MONEY 10
GOVERNMENT SCRAPS WINDFALL
PROFIT TAX ON DOMESTIC CRUDE
OIL, EXPORT OF FUELS

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY DECEMBER 3, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

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

Opposition, Treasury benches agree to discuss Constitution



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah Nitin Gadkari, JP Nadda, and others during the screening of the film 'The Sabarmati Report', at the Parliament in New Delhi

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA

with no business or discussions held ever since the Winter Session of Parliament started last week, the Opposition and Treasury benches on Monday are anniversary of the adoption believed to have resolved to break the deadlock, and 'work smooth for functioning," until a fresh provocation is bulldozed

from either side. On a day when a group of Parliamentarians, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, watched a special screening of the Bollywood movie 'The Sabarmati Report' in the Annexe, leaders from both the sides came close to breaking the impasse in Parliament with a

discussion

Constitution to mark its 75th year of adoption.

The breakthrough came at a fter a week of acrimony meeting of Speaker Om Birla with floor leaders of different parties. The Opposition parties had demanded discussions in both Houses of had demanded Parliament to mark the 75th of the Constitution by the Constituent Assembly. Several Opposition leaders, who attended the meeting, also echoed similar sentiments. The Congress said that the Modi Government has accepted its request for a special two-day discussion on Constitution and hopefully now it will "allow both Houses to function".

The meeting chaired by Birla was attended by Gaurav Gogoi of the Congress, Munnetra the Dravida

Kazhagam's (DMK) TR Baalu and Trinamool Congress' (TMC) Kalyan Banerjee among otĥers besides Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and his deputy in the ministry Arjun Ram Meghwal. Affairs Parliamentary

Minister Kiren Rijiju expressed confidence that both Houses will function smoothly from Tuesday. Sources said the Lok Sabha will take up the discussion on the Constitution to mark its 75th year of adoption on December 13 and 14, and the Rajya Sabha on December 16 and 17. Asked about the Opposition raising other issues such as Sambhal violence and Manipur, Rijiju said a decision will be taken in accordance with the rules. Congress said the Modi Government has accepted its request for a special two-day discussion Constitution and hopefully now it will "allow both Houses to function". The alleged party Government does not want Parliament to function as it is "running away" from a discussion on issues such as Adani indictment, Sambhal violence and Manipur unrest. Proceedings in both Houses were adjourned for yet another day on Monday amid protests by Opposition members over the Adani



NCR in GRAP IV grip till Dec 5

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The ban on driving BS-3 petrol or a BS-4 diesel cars in Delhi will continue till Thursday, as the Supreme Court (SC) on Monday refused to relax restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) amid high levels of air quality index levels. The SC observed that despite the alarming air quality levels, there has been a lack of serious enforcement of measures outlined under GRAP Stage IV, which is triggered when air quality deteriorates to hazardous levels, and it will take a call on a proposal for relaxation by the Commission for Air Quality Management on Thursday. The SC stressed on finding a

permanent solution to the issue of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR), saying a similar situation arose every year between October and December. It further directed the Delhi police to provide armed protection to those Court Commissioners who

wish to continue monitoring implementation of GRAP IV measures in Delhi-NCR.

Notably, there was a slight improvement in Delhi's air quality for the second consecutive day on Monday, even as it remained of "poor" quality with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 280 in the morning. According to data provided by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the National Capital recorded an AQI of 285 on Sunday, an improvement to the "poor" category, and a welcome relief following 32 consecutive days of "very poor" and "severe" air quality (AQI above 400). A Bench of Justices Abhav S

Oka and Augustine George Masih further directed the chief secretaries of NCR states to appear before it through video-conferencing on December 5 to inform whether or not any subsistence allowance was paid to the construction workers who went without work owing to

the restrictions.

All is well in Maharashtra: BJP

After days of uncertainty, in the wake of it leading the MahaYuti to a spectacular victory in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) finally began to get its act together on Monday as it called its legislature party meeting on December 4 to elect its leader - ahead of the swearing-in ceremony scheduled to be held on the following day.
Though the BJP has not yet

formally announced its Chief Ministerial choice, party sources said that the party's central leadership has put a stamp of approval on the name of its senior leader and former CM Devendra Fadnavis for the top post in the state. At a meeting to be held at 10 am on December 4 in the Central Hall of the Maharashtra Vidhan Bhavan, Fadnavis will in all likelihood be elected as the BJP's Legislature Party (BJPLP) leader, paving the way for his being sworn in as the next CM of Maharashtra on December 5.

The BJP's Parliamentary Board is sending former Gujarat CM and the party's in-charge for Punjab Vijay Rupani and Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as the central observers for the BJPLP meeting. After the BJPLP meeting, the leaders of the ruling MahaYuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) and NCP (Ajit Pawar), will call Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan, and formally stake claim to form a new rictions.

Continued on page 8 While confirming that the



The BJP's Parliamentary Board is sending former Guiarat CM Vijay Rupani and Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman as central observers

BJPLP leader would be need to be sorted out among elected on December 4, Maharashtra party president Chandrashekar Bawankule announced that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be present at the swearing-in ceremony of the BJP-led MahaYuti government to be held at the historic Azad Maidan at 5 pm

on December 5. The BJP is inviting prominent personalities from various walks of life for the swearingin ceremony. Ahead of the swearing-in ceremony, Fadnavis, Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena (ES)

and Ajit Pawar (AP) are likely to meet in the afternoon of December 4 to discuss and formalise the nitty-gritties of the new government. While the CM and two Deputy CMs will take oath of office and secrecy at the swearing-in ceremony, it remains to be seen as to how many ministers from the BJP, Shiv Sena (ES) and NCP (AP) will be sworn into the office at the December 5 event. Given that there are issues

relating to the Cabinet portfolio allocations that

the MahaYuti constituents. the three leaders are expected to meet immediately after the swearing-in ceremony and formalise the ministry allocations. Since the Maharashtra Assembly comprises 288 members, there can be a maximum of 43 ministers in the State Cabinet, a number that accounts for 15 percent of total members in the lower House of the State Legislature.

A struggle to grab key portfolios has begun among the MahaYuti constituents. The ministries like Home, Finance & Planning, Revenue and Urban development are the key portfolios in the State Cabinet. Apart from these four major portfolios, there will be a lot of bargaining among the MahaYuti constituents over other important portfolios like Agriculture, Industries. Water Resources, Forests, Rural Development, Energy, Public Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development and Excuse.

Continued on page 8

SC fumes after V Senthil Balaji returns to TN Cabinet



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed expressed concern over reinstatement of DMK leader V Senthil Balaji as a Cabinet minister in Tamil Nadu, just days after it granted bail in the money laundering case related to the cash-for-job scam, and agreed to examine a plea raising apprehensions

on independence of witnesses in the case. "We granted you bail and days after you go and become minister. Anybody will be bound to be under the impression that now with your position as a senior Cabinet minister, witnesses will be under pressure. What is going on?" A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih asked senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Balaji. The Bench, however, refused

interfere with SC's September 26 order granting bail to Balaji on a plea filed by one of the complainants seeking its cancellation. The Bench made it clear it would not recall the order as the law laid down by the SC was benefitting several other persons. Justice Oka further said the court would not issue any notice in the matter but limit the scope of enquiry to whether the witnesses would be "under pressure" to depose in the case. "The apprehension is that

allegations against the second respondent (Balaji) in the predicate offences, the witnesses may not be in the frame of mind to depose against the second respondent who is holding the position of Cabinet Minister. "This is the only aspect on which prima facie we are inclined to consider the application, and while making it clear that there is no reason to interfere with the judgement on merits and adjudication of application remains confined to the aforesaid," the Bench wrote in its order. It then asked Balaji's counsel Ram Sankar to get instructions and posted the matter for further

hearing on December 13. Continued on page 8

Tragic end to a promising life

indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's

Continued on page 8

Sambhal and other issues.

PNS HASSAN (KARNATAKA)

Ayoung Indian Police Service (IPS) officer died in an accident while he was on his way to take up his first posting in Hassan district, police said on Monday Harsh Bardhan, (26), was a 2023batch IPS officer of the Karnataka cadre and hailed from Madhya Pradesh, they



The accident took place on Sunday evening, when the tyre of the police vehicle he was travelling in allegedly burst near Kittane in Hassan taluk, following which the driver lost control and the vehicle hit a house and a tree on the roadside, police said. According to police, Bardhan was on his way to Hassan to report on duty as a probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police in Holenarasipur, police said.

Continued on page 8

Akal Takht declares Badal a 'tankhaiya'



Sukhbir Singh Badal and other leaders of the previous SAD government during the hearing of 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct) case by the Akal Takht

PNS CHANDIGARH

he Sikh clergy at the Akal Takht on Monday I pronounced 'tankhah' (religious punishment) for Sukhbir Singh Badal for the "mistakes" committed by the Shiromani Akali Dal and its Government in Punjab from 2007 to 2017, directing him to perform 'sewa' and clean utensils and shoes at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Pronouncing the order from the 'faseel' (podium) of the Akal Takht in Amritsar, Iathedar of the highest temporal seat of the Sikhs, Giani Raghbir Singh, also directed the working committee of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) to accept the resignation of Sukhbir Badal as party chief, besides forming a committee to hold elections for the post of SAD president and office-bearers within six months.

The Jathedar further announced to withdraw the title of 'Fakhr-e-Qaum' bestowed upon former Chief Minister late Parkash Singh Badal, father of Sukhbir Badal. The five Singh Sahibans (Sikh clergy) also pronounced religious punishment for other Sikh leaders who served as ministers in the Akali Cabinet during 2007 to 2017. Giani Raghbir Singh said Sukhbir Badal, who

was on a wheelchair because of a fractured leg, and rebel leader Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa have been asked to sit outside the Golden Temple dressed as 'sewadars' for one hour each for two days. They will also perform 'sewa' at Takht Kesgarh Sahib, Takht Damdama Sahib, Darbar Sahib at Muktsar and Fatehgarh Sahib for two days each. Both Sukhbir Badal and Sukhdev Dhindsa were asked to clean utensils and shoes of devotees at the Golden Temple for one hour. besides listening to 'kirtan'.

Before the pronouncement of the edict, Sukhbir Badal admitted his mistakes, including pardoning Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case during the SAD regime. The punishment came nearly three months after Sukhbir Badal was declared 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct) by the Akal Takht. The Jathedar also directed Akali leaders Sucha Singh Langah, Hira Singh Gabria, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, Daljit Singh Cheema and Gulzar Singh Ranike to clean washrooms for one hour at the Golden Temple, and then clean utensils at the community kitchen after taking a bath. They will also listen to 'kirtan' for one hour, the Iathedar said. Other Akali leaders, including Bibi Jagir Kaur, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Bikram Singh Majithia, Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal, Charanjit Singh Atwal, and Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, were also told to clean washrooms at the Golden Temple for one hour. The Jathedar had summoned the entire Akali Cabinet from 2007 to 2017, the party's core committee, and the 2015 internal committee of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee.

Badal was declared 'tankhaiya' after rebel party leaders, including Chandumajra, Kaur and others, appeared before the Akal Takht on July 1, and sought forgiveness for four "mistakes" during the SAD rule between 2007 and 2017, including failure to punish those responsible for the 2015 sacrilege incidents and pardoning Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in a 2007 blasphemy case.

China making Pak Navy stronger: Admiral Tripathi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on Monday said Navy is aware of "surprising growth" of the Pakistan Navy, that aims to become a 50-ship Navy in the next decade with the help of China. He also said Pakistan has chosen weapons over the welfare of its people.

Making this assertion here, the Naval Chief said given the state of its economy, Pakistan is strengthening its Navy. They have chosen weapons over the welfare of their people," he said and quipped "good luck to them." "We are aware of the surprising growth of the Pakistan Navy which aims to become a 50ship Navy," he said.

On China helping Pakistan boost its maritime prowess, the Navy Chief said it showed Beijing's interest in making that country militarily

stronger. Pakistan Navy 'Many warships and submarines are being built with Chinese support showing that China is interested in making Pakistan's Navy stronger," he said. "Their eight new submarines will have significant combat potential for the Pakistan Navy but we

Parking dispute fuels inferno



Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi addresses a press conference, ahead of Navy Day Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

are fully aware of their capabilities. That is why we are tweaking our concepts to be able to tackle all threats from our neighbours," Admiral Tripathi added.

