the country."
Mahant Ravindra Puri, who is

reviewing Akhara prepara-tions in Prayagraj, emphasised that the global spotlight is now on India due to Yogi Adityanath's leadership. He highlighted that only

visionary leaders like Prime Minister Modi and Chief Minister Yogi could bring to life the world's largest cultural event. The upcoming Maha Kumbh is set to be the most divine and magnificent yet, destined to break all previous records, he pointed out.

Mahant Ravindra Puri elaborated on the significance of the Niranjani Akhara. He explained that the saints of Niranjani Akhara follow Dev Senapati Kartikeya. Once initiated into the akhara, all

sages worldwide. Preparations in Prayagraj are already as there is no tradition of as there is no tradition of appointing a new individual guru. Instead, Niranjan Dev Ji is revered as the universal guru by all members.

The Akhara Parishad begins preparations for the Maha Kumbh several years in advance. For this year's Maha Kumbh, planning com-menced three years ago, including gathering essential resources to provide clean and delicious 'prasad' for devotees from across India and abroad. Arrangements have been made to serve 'prasad' to 5,000 devotees at a time, allowing them to experience spiritual nourishment

in a serene setting. Mahant Ravindra Puri said, The enthusiastic participation of saints and sages will make this Maha Kumbh an extraordinary and divine

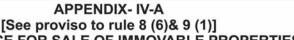
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited

the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

CIN: L65110TN2014PLC097792

Date:02.12.2024 Place: Lucknov

Registered Office: KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai - 600031. TEL: +91 44 4564 4000 | FAX: +91 44 4564 4022.



SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest

(Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (I). For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(i) Agreementid	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time EMD of Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 17777566.76/- Demand Notice dated: 23-Sept-2023	42670317	Natraj Hosiery, Natraj Cosmetic And Gift Centre, Anurudh Kumar Gupta, Anurudh Kumar Gupta (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Santosh Kumar Gupta), Anjana Gupta, Chitra Gupta, Anjana Gupta (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Santosh Kumar Gupta) & Chitra Gupta (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Santosh Kumar Gupta)	House Bearing Municipal No. 133/75, First Floor, Admeasuring 156.133 Sq Mtr., I.E. 1680 Square Feet, Situated At Aminabad, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh-226018, Bounded As Below:- North: Suhelraj Siddiqui/ Plot Of Sushil Nigam, South: Plot Of Mr. Lal Chand Rastogi, East:	16800000.00/-	INR 1680000.00/-	08-Jan- 2025 11.00 AM TO 1.00 PM	07-Jan- 2025 10.00 AM TO 5.00 PM	03-Jan- 2025 10.00 AM TO 4.00 PM	Name- Sujeet Jha Contact Number- 9795811000 Name- Vidyansh Gupta Contact Number- 8899428998

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.

Dhankhar underscores importance of education in building a new India



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar graced the Golden Jubilee Founders' Day celebration of Seth Anandram Jaipuria School here on Sundav. The two-day celebration of the school's 50th anniversary culminated with a grand event graced by eminent dignitaries, including Governor Anandiben Patel, Assembly Speaker Satish Mahana and UP Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Rakesh Sachan. The school was represented by Shishir Jaipuria, Chairman of Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions, Vinod Malhotra, Advisor, Harish Sanduja, Director Schools and IT, Shikha Banerjee, school principal and Ganesh Tiwari,

vice-principal. The ceremony began with the planting of a sapling by the

chief guest Jagdeep Dhankhar as a part of the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. It was fol-lowed by national anthem, lamp lighting ceremony and felicitation of the guests. In his address, Dhankhar underscored the importance of education in building a new India. He spoke about the potential of the country's youth and the need to harness this potential through knowledge and skills. "I am delighted to participate in the Golden Jubilee Founders' Day Celebration of Seth Anandram Jaipuria School, Kanpur. I greatly admire the Jaipuria family's commitment to quality education. I believe education is the most transformative mechanism to bring about equality. Children must have curiosity towards learning. They should not fear failure. India's children will create its future. They will make India a

HEARTIEST WELCOME Chief Guest SHRI JAGDEEP DHANKHA Hon'ble Vi@President

great nation in the world," Dhankhar said. Anandiben Patel delivered an inspiring address in which she praised the Jaipuria school for pursuing progressive vision for nation building. She said, "There are no shortcuts to success. Critical thinking is important to find solutions. It's important to have a clear goal in life. Education is the most important weapon."

Shishir Jaipuria gave the welcome address. He expressed gratitude to the Vice-President and other distinguished guests for their presence. "The Jaipuria School, Kanpur, has been ranked as the Number 1 School in UP in 2024-25. We have produced national toppers and the school is known for inculcating qualities of leadership, environmental sensitivity and lifelong learning. Our vision is fully aligned with

that of national goals of creating a Viksit Bharat." During the ceremony, Dhankhar felicitated three outstanding students of the school. The awardees included Isha Agarwal, Akarsh Omar and Vedika Gupta. The Golden Jubilee Founders' Day was attended by special guests, students, teachers, parents and alumni of the school. On Saturday the school organized a cultural event titled 'Sparsh' which was graced by the Padma Vibhushan Ustad Amjad Ali Khan as the guest of honour. The evening also saw the presentation of Dr Rajaram Jaipuria Achievers' Award to a distinguished alumnus. The Seth Anandram Jaipuria School is the flagship institution of the Jaipuria Group of Educational Institutions. The group has a legacy of 79 years and strength of 21 K-12 schools, five preschools, two management institutions and a teachers' training academy.

Maha Kumbh will spread Indian culture all over world: Pathak

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Deputy Chief Minister Brijesh Pathak said the forthcoming Prayag Maha Kumbh will spread the culture of India all over the world. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural function of two-day congregation of all 12 Jyotirlingas and 51 Shaktipeeths, organised by the Centre for Sanatan Research and Trident Seva Samiti Trust at Rudraksh Convention Centre here on Saturday

evening.
Pathak said this gathering is wonderful and unique of its kind. "Probably this is the first event of its kind, in which all Shaktipeeths and 12 Jyotirlingas have been unified. This is an event that gives immense energy to Sanatan', he said, adding that the world's largest spiritual fair Maha Kumbh will begin at Sangam in Prayagraj from January 14 next year. "This Maha Kumbh will be the carrier of Indian culture and Sanatan tradition to the

whole world", he said. Calling for unity of all Sanatan Dharma followers, he said that we all should unite. "There is strength in unity. Today, India is progressing in every field, it is the grace of the saints. If we all unite, then no one can stop our country from becoming the world leader. Those who are talking about caste discrimination among us, they only want to get votes by creating divisions and want to gain power. They have nothing to do with the development of the country, the uplift of the peo-



Deputy CM Brijesh Pathak honouring a scholar at inaugural event of 51 Shaktipeeths meet in Varanasi on Saturday evening.

ple", he said.

In an indirect attack on Samajwadi Party (SP) he said, "Those who call themselves 'Lohia ke log' are limited to Saifai only as in the Lok Sabha Saifai only as in the Lok Sabha elections, only the people of Saifai were given the tickets, neglecting the Yadavs of other places. The judiciary was also attacked during the SP government and the people of SP had also launched a 'Halla Bol' campaign against the fourth pillar of democracy." He also pillar of democracy." He also indirectly attacked the Congress, saying that those who are roaming around with the copy of the Constitution today, themselves have left no stone unturned in killing the Constitution. Pathak said for thousands of years, Sanatan has proclaimed 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbam', which considers

the whole world as its family. Before this, International President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad Alok Kumar, Tourism Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, Prakhar Ji Maharaj, Jitendra Nath Maharaj of Maharashtra, Ramakant Maharaj of Kolkata Kali Peeth, Prakashanand Maharaj of Devghar Jharkhand Jyotirlinga, National General Secretary of All India Vidvat Parishad Kameshwar Nath Upadhyay, President of organising institution Centre for Sanatan Research Dr Raman Tripathi etc inaugurated the session by lighting the lamp. 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao's brand ambassador and eminent vocalist Padma Shri Dr Soma Ghosh prayed to Lord Ganesha, Maa Adishakti and Rudrashtakam.

Ashram's Peethadheeswar Mahamandaleshwar Prakhar Ji Maharaj claimed that the solution to the unresolved controversy regarding Varahi Shakti Peeth is that the Shakti Peeth is nowhere else but in Kashi. Thus, there are two Shakti Peeths in Kashi, one of Maa Vishalakshi Devi and the other of Varahi Devi. "It is mentioned in the scriptures that Varahi Devi is located in Panchsagar, the kind of description that is there and the belief that she is in Maharashtra, nothing like that is seen when we go there, but the talk of the confluence of five rivers at the Panchganga Ghat in Kashi and the temple situated above it proves that the Shakti Peeth of Varahi Devi is located in Kashi", he claimed. On the occasion, women presented cultural programmes on Durga and Shiva and saints and mahatmas stressed on increasing the propagation of Sanatan Dharma at the global level. Earlier, in the second session, the saints and mahatmas including the priest of Vaishno Mata temple Sudarshan Ji Maharaj, Mahant Pandit Rajnath Tiwari of Vishalakshi temple, Mahant Pandit Kamta Prasad Dwivedi of Chandrika Peeth situated on the river Narmada were honoured. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Vidya Bhushan Mishra along with about 32 priests of Nepal, saints and mahatmas including the priest of Shaktipeeth of Bangladesh etc were also honoured.

Woman, son killed in accident

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE KANPUR

woman and her son Awoman and net returning from a morning walk on Sunday were run over by a speeding pickup in Jhinjhak of Kanpur Dehat. On being dragged abound 30 metres by the vehicle the son succumbed to injuries on the spot while his mother died on the way from Rasoolabad CHC to LLR (Hallet) hospital. The irate mob blocked the Rasoolabad-Jhinjhak road. Police rushed to the spot and tried to calm the situation. Reports said that Neelam (45) of Jhinjhak had gone on a morning walk around 5 am with son Hemant alias Lalu (18) and daughter Nancy (21).

They returned home at 5.40 am. When Nancy was opening the lock of house, Neelam and Hemant were waiting standing on the roadside. Suddenly the speeding pickup ran over them which led to killing of Hemant on the spot after being dragged with it up to around 30 metres. The pickup driver escaped with the vehicle after the incident. The kin took Neelam to the Rasoolabad community health centre (CHC) but died on the way while being taken to the LLR (Hallet) hospital of Kanpur. The irate kin and villagers blocked the road. Circle Officer Devendra Singh along with SHO Sanjay Gupta and force rushed to the spot and tried to pacify the situation.

In a separate incident, an elderly couple died after being hit by a speeding train near Ambiyapur station in Kanpur Dehat on Delhi-Howrah rail route on Sunday morning. The incident took place when they were crossing the railway track. According to a report, Gopilal (77) of Ambiyapur had left around 8 am with wife Shiv Devi (70) for their daughter Shiv Kanti's house in Daulatpur under Phaphund police station area of Auraiya. At 8.15 am when they were crossing the railway track, the speeding train going towards Delhi hit them which led to their killing on the spot. Station Officer (SO) JP Sharma said the bodhad been sent for autopsy

Melodious songs captivate audience

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The annual concert of the pre-primary section of St Mary's Convent High School 'Joyful Jamboree' was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur marking the school's 125 years of excellence in the field of education and holistic development of the children.

The festivities commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp. The programme began with a soulful prayer dance invoking God's blessings. The young stars of the pre-primary section showcased their talent through colourful plays and mesmerising dance dramas. Vibrant traditional and western dances added a splash of colour to the stage, symbolising the unity in diversity that St Mary's has nurtured since its inception. The melodious songs by the school choir cap-tivated the audience leaving them spell-



Children taking part in annual concert 'Joyful Jamboree organised at St Mary's Convent High School.

bound. The chief guest, Anushka Akash Kanodia shared the cherished memories of school life and praised St Mary's for its unwavering commitment to instil moral values, academic excellence and overall growth in every child. The grand finale, 'Right Future, Bright Future' was a heartwarming performance that highlighted the uniqueness and potential of every child

Minister reviews schemes to improve power supply

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

Jttar Pradesh Energy Minister AK Sharma reviewed various ongoing schemes for improving power supply in Varanasi city in the presence of the Managing Director (MD) and other senior officers of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited (PuVVNL) at Circuit House here on Saturday evening. In view of the importance of Varanasi city, the minister directed the officers to make it a tripping free zone. Sharma said double source should be arranged for improvement in power system and uninterrupted supply at important religious places of the city. He also directed the officers that correct hills should be made available to

the consumers on time and their problems should be resolved promptly with sensitivity.

The review meeting was also attended by Director (Commerce) of PuVVNL, Chief Engineer of Varanasi district, superintending engineers and executive engineers, in which information was taken from each executive engineer level officers about the work being done in their areas to provide better supply as compared to previous years. The meeting was also attended by Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam, PuVVNL MD Shambhu Kumar, Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal

Awareness rally on World AIDS Day



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

On the occasion of World AIDS Day-2024, an awareness rally was organised by Centre of Excellence (CoE) and ART Centre of Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) here on Sunday. It began from IMS Gate at 9 am to BHU Gate near Lanka and vice versa.

The rally was flagged off by IMS-BHU Director Prof SN Shankhwar, along with Prof Ashok Kumar (Dean), Prof Shyam Sundar (Distinguished Professor of Medicine), Prof Gopal Nath (Dean, Research), Dr Jaya Chakravarty (nodal officer, ART Centre). The main theme of this year is 'Take the Rights Path: My Health, My Right'.

Prof Shankhwar said all the facilities under one roof like counselling, investigation, medicine distribution is beneficial for the PLHIV. Prof Shyam Sundar said with the opening of ART centre the medicine which are available now for the patients are free of cost and more effective than before. Prof Ashok Kumar said organising such awareness rally will help in reducing the stigma and discrimination against HIV AIDS in society. Prof Gopal Nath spoke about the diagnosis and investigation of HIV which are done free cost at the centre. Prof LP Meena (Head of Medicine Department) appreci-

ated for the behaviour of staff towards the HIV patients. Prof Jaya Chakravarty said that ART Centre is one of the oldest and biggest centres in UP. She said this centre was given title of 'Center of Excellence' in 2010 by Government of India. It caters to both UP and Bihar, providing alternative medicines, second and third line medication to patients failing their treatment and diagnosis.

Prof Jaya Chakravarty said there is provision of drug distribution under one roof for retro positives for HIV, TB and Opportunistic Infections (Cryptococcal Meningitis, Toxoplasmosis). There is an attempt now to bring drugs for diabetes and hypertension, Hepatitis B & C. For these non- communicable diseases screening, diagnosis and treatment along with counselling are

being provided free of cost. There are 28,613 people living with HIV, registered till date with IMS-BHU of which 5,000 are currently taking medicines monthly. ART provides free CD4, Viral Load testing, baseline investigations. Treatment and diagnosis of Hepatitis B & C and cervical cancer is promptly done and patients from all over UP and Bihar with serious complications are admitted and managed. Dr Mansawi Chaubey (Deputy Programme Director, CoE), Dr Anuradha Johri, Dr Archana Singh and others attended the rally.

'Most important duty of teachers is to improve lives of students'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

six-day short-term training A SIX-day SHOIT-TELLIN GRAMMER FOR LIFE SCI-ences educators from higher education concluded at Inter-University Centre for Teacher Education (IUCTE) here on Saturday. The chief guest of the closing session was the former Director, Institute of Science and Member, Executive Council, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) Prof Bachha Singh. In his address, Prof Singh said the most important duty of teachers is to improve the lives of students and motivate them to learn. "Today, lack of skills is being seen in students to overcome which programmes like 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', 'Skill India' etc are being run. In such a situation, teachers will have to work very diligently to make students skilled", he said, adding that this noble work can be done with the cooperation of each other. The chief patron of the programme and IUCTE Director

Prof Prem Narayan Singh said our Indian tradition has been in the role of an exporter of knowledge and not an importer, which has to be reestablished. "Our aim should be to make students good and it is the duty of the teacher to make the students disciplined while being self-disciplined and develop their personality. This work is done through education because education builds the nature of the child", he said. While expressing his gratitude at the end of the programme, the Dean of the centre, Prof Ashish Srivastava said every effort of ours is important and if one of our efforts benefits a student then it will definitely be a very commendable work. He said teachers should bring in their behaviour mottos like innovation and adaptation, sympathy and mutual understanding, cooperation and not competition, adopting activities that shape the future.

In this training programme, participants from various uni-

versities and colleges of nine states of the country experienced the pedagogical aspects of life sciences with great enthusiasm. The closing session was conducted by Dr Kushagri Singh and Mangalacharan was recited by Dr Raja Pathak. Dr Anil Kumar, Dr Nandlal Dr Deepti Gupta and other employees of IUCTE were present. During the programme, various sessions focused on making the teaching experiences interactive and enjoyable by applying AR/VR/AI to the participants in the field of life sciences, adopting new assessment techniques to assess the understanding and progress of students, enhancing the use of educational software and tools like Curiepod, InVideo AI, Prompt, ChatGPT, EdPuzzle, Gamma, etc. Through lectures and hands-

on activities on each day of the programme, the participants gained practical experience of specific teaching tools and meth-ods for teaching life sciences.