On China's growing prowess, he said it has declared to have its rightful place and has resources to strive to become a world power. Once it does so, friction takes place with existing world powers and it is already being played out, the Navy Chief said, adding it will manifest in the Pacific region. As regards the Indian Ocean region, he said the Indian Navy is keeping a close watch.

Continued on page 8

Delhi airport gears up for foggy days ahead

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

In a preemptive move foreseeing the fog this winter, the Delhi airport, for the first time, has made elaborate arrangements for passengers, by making provisions for dedicated enclosures for their comfort in case the travellers' flight is delayed.

Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), which operates and manages the Indira Gandhi International special accommodate passengers who shall be disembarked three hours to allow their return to the terminal. faster return to board their

respective flights. According to DIAL, these enclosures will be located at the Bus Boarding Gates and certain aerobridges in Terminal 3, the transfer area in Terminal 2, and the bus boarding gate in Terminal 1. The facilities will serve both domestic and international passengers. The new plan will allow passengers to remain in a separate enclosure, saving

time and reducing hassles for both flyers and airline staff. The government has relaxed (IGI) Airport with three (T1, the security protocols at T2, T3) terminals has set up airports to allow passengers enclosures to of flights delayed by over three hours or canceled due to fog, weather or technical from flights delayed for over issues to disembark and "Ranging from 250 to 450



square meters. enclosures will be able to hold between 55 and 120 passengers at a time. They are intended to facilitate security screening, allowing passengers to smoothly reenter the terminal's Security Hold Area (SHA). These enclosures will have essential amenities like toilets and vending machines wherever feasible. The enclosures would only be utilized as a security processing area after

which the passengers would

enter the SHA which would

give the passengers access to

all the facilities available there. Only airline staff escorting passengers from stranded flights would be permitted to enter the enclosures for security reasons", DIAL said in a statement.

To maintain safety and security, CISF personnel will be stationed in the enclosures to screen passengers returning from delayed or stranded flights before they are allowed to join other screened passengers in the SHA.

Additionally, personnel from the Private Security Agency (PSA) will verify the documents of passengers affected by the fog/weather or technical issues.

Continued on page 8 | founder

SAUMYA SHUKLA NEW DELHI

Aroutine parking dispute in Southeast Delhi's Lajpat Nagar erupted into a shocking act of arson, as a man's car was set ablaze, allegedly by his notso-friendly neighbor. Police tracked down the 28-year-old suspect in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, over 600 kilometers away from the National Capital. According to the victim, this fiery attack was iust the culmination of a string of threats, and he believes that if he had been at the scene, his life would have been

endangered as well. According to the victim, 48year-old Ranjeet Singh, an Urdu poet, winner of a peace award from Pakistan, and the of cultural



organisation 'Jashn-e-Adab', the accused has been harassing and threatening him for over two years. Despite multiple complaints to police, the authorities used to release the accused, identified as Rahul Bhasin, on bail, Singh said.

The issue came to a boil reportedly after some residents of the locality were not happy with Singh for complaining to the police over

them drinking and loitering in the area at night. "I have been living in this locality for about two decades now and the accused moved here two years ago. His landlord and others instigated him against me. They asked him to park his car in front of mine. When I came on July 13, my car slightly touched his car in the parking lot. However, his brother quickly resolved the issue with me and I even agreed to pay for any damage," Singh said. However, events took a turn for the worse after that when Bhasin damaged two of Singh's parked cars with rods. An FIR was registered following which he was arrested on August 14 but released on bail in two hours, he said.

Continued on page 8

LMC meeting focuses on encroachment, sanitation

The Lucknow Municipal Corporation executive committee meeting, presided over by Mayor Sushma Kharakwal on Monday, discussed various development projects aimed at improving the city's infrastructure and

enhancing public welfare.
The meeting focused on key initiatives including tackling encroachments, improving sanitation, and advancing urban development.

Amongst those present were the members of the executive committee and municipal corporation officials.

In the meeting, all issues related to the development of the city were discussed, and instructions were given to carry out all works that were in the public interest.

Înstructions were given to run an intensive campaign against encroachment in the city.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the encroachment under the flyovers, the mayor sought answers from the officials con-

Municipal Commissioner Inderjit Singh directed the zonal officers of the affected areas to identify the sites and take action with immediate effect. The mayor ordered the zonal officers to send an affidavit after completing the action within 15 days in relation to these areas.

Instructions were also given to issue challans against encroachers in the city through the

court. The EC members and councillors informed the mayor about the public problems in their wards, which included issues like drinking water, sewer lines, and the repair of submersible pumps. The mayor directed the officials concerned to resolve these problems promptly.

Auction Notice

दिनांक 07-12-2024, पूर्वाह्न 11:00

बजे कार्यालय जिला क्रीड़ाधिकारी,

डॉ. भीमराव अम्बेडकर स्टेडियम, अमेठी

में निष्प्रयोज्य स्थायी / अस्थायी खेल

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सिक्योरिटी रु० 5,000/- नकद,

जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण के साथ जमा

Information

Please be informed that my

daughter Aradhya Singh' Aadhaar

number 570838540788 has been registered as Alishba Rafat

daughter of Rafat Suhail resident

of Balmiki Nagar West Manikapur

Chitrakoot. Whereas her correct

and real name is Aradhya Singh daughter of Ramroop Yadav

resident of Bazar Madhya Kasba

Gosainganj, Lucknow. Which

should be registered in her

Aadhaar.Madhulika Singh

daughter of Shripal Singh wife of

Ramroop Singh resident of Bazar

Madhya Kasba Gosainganj

सूचना

मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखानुसार मेरे पुत्र का

आर्मी नंबर

गलत नाम आयुष के रूप में दर्ज है सही

नाम आयुष सिंह, आधार नंबर

16025128Y रैंक NK दयाशंकर सिंह

निवासी ग्राम पो. भड़सर, जिला गाजीपूर,

NOTICE

Ramandeep Singh Chhabra S/o

Sheva Singh Chhabra which is

mention in all government record

by mistake LIC my name is

mentioned In policy number

233344750 as Mohak Chhabra

which is my house hold name in

future I will be known as Raman

dip Singh Chhabra R/o H.N. 421,

Shiv Katra Shaktipuram Kanpur

NOTICE

Sikandra dhatora, Agra (U.P.)

Nagar

My correct name is

Lucknow

279335117549,

उ. प्र. पिन कोड 233300.

होगी। आई पी सिंह एण्ड सन्स



For the one-month delay in the fair to be held on Kartik Purnima, the responsible persons were reprimanded, and it was said that accountability should be fixed.

Furthermore, the mayor instructed the implementation of a new salary process for all employees, ensuring that payments are made between the 7th and 10th of each month. In response, the chief finance and accounts officer explained that the implementation of esalary would require employees' Aadhar cards, photos, bank details, etc. The process will be fully implemented by next month. The meeting also addressed the need for a zonewise committee to decide the cut-off for deceased/retired employees.

Regarding complaints of municipal corporation lands being reoccupied after being freed from encroachment, the mayor directed Additional Municipal Commissioner Pankaj Shrivastav to send a detailed report within a month, including re-installing LMC boards and fencing on such

In addition, it was confirmed that the tender process for the installation of smart screens in municipal corporation schools

A CCTV footage of the purse snatching from the daughter of a police inspector in Lucknow emerged on Monday, two days after the incident

The robbers, who fled after

snatching the purse, were rid-

shows the suspects speeding as

they snatched the purse from

the victim, Reena Chauhan,

who was dragged for about 30

incident.

has been completed, and the screens will be installed soon. The mayor expressed dissatisfaction with the decision related to the Gem Portal passed in the House and directed that the details of purchases and sales made through the portal be placed before the executive

committee. Regarding the slow progress of setting up vending zones in the city, executive engineer PK Singh directed the zonal officers to establish at least 100 vending zones in their respective areas to make the zones well-organised, encroachmentfree, and clean.

The members also raised concerns about road cutting dur-ing work carried out by Jal Nigam, questioning the completion of road repairs. They also suggested that water should be sprinkled daily during road cutting to minimise air pollution.

The mayor objected to the municipal corporation's accounts being held in private banks and sought a response from the chief tax and accounts officer. She directed that all accounts be transferred to government banks to resolve fundrelated issues.

Dissatisfaction was also expressed over the delay in

Cop's daughter robbed of purse

metres in an attempt to save it. Despite her efforts, the robbers

forcefully took the purse and escaped. Due to the dragging,

the victim sustained injuries to

her hands and legs. She is the

daughter of a police inspector

posted in Balrampur district.

The police are searching for

Reena Chauhan, a resident of

Iankipuram Garden Rastogi

the perpetrators.

ing a motorcycle without a number plate. The footage

The incident took place at around 11 am on Friday when

preparing the DPR for the Kalyan Mandap, with instructions given to prepare it as soon as possible.

LMC EC member Anurag Mishra raised an issue regarding Ramky, the organisation involved in the city's solid waste management, allegedly forcing employees to work without pay for sorting plastic sheets from garbage dumps. The responsible officials denied this, confirming that all employees are paid.

The executive committee has instructed an investigation into the matter and a report to be submitted.

There was a demand for the implementation of night sweeping in the major markets of the city to maintain cleanliness. The officials concerned were directed to take action. In the previous meeting, instructions were given to provide 20 robots for cleaning. The mayor reiterated the directive and instructed the responsible persons to ensure the provision of these robots. The meeting also included orders to transfer all eight dispensaries, except Ganesh Ganj, from the Health department to the municipal

cycle approached her from behind and snatched her

purse, which contained a pair

of anklets, a mangalsutra, Rs

500 in cash, an ATM card, PAN card, and other impor-

The CCTV footage, which went viral, has raised public

concern, with many residents

criticising the police for failing

to ensure safety from crimes

like chain and purse

tant documents.

snatc

Former judge's daughter harassed, threatened by youth posing as IAS officer

A youth has been accused of harassing the daughter of a former civil judge by pretending to be an IAS officer. The accused allegedly threatened to burn the victim by pouring oil on her, and also threatened to decapitate her mother and throw her head into a river if she refused his marriage proposal. In addition to these threats, the accused has allegedly been sending obscene messages and doctored photos of the victim to her relatives in an attempt to defame her.

The victim's family claims that the stress caused by these threats led to the death of her father, a former judge. The victim's mother has filed a case against the accused youth at the Chinhat police station, and the police are currently investigating the matter.

According to the complaint, the victim, a student pursuing LLM, was first contacted by the accused, who introduced himself as Deepak Kumar in 2020. He claimed to be a BTech graduate from Haryana and said that he had been selected for the IAS in 2023-24 and would soon begin training in Delhi.

To gain her trust, he sent a fake Aadhaar card with the name Deepak Kumar and an address in Bihar, along with videos of supposed IAS training sessions. However, after further investigation, it was revealed that the accused's real name is Suresh, and he works in a private computer-related company in Delhi. He has previously deceived several women, hacking their phones and making false promises of

marriage.
The victim's mother further claimed that Suresh, under the alias Deepak Kumar, continued pressuring her daughter for marriage, sending numerous WhatsApp messages and emails to both the victim and her relatives.

Despite never having met the accused or discussed marriage, the victim was subjected to repeated threats, including being warned that he would kidnap her and marry her by force. He allegedly threatened to kill her, burning her alive, and to decapitate her mother if she did not comply. The victim's family also alleged that the accused created fake electronic documents and edited photos of their daughter, which he circulated among her relatives and friends, along with obscene messages.

The victim is reportedly in a state of mental distress due to these actions, and her family claims that the harassment has driven them to the brink of suicide. The complainant further alleged that the accused is attempting to usurp property worth crores by fabricating fake marriage documents with the victim. The case has been registered with Chinhat police. Chinhat Inspector Bharat Pathak confirmed that an FIR has been filed. The investigation is ongoing, and action will be taken against the accused based on the evidence.

STUDENT HANGS SELF

dent's room.

wearing helmets for safety.
"Challans were also issued for

other dangerous behaviours such as using mobile phones

while driving or driving under

the influence of alcohol, which

endanger not only the driver's

life but also the lives of others on

the road," he said.