Relevance of ancient Indian philosophy emphasised PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The two-day national con-The two-day national conference on the 'Global Resonance of Integral Humanism' organised by Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya Chair, Faculty of Social Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (FSS-BHU) Varanasi in collaboration with Research and Information System for Development Countries (RIS), New Delhi concluded on Saturday at Conference hall, Vedic Vigyan Kendra, BHU. The conference concluded successfully with the valedictory session. The ceremonial lamp was lit and floral tributes were offered to Mahamana Madan Mohan Malaviya and Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya. The session was chaired by Prof Binda D Paranjape, Dean, FSS-BHU. Prof Tej Pratap Singh, coordinator of Chair welcomed the guests. This was followed by a keynote address delivered by Prof Heeraman Tiwari, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. He reflected on the profound ideas presented in Pt Upadhyaya's valuable book Jagatguru Shankaracharya, highlighting the legacy of India's cosmic thinker and his timeless wisdom. He emphasised the relevance of ancient Indian philosophy, citing the Ramayana, Mahabharata and Upanishads for guiding principles like duty, compassion, ethics which address modern challenges in leadership, governance and

well-being.
On closing day, various dignious reputed universities shared their views on the global dimensions of the integral humanism.

CSJMU achieves another milestone

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University (CSJMU), Kanpur, and Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU), Russia, signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This partnership aims to open new horizons in education, research, and cultural exchange.

The CSJMU, after securing a position in the QS rankings, has achieved another milestone by becoming the first university in UP to sign such a global memorandum with Far Eastern Federal University. This MoU outlines detailed and strategic provisions keeping future needs in mind, offering global opportunities to stu-dents and faculty while fostering technology and innovation. Under this MoU, steps to be undertaken over the next five vears included exchange of 50 students and 10 faculty members annually; Three major research projects in AI and IT, hosting international conferences and workshops jointly, organising cultural festivals in both countries.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Vinay Kumar Pathak said, "This academic collaboration between India and Russia will not only provide global opportunities to students but also deepen the historical ties between our two nations." FEFU representative, Prof Seleznev Tim said, "This partnership will take both nations to new heights in education and technology. We are delighted to be part of this significant initiative." Prof Tim expressed interest in collaborative research in agriculture and medical sciences and empha-sised the potential of India's talented young programmers. Prof Brishti Mitra, Director, UIET, highlighted the inclusion of joint educational pro-

grammes, student-faculty exchanges and research initiatives in AI, data science and cybersecurity under the MoU. She added this partnership will enhance global experi-ence, technical competitiveness and cultural richness in education and research. Prof Sudhanshu Pandiya, Dean, International Relation cell, explained how CSJM University established this historic partnership with FEFU. He also mentioned the potential for expanding this agree-ment to other departments such as life sciences and pharmacy. Pro Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sudheer Kumar Awasthi, Dr Rajiv Mishra, Dr Deepak Kumar Verma, etc were also present. The programme was hosted by Dr Anju Dixit. BOOK FAIR: The Kanpur

Metro, in collaboration with V&S Company, has launched a month-long book fair at Gate Number 2 of Motijheel Metro Station. The fair features works by renowned authors from India and around the world, with special discounts for those making a purchase. In addition, Kanpur Metro will host a variety of literary events throughout the duration of the book fair. The book fair offers a wide range of books, including popular titles from the 'Manga series, Harry Potter, and superhero genres, especially favoured by children and young adults. For literature enthusiasts, the fair also features works by esteemed writers, philosophers, and thinkers from India and around the world. This is a great opportunity to explore books by internationally acclaimed nonfiction author Yuval Noah Harari and renowned fiction writers like Haruki Murakami. Additionally, the fair includes a selection of general knowledge and motivational books tailored to students' needs.

IMS-BHU to celebrate annual day on Dec 4

Director Prof SN Sankhwar. It

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

The Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) will celebrate its 64th Annual Day with a grand event on December 4. The formal inauguration will feature Director of the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Prof Vivek Lal as the chief guest and Director of AIIMS Bhopal Prof Ajay Singh, as the distinguished guest. BHU Rector Prof Sanjay Kumar will preside over the occasion. To review the preparations of the annual day celebrations here on Sunday, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of IMS-BHU

was also attended by Prof Ashok Kumar (Dean of the Faculty of Modern Medicine), Prof Gopal Nath (Dean, Research) Prof PK Goswami (Dean of the Faculty of Ayurveda), Prof HC Baranwal (Dean of the Faculty of Dental Sciences), Prof KK Gupta (Medical Superintendent of Sir Sundarlal Hospital) and Prof Saurabh Singh (Professor In-charge of Trauma Centre). The IMS-BHU director said celebrations will begin with a variety of literary and sports competitions. He said as a hallmark of the celebrations, a health fair will be organised on December 2 and 3 at the New Lecture Theatre Complex,

IMS. The fair will provide residents of Varanasi and the Purvanchal (Eastern UP) region access to essential healthcare information and services. The formal inauguration on Monday at 10 am will be graced by Vice- Chancellor of Shri Devaraj Urs Academy of Higher Education and Research, Kolar, Prof B Vengamma with Prof SN Sankhwar presiding over the ceremony. The ceremony will honour winners of various competitions, academically outstanding students and retiring faculty and staff.

Under the leadership of Prof Sankhwar, IMS-BHU has reached significant milestones this academic year.

Ajmer Dargah Survey: Ex-bureaucrats ask PM Modi to check 'ideological assault'

Days after a local court ordered a survey of the Ajmer Sharif dargah, a group of former bureaucrats and diplomats has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking his intervention to halt all "illegal and pernicious" activities that are an "ideological assault" on India's civilisational heritage and pervert the idea of an inclusive country.

Stating that he alone can halt "all illegal, pernicious activi-ties", the group has reminded Modi that he himself had sent "chadars" on the occasion of the annual Urs of the 12thcentury saint, Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, as a homage to his message of peace and harmony.

The group of nearly half-adozen former bureaucrats and

Delhi lieutenant governor Najeeb Jung, former high commissioner of India to the United Kingdom Shiv Mukherjee, former chief election commissioner S Y Quraishi, former vice-chief of Army staff Lieutenant General Zameeruddin Shah and former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Ravi Vira Gupta, wrote to the prime minister on November 29 about unknown fringe groups claiming to represent Hindu interests and demanding archaeological surveys of medieval mosques and dargahs to prove the previous existence of temples at these "Despite the clear provisions

of the Places of Worship Act, the courts too seem to respond to such demands with undue alacrity and



The contents of the letter were confirmed by two of the signatories to it.

"It appears unimaginable, for example, that a local court should order a survey on the 12th-century dargah of the Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti -- one of the most sacred Sufi sites in Asia not just for Muslims but for all Indians who are proud of our syncretic and pluralist traditions.

The very thought that a mendicant saint, a fakir, who was an integral part of the Sufi/Bhakti movement unique to the Indian subcontinent and a paragon of compassion, tolerance and harmony, could have destroyed any temple to assert his authority is ridiculous," they wrote.

On November 27, a civil court in Ajmer issued notices to the Union Ministry of Minority and

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), after a petition was filed by Vishnu Gupta, national president of the Hindu Sena, claiming that the dargah was originally a Shiva temple.

Successive prime ministers, including Modi, have sent "chadars" on the occasion of the annual Urs of the saint. An ideological assault on this uniquely syncretic site is an assault on our civilisational heritage and perverts the very idea of an inclusive India that you yourself seek to reinvigorate," the group wrote to the prime minister.

In the recent past, there have been calls for boycotting Muslim business establishments and eateries, non-renting of premises to Muslims

of Muslim houses at the themselves, led by a ruthless local administration, the former diplomats added.

About 1.54 lakh establishments have been hit and lakhs rendered homeless or bereft of their places of business, they said, adding that in most cases, the affected parties are Muslims.

"There is immediate need for an interfaith meeting under your chairmanship where you as the prime minister of an inclusive Bharat should give out a message that India remains a land for all, where faiths have existed together and in harmony for centuries and that no sectarian forces will be permitted to disturb this uniquely pluralistic and diverse legacy," the former

SC to hear PIL challenging EC's decision | Kolkata's RG Kar ex-principal helped to increase voter's count per polling booth | two cartels procure hospital contracts: CBI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on December 2 a PIL challenging the Election Commission's decision to increase the maximum number of voters per polling station from 1,200 to 1,500. A bench of Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar will take up the PIL filed by one Indu Prakash Singh, who has challenged two communica-tions issued by the Election Commission in August 2024 increasing the number of voters per polling stations in each constituency across India. Singh has contended that the

decision to increase the number of voters per polling booth was arbitrary and not based on any data. On October 24, the top court refused to issue any notice to the poll panel but allowed the petitioner to serve the copy to the standing counsel of the Election Commission so that its stand on the issue is



Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, contended that increasing the number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 would lead to the exclusion of underprivileged groups from the electoral process as it will take a longer time for an individual to cast their franchise. He had also submitted that longer queues at the polling station and longer waiting periods would dissuade voters from going to cast

The bench, however, said that the poll panel wants more and more people to vote and with the use of EVMs, it takes a shorter time compared to ballot papers. It said that the poll panel is trying to reduce the time taken to cast votes as much as possible by increasing the number of EVMs at booths. The petitioner has contended that the poll panel's decision

would impact the voters during the assembly elections in Maharashtra and Iharkhand (since concluded) and Bihar and Delhi to be held next year. Singh said that elections are normally held for 11 hours and it takes around 60 to 90 seconds to cast one vote, and therefore 660 to 490 persons can cast their vote in a day at one polling station with one EVM. Considering the average voting percentage to be 65.70 per cent it is persecivable that a cent, it is perceivable that a polling station prepared to accept 1,000 electors sees

around 650 turn up. Singh's petition said that there are also booths where the elector turnout is in the range of 85-90 per cent. "In such a situation, about 20 per cent of voters will either end up standing in the queue beyond the voting hours or due to long waiting times, will abandon exercising their right to vote. Neither is acceptable in a progressive republic or a democracy," the PIL said.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Former principal of Kolkata's RG Kar College and Hospital Sandip Ghosh allegedly helped two cartels in procuring hospital contracts, the agency has said in its

recently filed chargesheet. The special court has taken the chargesheet on record but it is yet to take its cognisance because the West Bengal government has not provided sanction to prosecute Ghosh and other accused.

Ghosh had resigned as the principal of the state-run institute on August 12 in the aftermath of the rape and murder of a trainee doctor on its

The CBI has named Ghosh, former House Staff of the medical college Ashish Kumar Pandey, and businessmen Biplab Singha of Maa Tara Traders, Suman Hazra of Hazra Medical and Afsar Ali Khan of Eshan Cafe, in the



charge sheet.

"This case was registered in compliance with the directions of Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta relating to financial irregularities in RG Kar Medical College & Hospital at Kolkata," Spokesperson said.

The CBI has alleged that Ghosh and Pandey appointed several doctors as house staff in violation of the rules, they said.Ghosh helped two cartels -- one run by Singha and Hazra and the other by Khan -- in procuring several contracts of the hospital, the CBI has alleged in its chargesheet filed before a Special CBI court

in Alipore. "On careful perusal, it manifested that sanction order of the competent authority not yet received. Accordingly, cognisance is not taken sans sanction. Let it be kept with the record," the Special Judge said. The Hospital hogged media attention when a trainee doc-

tor was found dead in the chest department auditorium on August 10. It surfaced that she was allegedly raped and killed by a civic volunteer Sanjay Roy in the intervening night of August 9-10.

Ghosh was also under scanner in the case for alleged delay in the probe. In between, the Calcutta High Court ordered a probe into alleged financial irregularities in hospital during his tenure.

The High Court order came on a petition by the former deputy superintendent of the facility, Akhtar Ali, who prayed for a probe by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into multiple counts of alleged financial misconduct at the institute during Gosh's tenure as its

Ghosh served as principal of RG Kar Medical College from February 2021 to September 2023. He was transferred from RG Kar in October last year but inexplicably returned to that position within a month.

Eight CAG reports pending with Delhi Govt for laying before Assembly, HC told



 $E_{\text{Delhi}}^{\text{ight reports pertaining to}}$ city government for laying before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the GNCTD Act, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has informed the Delhi High Court. The CAG has said according to the legal framework, the Delhi government has to place the audit reports submitted by it before the Assembly and it has in the past written to the principal secretary (finance), requesting

him to do the same. The authority made the submission in its response filed to a petition by city's opposition leaders seeking a direction to place CAG reports related to liquor duty, pollution and finance before the Assembly. "As per the records available with the Answering Respondent, eight reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, pertaining to the NCT of Delhi, are pending with the Government of NCT of Delhi for laying before the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the provisions of section 48 of the Government of National Capital Territory Delhi Act, 1991," stated a short reply filed by the CAG and accountant general (audit) in the matter.

The Answering Respondent thus submits that as per Article 151(2) of the Constitution read with section 48 of the Government of their responses to the peti-

Delhi Act, 1991 and with regulations ... Enjoins upon the GNCTD to place the audit reports submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on the accounts of GNCTD in the Legislative Assembly of Delhi," it further said.

The response informed that the reports from 2022 to 2024 pertain to finance audits, air pollution, "revenue, economic, social and general sector and PSUs", children in need of care and protection, liquor and public health.

'Again, while forwarding Report No. 3 of 2024 of the CAG to the Principal Secretary (Finance) vide letter dated 19.09.2024, the Delhi Audit Office also reminded him about seven reports of CAG pending with Delhi government for laying them before the Legislative Assembly of the state," the reply said.

The petition, which has been filed by Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai and Jitendra Mahajan, is listed for hearing on Monday.
The high court had, on

October 29, issued notices to the Delhi government, the office of the Legislative Assembly speaker, the lieutenant governor (LG), the CAG and the accountant general (audit), Delhi and sought

The plea has claimed that the 12 CAG reports from 2017-2018 to 2021-2022 are pending with Delhi Chief Minister Atishi, who also holds the finance portfolio.

The plea has further alleged that despite the LG's repeated requests, these reports have not been sent to him for tabling the same before the Assembly.

The petition, filed by advocates Neeraj and Satya Ranjan Swain, said the BJP MLAs had approached the chief minister, chief secretary and speaker in the past but no action has been taken.

"Despite the LG's repeated requests and constitutional obligation, these reports were not sent to the LG and consequently, could not be tabled in the Delhi Legislative Assembly," it said.

The plea has further alleged that a "deliberate suppression of vital information" not only violates democratic principles but also prevents a proper scrutiny of the government's action and expenditures, raising serious questions about its financial proprietary, transparency and accountability.

The petitioners, therefore, have sought directions to the finance department to send a proposal to the LG for "exercising his duties under Article 151(2) of the Constitution of India, 1950, Regulation 210(1) of the Regulations on Audit and Accounts, 2007 and section 48 of the Government of National

Bofors: CBI to send LRs to the US seeking information from private detective

mation from private investigator Michael Hershman who had expressed willingness to share with Indian agencies crucial details about the Rs 64crore Bofors bribery scandal of the 1980s, officials said Sunday.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has also informed a special court, which is hearing the agency's plea for further probe into the matter, about the develop-

The process to send the Letters Rogatory (LR) was initiated in October this year, and it is expected to take around 90 days before the formal request is sent to the US, aimed at obtaining information to further investigate the alleged bribery case, the officials said.

A Letter Rogatory is a written request sent by the court of The CBI will soon send a one country to the court of another country to obtain or prosecution of a criminal

> While the Delhi High Court had exonerated former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 2004, a year later it quashed all charges against the remaining accused, including the Hinduja brothers, in the politically sensitive case.

Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi, the alleged middleman in the payoff case, was discharged in 2011 by a court which allowed the CBI to withdraw prosecution against

The case involves allegations of a Rs 64-crore bribe in a Rs 1,437-crore deal with Swedish firm Bofors in the 1980s during the then Congress government for the supply of 400 155mm field howitzers, which



played a significant role in India's victory during the Kargil war. The case was closed in 2011.

Hershman, head of the Fairfax Group, visited India in 2017 to attend a conference of private detectives. During his stay, he appeared on various platforms, alleging that the investigation into the scam was derailed by the Congress government and stated he was willing to share details with the CBI.

The CBI took note of his claims in several interviews and announced in 2017 that

gated according to due process. created a big scandal for the Rajiv Gandhi Government

Hershman's revelations, it plans to reopen the investiga-The CBI had previously sent

letters and reminders to US authorities on November 8, 2023, December 21, 2023, May 13, 2024, and August 14, 2024, but received no information, with the US authorities requesting additional time. The central agency has now opted to pursue the LR route, where a competent court sends a formal request for information to the relevant authorities in the US, subject to clearance from the Indian government. The CBI had registered the case in 1990, three years after a Swedish radio channel had alleged that bribes were paid by Bofors to politicians and defence officials of India to

the matter would be investi- clinch the deal. The allegations The agency informed the spe- and have been used by rival The CBI filed the chargesheets in 1999 and 2000. The Delhi High Court had exonerated Rajiv Gandhi in 2004, nearly 13 years after he was assassinated by LTTE in a suicide attack. In 2005, the High Court quashed all charges against the remaining accused noting that the CBI failed to prove that the money transferred by Bofors to various agents by Quattrocchi was meant to be paid as a bribe to public servants in India.

The CBI appealed against the 2005 decision in apex court in 2018 but it was dismissed on the grounds of delay. The Supreme Court, however, allowed it to raise all the points in an appeal filed by advocate Ajay Aggarwal in

No change in migrant status of Kashmiri Pandit women marrying non-migrants: J-K HC

PTI ■ JAMMU

 $T^{\text{he High Court of Jammu \& }}_{\text{Kashmir and Ladakh has}}$ observed that there will be no change in the migrant status of Kashmiri Pandit women even if they marry non-migrants, upholding a Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) order in favour of two women selected under PM employment package.

The two women -- Seema Koul and Vishalni Koul -- had moved the high court in 2018 after their provisional selection to the post of legal assistant in the department of disaster management relief, rehabilitation and re-construction under the PM package for Kashmiri migrants in December 1, 2017 forfeited on the ground that they have lost their migrant status having married non-

migrant persons. "One question of public important that arises before this court is whether a woman who has been given a migrant status on account of the suffering Capital Territory Act, 1991". | endured by her and her fami-



ly on account of which they were forced to leave their home and hearth in the Kashmir Valley..., could be discriminated and would stand to lose the said status only on account of fact that she had got married to a non-migrant?

"Holding this would be going against the nature of human beings. Respondents herein, who are ladies and on account of no fault of theirs, had to leave their place of original residence in Kashmir Valley, cannot be expected to remain unmarried only to secure a job in the Kashmir Valley as a migrant," a division bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Mohammad Yousuf Wani said in a seven-page order last month. It is also reasonable to presume that because of the exodus, not every migrant woman would be in a position to find a match who himself was a migrant, it said. The court said in such a situa-

tion, to hold that the woman would lose her status as a migrant only because she, out of the natural urge of forming a family, had to marry a nonmigrant on account of existing circumstances, would be grossly "discriminatory and militates" against the very concept of justice.

'This discrimination becomes even more brazen where a male migrant continues to remain a migrant notwithstanding the fact that he has married a non-migrant. Such a situation has arisen only on account of patriarchy that prevails in the human race. However, in matters relating to employment under the State/UT, such discrimination cannot be countenanced," the court said, dismissing a writ petition filed by the Union Territory against the May 16

Society will perish if population growth rate goes below 2.1: Bhagwat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday stressed the importance of family and said if the population growth rate of a society goes below 2.1, then that society will perish by itself. Addressing a gathering at the 'Kathale Kul (clan) Sammelan' in Nagpur, he said "kutumb" (family) is part of the society and every family is a unit.

"Decreasing population is a matter of concern because the Loksankhya Shastra says that if we go below 2.1, then that society perishes, no one will destroy it, it will perish by itself," he said.

"The population policy of our country, which was decided around 1998 or 2002, says that the population growth rate should not be below 2.1," the RSS chief

"We need more than two, that is three (as population growth



tion science says. This number is important because it (society) should survive," he said.

"A decline in population is a matter of concern. Modern demographic studies indicate that when the pop-

ulation of a community falls below a fertility rate of 2.1, that society faces extinction. It does not need external threats to vanish; it disappears on its own. Many languages and societies have ceased to exist due to this. Therefore, our population must not fall below 2.1," said

ne pioneer

pinion

www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Trump's tariff threat

Trump risks alienating key partners, intensifying global economic tensions and accelerating efforts to bypass the dollar

rump presidency is yet to begin but the president-elect has already spoken his mind on the US policy and it is not good news for the developing countries. US Presidentelect Donald Trump has issued a stern warning to the BRICS nations—Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa and their expanding coalition—which seek to challenge the dominance of the US dollar. Trump's announcement of a potential 100 per cent tariff on these nations underscores the rising tensions across the globe as the BRICS bloc explores alternatives to the dollar. This move highlights the friction between the US and developing economies and could reshape global trade dynamics. It was widely expected that Trump would do everything possible to bail out the US out of debt and would not hesitate to take harsh measures against countries who are harming the US interests regardless of their friendship with the US. For decades, the US dollar has been the cornerstone of global commerce, widely used in trade and serving as the reserve cur-

rency for most nations. However, the BRICS coalition and other developing economies have expressed growing frustration over the disproportionate control that the US wields over the global financial system. Nations within the BRICS bloc are already discussing

plans for a new global currency or expanded use of their local currencies to reduce reliance on the dollar. There is no doubt that Trump's threat of 100 per cent tariffs on BRICS nations reflects a protectionist stance and his determination to defend US economic interests. But that is Trump for you, he doesn't mind taking tough decision even if the whole world is against him. Be it environment or trade or military expeditions

Trump is capable of taking decisions which might be frowned upon the world over. He has categorically said that any attempt to undermine the dollar's dominance would result in severe consequences, including exclusion from the US market. The big problem for developing nations is they depend upon the US market in a big way for their incomes and exporting revenue. Trump's approach reveals his readiness to employ punitive measures against both allies and rivals in the global south, regardless of their historical ties with the US. The implications of such tariffs would be profound, potentially disrupting trade flows, exacerbating economic tensions and alienating key developing nations. A 100 per cent tariff would significantly raise the cost of exporting goods to the US, impacting industries that rely on American consumers. For economies like Brazil and South Africa, which are heavily reliant on exports, this could lead to economic slowdown. But ironically Trump's threats may be counter-productive as many countries may further incentivise their search for alternatives to the dollar. Besides, Trump's hardline stance may push developing countries closer together, fostering stronger ties within the BRICS bloc and beyond. Indeed raising tariff wall in today's world is not a good idea but then Trump has mind of his own.



otees attend 'Ganga Aarti' at Har Ki Pauri, in Haridwa

Unveiling transnational drug syndicate



BHOPINDER SINGH

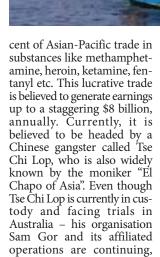
INDIAN COAST GUA

The Coast Guard's drug seizure near Andaman islands underscores the ongoing challenge of tackling transnational syndicates engaged in illicit trafficking near the Indian coast

eeding to their motto of Vayam Rakshamah (We Protect), the Indian Coast Guard personnel executed a befitting operation in the Andaman and Nicobar waters to mark one of the largest drug busts in Indian maritime history. The haul of nearly 6000 kgs of the banned Methamphetamine near Barren Islands (150 km away from Port Blair) is estimated at around 36,000 crores in the international market. The picture-perfect operation was triggered by the presence of a suspicious trawler (Soe Wai Yan Htoo) in the Indian waters by a Coast Guard Dornier reconnaissance plane which then swooped down and asked the trawler to lower its speed, whilst informing the base. Soon enough, fast patrolling vessels of the Coast Guard were tasked to the place, and they towed the six Myanmarese crew trawler to Port Blair, for further investigations. Ongoing interrogations reveal the presence of an unyielding, trained and secretive crew with the presence of a satellite phone that has all the hallmarks of a major and international drug syndicate. But for now, it marks the ever-vigil capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard in ensuring the integrity of our maritime borders and policing against transnational crime. While the geographical location

of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands naturally lends itself towards fructifying India's strategic "Look East" opportunity (as also dominates the sensitive and narrow Malacca Straits that facilitates 40% of global trade) - it is also in the crosshairs of Myanmar, the largest producer of illegal methamphetamine, which is then exported to markets in the US, Europe to Eastern countries. The restive Shan State of Myanmar (bordering China with an ethnic Han-Chinese populace and multiple insurgent groups widely lieved to be supported by China) is also home to the infamous Cantonese Chinese drugs syndicate, Sam Gor (popularly known as 'The Company').

This notorious set-up is involved in global drug trafficking and is said to be in control of over 40 per



unabated.

Ironically, he could have created such a vast drug infrastructure and empire in a region contiguous to the Chinese mainland, where the Chinese have many beholden armed militias, but he never got targeted or arrested by the Chinese authorities. Also strange is the fact that he never attempted to ship his produce towards the Chinese mainland, raising serious doubts if he were to have enjoyed some sort of official patronage from the Chinese authorities Unsurprisingly Tse Chi Lop's rise has not been marked by the usual stories of violence and gore of drug lords but by the unusual route of steady industrialisation and establishing well-maintained networks of key international



TRADE IS BELIEVED TO GENERATE EARNINGS UP TO A STAGGERING \$8 BILLION, ANNUALLY. CURRENTLY, IT IS BELIEVED TO BE **HEADED BY A** CHINESE GANGSTER CALLED TSE CHI LOP, WHO IS ALSO WIDELY KNOWN BY THE MONIKER "EL CHAPO OF ASIA"

partnerships, which are impossible without some sort of sovereign backing. And the Chinese are the masters of asymmetric subterfuge in that they patronise proxies and bad elements, as long as they do the bidding of the Chinese government, and do not direct their illicit trade towards the Chinese mainland. While it is too early to confirm the exact hand behind the recent cache in the Andaman and Nicobar waters, the quantity/value of drugs involved, the location of the trawler arrest, and the nationality of the trawler crew, all point to origins that seem disconcertingly familiar. That the restive Myanmar mainland (with areas like Shan State that are 'no-go' zones to even the Myanmar military) is closer to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands than the Indian mainland, makes the threat real and perennial. It is a testy region given too much Chinese intrigues and ambitions – in fact, the Myanmar-owned Coco Coco Islands (barely 50 km from the northernmost tip of the Andaman Islands range) were believed to have had Chinese militaristic assets, but the same was never proved. The Chinese have planned substantial investments in Myanmar via its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which includes projects like the

China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) or even the development of the deep-sea port of Kyaukpyu, in Myanmar's Rakhine State. The Chinese have a vested interest in keeping their footprints in the region and it is not beyond them to oscillate from making pure investments in the Myanmar Government to patronizing rebel militias or even drug lords, towards its objectives in the region. India must safeguard its interests and strategic imperatives that beset its distant outpost in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Sadly, it is not the first and it wouldn't be the last such operation. Situational status suggests that this specific haul was destined for Thailand, which typically sees a surge around the onsetting festive season, but this too is in the realm of conjecture, as yet. And the real concern is not if this consignment was the handiwork of the Chinese Sam Gor gang (or of the El Mencho-run Jalisco New Generation Cartel), but of the murky linkages with the Chinese authorities, which is always a possibility.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Åndaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The

views expressed are personal)

E EDITOR

From pages to people: Why writers need marketing to succeed



Writing a book is only half the battle. The other half — equally critical but often overlooked — is ensuring that it reaches its intended audience

s an author of seven books with a decent number of followers who swear by my work, I am still a largely unknown author. That's an anomaly, considering the long decades I have spent polishing my craft and bringing out the most distilled form of writing I am capable of. Beyond a loyal circle of readers who follow my work, much of the world remains unaware of what I have to offer. What did I lack? Not literary vivacity, but an appetite to market my writing in a way that would earn it a top spot among contemporaries. Just as we have conceived a negative perception of wealth and shunned any open display or accumulation of it as vulgar, we have slapped selfpublicity also with some uncharitable notions.

It's often said that writers are inherently shy, reclusive beings who prefer the company of their thoughts and words over the glare of public attention. Most of us dream of creating something so profound that the world discovers it and celebrates it without our having to lift a finger to promote it. We yearn for our books to find



through serendipity rather than strategy. While this dream is undeniably romantic, the reality is far from it. In a world brimming with voices clamouring for attention, invisibility is not an option.It took me time to understand that sharing my work is not an act of self-indulgence; it is an act of respect toward my

It is not hubris to present our work to the world; it is our responsibility. To my fellow writers and artists, I offer this perspective: showcasing our work is not something we do solely for ourselves. It's a way of expressing gratitude for the skills we've been granted. It is an acknowledgement of the universe's generosity and an effort to give back by letting our words reach those who might find meaning and inspiration in them. Let's face it: the literary world

books are published every single day, each jostling for space in an overcrowded marbrought to their notice? By showcasing our work, we're not seeking undue attention; we're simply ensuring that our creation has a chance to be seen and appreciated. Once upon a time, good writing was the golden ticket for a writer. Today, social media has taken on that role with unparalleled reach and immediacy. While humility is an admirable trait, excessive shyness can hinder the reach of our work. Imagine a painter hiding their masterpiece in an attic or a singer performing

only in an empty room. Writing, like any art, is meant for sharing. When we shy away from showcasing our creations, we deny our craft the audience it deserves. We owe it to ourselves and our readers to overcome this reluctance and step forward. By sharing our work, we're saying, "Thank you for this talent. Here is what I've made of it." It's not about vanity; it's about paying homage to the

is saturated. Thousands of creative force within us. Writing can often feel like a solitary pursuit, but it doesn't have to be. Social media ketplace. Amid this din, how offers us a unique opportunican anyone possibly stumble ty to find our tribe — fellow upon a book unless it's writers, readers, and supporters who understand and appreciate our journey. These connections not only amplify our reach but also provide encouragement, feedback, and camaraderie that enrich our creative process.

There's a lingering misconception that marketing diminishes the purity of art. But let's reframe this: promoting our work is not about shouting louder than everyone else; it's about ensuring that our voice is heard. It's about creating a bridge between us and our readers, a pathway for our stories to travel and touch lives. it's an act of service — to our art and to those it might inspire. So let us set aside our hesitations and embrace the stage that the digital age has offered us. In doing so, we ensure that our words, our art, and our essence leave a lasting impact on the world.

(The author is a columnist and writing coach based in Dubai; views are personal)

ENSURE MINORITY SAFETY

Madam — The fresh row of violence against the Hindu minorities once again began in Bangladesh, leading to an escalation of disturbance between Indo-Bangladesh relations. In an immediate response, the government of India has slammed the interim government run by Muhammad Yunus for not taking any action against Bangladeshi miscreants. The arrest and denial of bail by the Chittagong court to the Hindu monk and ISKCON priest Chinmoy Krishan Das has raised deep concerns about the safety and security of the Hindus in Bangladesh.

The noted incidences of violence, arson, vandalism and desecration of the Hindu religious sites have stressed the whole matter. It is particularly disturbing to note that Hindus are not at all safe in Bangladesh, and the majority population there is not only opposing the minority but also nurturing anti-India feelings as a whole. So far, the anti-India sentiments are taking a sharp steep in many other countries in the last few days. First Canada took a stir against India by attacking Hindu temples and now Bangladesh is the new member in this chain. The democratic spirit had been killing down, and it is regrettable that Hindus are being targeted with brutality and animosity in both Canada as well as Bangladesh. The government of Bangladesh must immediately step in to halt such violence against the Hindu minority. Every religion must be respected and equally treated with the values of the democratic spirit. Bangladesh must not forget that it was these Hindus only who fought hard for their liberation and freedom; any attack on the Hindu population residing in Bangladesh will be considered as an attack on their liberators.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

INDIA'S GDP GROWTH DIPS

Madam— India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth slumped to a seven-quarter low of 5.4 per cent in July-September, coming in much lower than the consensus estimates of 6.5 per cent. A "slug-

Suspense over Mahrashtra CM



the delayed swearing-in of the Chief Minister in Maharashtra despite the thumping majority of Mahayuti is a cause of concern and raises very fundamental issues relating to government formation post-election. The highly ambitious leaders of political parties, though in the minority in the alliance, voted to power, stake claims on the Chief Minister post against demo-

gish growth" in manufacturing and mining, along with a continued slow pace of government expenditure and weak private consumption, weighed on the economic growth, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
The country's GDP growth was 6.7 per cent

in the April-June quarter and 8.1 per cent in the year-ago period. The weaker-thanexpected GDP growth raises concerns about the sustainability of economic recovery, particularly as key sectors like manufacturing and mining face challenges. Manufacturing growth decelerated significantly to 2.2 per cent, compared to 14.3 per cent in the same quarter last year and per cent in the previous quarter. The electricity segment slowed to 3.3 per cent from 10.5 per cent year-on-year and 10.4 per cent sequentially. Financial, real estate, and professional services grew by 6.7 per cent, a slight improvement from 6.2 per cent a year earlier but below the 7.1 per cent recorded in the previous quarter. Public administration and other services, which include government spending, grew by 9.2 per cent, up from 7.7 per cent last year but

cratic norms or turn to browbeating. The leader of the largest alliance partner ought to be sworn in as CM, but compromise is the new normal in the constitution of the ministries. Though this is not new, it is yet an unhealthy practice detrimental to the alliance in a larger perspective.