Meanwhile, a student of a private university in Bareilly allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in her hos-tel room on Monday, police said. Niharika (19), a first year student of Bachelor of Computer Applications, lived in the Narmada hostel located on the university campus, Station House Officer Sanjay Singh Tomar said. She allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself on Monday after-noon, he said. Tomar said that a suicide note has been found from the stu-

The body has been sent for postmortem and the student's family has been informed about the incident, he

Farmer's death sparks row

 ${
m F}$ ollowing the death of a farmer from Mohaan Road, Heera Lal, on Monday afternoon, a delegation of farmers met former BJP MP from Mohanlalganj Kaushal Kishore and alleged that he died from shock after learning that the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) would forcibly acquire his land without compensation. His land is part of the area earmarked for a proposed hi-tech urban township, but it has not yet been acquired.

Though no complaint has been filed in this regard, police sources claimed that a probe has been initiated to determine the cause of death, and that the body will be sent for a post-mortem examination.

Over 70% of the land in the area has already been acquired by the LDA, but the remaining land, including Heera Lal's, is still in dispute. Farmers have been protesting against the valu-

atine is have been protesting against the valuation of their land and compensation rates. LDA officials, accompanied by engineers and staff, arrived at the Mohaan Road site on Monday morning to survey the land and take possession of the acquired portions.

Farmers, protesting against the LDA officials' entry demanding compensation for standing crops and makeshift houses on the land since Saturday, warned the officials not to conduct the survey until the compensation issue is resolved. Tensions escalated, with heated exchanges between the farmers and LDA staff.

Additional Secretary Gyanendra Verma attempted to pacify the farmers, explaining that the government would decide on the compensation. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar stated that the compensation issue has been forwarded to the Urban and Housing Development Department for a final decision.

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK

PREMISES REQUIRED

Bank invite offers for commercial premises space of 1200 Sq.ft. to 1500 Sq.ft. on lease for Opening of its New Branch at Kashganj, U.P.. Intereste persons can contact to Assistant General Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, 3rd Floor, Navchetna Kendra, 10 Ashok Marg, Lucknow 226001, Telephone No. 0522-4934664 within 07 days. Detailed terms & conditions can be lownloaded from our website www.iob.in unde

147 crossings identified corporation, and to get the site of the proposed new LMC building cleaned. for traffic engineering highlighting the importance of

Lucknow (PNS): City's traffic police department has identified 147 crossings for traffic engineering. DCP (Traffic) Prabal Pratap Singh explained that photographs would be taken of these crossings, and the issues associated with them would be addressed to improve the functionality of the roads following

the engineering work.
He mentioned that this initiative is part of their future plans, which have been shared with other departments to ensure better road conditions and safer crossings. Regarding enforcement, the DCP reported that nearly 70,000 challans had been issued, the highest number recorded so far. Of these, 32,000 challans were issued for violations related to helmet use,

verka Portal.

Suppliers Invited

Inviting e Auction for the purchase of following items through NCDF

The Punjab State Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd Chandigarh procuring Trace Minerals for Cattle Feed Plants Khanna & GKB on annual basis for Bypass fat through e-Auctions at NCDFI e-Market across Punjab on 05.12.2024 at 12:30 PM. Interested suppliers/vendors are invited to register and participate in above said e-auction through www.ncdfiemarket.com portal.

For registration: Contact: + 91 9998019608; +91 9978601585 Help Desk. +91-2692-288388

E Mail: contracts_pack@ncdfiemarket.com, virender.choudhary@neml.in, divakar.juneja@neml.in.

NA/12/26782/2023/39713 Dated CHD :- 12/2/2024



STATE INFRASTRUCTURE & INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. 29, IIE, Sahastradhara Road (IT Park), Dehradun

Advt. No:-03/SIIDCUL/2024-25

Date:-02-12-2024

Invitation of Applications Applications are invited for Allotment of available industrial plots in Integrated Industrial Estates of SIIDCUL, which can be filled online through https://esiidcul.com/eprocure/home during 03/12/2024 to 17/12/2024, 17:00 Hrs. For further details of advertisement & vacant plot(s) please visit www.siidcul.com. Further any corrigendum regarding the advertisement shall be published in website Interested applicants can only submit the complete application on website https://esiidcul.com/eprocure/home on/ before mentioned due date.

NOTICE

My correct name is Manti W/o

I have changed my name Saood Ahmad to Saud Ahmad S/o Makasood Ahmad for future purpose. Ulachupur Kokhraj

सूचना

My correct name is Kalpana Gautam W/o Subodh Kr. Gautam which is mentioned all Govt.record by mistake Lic my name is mentioned in policy no.331968995,230418705 as Harish Kumuri which is my house hold name in future, I will be known as Kalpana Gautam R/o 122A, Awas Vikas colony, Sec. 13,

Academy, was walking to a school to pick up her child. The incident has sparked widespread outrage, highlight-As she neared Sector-C, Vikas ing the need for improved law enforcement in the area. Nagar, two men on a motor-

Shivnath which is mentioned in all govt records by mistake lic my name is mentioned in policy no- 228737494 as Manju which is my house hold name in future. I will be known as Manti W/o Shivnath R/o- Raurapur post Ghatramha distt. Sant kabir nagar

NOTICE

I am Neera Yadav w/o Sarvendra Kumar Yadav, resident of village Govindpur Madhav Vishnudaspur, Police Station -Gadaganj, Tehsil - Dalmau, Raebareli Under Oath I declare that my correct name is Neera Yadav. Due to some mistake my name has been mentioned as Neeraj Yadav in my husband's service record which is wrong. My correct name is Neera Yadav.

NOTICE

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि प्रार्थी की पुत्री (अर्पिता) ARPITA कक्षा 6 बी और (अवंतिका) AVANTIKA कक्षा 6 सी सेंट डॉन बास्को कॉलेज लखीमपुर खीरी में अध्यनरत है । प्रार्थी की पुत्रियों की माता का सही नाम SMARTI MISHRA है। संजय मिश्रा-मोहल्ला सिविल लाइन निकट पतंजलि चिकित्सालय, लखीमपुर खीरी 9415576748

Fire breaks out in clothing showroom

PNS LUCKNOW

fire broke out in a clothing Ashowroom in Telibagh market on Monday morning, creating panic in the area. The incident occurred in the PGI police station area. Three fire engines were dispatched to the scene and the flames were brought under control.

The fire reportedly erupted on the second floor of the store, while the ground floor remained unaffected. At the time of the incident, the store was closed, and there were no injuries as no one was inside. Initial investigations suggest the fire was caused by a short circuit.

PGI Inspector Ravi Shankar Tripathi and the fire station incharge were present at the scene.

Anurag, the store manager, confirmed that the fire broke out around 9 am when assistant manager Amit Roy lifted the store's shutter to find smoke filling the space.

As per reports, five employees, including two assistant managers and four staff members, arrived at the store at 9 am and noticed the smoke. They immediately alerted authorities. Fire officials received the call at 9:20 am and promptly dispatched two vehicles from PGI and one from Hazratganj.

After strenuous efforts, the fire was controlled, but the damage to the goods is still being assessed.

According to the store manager, clothes worth lakhs were destroyed in the fire. A large crowd gathered outside the store as fire crews worked to contain the blaze. No casualties were reported and the cause of the fire is still under investigation.

CITYBRIEFS



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for a special salary package for UPSRTC employees was formally exchanged with Indian Bank at a ceremony held at Indira Gandhi Pratisthan. Uttar Pradesh Transport Minister Daya Shankar Singh was present at the event, where UPSRTC MD Masoom Ali Sarwar and Indian Bank Executive Director Brajesh Kumar Singh signed the agreement. The ceremony was attended by Transport Commissioner Chandra Bhushan Śingh and Principal Secretary, Transport, L Venkateshwarlu, along with other Indian Bank officials. Brajesh Kumar Singh highlighted that this MoU marks a step forward in providing digital services to the state's departments, including a salary package with insurance coverage of up to Rs 1 crore for UPSRTC employees, along with free services like ATM cards and lounge access. He also mentioned digital initiatives like ATM facilities for pilgrims during the Maha Kumbh 2025. Chief General Manager Sudhir Kumar Gupta emphasised the bank's extensive digital network in Uttar Pradesh.

GUEST LECTURE

The Department of Chemistry & IQAC at Navyug Kanya Mahavidyalaya, in collaboration with Maharaja Agrasen University, Baddi, organised a guest lecture and a poster competition on 'The Role of Renewable Energy in Sustainable Development' on Monday. More than 75 students from the Department of



Physics participated. Dr Anshu Sharma, associate professor in the Department of Physics at Maharaja Agrasen University, was the invited speaker. The event began with a lamp lighting ceremony led by principal Prof Manjula Upadhyay, Dr Sharma, and the Science faculty. Dr Sharma discussed various renewable energy sources—solar, wind, hydroelectric, and geothermal—and their significance in achieving Sustainable Development Goals. She also highlighted the challenges and limitations of these energies. Prof Manjula Upadhyay appreciated the efforts of the IQAC and Chemistry department. The poster competition winners were Rishika Gupta, Aradhana, and Deepal.

सेवा ऑग्रा बड़ोदा Regional Office Kanpur Dehat Region : 118/330, Bank of Baroda 2nd Floor, Kaushalpuri, Gumti No. 5, Kanpur -208012 Possession Notice Branch : Shuklaganj, Distt. Unnao

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 borrower/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 and Out Standing Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand & Possession Notice Date Borrower: Shri Ram Kumar Dwivedi S/o Shri Kailash Shankar Dwivedi, R/o: Arazi No. 185 Kha Netuva, Gangadham, Azad Nagar, Shuklaganj, Distt. Unnao and also at House No. 85 Village Umar. Post Atwa, Block Safipur, Distt. Unnao.**Guarantor :** Smt. Sangeeta Dwivedi W/o Shri Ram Kumar Dwivedi, R/o : Arazi No. 185 Kha, Netuva, Gangadham, Azad Nagar, Shuklaganj, Distt. Unnao and also at House No. 85 Village Umar, Post Atwa, Block Safipur, Dist. Unnao.

Demand Notice Date: 02-09-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 27.11.2024

Property: Residential Premises Arazi No. 185 Kha, Netuva, Azad Nagar, Pargana Sikandarpur, Shuklaganj, Tehsil & Distt. Unnao in the name of Smt. Sangeeta Dwivedi W/o Shri Ram Kumar Dwivedi, Area: 66.91 Sq. Mtr., Bounded: North: Remaining Land of Mukir, South: Remaining Land of Mukikr, East: Arazi Mukir, West: Rasta 16 Ft.

Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice: Rs. 1,58,799.16 + Intt. +Others Charges Total Dues Amount as on Dated 26-11-2024: Rs. 1,61,719.48 + Intt. +Others Charges

Authorised Officer

verka

e-tenders are hereby Invited for the purchase and supply of following items

Sr. | Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative For Verka Mohali Dairy

a) Outsourcing the activities related to :i. City supply demand, dispatch, milk supply helpers, BCC & Accoun personnels.
ii. Security personnels for loading of fresh milk & milk products.
b) Hiring of insulated road milk tankers for transportation of milk from BMC/MCCs etc. (Capacity minimum 10000 kg).
For Verka Bathinda Dairy
Hiring of Mahindra pickup/ Maxi pickup/ Tata Ace/etc. to lift the milk from Annual/ 02 No's various societies/farms to Milk Chilling Centre, Bhikhi and Talwandi Sabo.

For Verka Sangrur Dairy

a) Outsourcing activities i.e. packing of products, loading/ unloading etc.

b) Rice Husk. Annual Jan 2025- 500 MT Feb 2025- 500 MT For Verka Ludhiana Dairy
Pest control service, DIET(GADVASU) and MCCs which include control of flies, mosquitoes, lizards, rodent etc.
For Verka Gurdaspur Dairy
Hiring of car (Swift dzire or its equivalent) for marketing section.
For Cattle Feed Plant, Bhattian, Khanna
a) Labour job contract for different activities of production section.
b) Housekeeping/Sanitation and Horticulture work.
For Cattle Feed Plant Ghania-ke-Banger
Hiring of double cabin pickup AC vehicle (Bolero camper, Tata xenon or equivalent) for purchase, marketing and engineering section etc. for all india area. 01 No. Annual Annual/ 01 No

For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in.
 Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

NA/12/26788/2023/39726 Dated CHD :- 12/2/2024

Dy. General Manager (Purchase)

Congress workers clash with police

Delegation prevented from going to Sambhal

PNS/ PTI LUCKNOW/

Scores of Congress workers jostled with police personnel and tried to scale barricades outside the party office in Lucknow on Monday as a party delegation led by its Uttar Pradesh unit chief Ajay Rai was prevented from leaving for Sambhal, which has been made out of bounds by administra-tion after the November 24 vio-

Amid high drama, Rai, who took the driver's seat in his car with senior party leader PL Punia next to him, could not leave for the "fact-finding" visit even as scuffles broke out between the cops and the slogan-shouting party workers, who tried to clear the way for their leaders.

Rai drove the car to some distance inside the party office complex but it was stopped by the police at the gate. After this, he sat on a dharna outside the party office along with Congress workers, Punia said. A large police contingent had been deployed and barricades put up since Sunday night around the Congress office in Lucknow's Mall Avenue area to prevent Rai and others from leaving for Sambhal, which was hit by violence during protests against a court-ordered survey of a mosque.
The Congress hit out at the BJP

government, saying it was try-ing to hide its failure with its "anti-democratic" actions. Rai, who had spent the night at the Congress office along with several party workers, later said the party delegation will visit Sambhal when prohibitory orders are lifted.

Speaking to reporters after conspiracy!'

being stopped from going to Sambhal, Rai said, "The administration has told me that prohibitory orders are in place (in Sambhal) till December 10. I had told them that our party (delegation) will go there. The administration said that before December 10, they will let us

"And, the day the prohibitory orders are lifted, the Congress delegation will definitely go to Sambhal."

To a question, Rai said, "They may extend the prohibitory order after December 10, as they are feeling afraid. The government is perpetrating this atrocity and injustice to hide its failures. We will definitely go to Sambhal."

In a post of X in Hindi, the Congress said, "The Congress delegation led by UP Congress President @kashikirai ji has been stopped from reaching Sambhal. This dictatorship of the UP government was strongly opposed by Congress colleagues including Ajay Rai ji.""Our courage is not going to be broken by the arbitrariness of the government and the police. We will continue to try to establish peace in Sambhal and provide justice to the people. The struggle continues..." Before leaving for Sambhal, Rai and Punia paid tributes at the statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the party office. The UP Congress in a post on

X said, "Though the BJP government, through conspiracy and misuse of power, has prevented the Congressmen under the leadership of State President Shri @kashikirai ji to go to Sambhal, we will continue to fight against the violence that took place there due to their



UP Congress president Ajay Rai after police prevented the party delegation from going towards violence-hit Sambhal, outside party office in Lucknow on Monday

"The Congress Party will expose the conspiracy of the BJP behind the violence in Sambhal and bring out its true face before the public. This state cannot run at all with the state cannot run at an with the slogan 'batenge to katenge,'' the UP Congress said. The party also said that the morale of its workers was intact even in the face of police action. "We are trying to reach Sambhal to establish peace. We are fighting! We will fight!" the UP Congress said. The Congress workers moving from Delhi towards Sambhal were also stopped at the UP border by the state police. Senior Congress leader Naseemuddin Siddiqui and former UP Congress chief Brijlal Khabri were among those who were turned back by

night erected barricades outside the party's office in the state capital and the residences

of its several leaders who were to accompany Rai on the Congress' planned fact-finding visit to Sambhal.

Tension has been brewing in Sambhal since November 19, when a Mughal-era mosque was surveyed on court orders following claims that a Harihar temple previously stood at the site. Violence erupted during a second survey on November 24 as protesters gathered near Shahi Jama Masjid and clashed with security personnel. Four people died and several others were injured in the violence that ensued. The Congress' Sambhal city president Tauqeer Ahmed told reporters on Monday that the delegation of the Uttar Pradesh Congress was to reach Sambhal under Rai's to the grieving families, take stock of the situation and appeal for peace."Earlier, the district officer had imposed a

ban on entering Sambhal till November 30, before that we had announced the delegation's visit on December 2. But now, the police administration is stopping everyone from coming to Sambhal. This is against democracy," Ahmed

Leader of the Congress Legislature Party in the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly Aradhana Mishra said, "The incident in Sambhal is not just another ordinary incident. It is a big incident. The Congress delegation under Ajay Rai wanted to go there on a fact-finding mission. Since yester-day (Sunday) night, I have been placed under house arrest. Our party leaders are being stopped."This is complete ernment. The government is trying to hide its failure by citing the imposition of Section 163 (power to issue an order in on November 24.

urgent cases of nuisance or urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and is not allowing us to go there (Sambhal) from Lucknow," Mishra added.The Uttar Pradesh Congress chief spent the night at the Congress committee office along with several party workers.

"If prevented, we would agitate peacefully in a Gandhian way as we are followers of Mahatma Gandhi," Rai had said. The ban on outsiders' entry was to expire on Saturday. The curbs under section 163 (power to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended dan-ger) of the BNSS, set to expire on Sunday, have now been extended till December mission on Sunday visited the Shahi Jama Masjid and other areas that witnessed violence

CM orders third-party audit of 'Har Ghar Nal Yojana' projects

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed a third-party audit for the Har Ghar Nal Yojana under the Jal Jeevan Mission, emphasising quality and timely execution.
While reviewing the programme's progress on Monday, the chief minister warned against compromising quality in public interest initiatives. He in public interest initiatives. He underscored the importance of restoring damaged roads promptly, urging necessary guidance from public representatives. He instructed appointing nodal officers for each project to ensure coordination with local public representatives and completion within the stipulated time.

He also highlighted that departmental officers' accountability would be assessed based on these standards. The chief minister reiterated the mission's core goal — delivering pure drinking water consistent-ly to every household.

He emphasised third-party verification and mandated nodal officers to oversee quality and timelines. The review covered Jal Jeevan Mission projects across Uttar Pradesh, including Vindhya regions.

During the review of community contributions under the Ial Jeevan Mission, the chief minister was informed that 40,951 projects have been approved with a total cost of Rs 1,52,521.82 crore.

This includes Rs 71,714.68 crore each from Central and state contributions, with an additional Rs 9,092.42 crore from community contributions for village infrastructure. The solar-based nature of most projects has increased the overall cost by Rs 13,344 crore, but an additional Rs 6,338 crore will be received from the Central government. Notably, the state government

is projected to save around Rs 1 lakh crore in maintenance and operations over the plan period. It was also reported that 33,229 schemes in Uttar Pradesh are powered by solar energy, with approximately 900 MW of solar panels installed. The Central government has recognised this initiative as a best practice. These solar projects are expected to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by about 13 lakh metric tons

13 IPS officers shifted

Pradesh government transferred 13 IPS officers of ADG, IG and DIG level late on Sunday night. In this reshuffle, DGP's GSO Dr N Ravinder has been made ADG of Anti-Corruption Organisation, while Home Secretary ADG Dr Sanjeev Gupta has been given additional charge of DGP's GSO along with ADG of Establishment.

IG, Meerut, Nachiketa Jha has been made Home Secretary. IG, Basti Range, RK Bhardwaj has been made IG, Bhawan Kalyan, while Lucknow's JCP (Crime) Akash Kulhari has been sent to the post of IG, Public Grievance. DIG of Public

made DIG of Devi Patan Range, Gonda. DIG Amarendra Prasad Singh has been made DIG Intelligence, while Ghaziabad ACP Dinesh Kumar P has been made DIG of Basti. Noida's ACP (Headquarters) Bablu Kumar has been made JCP (Crime), Lucknow, while Agra's ACP Keshav Chaudhary has been made DIG, Jhansi DIG, Intelligence, Sanjeev Tyagi has been made Agra ACP, while Jhansi DIG Kalanidhi Naithani has been made Meerut DIG. Ajay Kumar, the commandant of 32nd Battalion PAC, Lucknow, has been made in-charge of Noida's ACP (Headquarters).

Grievance Amit Pathak has been

anarchy on the part of the govthe police. leadership to offer condolences 31. Members of a judicial com-The police had on Sunday

MAHA KUMBH 2025 Eco-friendly rides for devotees

PNS PRAYAGRAJ

s part of its efforts to ensure Asmooth, safe and convenient travel for devotees attending the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025, the government will launch an online e-rickshaw and eauto booking system, modeled after platforms like Ola and Uber, with a focus on promoting a Green Maha Kumbh

The initiative is supported by both government and private transport providers and aims to provide affordable, eco-friendly options for devotees. The evehicles, which will be available for online booking starting December 15, will feature fixed fares, ensuring no arbitrary charges.

All drivers will be thoroughly trained in good behaviour and customer service. Additionally, a 'Pink Taxi' service will be available, operated by female drivers to ensure the safety and comfort

of women devotees.

extensive transportation arrangements. Over 7,000 roadway buses and 550 shuttle buses will operate, while the railways will run 3,000 trains, including about 1,000 additional ones. UP's startup 'Comfy E Mobility' is spearheading this initiative, offering an online booking platform for erickshaws and e-autos.

To further assist devotees, especially those facing language riers, drivers will also be trained in Google Voice Assistance. The e-vehicles will be available at key locations such as the railway station, bus stand, airport, and hotels.

Comfy E Mobility founder and director Manu Gupta said that the goal of the initiative was to provide a convenient, safe and environment- friendly app-based e-rickshaw taxi service for devotees coming from across the country and abroad for the Maha Kumbh Mela.

Starting with 300 e-rickshaws, the service will cover the entire The government has made Prayagraj and the Kumbh Mela

area. All vehicles will be GPStracked and fully enclosed for added safety. Comfy E Mobility CEO RK Chauhan shared that the company, recognised by Startup India, was committed to reducing air pollution and increasing employment opportunities by introducing ecofriendly electric vehicles as taxis. The company sees the Maha Kumbh Mela as a perfect opportunity to launch this

'GREEN MAHA KUMBH'

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed the development of a 'Green Maha Kumbh', aiming to spread the message of a plastic-free environment globally.

To support this vision, the Prayagraj Municipal Prayagraj Corporation has launched an extensive city-wide campaign. Two dedicated teams, each with 12 members and six enforcement vehicles, are raising awareness and enforcing rules

against the use of plastic. The city is divided into three nodes and eight zones, with teams promoting alternatives like earthen cups (kulhads), leaf plates (dona and pattal), and cloth and jute bags. Strict measures are in place to discourage single-use plastics, including fines, seizures, and legal action against violators.

nforcement team with trucks, a JCB, guards, and gangmen, are supported by police when needed. This initiative is aimed at ensuring that Maha Kumbh 2025 not only maintains its divine grandeur but also conveys a powerful message of sustain-ability and cleanliness to the world.

"The Prayagraj Municipal Corporation is dedicated to turning CM Yogi's vision of a Clean and Green Maha Kumbh into a reality, setting a global example of environmental stewardship. Municipal Commissioner CM Garg said.

Peru's CIP to set up its branch in Agra

The International Potato Centre (CIP) in Lima, Peru, is set to establish a branch in Agra, with an investment of approximately Rs 120 crore on a 10-hectare site. The branch is being opened on the initiative of the Uttar Pradesh government, with support from the Central government Notably, potatoes are part of the Central governmen's pilot project to export select vegetables and fruits via sea routes and its cultivation promises significant prosperity for farmers in the state's potato-producing regions.

As Uttar Pradesh stands as the country's largest potato produc-er, with double-cropping practised in several districts like Kannauj and Farrukhabad, farmers in the state are poised to reap maximum benefits from this initiative. Potatoes are a staple in Indian cuisine, making them indispensable in any vegetable-based dish. While generally affordable year-round, their high demand sometimes leads to shortages that capture media attention. The introduction of cost-effective sea exports is expected to stabilise supply, reducing such shortages and related concerns.