Bihar CM Nitish Kumar having taken over as CM seven times on the same pattern in diagonally opposite RJD and BJP alliances is the stark example of how democracy runs at the root level. People give decisive mandates for governance, yet bypassing it is against the will of the people. If so, what is the sanctity of Abraham Lincoln's democratic principle 'Government of the people, by the people, for the people'? **Vinod Johri** | Delhi

slightly lower than 9.5 per cent in Q1FY25.

C K Ramani | Chennai

RESTRICTING HARMFUL ONLINE CONTENT

Madam — Australia has passed a law restricting children's use of internet media. The Government of India is also moving in this direction, which is a welcome step. However, solely creating laws related to social media is not enough to fully protect children from its adverse effects.

Laws are necessary, but they alone are not sufficient. To keep children safe, the collective role of parents, teachers, and society is crucial. Children need to be educated about digital literacy, encouraged to practice responsible online behaviour, manage their screen time effectively, and focus on positive content. Additionally, social media companies must ensure their platforms are safe for children. A comprehensive approach is the only effective solution to this problem.

R K Jain | Barwani

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

www.dailypioneerloneer.com facebook.com/dailypioneerl@TheDailyPioneerlinstagram.com/dailypioneer/

FIRST COLUMN

LEARNING MUST GO ON

Learning opens the doors of possibilities, if it is stopped we are closing that door and impeding our own growth



earning is an essential and lifelong process. It is a cornerstone of human growth and evolution. However, beyond the mechanics of acquiring knowledge lies the nuanced art of learning - an approach that emphasises curiosity, creativity, adaptability and a passion for discovery.

Curiosity - the word says by itself is the fuel for lifelong learning. At its core, the art of learning involves more than the accumulation of facts and skills. It is a dynamic process that integrates intellectual, emotional and experiential dimensions. Learning becomes artful when it is purposeful, joyful and deeply connected to an individual's values and aspirations.

Unlike a rigid, standardised approach, the art of learning recognises that everyone has unique strengths, interests and ways of understanding the world. It encourages learners to embrace their individuality, explore diverse perspectives and find meaning in the learning process for knowledge doesn't only come from formal education or reading books rather it comes from life, conversations, experiences and unexpected encounters.

Individuals should stay open to new perspectives, whether from different cultures, professions or age groups. A growth mindset, as popularised by Carol Dweck, is the belief that intelligence and abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work which contrasts with a fixed mindset that assumes that the abilities are sta-

With a growth mindset, setbacks are often seen as learning opportunities rather than failures while challenges are embraced as part



of the learning process. No matter now much one knows, there's always room to grow. Staying humble, and being open to feedback, criticism and constructive input from others can help an individual improve and refine their understanding. Another important factor that enhances the art of learning is the art of passion. Learners who pursue subjects that resonate with their interests, enter a state of flow, where effort feels effortless, and the process becomes intrinsically rewarding.

Passion sustains motivation and fosters deeper engagement, leading to mastery. Surrounding oneself with like-minded individuals who prioritise learning, engaging in discussions, attending workshops or collaborating on projects challenges an individual to learn

There is no denying that the most brilliant minds ask questions that others may take for granted. One must cultivate a habit of asking 'Why' and 'How' and not just about abstract ideas but in everyday situations too for these questions push the boundaries of one's thinking and can lead to deeper insights. It is always when one embraces learning as a lifelong practice, that can one open oneself to a world of possibilities, ideas and opportunities for personal as well as professional transformation.

Understanding learning as art transforms it from a mundane task into a profound journey of self-exploration and mastery for developing a passion for learning that will never cease to grow.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Freebies: A winning strategy or economic pitfall?



UTTAM GUPTA

The growing trend of offering freebies in elections raises significant concerns about financial sustainability, governance and its impact on voters' mindset

major factor contributing to the success of the respective political party in the just concluded elections Maharashtra and Jharkhand was freebies - an acronym for "something given free of charge" – particularly those targeted at women. In Maharashtra, the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance launched the Ladki Bahin cash benefit scheme that offered Rs 1,500 a month to every woman with a family income of less than Rs 2,50,000 annually, in the age bracket of 21

The amount was subsequently increased to Rs 2,500 per month. In Jharkhand, under Mukhyamantri Maiyan Samman Yojna (MMSY) Hemant Soren's JMM-Congress-RJD government had initially promised to give Rs 1000 per month to all women in the age group 18-25 years. The amount was later increased to Rs 2500 per month.

The domineering role of freebies in winning elections is visible in almost every State Assembly election held since 2020 when former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal came up with his brand of politics followed by Punjab in 2022 where the Aam Aadmi Party or AAP promised depositing Rs 1000 per month in the account of every woman aged 18 or above. In Karnataka elections held in early 2023, Congress had promised five guarantees including the much trumpeted Gruha Lakshmi under which every woman head of a house gets Rs 2000 a month. In elections held later in 2023, in Madhya Pradesh, BJP promised Rs 1,250 per month under Ladli Behna Yojana; the amount to be gradually hiked to Rs 3,000 per month. In Chhattisgarh, it promised Rs 12,000 per year to married women under the 'Mahtari Vandan

In Odisha, under the Subhadra Yojana, the BJP gives eligible women Rs 10,000 per year, in two instalments of Rs 5,000 each. In future elections, expect all parties to offer such freebies. Already, in the budget for 2024-25, Delhi finance minister Atishi announced the Mukhyamantri Mahila Samman Yojana (MMSY) under which, the AAP government will give Rs 1000 per month to all the women above the age of 18 in the national capital. Now Arvind Kejriwal has announced six Revdis (another name for freebies) includ-WOMEN RS 10,000 ing free power, free water, free education, free healthcare and pilgrimage for the PER YEAR, IN TWO elderly. Freebies win elections but these lead to a host of negative outcomes. The most damaging is the abetment to corrup-

The Union Government's standards of financial propriety lay down inter alia that "no authority shall exercise its powers of sanctioning expenditure to pass an order which will be directly or indirectly, to its advantage; and the expenditure from public moneys should not be incurred for the benefit of a particular person or a section of the people unless a claim for the amount could be enforced in a court of law or the expenditure is in pursuance of a recognised policy or custom". The reckless spending of the taxpayer's money on freebies is neither a recognised policy nor is sanctioned in a court of law. It is blatant financial irregularity that amounts to bribing voters using public money solely for gaining advantage in

electoral politics. Such a corrupt practice

is much worse than the one that involves



IN ODISHA, UNDER THE **SUBHADRA** GIVES ELIGIBLE

INSTALMENTS OF RS 5,000 EACH. IN ELECTIONS, **EXPECT ALL** PARTIES TO OFFER

an individual candidate distributing cash using his own money to garner votes. Second, unlike 'normal' budget expenses which are planned and backed by wellorchestrated efforts to garner revenue, additional financial liabilities imposed by the freebies promised in the election mani-festo affect the budgetary position of the State in a totally 'uncontrolled' and 'unplanned' manner. There being no corresponding revenue generation against this liability (this being unplanned), this will be at the cost of slashing YOJANA', THE BJP other essential expenditures including development

Alternatively, this will result in additional borrowings and the resultant increase in debt to an unsustainable level. In Punjab, the freebies promised by AAP led to an additional expenditure of about Rs 20,000 crore per annum. Unable to foot the bill from its FUTURE budget, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had to approach the Central government to help it raise around Rs 50,000 crore. In Delhi, giving Rs 1000 per month or Rs 12,000 annually to each woman above 18 years for a total SUCH FREEBIES of 6.7 million women would cost the exchequer Rs 8000 crore per

Already, the State government faces a fiscal deficit or FD - excess of total expenditure over total revenue - of Rs 18,000 crore during 2024-25 which is 80 per cent higher than the FD for 2023-24 at Rs 10,000 crore. This is despite a steep reduction of over 30 per cent in capital expenditure. The situation has come to

recently forwarded a request to the Centre seeking a loan of Rs 10,000 crore from the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF). In Karnataka, the five guarantees have punched a hole of over Rs 60,000 crore a year in the State budget leading to a doubling of its FD to over Rs 122,500 crore. The precariousness of the situation can be seen from a comment by the Deputy CM 'The government has no money to give to the MLAs for carrying out development work; courtesy the poll guarantees'.

MP at the current rate of 1250 per month to 12.5 million beneficiaries, the Ladli Behna Yojana costs the state exchequer about Rs 18,750 crore per annum. This will go up to Rs 45,000 crore per annum as the quantum of assistance eventually goes up to Rs 3,000 per month. In Maharashtra, the Ladki Bahin Scheme will dent the State exchequer by Rs 46,000 crore annual-

Óther states Jharkhand, Odisha etc are also feeling the pricks of promised freebies. Third, unlike a normal welfare scheme which has a sunset date, the freebies offered by winning parties have none. So, these will continue to be given 'eternally' - no matter which party rules - making perpetual holes in State budgets. Fourth, the money for freebies

comes from taxpayers' pockets ('future' tax payers in case, the government borrows). When they know that taxes are used to give doles to all and sundry, it

such a pass that CM Atishi has may even trigger non-compliance amongst them.

Finally, assured of financial help to meet most of their basic needs 'perpetually', the freebies cult is changing the mindset of people in a way that makes them complacent towards work. This undermines the very foundation of economic growth.

Left to themselves, political parties will never shun freebies. Can the Supreme Court (SC) force them?

In an order in S Subramaniam Balaji vs the Government of Tamil Nadu & Ors in July 2013, the SC had observed that the distribution of freebies of any kind influences all people. "It shakes the root of free and fair elections to a large degree." Yet, it held "The promises in the election manifesto cannot be construed as 'corrupt practice' under the Representation of People Act (RPA), or any other prevailing law and, hence, distribution of freebies can't be stopped when the ruling party uses public funds for this purpose through the passage of Appropriation Acts in the state Assembly".

The SC hasn't changed its stance even as on January 25, 2022, hearing a PIL on 'freebies', it observed "This is no doubt a serious issue, budget for freebies is going above the regular Budget. This disturbs the level playing field". These exhortations won't help. It should direct the government to enact a law on curbing freebies.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views expressed are personal)

Political stability: A catalyst for India's renewable energy ambitions

India is poised to play a pivotal role in the global transition to sustainable energy but it must have political will to sustain the momentum

omestic political stability or lack of it can have a considerable impact on the development of renewable energy projects and investment in the sector. A stable government is always considered as a growth enabler whereas an unstable political landscape can derail the growth engine. With political stability, India now India forges ahead towards ambitious renewable energy ambitions. Recently, the issues surrounding climate financing and global emissions were once again at the forefront of the 29th Conference of Parties (COP29) in Baku.

The Indian government was in a strong position to challenge developed nations on climate change, carbon emissions, and green energy investment



because of political stability and notable advancements in renewable energy generation. For any nation, socio-economic development depends on political stability which plays a role of catalyst. Especially for developing countries like India, where renewable energy projects demand huge investments, a stable government is much installed solar capacity stands at only 90.76 GW, and wind demand huge investments, a

needed. Political stability provides the long-term vision and policy continuity needed for large-scale renewable projects with long gestation periods. Political stability provides consistent policy and regulatory frameworks that favour and incentivize both domestic and international stakeholders to invest without fear of abrupt policy changes.

. With a decadal political stability and policy push, India has made significant progress and achieved a milestone of 200 gigawatts (GW) in non-fossil fuel capacity. However, it still faces gaps to meet the ambitious targets it has set for 2030: 319 GW in solar power and 110 GW in wind energy. As of October 2024, India's capacity at 47.36 GW, highlighting a gap of over 200 GW that must be addressed within the next six years. Meeting these targets requires political stability to ensure consistent policies, reliable financing, and sustained foreign investments to fuel India's renewable

Since the Modi government took office in 2014, India introduced ambitious targets and policies aimed at expanding renewable energy capacity. Key initiatives include the National Solar Mission, which set the stage for India's solar capacity expansion, and the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM), promoting solar energy adoption in rural areas. The Production Linked Incentive



domestic manufacturing of solar panels and batteries, reducing reliance on imports and creating jobs.

Additionally, the government's commitment to phasing down coal and setting a target of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 reflects a strategic shift towards a sustainable energy mix, reinforcing investor confidence and

cementing India's role in the global renewable energy transition.Investors' confidence is the key. A stable government can attract foreign investments by creating a transparent, reliable business environment with minimal bureaucratic red tape. In contrast, political instability or uncertainty can lead to a fluctuating exchange rate, deter foreign direct investment (FDI), and increase pro-

ject costs. India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and renewable energy targets could be delayed if there are abrupt shifts in political agendas. Delays or changes in policy can lead to project uncertainty, forcing investors to reassess risks and potentially redirect funds to more stable markets. Indian states' thrust on renewable energy needs to be in sync with the Centre's policies and priorities. States with stable governments and favourable renewable policies attract more investments, while politically volatile states face challenges in attracting projects due to higher risks. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra are leading

states in the Renewable Energy sector and these states made significant progress with policy consistency.
With political stability at

national and state levels, India is expected to close the gap in its renewable energy targets soon and contribute meaningfully to global climate goals. Against the backdrop of the COP29 meeting and with political stability, further policy reforms and a robust regulatory framework would push both domestic and foreign investments in the sector. Hopefully, the country is all set to achieve its renewable energy ambitions and contribute to the global effort against climate change.

(The writer is director SgurrEnergy India; views are

Didi Govt Minister Siddiqullah preaches 'Hum Do Humare Chaar'

SAUGAR SENGUPTA KOLKATA

The Bengal BJP leadership has slammed the has slammed the Trinamool Congress leadership for "encouraging" com-munal mindset within the party after a senior TMC leader Bengal Minister Siddiqullah Chowdhury publicly advocated procreation of more children to achieve numerical preeminence. Sharing a snippet from an

alleged public statement made Chowdhury Bengal Opposition Leader Suvendu Adhikari said what the Minister was doing was a kind of "population jihad" with a hidden agenda to numerically upset the demographic pattern of Bengal.

Wondering how the TMC leadership and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee could look right through such audacious remarks Adhikari said, "these are alarm bells for the people of Bengal ... are these people



trying to create a Bangladesh like situation here in this part of the border? ... Was this man giving a camouflaged hint to a particular community to increase their population ... in the name of overtaking China's

Unfortunately, all these communal statements came from a senior Minister of the Mamata Banerjee's Cabinet and asking a particular section of people to have more children ... That too

within a close distance of State Assembly," he said adding how a steady influx of the Rohingyas from Bangladesh had jacked up the minority population to 35

Chowdhury the Minister in charge of the Department of Mass Education Extension and Library Services was reportedly seen telling people that if the people wanted to match the prowess of China then they should adopt a policy of Hum

dren per couple). Incidentally the Government of India had for decades been pursuing the policy of two-child norm through a popular coinage that reads "hum do humare do (Two children per couple)." Chowdhury reportedly said,

"If we want to fight China, then, we will need to have a similar population," apparently oblivious of the fact that India had already outnumbered China. Adhikari also appealed to the Narendra Modi Government to implement a nationwide bill to control population "before it is too late Later Adhikari wrote on the X

"it's my humble plea to the Central Government, that it's high time to get the Population Control Bill passed as the enactment is necessary to halt the rising population growth and put brakes on the demographic changes, which are posing challenges to the goal of Vikshit Bharat."

Youth returns to Kolkata hurt, looted, snubbed by cops

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

An Indian youth from Kolkata who had recently visited a friend in Bangladesh returned from that country with a visible scar of communal carnage on his face even as a fundamentalist mob caught hold of him on the streets of Dhaka and after extracting his identity (a Hindu from Kolkata) thrashed and badly injured him.

The law enforcers also would not help one bit --- "misleading and misguiding" him from one police station to the other for registering an FIR until a group of local politicians accompanied by some lawyers surfaced to advice him against such actions considering what might happen to the family members of his friends once he had gone back to India.

The incident took place in the midst of ongoing Islamist onslaught on religious minorities in Bangladesh.

'I was visiting a friend ... when I was accosted on the street by some people who took me aside ... wanted to

other side started asking me all know my name and religion ... when I told them that I was an kinds of awkward questions as Indian and a Hindu ... they to why I had come to started beating me up ... they Bangladesh and who my friend slashed me with a knife on the was and my other credentials instead of helping me out ... then I went to a local private my face and then hit me with bricks on my head ... I had given up home to live and hospital ... but they would not return home ... then they treat me ... they made me run snatched my money and from one hospital to the other mobile phone," Sayan Ghosh . finally I was given some first from Belgharia I the northern aid at Dhaka Medical College fringes of Kolkata said. after much request," he said. "When I approached the police

His woes did not end there. "When I dialed the given 999 number the people on the

gone to India they would harass the family members of my friend," Ghosh who still looked traumatized said. Rina Saha (name changed) another woman from Faridpur whose husband is

from India and who has been visiting her parents' place returned in a hurry as "my father asked me to do so as the situation is deteriorating in Dhaka and nearby areas ... though Faridpur has gone incident free till now.' Meanwhile, nine more sadhus

another some local politicians

along with some lawyers sur-

faced from nowhere advising me against lodging a police

complaint saying that after I am

of International Society of Krishna Consciousness who were trying to enter India from Benapole border were prevented from doing so by the Bangladesh border guards, sources said adding 63 ISKCON monks had been prevented to come to India in the past two days by the Bangladesh authorities.

Judicial Commission investigates Sambhal violence over Jama Masjid survey

BISWAJEET BANERJEE

Athree-member judicial commission investigating the violence that erupted during the survey of Jama Masjid on November 24 visited the

affected areas on Sunday. One of the members of the commission, former DGP A.K. Jain, said Commission conducted an extensive inspection of the Jama Masjid and nearby areas where clashes and stonepelting occurred.

The violence had resulted in the deaths of five people and injuries to 19 police personnel. crowd near the mosque

The judicial commission has been tasked with uncovering the root causes of the incident, and Jain confirmed that the probe will continue for the next two months. "The investigation will delve deeply into all aspects of the violence to ensure justice," Jain stated. The commission began its inspection at Jama Masjid, where it examined the premises, both inside and outside, for about three minutes.

Superintendent of Police

Krishna Vishnoi briefed the

team, explaining that a dispute

over the court-ordered survey

spiraled into chaos, with a



resorting to stone-pelting. The situation escalated, leading to widespread unrest.

During the violence, several vehicles were set ablaze, and police personnel came under attack. The commission closely examined the mosque's interior and identified key locations associated with the unrest. The team also interacted with local residents and shopkeepers, who recounted how they were forced to shut their establishments and flee during the clashes.

After inspecting Jama Masjid, the commission moved to Nakhasa Chauraha, another

studied the area and gathered inputs from officials about the events of the day. SP Vishnoi briefed the commission about the origins of the stone-pelting, identifying specific homes from where stones were allegedly hurled, and detailed the administration's efforts to bring the situation under control

to register an FIR ... they

would take it ... as I went about

The judicial commission has been directed to submit its findings within two months. On Saturday, the commission members met with senior officials, including Moradabad Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar Singh, DIG Muniraj G., and SSP Satpal Antil, at the

Moradabad Circuit House. The officials provided a detailed account of the incident.

The violence has stirred significant political controversy, with opposition parties, including the Congress and Samajwadi Party, raising the issue vocally. The matter also triggered uproar in Parliament, adding to the pressure on authorities to ensure a transparent and thorough investigation.

The commission's findings are expected to play a crucial role in addressing public concerns and restoring communal

FIR against man in Maha who claimed he could hack EVMs



T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Taking serious cognisance of claims by self-proclaimed cyber expert Syed Shuja that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) can be hacked and tampered with, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Maharashtra, has lodged a complaint with the Mumbai Cyber Police against Shuja.

Acting on the complaint by CEO, Maharashtra, the Mumbai Cyber Police have launched investigations into the claims by Shuja, who is reportedly hiding in a foreign

country,
The development should be seen in the context of the fact that the Opposition parties have gone town, alleging the possibility of manipulation of EVMs and demanding a ban on the EVM machines in the country in the wake of expected outcome in the recent Maharashtra Assembly polls in which the BJP-led MahaYuti returned to power with a thumping majority.

The CEO's action came after some social media users shared a video in which the man is heard claiming that he could hack and tamper with EVMs in the Maharashtra elections by isolating the machine's frequency - a task that he would undertake for monetary considerations

In a post shared on micro-blogging site "X", the CEO said: "A video was shared by some social media users where a person is making false, baseless and unsubstantiated claims to hack and tamper with EVMs in Maharashtra by isolation of EVM frequency".
On its part, the Election

Commission of India (ECI) has reposted the clarification put out by the CEO, Maharashtra. In its clarification, the CEO, Maharashtra stated: "The Mumbai Cyber Police registered FIR No.0146/2024 at Cyber Police Station, Dakshin, Mumbai on 30 November night against the person in the video after receiving a complaint from Maharashtra.An offence is lodged as per 318/4 of Bharatiya Nyay Samhita (BNS). 2023 as well as under Clause 43 (g) and Clause 66 (d) of Information Technology Act,

"EVMs are tamperproof... EVM is a standalone machine that cannot be connected to any network including any Wi-Fi or any Bluetooth by any person whatsoever. Therefore, the question of manipulating ÉVMs does not arise. ÉVMs are completely tamper-proof," the

Shiv Sena (UBT) flags delay in Govt formation, roots for President's rule in Maharashtra

T N RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Amid considerable delay over the formation of a new government in Maharashtra, the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) on Sunday rooted for imposition of the President's

The term of the previous Maharashtra Legislative Assembly ended on November 27. It was on that day that Eknath Shinde resigned as the Chief Minister, following which Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan appointed Shinde as the caretaker chief

Upping the ante over the inordinate delay in the formation of new government in Maharashtra, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray and party's chief spokesperson Sanjay Raut said that the Governor should recommend President's Rule

"It has been 10 days since the MahaYuti got a huge majority in the State Assembly. The BJP itself has a majority, but it has not formed a government yet... What is happening? State BJP President Chandrashekar Bawankule announced that on December 5, the oath-taking ceremony will take place. Is he



the Governor?... The was wrong as per the Governor should propose the President's rule here," Raut

Talking to media persons, Raut said: "In Maharashtra, such a government was in power that



Constitution, with the support of the Supreme Court. Former Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Chandrachud is responsible for this". Taking to micro-blogging site "X", Aaditya wrote: "Presidential rule? Shouldn't it have been in place by now? Wouldn't it have been, had the opposition had the numbers, with a decision pending?" "To not be able to decide on a

CM, and form government, for more than a week after the to Maharashtra (for taking our state so lightly) but also to the assistance provided by their dearest Election Commission," Aaditya said.

"It seems that rules only apply to the opposition parties, while rules don't for some special ones. To declare the swearing in date, unilaterally, without

even staking a claim to form government and show numbers to the Governor, is pure anarchy," Aaditya wrote. "And in all this, the caretaker

CM is on a mini vacation, as per the phase of the moon, as we've regularly observed earlier too. In the meanwhile, Mahara ority for those who could form a government. They're enjoying their Delhi trips," Aaditya added, referring to the meeting that Shinde, former deputy chief ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar had with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda a few days back.

Govt headed by Omar to complete 50 days soon in J and K, MHA yet to finalise 'Business Rules'

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The newly elected government headed by Omar Abdullah will complete 50 days in office this week, but the Ministry of Home Affairs is yet to finalize the 'Business Rules'. The 'Business Rules' had become mandatory as Jammu and Kashmir switched over from the State to the Union Territory after over six years of Central rule.

Highly placed sources in the civil secretariat revealed the ball is in the court of the Union Home Ministry as the Union Territory administration has already submitted the draft of the Business Rules after holding several rounds of consultations with the different stakeholders. The UT administration is eagerly awaiting the formal nod of the Union Home Ministry in this regard. Omar Abdullah, who was away on a pilgrimage, is expected to take



up the matter with the Union Home Ministry soon to expedite the formalization of the Business Rules.

The UT administration has to set into motion the preparations for the much-awaited budget session of the Assembly and kickstart the discussions on the draft budget proposals. In the absence of these 'Business Rules' several important issues that need immedi-

ate attention of the popular

government have been kept in

abeyance.

These rules will appropriately define the powers of the office of Chief Minister, members of the council of ministers, administrative secretaries, and others at the helm of affairs under the new dispensation. The members of the Council

of Ministers in their public utterances have been repeatedly giving assurances to the common masses and different stakeholders but in reality, they are themselves at the receiving end in the absence of Business

Interestingly, the political opponents have also started targeting the ruling dispensation as several major decisions are pending for want of clarity on the business rules.

Previously, the Union Home Ministry had clearly defined the powers of the Lieutenant Governor and also amended the Business Rules before the formation of the popular government.

Similarly, the Business Rules of the J&K Legislative Assembly are yet to be framed.

Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather is expected to head the Committee to frame the Rules for the House. There has been a provision in the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act that the Assembly can run as per the rules existing in erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir till new rules are

Waqf asked to...

The sources said the Parliamentary Panel has decided to get an update on the points made by the Sachar Committee on the Waqf properties that are allegedly in unauthorised of occupation state governments or their official agencies. The Sachar Committee was informed by various State Waqf Boards during 2005-06 about the unauthorised alleged

occupation. Parliamentary Panel has been collecting information from states through the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. Sources said the Panel headed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) Jagdambika Pal has noted that there were 316 such properties in Delhi, 60 in Rajasthan and 42 in Karnataka reported to the Sachar committee in 2005-06. While 53 of them were in Madhya Pradesh, 60 were in Uttar Pradesh and 53 in Odisha.

The Committee has sought updates from all these six States, the sources said, adding that the panel has got information from several other states. "The Chief Ministers of the above States may kindly investigate in detail into the veracity of this information in the Sachar Committee Report... And update this Committee in detail," a source said, citing the communication.

State Governments have also been urged to share details of of the panel's meetings.

the cases where their agencies are involved in a legal dispute with Waqf Boards over ownership or possession of any property, with the panel noting that the Sachar Committee had stated its list was not exhaustive. The UPA government constituted the Sachar Committee in 2005 to study the social, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India. It submitted its report in 2006 highlighting the poor status of Muslims on all these indicators as it recommended a host of measures.

The Lok Sabha had, on November 28, adopted a resolution to extend the tenure of the Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, till the last day of the Budget session of Parliament next year. The Parliamentary meetings have become a political battleground, with the ruling opposition members vociferously debating the changes proposed by the Government. Opposition members had

been calling for extending its tenure, which was to end on November 29, and the Committee took unanimous decision to seek more time despite Pal's earlier assertion that he was ready with the draft report. He has asserted that he has accommodated the views of every opposition member, rejecting their allegation of "bulldozing" the proceedings

MAHABHARAT BEGINS IN MAHARASHTRA

From page 1

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray claimed the Mahayuti's inability to decide on a chief minister and form government more than a

Thackeray also sought to know why the President's rule has not yet been enforced in

the State. Targeting the BJP, which is the largest constituent of the Mahayuti, Thackeray claimed that to declare the swearingweek after the announcement in date unilaterally without of assembly poll results was even staking claim to form an "insult" to Maharashtra. government is "pure anarchy".

AAP and Congress turn arch rivals... From page 1

"In the Lok Sabha Elections, their relation was "Hum saath saath hain (we are together)". Today, that relation has changed to "Hum aapke hain kaun (who am I to you?)".

obsession for Modi," BJP

There is no mission or vision in the INDIA Bloc, they only have a thirst for position and

national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said." They fight in the states and show unity in Delhi. This is the same situation of

the INDIA bloc everywhere, but they show friendship in Delhi. They have a system of friendship with benefits," he added. The internal assessment of the

Congress suggests a potential

threefold increase in its vote share-from around 5% in the 2020 Assembly elections to more than 15% in the upcoming elections. Of the 63 seats the AAP won in the last Assembly elections, 49 were secured with more than 50% of the votes, leaving only 14 seats where the victory margin was less than 50%. Even among these 14 seats,

the party won 9 with more than 49% of the votes. After the early selection of candidates by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for 11 Assembly seats in Delhi, party chief Arvind Kejriwal is reportedly working in full swing to retain at least 50 constituencies in the 70-seat Assembly. In 2020, the party swept the elections,

winning 63 seats.

Toll rises to 130 in Pak After Aleppo, Syrian insurgents sectarian violence

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

≺he death toll from sectarian violence in Pakistan's restive Khvber Pakhtunkhwa province surged to 130, with at least six people killed and eight injured on Sunday, as clashes in the volatile Kurram district continued for the eleventh consecutive day.

The clashes between Alizai and Bagan tribes in the district started on November 22, after an attack on a convoy of passenger vans near Parachinar in which 47 people were killed a day earlier. Several passengers who had sustained grave injuries succumbed later, raising the toll in the convoy killing to 57.

Police said the situation remained tense, and violence persists despite a recent ceasefire agreement between the Sunni and Shia groups.

 $T^{\text{he Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf}}_{\text{party's deputy leader, Shah}}$

Mahmood Qureshi, has advo-

cated for national reconciliation

and national consensus to

achieve political stability in the cash-strapped country amid tensions between his

PTI ■ LAHORE

to 130, while the total number of injured rose to 186 after eight fresh injuries were reported. The 10-day truce brokered last week has been rendered ineffective by intermittent vio-lence, which shows no signs of abating.
A high-powered delegation,

including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Secretary Khyber Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry and IGP Akhtar Hayat Gandapur, had also negotiated a ceasefire last weekend, but violence resumed shortly afterwards. Pakhtunkhwa Khvber Governor Faisal Karim Kundi

earlier planned to dispatch members of the grand peace jirga (council of tribal leaders) from Kohat division to Kurram for engaging with leaders from both warring factions to negotiate peace.

Addressing a gathering of political leaders and tribal elders in The six new deaths reported on Kohat on Sunday, he called for

was re-arrested in December

Talking to the media after his

appearance in an anti-terrorism

court in Lahore on Saturday,

Qureshi hoped that politically astute people in all parties

would play a role in a national dialogue since a ban on his

2023 in another case.

Former foreign minister Qureshi calls

for national reconciliation in Pakistan

Sunday brought the death toll strict action with public cooperation to make the region weapon-free through joint operations.

He said he was ready to go to Kurram and stay there for as many days as the jirga suggested to ensure peace in the region. "No other country or province will resolve our issues. We must take responsibility for improving the situation ourselves," he said.

Kundi announced an All-Parties Conference (APC) for peace and the province's rights and invited Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur to join it. The governor stressed the role of religious scholars in promot-

ing peace, urging them to focus on unity. Several other leaders addressed the gathering, putting aside their ideological differences

on other issues. The continued violence forced the closure of the main Peshawar-Parachinar Road for travel, and commuting at the Pak-Afghan Kharlachi border has also been suspended.

The closure of the main arteries has created a scarcity of oil, food commodities and medicines in the region.

The Kurram region is also experiencing a communication blackout, with mobile and internet services suspended and educational institutions closed.

Police and other security forces

personnel had been deployed in various parts of Lower Kurram, said Deputy Commissioner Javed Ullah Mehsud, adding that all-out efforts will be made for a truce in other areas today as well. "We are hopeful for progress on

a ceasefire and reopening of transport routes," he stated. Previous efforts to mediate peace, including a seven-day truce brokered by provincial officials in November have

advance to nearby province

Thousands of Syrian insur-L gents took over most of Aleppo on Saturday, establishing positions in the country's largest city and controlling its airport before expanding their shock offensive to a nearby province. They faced little to no resistance from government troops, according to fighters and activists.

A war monitor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said the insurgents led by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham seized control of Aleppo International airport, the first international airport to be controlled by insurgents. The fighters claimed they seized the airport and posted pictures from there. Thousands of fighters also moved on, facing almost no opposition from government forces, to seize towns and villages in northern Hama, a province where they had a presence before being expelled by government troops in 2016. They claimed Saturday evening to have entered the city of Hama.

A huge embarrassment for **Assad:** The swift and surprise offensive is a huge embarrass-ment for Syria's President Bashar Assad and raises questions about his armed forces' preparedness. The insurgent offensive launched from their stronghold in the country's northwest appeared to have been planned for years. It also comes at a time when Assad's allies were preoccupied with their own conflicts.

In his first public comments since the start of the offensive, released by the state news agency Saturday evening, Assad said Syria will continue to "defend its stability and territorial integrity against terrorists and their supporters." He added that Syria is able to defeat them no matter how much their attacks intensify.

Turkey, a main backer of Syrian opposition groups, said its diplomatic efforts had failed to stop government attacks on opposition-held areas in recent weeks, which were in violation of a de-escalation agreement sponsored by Russia, Iran and Ankara. Turkish security officials said a limited offensive by the rebels was planned to stop government attacks and allow civilians to return, but the offensive expanded as Syrian government forces began to retreat from their positions.

Salafi jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and including Turkey-backed fighters, launched their shock offensive on Wednesday. They first staged a two-pronged attack in Aleppo and the Idlib countryside, entering Aleppo two days later and securing a strategic town that lies on the highway that links Syria's largest city to the capital and

By Saturday evening, they seized at least four towns in the central Hama province and claimed to have entered the provincial capital. The insurgents staged an attempt to reclaim areas they controlled in Hama in 2017 but failed.

the coast.

The insurgents, led by the itary campaign in which Assad's forces were backed by Russia, Iran and its allied

> The 2016 battle for Aleppo was a turning point in the war between Syrian government forces and rebel fighters after 2011 protests against Assad's rule turned into an all-out war. After appearing to be losing control of the country to the rebels, the Aleppo battle secured Assad's hold on strategic areas of Syria, with opposition factions and their foreign backers controlling areas on the periphery.