From the outset, the Yogi Adityanath government has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing potato farm-

ers' challenges. During his first term, Chief Minister Yogi implemented the Market Intervention Scheme to support farmers facing economic downturns — a first in the state's history. Since then, the government has consistently taken steps to promote the welfare of potato producers, including providing high-quality seeds at fixed prices, tailored agricultura to the local climate.

Additionally, at the start of his

second term, the chief minister announced several initiatives including plans to establish Centres of Excellence for Potatoes in Hapur and Kushinagar. Transparent licensing processes for cold storage facilities, as well as development of Mega Food Parks and processing clusters, are also underway, reflecting rapid progress in enhancing storage and value-added processing capabilities. These strategic efforts, supported by both the Central and state governments, are transforming the potato sector in Uttar Pradesh, ensuring sustainable growth and prosperity for farmers. The establishment of international and national-level centres will greatly benefit farmers in Uttar Pradesh, the country's leading potato-producing state. Neighbouring states like Bihar and West Bengal, as well as other South Asian potato-growing nations, will also reap significant advantages

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, BARIPADA, MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BARIPADA e-Mail ID:acemicircleb@gmail.com "e" Procurement Notice No 1961 Dated 29.11.2024

GOVERNMENT OF ORISSA

BID IDENTIFICATION NO- Addl. C.E BMIC No.- 02/BMIC/2024-25

The Additional Chief Engineer, Baripada Minor Irrigation Circle, Baripada on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in Double cover only in ONLINE mode for the Construction of works detailed in the table from "B" & "A" Class & above class Contractors State Government and contr with Central Government/M.E.S./Railways for execution of civil works on production of defini proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the followin

2 Total No. of works 3 Estimated Cost

:- 1 (One) no Rs 128.68 Lakh Approximately (Detail list o

Date & time of Availability of Bid Document in

:- Class "B" & "A 03.12.2024 at 10.00 AM 17.12.2024 up to 5.00

Repair & Improvement of MIPs under Improvement to Tanks & MIPs Scheme.

Last date/Time for receipt of Bid only in

:- 17.12.2024 up to 5.00 P.M. :- 18.12.2024. at 11.00 A.M. at Office of the Addl. C.E Baripada M.I Circle, Baripada through

Date/Time of Opening of Financial Bid Date of Transparent Lottery (If cases arises

At 11.00 A.M onwards of dated 27.12.2024

10 Name & Address of the Officer Inviting the Bid.

Additional Chief Engineer, Baripada M.I. Circle, Baripada At/Po-Baripada Dist Mayurbhani PIN-757001 E-Mail: acemicircleb@gmail.com

SCAN HERE

12. Further details can be seen from the "e" Procurement Portal https://tendersodisha.gov.in.

26 carved sculptures to be key attraction PNS PRAYAGRAJ al figure will be showcased. For

The Yogi Adityanath govern-I ment in Uttar Pradesh has devised comprehensive plans to immerse devotees and tourists visiting the Maha Kumbh in the splendor of India's ancient cultural heritage. One of the initiatives includes

installation of 26 carved sculptures of mythological and cultural significance at major intersections across the city.
These statues, which include figures

like Arjuna, Garuda, Nandi, Airavat and even Mother Ganga, will greet domestic and foreign visitors at 26 key intersections of Prayagraj and are expected to become a major attraction during the event.

These iconic sculptures will welcome devotees arriving in the city by any mode of transport. The installation work is progressing swiftly, with six intersections already finished and the remaining 20 expected to be completed within a week.

The installation of the statues is in line with Chief Minister Yogi's vision to beautify Prayagraj ahead of Maha Kumbh as well as to enhance visitors' experience of the

At each intersection, a statue representing a mythological or cultur-

instance, a statue of Arjuna will be placed at the DPS intersection, while Nandi's statue will stand at the airport intersection.

At the Harshvardhan intersection, devotees will witness Maa Ganga riding a boat while performing an aarti. Other notable attractions will include a statue of the great Emperor Samudragupta, the horse from the Samudra Manthan legend, and Shravan Kumar.

The statue of Major Dhyan Chand, Airavat, will further capture the attention of visitors.

The government is also prioritising smart traffic management to accommodate the estimated 45 crore devotees expected at Maha Kumbh 2025. Most of the work on traffic management at the intersections is in its final stages to ensure that the influx of visitors is handled

seamlessly. Along with the statue installations, efforts are being made to beautify the city, adding to the cultural and environmental appeal of Prayagraj. Green belts are being developed at various crossings to enhance the aesthetic appeal and highlight the city's rich horticultural diversity. The beautification drive is part of the larger plan to make the Maha Kumbh a grand and memorable event for all visitors.

Tent city to offer top amenities to pilgrims

To accommodate the millions of devotees expectded for the Prayagraj Maha Kumbh 2025, the Yogi Adityanath government is setting up a luxury tent city with more than 2,000 Swiss cottage-style tents in Sector 20 (Arail) of the Maha Kumbh Mela area.

The project is being carried out by the Uttar Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Limited (UPSTDC), in collaboration with six key partners: Aagaman, Kumbh Camp India, Rishikul Kumbh Cottage, Kumbh Village, Kumbh Canvas and Era. These tents will be constructed to world-class standards

offering five-star hotel-like facilities. The tent city will offer accommodations in four categories: Villa, Maharaja, Swiss Cottage, and Dormitory with prices ranging from Rs 1,500 to Rs 35,000 per day. Additional charges of Rs 4,000 to Rs 8,000 will apply for extra guests (excluding dormitories).

This ambitious project aims to cater to the expected 45 crore visitors from 75 countries. The tent city is being developed in line with the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. These tents will be operational from January 1 to March 5, offering world-class accommodation facilities. Visitors can book accommodation via the UPST-DC website or the Maha Kumbh app. To ensure the comfort of guests, the tent city will feature Villa tents spanning 900 square feet, Super Deluxe tents ranging from 480 to 580 square feet, and Deluxe Blocks covering 250 to 400 square feet. These tents will be equipped with modern amenities such as air-conditioning, double beds, mattresses, sofa sets, customised interiors, writing desks, electric geysers, fire extinguishers, quilts, blankets, mosquito nets, WiFi, dining areas and common sitting spaces, all with scenic views of the riverbank.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

Regional Office, Kanpur Dehat Region: 118/330, 2nd Floor, Gumti No. 5, Kaushalpuri, Kanpur-208 012 • Ph.: 8317087726 e-mail: recovery.kanpurdehat@bankofbaroda.co.in

Sale Notice For Immovable Property "APPENDIX-IV-A[See Proviso to rule 6(2) & 8 (6)] 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 6(2) & Rule 8 (6)

of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the secured creditor, possession of which has been taken by the authorised officer of Bank of Baroda as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is Where is," "As is What is," and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Secured assets/dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date and time. EMD and Bid increase are mentioned below. Branch: Aantiya Talab, Jhansi

Date of e-Auction : 06-01-2025 Last Date of EMD Submission : 04-01-2025 upto 4.00							4.00 PM
SI. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor	Description of Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of e-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/ Bid increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
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Auction Portal https://ebkray.in Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 9151027189 Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda Date: 30-11-2024 Place : Jhansi

Minister calls upon saints to Six-day pulse polio campaign propagate Sanatan Dharma

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State Social Welfare, Scheduled Caste and Tribal Welfare (Independent Charge) Asim Arun called upon the saints participating in the programme to propagate Sanatan Dharma in the country and abroad by connecting with the people. He was speaking at the concluding function of the two-day Sansgam (convention) of 51 Shakti Peeths and 12 Jyotirlingas Rudraksha Convention Centre in Sigra here on Sunday.

He said that in the city of Kashi Vishwanath, the saints, acharyas and peethadheesh-

together in the Samagam. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that we will all celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda throughout the vear. "The tribal people and others should do the work of beautifying the environment by living on the banks of the rivers for centuries", he said, adding that there is a temple of Tripura Sundari in Tripura where the tribal people are associated while in Devipatan Temple also, people of Arjun tribe and Banvasi Jat worship the goddess as Kuldevi.

UP Minister of State for Education Raini Tiwari said Kashi is the centre of the symwars of the country and abroad bol of religion and faith. "In the got the opportunity to come country, temples are the ones

and faith", she said, adding that Shakti Peeths are a symbol of religious, national unity and one soul. The minister said the 51 Shakti Peethas of Maa Sati Mahashakti are not only located in Akhand Bharat but also in other countries of the world and hence bind the entire world in the thread of Vasudev Kutumbakam. "All the holy Shakti Peethas are pilgrimage centres for us", she said.

Several mahants, acharyas and pujaris of 12 Jyotirlingas and 52 Shakti Peeths of India, including Nepal and Pakistan were felicitated. On the occasion of the conclusion of Maha Samagam, Shri Ram Ianmabhoomi Nyasa Mandir's general secretary Champat Rai has come and by building Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya, Sanatanis have proved that the dav is not far when Ram Rajya will be established in the coun-

A Dwivedi, the head priest of Maa Vindhyavasini Temple, said in this Maha Samagam programme, Shakti Peeths are the centres of social reforms. "Shakti Peeths are an integration of Devi and Shiva. It is a symbol of the auspicious union of Shiva and Parvati. Shakti Peeths are symbols of spiritual unity where the person", he said. President of Center for Sanatan Research Dr Raman Tripathi welcomed the participants. The program was conducted by General Secretary Lakshmi Narayan Sharma.

in Varanasi from December 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 Γ he special pulse polio campaign will start in Varanasi from December 8. In the six-day campaign, 5,33,502 children of the district will be given polio dose. The importance of this campaign increases because 541 cases have been reported in neighboring country Pakistan and 106 cases in Afghanistan in this financial year. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary, appealled to public to make sure to give polio dose to their children up to five vears of age and added being a pilgrimage site, there is more traffic in Kashi, so the risk of spread increases.

District Immunisation Officer (DIO) Dr AK Maurya said

5,33,502 children will take the medicine in this six-day long campaign which is starting with the booth day on December 8. In this, polio doses will be given at 1,813 booths in the district. A total of 1,225 teams have also been deployed for door-to-door visits and 30 transit teams have been formed. For children who are unable to reach the booth, polio doses will be given by going door-to-door from December 9. Even after this, if any child is deprived of taking the medicine, then he/she will be given polio doses on December 16. He stressed on remaining alert and making sure to give polio doses to children up to five years of age. CONFERENCE: The annual conference of Indian Society of

Gastroenterology (Uttar opportunity for budding gas Pradesh Chapter) will be troenterologists as well as physi organised by Gastroenterology department, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) from December 4 to 7 at Deendayal Hasth Kala Sankul. About 2000 international and national faculties and delegates will participate in it. This conference will be inaugurated by the World Gastroenterology Organisation (WHO) president Dr Geoffrey Metz on December 4. Organising Committee Chairman Prof Ajay Khanna, secretary Prof VK Dixit and Chairman of the Programme (Reception Committee) Dr Devesh Prakash Yadav while addressing a press conference here on Monday said that it is a great

troenterologists as well as physicians to learn from international and national stalwarts in their respective fields like liver transplantation, hepatology, IBD, endoscopy and pancreatic disease. According to them, this knowledge fest is aimed to enlighten participants on topics of day-to-day practice as well as recent advances in gastroenterology. Common problems like hiccups, IBS, fatty liver will be entertained as well as updated insights of endoscopy, treatment of hepatitis B and C, liver transplant will be served by various maestros. This 'Gyan -Ganga' is intended to brush up the clinical knowledge of participants and help them in contributing to a healthier society

Fest to celebrate infinite wisdom of Kabir from Dec 13

Varanasi (PNS): Set against the historic ghats of Varanasi, the Mahindra Kabira Festival returns for its eighth edition from December 13 to 15. Like every year, the 2024 edition of the much- anticipated festival promises to be a magical celebration of music and heritage, bringing together an extraordinary lineup of artistes and performers from various corners of the country to celebrate the infinite wisdom of the 15th

century mystic poet Kabir. Head (Cultural Outreach) of Mahindra Group Jay Shah said the growing appeal of this celebration in Varanasi is truly heartening to witness. "To revisit Sant Kabir's ideas in a variety of ways: through different genres of music, literature sessions and heritage walks

and to live and breathe in an ancient city where he himself lived is truly an experience of a lifetime", he said.