The lightning offensive threatened to reignite the country's civil war, which had been largeLebanon's Hezbollah, which has backed Syrian government forces since 2015, have been preoccupied with their own battles at home. A ceasefire in Hezbollah's two-month war with Israel took effect Wednesday, the same day that Syrian opposition factions announced their offensive. Israel has also escalated its attacks against Hezbollah and Iran-linked targets in Syria during the last 70 days. Insurgents raise flags over the Aleppo citadel

Speaking from the heart of the city in Saadallah Aljabri square, opposition fighter Mohammad Al Abdo said it was his first time back in Aleppo in 13



Syrian opposition fighters stand atop a captured Syrian army tank in the town of Maarat al-Numan, southwest from Aleppo, Syria. Thousands of Syrian insurgents have fanned out inside Syria's largest city Aleppo a day after storming it with little resistance from government troops.

Preparing a counterattack: Syria's armed forces said in a

statement Saturday that to absorb the large attack on Aleppo and save lives, it redeployed troops and equipment and was preparing a counter-attack. The statement acknowledged that insurgents entered large parts of the city but said they have not established bases or checkpoints. Later on Saturday, the armed forces sought to dispel what it said were lies in reference to reports about its forces retreating or defecting, saying the general command was carrying out its duties in "combatting terrorist organizations."

The return of the insurgents to Aleppo was their first since 2016, following a grueling milly in a stalemate for years. Late on Friday, witnesses said two airstrikes hit the edge of Aleppo city, targeting insurgent

reinforcements and falling near

residential areas. The Observatory said 20 fighters were killed. Insurgents were filmed outside police headquarters, in the city center, and outside the Aleppo citadel, the medieval palace in the old city center, and one of the largest in the world. They tore down posters of Assad, stepping on some and burning others. The push into Aleppo followed weeks of simmering low-level violence, including government attacks on opposi-

The offensive came as Iranlinked groups, primarily

tion-held areas.

years, when his older brother was killed at the start of the war. "God willing, the rest of Aleppo province will be liberated" from government forces, he said. There was light traffic in the city center on Saturday.

Opposition fighters fired in the air in celebration but there was no sign of clashes or government troops present. Journalists in the city filmed

soldiers captured by the insurgents and the bodies of others killed in battle. Abdulkafi Alhamdo, a teacher

who fled Aleppo in 2016 and returned Friday night after hearing the insurgents were inside, described "mixed feelings of pain, sadness and old

party and the ruling coalition. Qureshi, the two-time former party would only complicate the situation. foreign minister, also demand-The remarks by the vice chairman of PTI came amid reports ed a meeting with party ple that gave a "two-thirds majority" to his party. "I do hope that the politically savvy people in the PML-N will that the government had purfounder Imran Khan, who is lodged in Adiala Jail, so that he portedly been deliberating a could present his point of view towards national reconciliaban on the party and a gover-nor's rule in the PTI-run Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province tion and national consensus, following violent clashes in Dawn newspaper reported. Both Khan and Oureshi are Islamabad between security personnel and Imran Khan's currently detained in jail. Qureshi, 68, was arrested in supporters last week demandder," Qureshi said. August last year under the ing his release. Khan's party members crossed Official Secrets Act for violatbarricades and attempted to ing the secrecy of the official cable sent by the Pakistani reach high-security D-Chowk embassy in the US to the forin Islamabad, where a midnight eign office when he was the forcrackdown resulted in four eign minister. Pakistan's deaths and over 50 injuries. Supreme Court ordered his Qureshi cautioned that crush-

release from jail. However, he ing his party would not be in the interest of Pakistan and that the purported plan to impose the governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was sheer absur-

> He said political leadership had no idea about the consequences of such a decision. Oureshi said the federal government's consideration to impose the governor's rule in KP would be tantamount to desecrating the will of the peo-

oppose the idea of imposing the governor's rule and warn their leadership that it will be a political and historical blun-

Referring to the tab-ling of a resolution in the Punjab Assembly seeking to ban his party, Qureshi thanked President Asif Ali Zardari's Pakistan People's Party for opposing the resolution. He also thanked different political parties, including the JUI-F, the Iamaat-i-Islami, and the Balochistan National Party (BNP-Mengal) for opposing a similar resolution in the Balochistan Assembly. Qureshi reiterated that impos-

ing the governor's rule and proscribing PTI would hurt the federation.

"Can the government attain economic stability without political stability or achieve IMF (funding)," he asked while addressing Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb.

"You can attain stability through authoritarian rule but it will not be sustainable. You can get desired results through election engineering but will fail to get legitimacy," Qureshi cautioned the people at the helm of affairs.

Martin Raiser, the World Bank's Regional Vice-President for South Asia, recently said that Pakistan's economy is stuck in a low-growth trap with poor human development outcomes and increasing poverty.

NY City paying \$220m to Pak-owned hotel to house illegal immigrants

The City of New York pays USD220 million to rent a hotel owned by the Government of Pakistan to house illegal immigrants, a report claimed on Saturday. Vivek Ramaswamy described the purported revelation as "Nuts." "A taxpayer-funded hotel for illegal migrants is owned by the Pakistani government which means NYC taxpayers are effectively paying a foreign government to house illegals in our own country. This is nuts," Ramaswamy, a Republican, said in a social media post. Republican, said in a social media post.

Republican, said in a social media post.
Ramaswamy along with Tesla Owner Elon Musk have been tasked by President-elect Donald Trump to improve government efficiency and remove wasteful expenditure under a Department of Government Efficiency built for

the purpose. The Indian American let out his outburst after author John LeFevre reported about it on X. "The city of New York pays \$220 million to rent the entire Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan to house illegal migrants," he said. The Roosevelt Hotel is owned by Pakistan International Airlines, a Pakistani government-owned airline. "The hotel is owned by the government of Pakistan, and the deal was part of a \$1.1 billion IME bailout package to help Pakistan avoid

IMF bailout package to help Pakistan avoid defaulting on their international debt," LeFevre said. "Prior to this sweetheart deal, the hotel had been closed since 2020, having long-struggled with occupancy and in dire need of renovation,"

Ireland's incumbent parties likely to hang on to power

Ireland's two long-dominant centre-right parties looked likely to form a right parties looked likely to form a new government as results came in from a fractured national election, though with a reduced vote share and complex coalition negotiations ahead. As ballot-counting continued on Sunday, incumbent governing parties Fine Gael and Fianna Fail and left-of-centre opposition Sinn Fein were jostling to see which would win the most seats in the 174-seat Dail, the lower house of Ireland's parliament. Sinn Fein, which aims to reunify the Sinn Fein, which aims to reunify the Republic of Ireland with the UK territory of Northern Ireland, lacks a clear path to power because the other two parties say they won't work with it, party because of its historic ties with the Irish Republican Army during three decades of violence in Northern

Ireland. Outgoing Prime Minister Simon Harris Outgoing Prime Minister Simon Harris of Fine Gael, Fianna Fail leader Micheál Martin and Sinn Fein leader Mary Lou McDonald all won reelection to their parliamentary seats in results announced Saturday.

Ireland uses a complex system of proportional representation in which each

portional representation in which each of the country's 43 constituencies elects several lawmakers and voters rank candidates in order of preference. As a result, it can take days for full results to be known. 'The people of Ireland have now spo-

ken," Harris said. "We now have to work out exactly what they have said, and that is going to take a little bit of time."

Partial results from Friday's election showed electors spreading their votes widely among the big three, several smaller parties and an assortment of independent candidates, and any coalition will likely involve smaller parties or independents. The cost of living—especially Ireland's acute housing crisis—was a dominant topic in the threeweek campaign, alongside immigration, which has become an emotive and chalwhich has become an emotive and challenging issue in a country of 5.4 million people long defined by emigration. If early results are borne out, Ireland may buck the global trend of incumbents being ousted by disgruntled voters after years of pandemic, internationers after years of pandemic, international instability and cost-of-living pressures. The outgoing government was led by the two parties that have dominated Irish politics for the past century. Fine Gael and Fianna Fail have similar policies, but are longtime rivals with origins on opposing sides of Ireland's 1920s civil war. After the 2020 election ended in a virtual dead heat, they

42-meter-high candle which is an illuminated medieval tower shines in the historic city centre of Schlitz, Germany.

Plastic treaty talks draw to close with production limits still under debate

Negotiations on a treaty to end plastic pollution are drawing to a close Sunday as nations continue debating whether part of that should be putting limits on plastic production

AP ■ BUSAN (SOUTH KOREA)

Negotiators spent all of Saturday trying to reach agreement behind closed doors, but the latest draft of the treaty, released Sunday afternoon, leaves the question to be settled in open session. It includes multiple options for several

production — that includes a compromise that would set a target at a later conference and an option to drop the idea altogether. Every year, the world produces more than 400 million tons of new plastic. Plastic production could climb about 70 per cent by 2040 without

policy changes.

The draft's options also include possible language to ban some plastic products that are singleuse or contain toxic chemicals, as well as less stringent options. It would also require parties to multiple options for several key sections.
For the most contentious of those — the proposal to limit

The would also require parties to the treaty to improve the design of plastic products so they don't release microplastics and can be recycled.

Countries could adopt these provisions or make changes when they meet later Sunday. Delegates from some countries say the new draft is too weak. Sam Adu-Kumi, lead negotia-tor for Ghana, said the draft is full of voluntary measures that won't end plastic pollution but the world needs a treaty that imposes obligations on all par-

No treaty at all would be better than a weak one, Adu-Kumi added. Ghana's communities, bodies of water, drains and farmlands are choked with plastics, and dumping sites full of plastics are always on fire, he

"We are here for a legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution," he said in an interview. "So if we are here and we are getting a treaty that does not address the issues head on, then where are we heading then where are we heading towards? We are not getting anything that will solve the issue. We want a treaty that will be able to solve it. Otherwise we will go without it and come and fight another time." At a news conference earlier in the day, Panama and Fiji said that if other nations won't ioin

that if other nations won't join them in standing up for the ambition this treaty requires, they should "get out" of their

They were joined by representatives from Mexico, France, Rwanda and the European Union, who together said they would do everything possible in the final hours to push a treaty forward that will solve

the crisis.
"We are already doing waste management efforts back home," said Sivendra Michael, Fiji's secretary for the environment and climate change. "This treaty has to be bigger than all of us. We about eaving this plantreaty has to be bigger than all of us. It's about saving this planet. It's about saving humanity. And so that's why we are here, still having hope, pushing. And we will push right until the end, until the time we're supposed to leave Busan."

A growing number of countries said in Busan that they want to address the total amount of plastic produced on Earth. A senior member of the US delegation told The Associated Press on Saturday that the country supports having an article in the treaty that limits the world's supply of plastic. But for some plastic-producing and oil and gas countries, that crosses a red line. They want a treaty that focuses on better management of plastic waste and recycling. Currently, for any proposal to make it into the treaty, every nation must agree to it. India, Saudi Arabia and address the total amount of

others have insisted that should

remain the case. Some countries have sought to Some countries have sought to change the process so decisions can be made with a vote if consensus can't be reached, both during the negotiations and at future meetings about the treaty. But the draft doesn't include that as an option. That's a huge omission because consensus decision-making has paralyzed the talks, said Erin Simon, an expert on plastics and packaging at the World Wildlife Fund. "Not having a threat of a vote

"Not having a threat of a vote means each country has a veto card," she said. "They have no incentive to come up with a

plan and we've seen that time and time again in these nego tiations.

Rwanda's lead negotiator, Juliet Kabera, said there is still time to find common ground, but her country will only accept a treaty that has the strength, ambition and accountability to solve the crisis.

Ed Shepherd, representing the Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty, attended the news conference in support. The coalition includes about 270 businesses and financial institutions. He said businesses want global rules, and it's "clear we need to use less plas-

RBI may continue status quo on interest rate: Experts

↑he RBI is likely to keep the benchmark interest rate unchanged for one more time in its bilateral monetary policy review later in the week as inflation has breached its upper tolerance limit and may also moderate the growth forecast given the disappointing second quarter GDP numbers, experts

Reserve Bank Governor-headed six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is scheduled to meet on December 4 to 6, 2024. The decision of the rate-setting panel will be announced on December 6 by Governor Shaktikanta Das.

It was widely anticipated that the RBI would start reducing the benchmark interest rates soon but the central bank will have little option this time around as the latest print of retail inflation is

repo or short-term lending rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent since February 2023 and experts think some easing could only be possible in February.
Madan Sabnavis, Chief

Economist, Bank of Baroda said given the rather uncertain global environment and the possible impact on inflation and the fact that currently inflation has been averaging close to 5.9 per cent in the last two months, a status quo on repo rate will be the logical outcome from the policy.

"There would be a change in RBI projections for both inflation and GDP as inflation has been higher so far than the RBI forecast for Q3 and GDP growth has come much below expectations in Q2. It would hence be of interest to see what the projections this time are," Sabnavis said.

India's economic growth slowed to near two-year low of 5.4 per cent in the September quarter of this



fiscal due to poor performance of manufacturing and mining sectors, but the country continued to remain the fastest-growing large economy, as per government data released on Friday.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist and Head - Research & Outreach, ICRA, said that with the CPI

inflation having breached the 6 per cent upper limit of the medium-term range of 2-6 per cent in October 2024, ICRA anticipate a status quo from the MPC in its December 2024 meeting, in spite of the GDP growth print for Q2 FY2025 sharply undershooting the committee's expectations. "At the same time, we anticipate that the MPC will moderate its growth forecast for FY2025 next

week. A February 2025 rate cut may be forthcoming if the next two inflation prints recede," Nayar The government has tasked the

RBI to ensure that consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation stays at 4 per cent with a margin of

2 per cent on the either side.
The central bank last hiked the repo rate to 6.5 per cent in February 2023 and since then it has held the rate at the same level. The RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5 per cent in its last bi-monthly review (October) also amid risks from higher food inflation.

On expectations from MPC, Dhruv Agarwala, CEO, Housing.Com PropTiger.Com opined that the

Reserve Bank faces the challenging task of striking a fine

possibility of a rate cut. However, and uncertain global with growth deceleration environment," Bhardwaj added.

becoming a pressing concern, the RBI may still consider a rate cut in the upcoming policy meeting, despite mounting inflationary pressures and a persistently challenging global environment, Bhardway added. In its October policy, the RBI had projected real GDP growth for 2024-25 at 7.2 per cent with Q2 at 7 per cent; Q3 at 7.4 per cent; and Q4 at 7.4 per cent. Sanjay Bhutani, Director, Medical Technology Association of India he said.

Upasna Bhardwaj, Chief Economist, Kotak Mahindra Bank said that the sharply lower than expected GDP figures reflect the highly disappointing corporate earnings data. The manufacturing sector appears to have taken the maximum heating

sector appears to have taken the maximum beating.
"The high-frequency data suggests that festive linked revival in activity may provide a marginally better 2H growth figure but overall GDP growth for FY25 is going to be around 100 bps lower than RBI's estimate of

balance between boosting GDP 7.2 per cent. Despite the sharp growth and containing inflation.

"Initially, the sharp rise in inflation seemed to rule out the growth and containing inflation."

"Initially, the sharp rise in inflation seemed to rule out the RBI...Given elevated inflation."

Technology Association of India (MTaI) said: "In light of these competing priorities, the Monetary Policy Committee may adopt a wait-and-watch approach for now and hence, we expect it to maintain a status quo stance."

In an off-cycle meeting in May 2022, the MPC raised the policy rate by 40 basis points and it was followed by rate hikes of varying sizes, in the subsequent meetings till February 2023. The repo rate was raised by 250 basis points cumulatively between May 2022 and February 2023.

FPIs' selling spree continues in November at ₹21,612 Crore

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign investors pulled out Rs 21,612 crore (USD 2.56 billion) from the Indian equity market in November, mainly due to the rising US bond yields, strengthening dollar and expectation of a slowdown in the domestic economy. While the sell-off continues,

the quantum of net outflow significantly reduced compared to October, when FPIs recorded a massive withdrawal of Rs 94,017 crore (USD 11.2 billion).

With the latest pull out, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have experienced total net outflow of Rs 15,019 crore in 2024 so far.

Looking ahead, the flow of foreign investments into Indian equity markets will hinge on several key factors. These include the policies implemented under Donald Trump's presidency, the prevailing inflation and interest rate environment, and

evolving geopolitical This came following a net Himanshu withdrawal of Rs 94,017 crore landscape, Srivastava, Associate Director Manager Research. Morningstar Investment

Research India, said.

Additionally, the third-quarter earnings performance of Indian companies and the country's progress on the economic growth front will play a crucial role in shaping investor sentiment and influencing foreign inflows, he added.

According to the data, FPIs

in October, which was the worst monthly outflow. However, in September, foreign investors made a ninemonth high investment of Rs 57,724 crore.

Market analysts attributed the latest outflow to the rising US bond yields, strengthening dollar and expectation of a slowdown in the domestic economy.