The festival promises an unforgettable musical journey, complemented by Varanasi's mesmerising Ganga Aarti on the serene banks of the holy Ganga. The event will kick off with an opening reception, featuring a soul-stirring Carnatic Quartet, conceptualised and curated by Shreya Devnath which features four artistes playing instrumental music. They will perform a range of compositions from the Carnatic to the semi-classical repertoire, inter-preted through their instruments, exploring themes of divinity, nature and their interconnectedness. Mehfil by Anadi Nagar will be another highlight of the evening in which the musical set will perform a selection of folk and theatre songs by fusing modern and traditional Indian music. A dominant element in Mehfil's performances is their resonance with Kabir's Nirgundhara, an ode to the formless, unorthodox and the uncustomary.

Each day at the festival will begin with a rejuvenating morning music programme. 'Man Lago Re' by Yusra Naqvi, a vocalist and instrumentalist, aims to create a moving and emotional experience for her listeners through her art. Sarvatara, a gifted ensemble of musicians, led by Himanshu Mishra and mentored by Guru Pt Mithilesh Kumar Jha, promotes the essence of music

across various genres, including semi-classical fusion, Sufi, indie folk fusion, classical and folk instrumental. Currently, they are working on 'Project Kahat Kabeer,' which features their own compositions inspired by the verses of Kabir alongside other popular works. Deobrat Mishra, a sitarist, surbahar player and music composer, celebrated as an exponent of the Benares Gharana school and the son of Padma Shri Pandit Shivnath Mishra, combines Banarasi thumri on sitar with Dhrupad and Khayal singing. Mithaavin, a Mumbaibased fusion band, offers a captivating synthesis of Indian classical music and jazz, interwoven with unique rhythmic grooves. Mithaavin brings to life the mystical poetry of Kabir

through a blend of immersive compositions and an eclectic mix of instruments. This performance masterfully combines the recitation of Kabir's dohas with insightful explanations. The afternoon sessions will host Dr Archana Sharma, a distinguished scientist at CERN whose recent endeavour, along with co-authors Anil Sharma and Rajesh K Singh, is a visually appealing coffee table book, written in English, Hindi, and Sanskrit, paying homage to Varanasi. Purushottam Agrawal, former visiting professor at the Faculty of Oriental Studies, Cambridge University and acclaimed author of Akath Kahani Prem Ki: Kabir ki Kavita aur Un ka Samay, will talk about Why Kabir?. Dastaan-e- Kabir by Himanshu

Bajpai and Pragya Sharma is a dastangoi presentation that explores the life, philosophy and poetry of Kabir. Through folk anecdotes and his poetry, this dastan seeks to uncover Kabir's character, spirituality and critical insights on societal and religious issues. Aravani Art Project an Indian public art collective, run by trans and cis women, initiated by Poornima Sukumar, brings together people from the transgender community who paint murals, inspired by their lives and experiences, in and around public spaces in the city. The evening music programme will have varied voices from Kerala to Bengal. Advaita, an eclectic fusion band from Delhi will enthral audience with contemporary Indian sounds.

Three faculty members of ISc-BHU selected for prestigious award been selected. Prof Pratyoosh

Varanasi (PNS): Three faculty members of the Institute of Science of Banaras Hindu University (ISc-BHU) have been selected for the prestigious Prof CNR Rao Education Foundation Award for Excellence in Research for the years 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25. The award recognises scientists who have made significant contributions in the fields of pure and applied sciences, including Basic Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering and Technology. For the 2022-2023 session, Prof Bhabani Prasad Mandal, senior professor in the Department of Physics, has been honoured with

the award. For 2023-2024, Prof

Krishna Nand Singh, senior pro-

fessor and Head of the Department of Chemistry, has

Shukla, professor and Coordinator of the School of Biotechnology, has received the award for 2024-2025. The award carries a cash prize and citation. Prof Sanjay Kumar, Director, Institute of Science, has congratulated the faculty members. The Institute of Science fraternity has also extended its wishes to Prof Singh, Prof Mandal, and Prof Shukla.

The award serves as a testament to the outstanding research achievements of the faculty members. The university had invited nominations for the award in July this year. The award is open to faculty members who are members of at least one of the National Science/ Agricultural/ Engineering Academy or winners of any Gazetted National Award.

Couple killed in accident

65-year-old former prad-A 65-year-old former parameters were killed when their motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle in the Chharibna Purva Khas village under Industrial Police Station area on Monday afternoon. The granddaughter, who was with them, was seriously injured and admitted to a hospital. On getting information the police reached the spot and sent the bodies for postmortem. The police is searching for the vehicle that hit them. Former Pradhan of Purva Khas Raees Ahmed was going on a bike with his wife Anjuman (60) and grand-daughter Ilma to attend a wedding in Sadwa village when the four wheeler hit their bike.

Utraon police station in-charge Pankaj Tripathi said that police is searching for the vehicle that hit them.

In another incident two persons died in an accident which took place in an area under the Naini police station here on Monday.

Mithilesh alias Kallu Yadav

(25) of Morhaun village of Phaphamau area used to earn his living by selling eggs on a cart. The accident took place on Monday he was going with his friend Lalchand (30) of Gaddopur and a bus going towards the city hit the bike. Mithilesh Yadav died on the spot and seriously injured Lalchand was admitted to a pri-

Swaroop Rani Nehru (SRN) Hospital. However, he too breathed his last on the way to SRN Hospital. Naini police SHO Vaibhav Singh said the driver fled leaving the bus behind. BOY DROWNS: A 14-year-

old boy jumped from the bridge into the Tons river and drowned in Katka village under Karchana police station area on Monday morning. A crowd of people gathered there and the villagers started a search with the help of boatmen present at the ghat. After a lot of effort the body of the boy was recovered. According to a report received here, Vishwakarma, a resident of Katka village, was a student of class IX. After waking up on Monday morning, he was watching TV instead of getting ready to go to school. When his elder sister turned off the television and scolded him he left the house and jumped into the river from the bridge located near the village. On seeing the boy jumping into the river, a crowd of passersby gathered there. Village head Pawan Nishad reached the spot with many people. The police was informed. After about an hour, the drowned boy was recovered but by then he had stopped breathing.

On getting information, the family members of the deceased reached the spot. Bhirpur police outpost in charge Amit Kumar Singh sent vate hospital in Phaphamau from where he was referred to the body for post-mortem after completing the paperwork.

Advancements in neurology research praised

Varanasi (PNS): A two-day Non-Invasive Neurostimulation Workshop' was organised by the Department of Neurology, Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), concluded on Sunday. The programme aimed to raise awareness about vari ous neurological disorders and provided information on advanced equipment like RTMS (Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation) and TCD (Transcranial Doppler). This workshop was held in collaboration with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and BHU. The event was inaugurated by IMS-BHU Director Prof SN Sankhwar while the chief guest was Dr Geeta Jotwani, Head of HRD, ICMR, New Delhi. She praised the advancements in neurology research and encouraged more research initiatives. Dr Jotwani also explained how research grants can be obtained from ICMR by submitting project proposals as per their guidelines. Prof VN Mishra (Head, Neurology Department), Prof RN Chaurasia, Prof Abhishek Pathak, Dr Varun and Dr Anand shared insights on neurological disorders and treatments using these new tech-

Man held for killing wife, mother-in-law

PTI/PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A^{41-year-old} man was arrested here for allegedly killing his wife over suspected infidelity and his mother-inlaw, who tried to intervene in the couple's fight, police said on Monday.

The incident took place on Sunday night in Chakeri area's Friends colony when Joseph Peter alias Badal, hailing from Bulandshahr district, killed Kamini Singh (39) and her mother Pushpa (62), they said. The accused suspected that his wife, who worked at a private canteen, had an extra-marital affair with a man from Delhi, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (east) Rajesh Srivastava told PTI. Joseph had hired an auto to

take Kamini for an outing on Sunday, but she refused, leading to a heated altercation between the couple, Srivastava said. In a fit of rage, Joseph hit Kamini on her neck with a sharp-edged weapon, resulting in her death, he said.

He also killed his mother-inlaw by striking her with an iron stick on the head, after she tried to intervene in the couple's dispute, the DCP said. Their neighbour called the police after hearing shrieks from Joseph's house, the DCP said, adding that police found Kamini and Pushpa lying dead in a pool of blood upon reaching there. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination, police said. WOMAN FOUND HANG-

ING: A woman was found hanging under mysterious circumstances in AB Nagar under Sadar Kotwali police area on Sunday night. Police sent the body for autopsy after investi-According to a report received

here. Krishna Mishra (30), wife of Vikas Mishra of House No.232, AB Nagar, after dinner, had gone to sleep in the room. Late at night when Vikas went to the room, he found her hanging. He took her to the emergency ward of the district hospital where Dr Manish Chaurasia declared the woman as brought dead. Police also rushed to the spot and carried out a probe. Kin could not divulge the cause of her death. In another incident a 19-yearold youth, Utkarsh, was found dead in the bathroom of his hostel in Navin Nagar under Kakadeo police area on Sunday evening. Utkarsh was taken to a nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. Police apprehend that he died of a heart attack. After investigation by forensic team, the body

had been sent for autopsy. The landlord informed the police following which ADCP (Central) Manoj Pandey rushed to the spot with force and carried out investigation.

Main causes of disability highlighted

Alecture was organised on the eve of International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) the Psychological Counseling cell of the Department of Psychology, Mahila Mahavidvalava, Kidwai Nagar, on Monday. This programme was organised under the joint aegis of Sankalp Special School Kanpur, Khwahish Foundation and the Psychological Counseling Cell of the college. The programme began with garlanding of the idol of Lord Ganesha and Maa Saraswati and lighting of the lamp. Saplings were presented to welcome and honour the distinguished guest speakers and principal of the college.

Principal Professor Anju Chaudhary in her welcome address appealed to the students to always remain sensitive and supportive towards the disabled persons as dis-ability should not be considered as a curse. Through mutual cooperation, harmony and special training, they can also be inspired to live a normal life. In this way they can also be connected with the mainstream of the society. Professor Pratibha Srivastava. Head of the Department of Psychology, threw light on the main causes of disability and the remedial measures. The keynote speaker of the programme, Dr Deepti Tiwari, founder of Sankalp Special School, made the stu-



The MMV organised a lecture on the eve of IDPD on Monday.

dents aware of the major challenges in the lives of the persons with disabilities and inspired them by sharing some success stories of such

persons. The special speaker of the pro-gramme Dr Alka Mishra, Secretary, Khwahish Secretary, Khwahish Foundation, in her address on the occasion advocated helping the disabled person become professionally competent and capable. She said that there are immense possibilities of creativity and innovation among the persons with disabilities. Through skilled guidance and training, they can also become an important unit of the society. Special speaker Nupur Singh, appealed to students to learn from her own example as she suffered from cerebral palsy

and overcome all her problems with expert guidance and counseling is a successful person today. She said in 2019 Nupur participated in KBC with full confidence and also won a huge amount. Her talk was very beneficial and inspiring for students.

More than 100 students of the college attended the pro-

gramme.
The programme was conducted by Prof Neeta Mishra and Head of the Department Prof Pratibha Shrivastava proposed the vote of thanks.

On the occasion Dr Shobhana Dwivedi, Dr Mamta Mishra (member of Psychological Counseling Cell) and lecturers of other departments of the college made the programme successful with their

GERICON-2024 concludes at IMS-BHU

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE VARANASI

 $T^{\text{he three-day 21st annual}}_{\text{conference of the Indian}}$ Academy of Geriatrics (GERICON-2024) concluded at National Centre of Ageing (NCA), Department of Geriatric Medicine in Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) on Sunday. It showcased groundbreaking research and academic excellence in geriatric medicine. Under the guidance of head of department and nodal officer of NCA Prof Anup Singh, two students of department got awards. Dr Nishant Roy won the first prize and a gold medal in the oral presentation category and Dr Debabrata Brahma from the same department secured the second prize in the poster presentation category.
Prof Singh said these achieve-

ments highlighted the department's dedication to advancing geriatric care and research. Earlier, a special session on falls and frailty was taken by emi-



nent international speakers. Prof Maw Pin Tan of Malaysia and Prof Kamiar Aminian of Switzerland spoke on falls and its prevention. The frailty session was conducted by Prof Shahrul Kamaruzzaman from Malaysia and UK based Dr Sanjay Suman and Dr Abhaya Gupta. A workshop on brain imaging in dementia was also conducted by Prof SS Chakrabarti and Dr Sumit on the second day. The inaugural

function was organised at KN Udupa Auditorium in which Prof Anup Singh welcomed the guests.