Overall, November experienced net outflow but recorded a net outflow of Rs 21,612 crore in November. FPIs staged a notable reversal at the beginning of the week

ended November 29, due to decisive victory of the BJP-led Mahayuti alliance in the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The resulting political stability appears to have strengthened investor confidence, Srivastava said.

Another factor contributed to this buying activity is the rebalancing of MSCI's key indices, which added few select Indian stocks in its index. Further, a glimmer of hope for ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon may have also positively influenced market sentiment, particularly from a geopolitical standpoint, be added he added.

A perplexing feature of the recent FPI activity is their highly erratic nature. For instance, during November 23-25, FPIs were buyers, however, in the next two days they again turned massive sellers having sold equity worth Rs 16,139 crore, V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Global trends, macroeconomic data, RBI's interest rate decision key factors for markets this week: Analysts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Trading sentiment in the equity market this week will be guided by global trends, foreign fund movement, macroeconomic data announcements and RBI's interest rate decision, analysts said.

The monthly auto sales data announcement would also be tracked by investors this

"Looking ahead, markets are likely to react to the disappointing GDP growth of 5.4 pc on Monday. The upcoming RBI policy will be crucial, with both the interest rate decision and commentary being key focus areas.

"On the global front, geopolitical tensions, particularly the Russia-Ukraine situation, remains a concern. Important macroeconomic data such as manufacturing PMI from India, the US, and China, along with US jobs data and



speech, will also influence market sentiment," Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart Ltd,

India's economic growth slowed to near two-year low of 5.4 per cent in the July-September quarter of this fiscal due to poor performance

manufacturing and mining sectors as well as weak consumption, but the country continued to remain economy, data showed on Friday.

The Indian equity market ended the last week on a positive note after experiencing significant

volatility.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by the major domestic and global economic data such as India's manufacturing PMI, services PMI, interest rate decision, US S&P global composite PMI.

manufacturing PMI, services PMI, non-farm payrolls and initial jobless claims," Palka Arora Chopra, Director, Master Capital Services Ltd, said.

Last week, BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 685.68 points or 0.86 per cent and NSE Nifty climbed 223.85 points or 0.93 per cent.
"Participants will first react to the GDP data released

post-market on Friday. The primary focus will be on the RBI monetary policy review. Additionally, high-frequency indicators such as auto sales, along with manufacturing and services PMI data, are expected to provide further market direction. Foreign inflows will also remain in focus as a major driver of sentiment," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Movement of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar trend would also dictate market trends,

Petrol, diesel sales rebound on festival demand

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia's petrol and diesel consumption soared in November as the festive season reversed a fall in demand witnessed previous months, preliminary data of stateowned firms showed on

While petrol sales had shown year-on-year increase, diesel has been a laggard since monsoon and November was the first month that saw positive growth in consumption. Petrol sales of three state-

owned firms, which control 90 per cent of the fuel market, soared 8.3 per cent to 3.1 million tonnes in been tepid during the November compared to 2.86 monsoon months as rains tonnes consumption in the same and demand for the million



Diesel demand was up 5.9 per cent to 7.2 million tonnes.

Petrol and diesel sales have

agriculture sector. Petrol demand however soared once rains eased but diesel consumption lagged year-on-

Month-on-month sales were up 4.7 per cent of reduced vehicular movement when compared to 2.96 consumption in October. 2020. Diesel demand was almost 11 Jet fuel (ATF) sales rose 3.6 per cent more than 6.5 million tonnes of consumption in October.

Diesel is India's most consumed fuel, accounting for almost 40 per cent of all petroleum petroleum product consumption. The transport sector accounts for 70 per cent of all diesel sales in the country. It is also the predominant fuel used in agriculture sectors, including in harvesters and tractors. Consumption of petrol during November was 16.5

per cent more than in November 2022, and 33.5 per cent more than in Covidmarred November 2020. Diesel demand was 1.8 per cent lower than November

2022, but 8.5 per cent compared to November

per cent year-on-year to 650,900 tonnes during November 2024. This was 2.3 per cent higher month-onmonth when compared with 636,100 tonnes of fuel sold in

October. Like petrol and diesel, ATF demand too is now firmly above pre-Covid levels.

ATF consumption was 11.3 per cent more than in November 2022, and 1.9 per cent more than in November

Cooking gas LPG sales were up 7.3 per cent year-on-year at 2.76 million tonnes in November 2024. LPG consumption was 6.3 per cent higher than in November 2022, and 19.9 per cent more than in November

Coal production rises 7.2 per cent in Nov, dispatches up by nearly 4 per cent

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia's overall coal production rose by 7.2 per cent to 90.62 million tonnes (MT) in November compared to 84.52 MT in the same month of last year, the coal ministry said in a statement on Sunday.

The coal output in the April-November period of the current fiscal rose by 6.21 per cent to 628.03 MT over 591.32 MT in the year-ago period, according to provisional figures.

Coal production from captive and other entities rose to 17.13 MT in November against 12.44 MT in



in November 2024 showed steady improvement, reaching 85.22 MT (provisional), up from 82.07 MT in November 2023, reflecting a growth of 3.85 per cent," it said.

Cumulatively, coal dispatches up to November this fiscal November 2023. rose to 657.75 MT, compared and ensuring seamless coal "Additionally, coal dispatches" to 623.78 MT during the same availability across the country.

period in the previous fiscal year.

The coal ministry said that it remains committed to meeting the nation's energy requirements by focusing on increasing production, improving dispatch efficiency, and ensuring seamless coal

FDI inflows jump 45 per cent to USD 29.79 bn in Apr-Sep 2024

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign direct investment in India rose by 45 per cent year-on-year to USD 29.79 billion in April-September this fiscal on healthy inflows in services, computer, telecom and pharma sectors, according to government data.

FDI inflows were at USD 20.5 billion in April-September 2023-24.

In the July-September quarter, the inflows grew by about 43 per cent year-on-year to USD 13.6 billion against USD 9.52 billion in the same quarter last

The foreign direct investment in India was up 47.8 per cent to USD 16.17 billion in the April-

June quarter.
Total FDI, which includes equity inflows, reinvested earnings and other capital, grew by 28 per cent to USD 42.1 billion during the first half of this fiscal from USD 33.12 billion in April-September 2023-24, the Department for million against USD 145 Promotion of Industry and million) and Cyprus (USD 808



Internal Trade (DPIIT) data showed.

During the April-September period this financial year, FDI equity inflows rose from major countries, including Mauritius (USD 5.34 billion against USD 2.95 billion), Singapore (USD 7.53 billion against USD 5.22 billion), the US (USD 2.57 billion against USD 2 billion), the Netherlands (USD 3.58 billion against USD 1.92 billion), the UAE (USD 3.47 billion against USD 1.1 billion), Cayman Islands (USD 235

million against USD 35 million).

However, inflows declined from Japan and the UK. Sectorally, inflows rose in services, computer software and hardware, trading, telecommunication, automobile, pharma and chemicals.

FDI in services has increased to USD 5.69 billion during the first half of the current financial year as against USD 3.85 billion in the same period last year. As per the data, FDI inflows in non-conventional energy stood at USD 2 billion.

Security Leadership Summit 2024 Explores the Future of Security in India

PNS NEW DELHI

Security Leadership Summit, hosted by Central Association of Private Security Industry(CAPSI) andAssociation of Private Detectives Investigators (APDI),

commenced at PHD House, New Delhi, bringing together prominent leaders. policymakers, and industry experts to envision the future of security in India. The twoday summit, themed "Surakshit Bharat - Viksit Bharat 2047", highlights the integration of advanced technologies with security

Day one featured esteemed guests, including Gen (Dr.) V.K. Singh (Retd), Former Union Minister, and Lt. Gen M.U. Nair, National Cyber Security Coordinator. Gen Singh unveiled CAPSI's

strategies to create a safer and

more developed nation by

Surakshit Bharat - Viksit Bharat Vision document, emphasizing the need for technology-driven internal security frameworks. Lt. Gen Nair shared insights on leveraging AI and drones for national security. Key discussions revolved around technology, drone

cybersecurity, AI in security services, women's safety, and collaboration between private security and law enforcement. Renowned speakers such as Dr. Satya Pal Singh, former Union Minister, and international experts like Mike LaCorte and Ambassador Sylvester Okere provided diverse perspectives.

Kunwar Vikram Singh, CAPSI Chairman, announced a groundbreaking initiative to train one lakh drone warriors under DGCA guidelines. "This summit reinforces our commitment to ensuring safety and progress for all," he

Huge import opportunities for UK apparel firms in India: AEPC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) on Sunday said huge import opportunities are there for British apparel firms in India and they should participate in large numbers in the upcoming mega textile show here next year.

Bharat Tex 2025 will be held here from February 14-17, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam and from February 12-15 next year at the India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida.

Companies will showcase the entire textile value chain, with a special focus on key sectors such as Handicrafts, Apparel Machinery,

Chemicals, and Dyes.
AEPC Chairman Sudhir
Sekhri said that the UK is a global fashion hub and the sixth largest importer of apparel, with a total import value of USD 20.27 billion in 2023.

"India, with its robust textile and apparel sector, has long



been a trusted partner for the UK. In the past year (2023) alone, India's exports to the UK reached USD 1.2 billion, securing a 6.14 per cent share of the UK's textile and apparel market," he said.

Exports of ready-made garments to the UK during April- October 2024-25 rose by 9.4 per cent, Sekhri added. To attract British participation, the council has organized the Bharat Tex Roadshow in London from November 27 to 29.

Sekhri also said that at Bharat Tex 2025, UK brands such as Marks & Spencer, Primark, Next, Charles Tyrwhitt, Burberry, Dunhill, Clarks, and JW Anderson already source high-quality products from India. Fast-fashion leaders like Primark, Asos, and Boohoo

also turn to India for

innovative solutions that align with their commitment to quality and sustainability. "These are the values that will take centre stage at Bharat Tex 2025, as we highlight India's advancements in ecofriendly materials, closedloop manufacturing, and waste management principles that strongly resonate with the UK's commitment to a sustainable future," he said.

ity Center of the second of th vivacity

the dropping temperature humidity in winter, the skin undergoes changes too and becomes dry and dull. Even it can have some sign of premature aging if not well cared for and so it deserves utmost attention. Naturally, the skin's sebum production lowers in winters, which is further exponentially increased by low humidity levels and chilly dry air.



■ BODY'S HYDRATION INSIDE OUT: When the weather outside is very chilly and the humidity levels drop, skin health gets affected as its protective barrier gets damaged and it loses its moisture. For retaining the skin's hydration, keep it hydrated both inside and out. Aim for at least 8-10 glasses of water each day to keep it glowy and supple. And to protect the skin from hot air indoors, probably due to the usage of heat systems, use a HEPA filter humidifier that keeps the surrounding air

☐ HYDRATING MOISTURIZER: Moisturizer functions to keep the skin's moisture locked in to refrain it from getting dry. Winters make the skin more prone to dryness, so prefer a rich moisturizer that has occlusive agents namely petrolatum, dimethicone or lanolin. Shea Butter or hyaluronic acid enriched creams also work wonders.



■ NOURISHING CLEANSER: Winter season needs proper cleansing to remove dirt, dist and other environmental cells. But in winters, exfoliation should be

Skincare in Winter



pollutants from the skin but one thing

that needs to be taken care of is to prevent

the skin from getting dry. So for this purpose, use a cleanser that is gentle and

devoid of any strong chemicals that can

be damaging to the skin's protective

barrier. Preferably use cleansers enriched

with hydrating compounds such as

GENTLE EXFOLIATION: Skin needs exfoliation for maintaining its suppleness

and radiance. This process removes the

dead skin cells and enhances cell

turnover to grow new well nourished

glycerin, hyaluronic acid, ceramides etc.









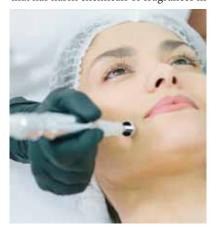
limited to once a week and no harsh chemical agents should be used. Since chemical exfoliants are gentler on the skin than physical ones, prefer chemical exfoliants namely alpha hydroxy acids (AHAs) and beta hydroxy acids (BHAs).

☐ NEVER SKIP SUNSCREEN: Seemingly meaningless, winter days also necessitate the need of sunscreen as no matter the day may be cloudy, the harmful UV rays of the sun can penetrate through the clouds and reach your skin. Go for a broad spectrum sunscreen that has a minimum SPF of



☐ USE CALMING INGREDIENTS: When the skin gets too dry from cold winds and low humidity of the weather, prefer the application of ingredients that soothes the skin.

These include niacinamide, aloe vera, chamomile extract etc. When the skin gets dehydrated and dry, it also gets extra sensitive and gets irritated easily. For dealing with this, avoid any product that has harsh chemicals or fragrances in



it or is alcohol based. VISIT A WELL-QUALIFIED AND TRAINED DERMATOLOGIST: For everlasting hydrated skin in winters, you need a specialised dermatologist consultant who can well evaluate your skin needs and suggest tailored skincare regime as per your skin type and requirements. For extremely dry skin, your dermat may recommend hydrating facial treatments that infuse moisture into the deeper layers of the skin and is not just limited to the surface. These include Hydra Facials, Collagen-boosting facials, oxygen infusion therapy etc.

The dry and dehydrated skin, due to loss of its protective barrier in winters, can be well dealt with proper management. Combat the winter skin challenges by using gentle cleansers, rich moisturizers, sunscreen application and adequate hydration to get a supple skin.

– The author is a MBBS, MD, Dermatologist and Founder of Akiya



By KAVITA DEVGAN

s the chill of winter sets in, our taste buds crave indulgent and hearty flavours to match the cozy season. Amidst the festive feasts and culinary celebrations, there's often a compromise on health. What if we tells you that there's a way to enjoy the richness of winter feasts without sacrificing nutrition. Enter the versatile and nutrient-packed avocado-a super food that can elevate your winter recipes while supporting your health.

Known for its creamy texture and subtle flavour, the avocado is more than just a trendy ingredient. It's a powerhouse of essential nutrients, offering heart-healthy monounsaturated fats that help regulate cholesterol levels and promote cardiovascular health. Rich in vitamins such as E, C, B6, and minerals like potassium, avocados are a fantastic addition to a winter diet, ensuring you stay energised and nourished.

AVOCADOS IN WINTERS

While avocados are often associated with summer dishes, their health benefits and versatility make them ideal for winter too. The creamy texture and mild flavour blend seamlessly with rich, warming recipes. Moreover, their nutrient density supports your body's immunity during the colder months.

Avocados also help in maintaining skin health which is a crucial benefit during winter when dryness and



dullness are common. The fruit's high content of healthy fats and antioxidants like vitamin E ensures vour skin stays hydrated and glowing despite the harsh weather.

WAYS TO USE AVOCADOS IN WINTER FEASTS

HEARTY AVOCADO SOUPS: Start your meal with a creamy avocado soup. Blend ripe avocados with warm vegetable stock, garlic, and a dash of cream for a comforting appetizer. For a twist, add roasted cumin or smoked paprika to infuse depth and warmth into your bowl.

AVOCADO-STUFFED BAKES: Use avocados as a stuffing base for bell peppers or mushrooms. Mix the avocado with quinoa, feta cheese, and herbs, and bake until golden. This dish is both filling and packed with nutrients, making it perfect for a cozy

winter dinner. IN **DESSERTS:** AVOCADO







Avocados aren't limited to savoury dishes. Their creamy consistency makes them an excellent ingredient for desserts. Try an avocado chocolate mousse by blending avocados with cocoa powder, honey, and a splash of vanilla. The result will be a decadent dessert that's guilt-free and loaded with healthy fats.

AVOCADO IN WINTER SALADS: Winter salads don't have to be boring. Toss avocado chunks with roasted root vegetables, nuts, and a zesty dressing of olive oil and lemon for a nutritious side dish that compliments any meal.

AÝOCADO TOAST WITH A WINTER TWIST: Take your classic avocado toast to the next level by adding seasonal toppings like sautéed mushrooms, pomegranate seeds, or even spiced roasted nuts.

A Super food for the Festive Table-This winter, let avocados be the star of your festive table. They not only add a touch of elegance but also ensure you strike a balance between indulgence and health. Whether you're preparing a lavish dinner or a cozy brunch, avocados can seamlessly blend into your recipes, offering both flavour and nutrition.

The Green Ally for Your Wellness-The World Avocado Organisation champions the avocado as a perfect partner for a healthy lifestyle. By incorporating it into your winter menu, you're embracing a super food that caters to taste and well-being. This winter, let the humble avocado transform your culinary experience, proving that eating healthy doesn't mean compromising on flavour or festivity.

- The author is a nutritionist and has used resources from the World Avocado Organisation

TION OF PHARMA EXPO CONCLUDES





The 17th edition of CPHI & PMEC India, organised by Informa Markets in India took place at the India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Delhi-NCR. Over 50,000 global industry professionals, including key decision-makers, gathered to explore new partnerships and growth opportunities. The expo featured forward-thinking discussions on sustainability, digital transformation, and the future of pharma, with a special focus on empowering women in the industry.



Sarvodaya Hospital, Faridabad achieved medical breakthrough by treating a 5-month-old baby for congenital hearing impairment making him the youngest in India to undergo a cochlear implant surgery.

Sindhu, Lakshya clinch singles titles

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

op seeded Indians P V Sindhu and Lakshya Sen showcased their class and dominance to clinch the women's and men's singles titles, respectively, at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Sunday.

Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, ended her long title drought by outplaying China's world number 119 Wu Luo Yu 21-14, 21-16 to lift the trophy for the third time, having previously triumphed in 2017 and 2022. In the men's singles final, Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze medallist, was at his dominant best as he Li Qian. demolished Singapore's Jia Heng Jason Teh 21-6, 21-7 in the title clash, displaying complete command over the

Sindhu's victory marks her

return to the top of the podium after over two years, with her last title win coming at the Singapore Open in July 2022. The world number 18 also reached the finals of the Malaysia Masters Super 500 earlier this year.

Lakshya's win comes as a balm after a disappointing loss in the bronze-medal playoff at the Paris Olympics. The victory will undoubtedly boost his confidence ahead of the new season.

Indian badminton had more to celebrate on the day as the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand clinched their

The result made Treesa and Gayatri the first Indian women's doubles team to win the title at this tournament. The Commonwealth Games bronze medallists, who had



finished runners-up in 2022, went one step further this year with their solid

In the men's doubles final, Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K put up a valiant fight before going

down 14-21, 21-19, 17-21 to China's Huang Di and Liu Yang in a marathon 71-minute clash.

Meanwhile, in the mixed doubles final, fifth seeds Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila started strong but couldn't sustain their momentum, losing 21-18, 14-21, 8-21 to Thailand's sixth-seeded pair of Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran. Sindhu vs Wu

Sindhu vs Wu Sindhu was up 8-5 in the opening game and despite some resistance from Wu, the Indian managed to secure a two-point lead at 11-9. Sindhu changed gears after the break, surging to 15-10 and then kept a firm grip on the rallies to comfortably close out the opening game. opening game.

Sindhu opened strongly, racing to a 3-0 lead, but Wu quickly levelled the score and matched the Indian pointfor-point till 10-10. The Chinese left-hander troubled Sindhu with precise drops, earning a slender 11-10 lead

at the break.

After resumption, Sindhu shifted gears, drawing errors from Wu and regaining control with a 14-11 lead courtesy of a sharp straight smash. A bodyline smash further extended her lead to 15-11, as Wu misjudged the length on several occasions. Sindhu's disguised forehand return at a crucial juncture brought her closer to victory, earning her four match points. She sealed the title with a powerful smash, capping off a dominant performance.

performance.
Lakshya vs Jia
Lakshya, 23, was in a hurry
to wrap up the proceedings,
storming to a massive 8-0
lead early in the first game.
Lakshya's fast-paced game
left Teh struggling, with the
Singaporean committing a Singaporean committing a series of unforced errors.

Two aggressive returns helped Teh claim a couple of points, but Lakshya quickly

regained control, securing seven game points at the interval. The Indian then won nine of the next 10 points to wrap up the first game in quick time.

Lakshya maintained his relentless attack in the second game, racing to a commanding 10-1 lead at the mid-game interval. Teh, demoralized and unable to match Lakshya's pace and precision, found himself on the backfoot throughout.

The Indian extended his lead to 15-5, and even when Teh tried to mount a comeback with a flurry of strokes, Lakshya's impeccable defense and fitness shone through. At 16-7, the Indian showcased his versatility, mixing powerful down-theline smashes with crosscourt net shots to reach 20-7. The match ended with Teh sending a shot long, handing Lakshya his first Syed Modi International title.



Jamshedpur FC, Mohammedan SC look to resurrect campaigns in ISL

PTI ■ JAMSHEDPUR

 $\underset{look}{M^{ohammedan}} \overset{SC}{\text{Normal and states}} \overset{and}{\text{SC}} \overset{and}{\text{will}}$ look to resurrect their around when they took an early lead against Bengaluru they face off in their Indian Super League clash here on Monday.
With three defeats in a row,

Jamshedpur FC are going through a slump in form. They are placed ninth in the league table with 12 points from eight ties, with four wins and as many defeats. In their three-match losing streak. Jamshedpur FC have conceded three goals at least lowest tally for any side after in each game which is a

worrying sign.
The last time the club endured a forgettable run was between October and December 2023 when they lost four games on the trot. Iamshedpur FC need to their strengths unfailingly to work on their accuracy they have recorded a passing accuracy of 57.4 per cent in receiving end of the supreme the opposition's half this season. Their overall passing accuracy of 67 per cent also demands more work from

the players. Mohammedan FC, on the other hand, are in the 12th spot in the ISL points table with only one victory and two draws so far in the

In their last outing, Mohammedan FC appeared to be turning their fortunes

While an eighth-minute strike by Cesar Manzoki put them in the driver's seat, it was after the 82nd minute in the contest when Sunil Chhetri scored a brace to break Mohammedan FC's hearts.

Mohammedan FC has scored on four occasions this ISL, which is the jointas many games in their debut ISL season, tied with Jamshedpur.

While the Black and White Brigade does have a formidable frontline, the team needs to supplement net more goals.

The club has also been at the aerial prowess of their opponents in this season, having conceded five headed goals, which is the most by any side this season.

Jamshedpur head Khalid Jamil admitted that the team needs to uplift its performance to get the desired results.

ICC: Jay Shah takes over as new chairman

Indian cricket administrator Jay Shah on Sunday took charge as the chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC) with an immediate goal of ending the impasse surrounding the Champions Trophy and a broader vision of making cricket a commercially viable Olympic sport. The 36-year-old Shah, who headlined the

BCCI as its secretary for the last five years, is the fifth Indian and the youngest ever to head the global cricket body.

He was the unanimous choice of the ICC's Board of Directors and replaced New Zealand attorney Greg Barclay, who didn't wish to continue for a third consecutive

Before Shah, businessman late Jagmohan Dalmiya, politician Sharad Pawar, lawyer Shashank Manohar and industrialist N Srinivasan have all headed the world cricket body.

Shah, the son of India's Home Minister Amit Shah, will have his task cut out as the ICC looks to find an acceptable solution to implement the 'Hybrid Model' for the Champions Trophy originally scheduled in



As of now, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to accept the 'Hybrid Model' under which India play their matches in Dubai. But the PCB also wants the same courtesy to be accorded to Pakistan in all four ICC tournaments till 2031, which will be co-hosted or singularly hosted by the Indian cricket board.

Now, as the head of the global body and with less than 100 days left for the tournament to begin, Shah will have to coordinate with both the PCB and his former colleagues at the BCCI for an "acceptable solution" in order to organise a hassle-free India have already refused to travel to Pakistan as it hasn't received clearance from its government. Shah didn't make any comment on the

Champions Trophy while outlining his priorities for his term which included leveraging the sport's inclusion in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympic Games as an opportunity and further accelerate the growth of the women's game.

"This is an exciting time for the sport as we prepare for the LA28 Olympic Games and work to make cricket more inclusive and engaging for fans worldwide," Shah said. "We are at a critical juncture with the coexistence of multiple formats and the need to accelerate the growth of the

women's game. "Cricket holds immense potential globally, and I look forward to working closely with the ICC team and Member countries to seize these opportunities and take the sport to new heights."

Shah acknowledged Barclay's contributions to the ICC over the last four

'I would also like to thank Greg Barclay for his leadership in the role for the past four years and the milestones achieved during that period," he said.

Despite sensationally losing

Gregore, Botafogo reset and

Luiz Henrique scored the

opener. Henrique surged on he right flank and crossed to

Marlon Freitas, who took a

shot that was deflected.

Henrique was in the right place

to strike through the legs of

Henrique and Ederson met

again near the end of the first

half when the striker surprised

the keeper on the edge of the

box. A penalty was given after a video review and left back

Telles calmly slotted the ball

Mineiro came back with a

goalkeeper Ederson.

home.



Barcelona loses at home for the first time this season

Barcelona lost at home for the first time this season when the Liga leader was stunned by Las Palmas 2-1. Sandro Ramirez and Fábio Silva scored for the Canary Islands club on either side of Raphinha's equaliser to give Las Palmas its first win at Barcelona in more than 50 years on Saturday.

Barcelona played superbly in the first three months under new coach Hansi Flick and was flying high after convincing victories over Real Madrid in the domestic competition and Bayern Munich in the Champions League. It had won all eight of its home games. But it has gone three rounds

of La Liga without a win. Before Las Palmas, it fell at Real Sociedad 1-0 and drew at Celta Vigo 2-2 after squandering a two-goal lead in the final minutes.

The dropped points mean Madrid, despite its own troubles, especially in the Champions League, can move ahead of Barcelona in La Liga. It trails Barcelona by four points with two games in

"I don't care about scoring, I care about winning," Raphinha said after his standout performance was

slump. "We have to take a hard look at what we are doing wrong. We have slipped in our form and are letting games get away form us. We have our next game on Tuesday (at Mallorca), and we need to

unable to end Barcelona's

win the league." Atletico Madrid was only two points behind Barcelona in second place — and with the same number of games played

turn this around so we can

— after Antoine Griezmann scored a gem of a goal in a 5-0 demolition of last-placed Valladolid. History for Las Palmas

Las Palmas savored its first victory at Barcelona since the 1971-72 season and just its third victory at the Catalan club overall. The other visits by the modest side that wears all yellow uniforms to Barcelona have ended in 34 defeats and three draws. "We are thrilled because we

have made history," Sandro

10-man Botafogo wins its first Copa Libertadores title

AP BUENOS AIRES

Botafogo overcame playing with 10 men to win its first Copa Libertadores title after beating fellow Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro 3-1 in the final at Monumental de Nunez Stadium.

After just 30 seconds, midfielder Gregore, one of Botafogo's best players, hit the head of Fausto Vera with his foot and was given a straight red card on Saturday.

"It was so hard to have one less so early in a final. It was an unfortunate move," Botafogo defender Alexander Barboza said.

"But Gregore deserves this title as much as we do. We made history and that won't ever be erased."

Winger Luiz Henrique scored first in the 35th minute from close range, and was fouled for



the penalty shot converted by Alex Telles in the 44th. Vargas headed Eduardo

Mineiro's only goal in the 46th while Junior Santos, the top scorer in the Copa Libertadores with 10 goals, capped Botafogo's historic night with the third in injury

Brazil was assured of a sixth consecutive Copa Libertadores title and its 24th in history, just one less than Argentina. It was also the third straight

title for Rio de Janeiro clubs, after Fluminense in 2023 and Flamengo in 2022. Botafogo, the last of the four big Rio clubs to win the Copa

Libertadores, earned prize money of \$23 million and a spot in the Club World Cup in the United States next year.

more aggressive formation in the second half and was rewarded when veteran Hulk took a corner kick and Vargas, who replaced midfielder Gustavo Scarpa during the break, didn't even need to jump to score with his head.

World Chess Championship: Gukesh holds Liren with black pieces to remain level on points

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Tndian challenger D Gukesh held defending champion Ding Liren of China to a draw with black pieces in an intense sixth game of the World Chess Championship to remain level on points here Sunday.

The third draw in a row left both players on an identical tally of 3 points apiece, still shy of 4.5 more points in order to win the championship.

The two players signed peace after 46 moves. It was the fourth draw of the match. It remains to be seen what strategy the players would opt for as the match moves towards the half-way mark.

The 32-year-old Liren had won the opening game while the 18-year-old Gukesh had emerged victorious in the third game.

The second, fourth and fifth games had ended in draws. With eight games still

after the second rest day on Monday. If the scores are tied after the eight games, there is an extra day for tie-break games of shorter duration to decide the next world champion.

Gukesh later said he did not feel any real danger during the sixth game.

"I knew this position till Rb8 (Black's 16th move) and even though I did not know (the next) I thought maybe I am slightly worse but it should be really hard to convert it with white because you cannot push the queen side pawns easily and I always have play on his king.

"I wasn't really that worried at any point," Gukesh said in the post-game conference. Asked about the rationale behind his decision to avoid repetition early, Gukesh said,

remaining in the 14-round about it, but with open files I match, the battle will resume thought I will have counter thought I will have counter

I thought since he's going for a repetition I will just play for a few more moves and see, obviously it was not playing for a win or anything." Liren seemed to be gaining in

confidence with each passing game even though he was written-off by most of the top players in the world. Playing with white pieces. Liren for once solved all his opening problems without much ado as he went for the

super-solid London system with his third white in the match and blitzed out the first 20 moves, conceding a mere seven minutes on the clock. In the process though, all the Knights and Bishops had changed hands, leading to a Queen and Rook endgame with equal pawns.

Liren explained the reason behind his choice of opening.
"In the last world 'May be I am slightly worse, although I was not even sure



championship match (against Russian Ian Nepomniachtchi), had

played the same opening and won a nice game, I wanted to repeat the opening," he said. Gukesh used up a little over 50 minutes in the first part of the game, giving Liren a 45-minute lead on the clock for the first time in the match. However, on the 20th move,

Gukesh chose a dynamic continuation that required deep calculation as well as superior judgement.

Liren thought for a long time, spending all his extra time, and decided to draw the game vide repetition of moves. Gukesh, known for his tremendous fighting qualities, repeated the position twice

and then much to the surprise

of the global audience, spurned down the unconditional draw offer by not going for the three-fold repetition. The computers gave more

than a slight advantage for

white following Gukesh's decision but the nature of the position remained complicated enough for both sides to have counter play. Liren had to regain his composure as he was expecting Gukesh to repeat and he decided not to be overaggressive in the heavy-pieces

endgame.

Gukesh eventually went for the trade of the Queens when he may have been slightly worse but Liren just took a draw exchanging off a crucial king rook pawn after which the Indian had no other way than to repeat the position . According to English Grandmaster David Howell, the official commentator, "Ding missed his big

opportunity with Queens on the board". The Chinese was again

pressing with Gukesh's refusal to draw early but it was indeed a great fight in the sixth game that lasted till move 46. Championship World

toughest event in chess: Gukesh

Asked to compare the world championship with other strong events, Gukesh said, "It's probably the toughest event in chess, obviously there is more at stake but other than that its just a very interesting and long match against a very strong opponent, and at the end of the day we are still playing chess.

can improve my play, there are a lot more games, considering I was trailing after the first game I am happy to be here, it is too early," Gukesh remarked when asked if he was satisfied with his play thus far. When asked who among the 46.Re2 Kg7. Game drawn.

past world champions were their inspiration, Liren named (Veselin) Topalov and (Magnus) Carlsen while Gukesh mentioned the names of Viswanathan Anand, (Bobby) Fischer and Carlsen. The Moves:

1.D4 Nf6 2.Bf4 d5 3.E3 e6 4.Nf3 c5 5.C3 Bd6 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.Qa4 0-0 10.Qa3 Ne4 11.Nfd2 e5 12.Nxe4 dxe4 13.Qxc5 Qg6 14.Nd2 Qxg2 15.0-0-0 Qxf2 16.Dxe5 Rb8 17.Nc4 Be6 18.Rd2 Qf3 19.Re1 Bxc4 20.Qxc4 Qf5 21.Qxc6 Qxe5 22.Qd5 Qe7 23.Qd6 Qg5 24.Qd5 Qe7 25.Qd6 Qg5 26.Qd5 Qh4 playing chess. 27.Red1 g6 28.Qe5 Rbe8 "It has been good so far, I still 29.Qg3 Qh5 30.Qf4 Qa5 can improve my play, there are 31.A3 Qb5 32.Rd4 Qe2 33.R1d2 Qf3 34.Kc2 Qxf4 35.Exf4 f5 36.H4 e3 37.Re2 Re7 38.Kd3 Rfe8 39.H5 gxh5 40.Rd5 h4 41.Rxf5 Řd7+ 42.Kc2 Kg7 43.Rg2+ Kh8 44.Re2 Kg7 45.Rg2+ Kh8

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to any person, a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.

Printed and Published by Shobori Ganguli for and on behalf of CMYK Printech Ltd., 4th Floor, Sahara Shopping Centre, Faizabad Road, Lucknow-226016 and Printed at Tin Tin Printech Pvt Ltd., C-33 Amausi Industrial Area, Nadarganj, Lucknow. Editor-in-Chief Shobori Ganguli, Resident Editor Vijay Prakash Singh. RNI No. 2016/57. Lucknow Telephones: EPABX: 4036600 Fax: 2345582. Allahabad Office: (0532) 2420818, 2421018, 3290460. Kanpur Office: (0512) 2304406. Varanasi Office: (0542) 2414294, 2414295. Delhi Office: 100K, Milap Bhawan, 8/A, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002, Phone: 011-40110455. Corporate Office:- 201-205, 2nd Floor, Pratap Bhawan 5, B.S.Z. Marg, New Delhi-110002 Phone: 011-69342500.