Director of IMS-BHU Prof SN Sankhwar gave life time achievement award to Prof B Krishnaswamy. Dean Prof Ashok Kumar and MS of SSH Prof KK Gupta and co organising chairman Dr Prabhakar Shukla were also present on the occasion. Prof SS Chakrabarti proposed the vote of thanks.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Diabetes has emerged as one of the fastest-growing health challenges globally, and India, often referred to as the "diabetes capital of the world," is at the centre of this health crisis. According to the International Diabetes Federation, approximately 74 million people in India were living with diabetes in 2021, and this number is expected to continue rising. While larger cities like Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru have relatively better healthcare infrastructure, much of the population lives in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where access to healthcare remains limited. This growing gap is making it difficult to effectively manage diabetes in these areas. Several factors contribute to

India's diabetes epidemic, including urbanisation, sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets and genetic predisposition. The rise of Type 2 diabetes is

not limited to urban or affluent populations; it is now widespread in smaller cities and rural areas. Unfortunately, these areas lack the resources necessary to tackle the growing number of diabetes cases. A significant challenge in managing diabetes in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities is the shortage of specialised healthcare professionals. Although general physicians are widely available, there is a severe lack of endocrinologists who are trained to manage complex diabetes cases. In fact, there are fewer than 6,500 endocrinologists in India, with most of them concentrated in Tier 1 cities. This shortage means that patients in smaller cities struggle to access the expert care needed to manage complications related to diabetes, such as neuropathy, retinopathy and kidney damage.
In addition to the lack of

experts, there is also a shortage of diabetes educators and counsellors in these regions.

Diabetes mgmt in smaller cities presents several challenges: Singh Diabetes management goes beyond medical treatment and requires patient education on self-monitoring, insulin administration, dietary changes and lifestyle modifications. Without trained diabetes educators, many patients in smaller cities do not receive the guidance they need to manage their condition effectively. This lack of education leads to poor adherence to treatment plans, increasing the risk of complications. Diagnostic services, such as

blood glucose monitoring and HbA1c testing, are often limited or too expensive for patients in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. Without access to reliable diagnostic facilities, patients are often diagnosed too late, which leads to the progression of the disease and worsens health outcomes. To address these gaps, it is essential to improve both the accessibility and affordability of diagnostic services in

smaller cities. Dr Durga Prasad Singh, MD, Internal Medicine at Regency Health, emphasised, "The manage-ment of diabetes in smaller cities presents several challenges due to the limited availability of specialists and diabetes educators. Patients often face difficulties in accessing essential healthcare services, which exacerbates the issue. However, improving access to diagnostic services, offering better patient education and utilising technology for remote consultations can significantly improve the quality of diabetes care in these

areas." The responsibility of managing diabetes often falls on general physicians who, while capable of providing basic care, lack the proficient training required to handle complex cases. Managing diabetes involves not only medication but also monitoring for complications such as heart disease and kidney damage. General physicians, without the support of specialists, are unable to provide comprehensive care, which can lead to poor health outcomes for patients.

Telemedicine has emerged as a valuable tool to bridge the gap in care, allowing patients in smaller towns to consult with experts remotely. However, digital solutions cannot replace in-person care, especially for patients with severe complications. To improve diabetes care in underserved areas, the government must incentivise healthcare professionals to work in these cities by offering financial incentives, expanding medical education, and strengthening public health initiatives. A comprehensive approach, including better access to quality care, patient education and enhanced diagnostic services, is essential to tackling the diabetes epidemic and improving health outcomes in Tier 2 and Tier 3

SC seeks EC's response on PIL against decision to increase number of voters per polling station

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE **NEW DELHI**

The Supreme Court on Monday sought the Election Commission's response on a PIL challenging its decision to increase the maximum number of voters from 1,200 to 1,500 at every polling station, saying no elector should be excluded.

While asking the poll panel to clarify its stand, a bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar said, "We are concerned. No voter should be evoluded."

panel, to file a short affidavit explaining the rationale behind the decision to increase the number of voters per polling station.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the Election Commission, says on instruction that they will explain the position by way of a short affidavit. Let the affidavit be filed within a period of three weeks," said the

Singh said the bench knew about the consistent allegations on EVMs, adding, "They cerned. No voter should be excluded."

The bench therefore directed The bench therefore directed will keep on coming. The polling has been happening like this since 2019 and politsenior advocate Maninder ical parties are being consult-Singh, representing the poll ed before this in every con-



said polling stations could have multiple polling booths and political parties were consulted in each constituency when the total number of voters was raised per EVM. Singh further said voters

were always permitted to cast their votes, even beyond the prescribed time. The bench, which will hear the matter on January 27, 2025, asked the EC to provide a copy of its affidavit to the petitioner before the next date of hear-

ing.
The PIL, filed by Indu
Prakash Singh, challenged two communications issued by the EC in August, increasing

stituency across India.

The plea said 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 coun-sel of the poll panel so that its stand on the issue is known. Senior advocate Abhishe

Senior advocate Abnishek Singhvi, appearing for the petitioner, contended that increasing the number of vot-ers from 1,200 to 1,500 would lead to the exclusion of under-privileged groups from the privileged groups from the electoral process as an individual would take longer to in 2025.

waiting time at the polling stations would dissuade voters from going to cast their votes. The bench, however, said the poll panel wanted more participation and with the use of EVMs, it took a shorter time compared to ballot papers as

mitted longer queues and

the poll panel intended to considerably reduce the time taken to cast votes by increasing the number of EVMs at booths. The petitioner, however, said the poll panel's decision would impact voters during the assembly elections Maharashtra and Jharkhand (since concluded) and Bihar and Delhi to be held

VHP holds protest against attack on Hindus in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

 $T_{ ext{on Monday held a}}^{ ext{he Vishva Hindu Parishad}}$ demonstration here against alleged attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh and demanded that the United Nations intervene to stop the atrocities. The protest at Jantar Mantar

witnessed the participation of several people, who raised slogans demanding the safety of Hindus in Bangladesh. The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) also warned Bangladesh's interim government that if the atrocities against Hindus did not stop, the country could be divided

VHP Delhi unit chief Kapil Khanna said the situation in Bangladesh was worrying. There is anger among the Hindus and they have come here to express their anger, he

"Atrocities are being committed against Hindus in Bangladesh and lakhs of Hindus have been displaced. Our sisters and daughters are being tortured," he said.

Mahant Naval Kishore Das, who also joined the protest, said, "Our sisters and daughters are being tortured, reli-



gious places are being demolished, and saints are being put in jail.'

"Our message to everyone that the Hindus will not accept this," Das said.

VHP state secretary Surendra Gupta demanded the United Nations and international human rights organisations intervene and stop the atroc-

He warned the government of Bangladesh that if the atrocities did not stop, Bangladesh could be divided into two. The Hindus in Bangladesh constitute about eight per cent of the 170 million pop-

ulation. There has been allegations of over 200 attacks on Hindus in

Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on

August 5. The ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness) also held protest 'kirtans' at its Albert Road centre in Kolkata on Thursday and Friday, demanding the release of jailed Hindu spiritual leader Chinmoy Krisĥna Das.

The religious body expressed concern over the plight of religious minorities in Bangladesh.

Das was arrested in a sedition case and was later denied bail by a court, triggering protests by community members in various locations, including the capital Dhaka 50-odd districts of and the port city of Bangladesh since the fall of Chattogram.

India set to experience milder winter | Over 88 lakh houses with fewer coldwave days, says IMD



PNS NEW DELHI

India is set to experience a milder winter with fewer coldwave days, the weather office said on Monday and forecast above-normal minimum temperatures during the season.

The forecast of a relatively warmer winter came after the country experienced the second warmest November since 1901, with the average maximum temperature clocking 29.37 degrees Celsius -- 0.623 degree above the normal of 28.75 degrees for the season. "During the upcoming winter season (December 2024 to February 2025), above-normal minimum temperatures

are likely over most parts of the country," Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, director general of the India Meteorological Department (IMD), told reporters here.

According to the forecast, the winter season was expected to witness fewer coldwave days than the normal of five to six. During the season, abovenormal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except most areas over south Peninsular India, where normal to below-normal maximum temperatures are likely, he said. "Normally, we see five to six coldwave days during December to February over the cold core zone, which

includes the northwest, central, east and northeast India. This year, we can expect two to four fewer coldwave days compared to average,' Mohapatra said.

According to the IMD, a cold wave is considered if the minimum temperature (T-min) is less than the 10th percentile of the daily climatological value and the climatological daily T-min is less than 15 degrees Celsius. These conditions should be observed for three consecutive days for it to qualify as one coldwave

Mohapatra said the absence of western disturbances was the reason for a

delivered under PMAY-U: Govt tells RS

PNS NEW DELHI

More than 88 lakh houses have been delivered to the beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), the Rajya Sabha was informed on Monday.

In a written reply to a question, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu said that over 1.18 crore houses have been sanctioned by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) till November 18.

The ministry has been supplementing the efforts of states and Union territories by providing central assistance under PMAY-U since June 25, 2015 to provide pucca houses in urban areas across the country, he said.

'Based on project proposals submitted by the State/UT Governments under PMAY-U, as on 18.11.2024, a total of 118.64 lakh houses have been sanctioned by the Ministry..., and more than 88.02 lakh are completed/delivered to the beneficiaries. "The remaining houses are at different



minister said in the written

He said that learning from the experiences of PMAY-U, MoHUA has launched PMAY-U 2.0 'Housing for All' Mission with effect from September 1, 2024 for implementation in urban areas across the country to construct, purchase and rent 10 million houses by eligible beneficiaries at affordable cost through four verticals of the

These four verticals are Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) and Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS). As on date, 29 states and UTs have signed Memorandum of Agreement to implement PMAY-U 2.0.

CPA can turn lethal for one in three people with lung diseases: Study

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE

Chronic pulmonary caspergillosis (CPA) -- a common fungal infection that claims 340,000 lives every year worldwide, can turn lethal for about 1 in three people with lung diseases, according to a study by researchers including from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS),

CPA, caused by exposure to airborne spores of the mould Aspergillus, causes gradual scarring of the lungs for months and years. It is a debilitating condition that causes severe tiredness, weight loss, breathlessness, and coughing up blood. While exposure to



Aspergillus is harmless to most people, it may affect those with lung damage. The international study of

CPA is led by Professor David Denning from The University of Manchester and



published in the leading journal Lancet Infectious Diseases showed that around 32 per cent of people who have had prior damage from lung diseases will die after five years if they also get

will die in the first year following other lung diseases. Co-authors Dr Abinhav Sengupta and Dr Animesh Ray from Delhi-based AIIMS examined the death rates in 8,778 patients described in the literature from all continents except Antarctica. The international study

including researchers from the University of Manchester, showed that CPA patients with prior tuberculosis (TB) had a lower overall 5-year mortality of 25 per cent. However, they also found that patients with CPA end up being misdiagnosed as having TB, and then not

treated with antifungal agents. Treatment with antifungal

infected by CPA.Nearly 15 drugs or surgery is key to per cent of people with CPA improving symptoms and also reducing the risk of death, the researchers said. Though patients with TB tend to be younger, a multivariable analysis showed prior TB was 24% less lethal than other lung conditions, even accounting for age, though the reason for the difference in outcome was not identified.

Being older than 60, having interstitial lung disease, current cancer and smokingrelated lung disease carried worse outcomes, said the

Caused by exposure to airborne spores of the mould Aspergillus, it is harmless to most people, but not to those with lung damage, maintained the researchers.

India's PRAGATI platform helped accelerate 340 infra projects across country, finds Oxford study

stages of construction," the



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

unique digital governance Aplatform in India, PRA-GATI, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has trans-formed the delivery of the country's infrastructure projects, a study by Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, and the Gates Foundation has found.

Timely Implementation (PRAGATI) has driven accountability at the most senior level, and supported unprecedented federal and regional collaboration, accelerating 340 projects worth USD 205 billion across the country and cutting through decades of delays, the study noted. The findings were released on Monday at a symposium hosted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bengaluru, which brought together leaders from academia and the public and private sectors to discuss how digital governance can transform infrastructure develop-

ment. Titled 'From Gridlock to Growth: How Leadership Enables India's PRAGATI Ecosystem to Power Progress', the case study noted that many of the 340 projects were anywhere from three to 20 years overdue.

This new model not only does away with layers of obfuscation, but introduces

an element of "naming and shaming" that compels offi-cials to be directly answerable,

the study has found.
"PRAGATI shows us it is essential for nations to cultivate an environment where top leadership is using technology to drive cross-collab-oration and regular account-ability reviews. This is par-ticularly valuable for countries aiming to make infra-structure development a pillar of economic growth," said Soumitra Dutta, Peter Moores Dean and Professor of Management at University of Oxford.

The transition towards such systems may require initial investment and cultural shifts, but the long-term benefits of more reliable infrastructure surable, delivering a ripple effect of efficiency and success

governance. The relationship

between the central government and states has historically been marked by political tensions and competing priorities," the study noted. "Different political parties often control different states, and partisan differences can easily derail important initiatives. Yet PRAGATI has emerged as a powerful demonstration of cooperative federalism in action showing how central and state governments can work together effectively regardless of political affiliations when focused on shared development goals," it added. The case study has recommended that potential exists to further enhance the Team India approach through PRAGATI.

This could be done by incorporating more state-specific issues in PRAGATI reviews, facilitating direct state-tostate cooperation through the platform, and leveraging data analytics to identify and promoté successful state-level governance models nationally," it said.

"Additionally, it will be critical to ensure that state officials have the skills and resources they need to advance their infrastructure and social development goals. Ensuring equitable participation of all states, regardless of political affiliations, will also be an important focus," the study noted.

Coupling happens without human intervention in more advanced LHB coaches: Vaishnaw to RS

PNS NEW DELHI

 $R^{
m ailway}$ Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has informed the Rajya Sabha that more advanced LHB coaches, introduced by the railways in 1999-2000, are provided with centre buffer couplers in which coupling takes place without any manual intervention. He said this while providing information about various safety measures taken to prevent untoward incidents during cou-pling and decoupling of trains

Vaishnaw responded to questions raised by MPs Priyanka Chaturvedi and Derek O' Brien regarding a recent case in which a railway employee lost his life after getting sandwiched between an engine and a coach

while decoupling them. They wanted to know if the government maintains any state-wise data of accidents and deaths caused during manual coupling of train coaches since 2019 and the measures taken by the government to prevent such acci-



"ICF coaches, designed and developed during the 1960s, were provided with screw coupling and side buffers, which require manual coupling of coaches. More advanced LHB coaches were introduced by Indian Railways (IR) in 1999-

2000," Vaishnaw said He added, "These LHB coaches are provided with Centre buffer couplers in which coupling takes place without any manual intervention. IR (Indian Railways) have taken up the replacement of ICF coaches by LHB coaches in a

phased manner. According to Vaishnaw, from

2014 to 2024, 36,933 LHB coaches were manufactured as compared to 2337 from 2004 to

He further informed that advanced semi-automatic couplers have also been developed for use in Amrit Bharat and Vande Bharat trains. "These couplers also enable automatic coupling between coaches without any mutual intervention. Induction training and refresher training at regular intervals is imparted to concerned field staff to avoid the possibility of any unfortunate incidences coupling/decoupling/shunting PNS NEW DELHI Rajya Sabha. ⊃PI floor leader in Rajya Sabha P Sandosh Kumar on Monday submitted a breach

CPI submits breach of

privilege motion against

. Vaishnaw to Rajya Sabha

of privilege motion against Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, accusing him of misleading the House by providing figures contradictory to the ministry's own data submitted earlier to the House. According to a statement issued by the CPI, the ministry, in response to a question raised by CPI MP P P Suneer on safety of railway workers, provided the number of 65 deaths and 569 injuries from 2014-15 to 2023-24, a period of 10

However, in an earlier reply in Rajya Sabha on December 8, 2023, the ministry said that 361 railway workers died due to train accidents during maintenance work on rail tracks in the last five years (from 2019-20 to 27.11.2023), the statement said. The CPI said the ministry's reply on Monday sharply contradict the figures provided by it earlier in the

The party said in a sub-question of the raised question, Suneer had asked for the zonewise details of the "number of deaths and injuries involving railway personnel, including regular employees, contractual workers and outsourced workforce, during construction, maintenance, inspection or coupling of trains in the last three years".

"The ministry's reply of 65 deaths is in sharp contradiction to their own admission in the Rajya Sabha made in December 2023," the CPI said. It said according to the railway ministry's own data provided in the Rajya Sabha in response to unstarred question number 764 by A A Rahim, answered on December 8, 2023, the ministry gave the number of railway workers who died due to train accidents during maintenance work on railway tracks in the last five years (from 2019-20 to 27.11.2023)

Pro-Active Governance and

and public trust are immeain their development agenda," he added.

The case study has found that the ministries and departments are now more responsive to citizen grievances, knowing that their performance will be reviewed at the highest level and subjected to a data-driven analysis. "In India's complex federal structure, fostering cooperation between the central government and states - regardless of which political party is in power at the Centre or the states – is crucial for effective

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-PAPER WITH PASSION-

Musical chairs

While the BJP-led Mahayuti emerged victorious in Maharashtra, the post-election scenario has been anything but smooth

he Maharashtra Assembly elections have delivered a decisive yet politically tumultuous mandate. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance scripted a powerful comeback in state Assembly elections by winning 230 seats in the 288-member House. Shinde's Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP also performed well. Sena won 57 while NCP won 41 seats. It was indeed a big disappoint for Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). The grand old party registered one of its worst performances in the state Assembly polls after it won only 16 seats. Sharad Pawar's NCP(SP) won just 10 seats, whereas Uddhav Thackeray's (UBT) won 20 seats. Despite this success, the post-election landscape has been anything but smooth, as a fierce tussle erupted between the two allies over the chief ministerial position. The postelection scenario has turned into a high-stakes political drama. Devendra Fadnavis, the BJP's chief minister candidate finally got the post as Eknath Shinde stepped



aside and his son is likely to be deputy chief minister; allegedly on the pressure of the BJP central command. His leadership has been credited with delivering key infrastructure projects and steering the state through various challenges such as agrarian distress and urban expansion.

As the BJP's top leader in Maharashtra, Fadnavis was widely expected to retain the chief ministerial post. The Shiv Sena made significant contribution to the alliance's victory and wanted to retain the CM post for Eknath Shinde. But after days of negotiations he finally agreed to give way to Fadnavis while maintaining that his tenure saw expo-

nential development in the state and he made it number one. The party has pointed out that its cadre worked tirelessly to mobilise grassroots support, especially in rural and semi-urban areas where the BJP's influence has traditionally been weaker. It is also understandable that the BJP should lead the government, citing the party's larger mandate but it will still need NCP and Shiv Sena support to remain in power. The impasse between the BJP and Shiv Sena created an air of uncertainty in Maharashtra's politics. As of now, Devendra Fadnavis appears poised to be the chief minister, backed by the BJP's central leadership. Though, for now the BJP has prevailed and got the plumb post for its man, make no mistake. Shinde's Shiv Sena is not very happy about it and knows once they are marginalised in the game the chances of their party splitting and merging with the BJP are rather high. It has happened in the past and could well be repeated in Maharashtra as well. It would be interesting to watch how Maharashtra politics shapes up. The decisions taken now, the composition of the cabinet and indeed the say Shinde has in the administration would not only shape Maharashtra's governance for the next five years but also redefine the dynamics of of India's financial hub.



Artistes perform during the 35th Konark Dance Festival 2024, in Puri

COP29: Stalemate on climate finance -



The 29th annual Climate Summit in Azerbaijan reached an impasse as developed and developing nations remained divided over climate finance commitments

he negotiation process at the 29th annual Climate Summit (COP29) in Baku, Azerbaijan came to a halt as both developed and developing countries did not agree with the proposed quantum of climate finance, and its mobilisation approach. The COP29 Presidency had two quantitative targets before the negotiating countries. A USD 1.3 trillion of total annual climate investments in developing countries by 2035 and USD 250 billion of annual climate finance from developed to developing countries by 2035. These targets are to be met through a variety of sources and actors. While it is learnt informally that developed countries, after initial rejection, are willing to commit to USD 300 billion per year by 2035, developing countries rejected the Presidency

For them, the commitment is too little and too late. Against the estimated cost of about USD 7 trillion required to implement current Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), developing countries demand more than USD 1 trillion per year of public finance from developed countries. By 2035 the ambition of NDCs is likely to be revised upward twice and total implementation costs would increase substantially. In this context, the Presidency's proposal shatters any hopes of raising ambition consistent with the goal agreed at the Paris Agreement.

The current policy commitments are likely to lead to a temperature rise of a minimum of 2.7 degrees Celsius compared to the aspiration target of 1.5 degrees Celsius. In a surprising departure, the proposed target of mobilising USD 1.3 trillion is to be achieved by 'all actors' instead of 'all Parties' to the UNFCCC. Since a COP decision cannot be binding on 'all actors,' the target holds little value beyond a halfhearted appeal. The G77 and China rejected the Presidency proposal followed by a strong letter from the civil society organisations supporting the rejection. The COP29 may still deliver a decision keeping the negotiation process alive as the negotiations are in extended hours searching



for a political compromise. Yet, the position taken by the developed countries during COP29 is a concern for developing countries in the next rounds of negotiations. Outsourcing Responsibility The reluctance of developed countries to commit to new, additional and predictable climate finance is not new. At COP29, this reluctance turned into an aggressive posture, shifting the responsibility to mobilise commensurate finance primarily onto emerging economies and other

Throughout COP29, developed countries left no stone unturned to shift responsibility onto emerging economies, including China, India, Brazil, and South Africa. They pressed for emerging economies to be considered ineligible for receiving climate finance, except in the form of debt. Additionally, they suggested including emerging economies' domestic investments and climate-friendly South-South cooperation in accounting for climate finance urging them to voluntarily contribute. Outside the negotiation process, a group of developed countries, including the UK and Australia, signed a pledge to have "no new unabated" coalbased power plants. This may



BY TRYING TO SHIFT THE BURDEN ON **EMERGING ECONOMIES AND KEEPING THE** INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THE

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS ON MARGIN, DEVELOPED **COUNTRIES HAVE AGGRESSIVELY** PUSHED TO OPEN ON EQUITY PRINCIPLES AT

energy crisis in some developed countries, indirectly pledging to continue using coal with expensive carbon capture and storage technologies, expecting emerging economies to do the same. Adaptation Marginalised The Second Needs Determination Report (NDR) by the UNFC-CC Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) estimates that more than USD 200 billion per year of adaptation finance is needed till 2030. So far, adaptation has received little finance from non-public sources.

Even if the developed countries agree to USD 300 billion per year by 2035 as some reports suggest, it will categorically leave the adaptation needs on the margins of global climate governance.

On a parallel negotiation track on the Adaptation Fund, the USA and EU sparred with the Arab Group on the need to scale up mobilisation beyond USD 300 million. While the financial commitments to developing countries are likely to remain meagrely, the Global Goal on Adaptation negotiations expect the developing countries to develop, implement, track, and report their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) commensurate with the projected tempera-

Equity Under SiegeThe principle of equity and common but differentiated responsibility and respective capability (CBDR&RC) is the soul of global climate governance through the UNFCCC. The primary responsibility of creating enabling conditions for an equitable transition to a climate-resilient and low-carbon world, including through means of implementation, rests with the developed countries.

By trying to shift the burden on emerging economies and keeping the interests and needs of the vulnerable populations on margin, developed countries have aggressively pushed to open the negotiations on equity principles at COP29. Irrespective of the number finally agreed at the COP29, the intent made abundantly clear by developed countries is alarming.

It can potentially make any discussion on the quantum of finance irrelevant. It will certainly leave the vast vulnerable population unprotected- a marker of an unequal world

(The writer is a Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI); views are

The power of touch: A sense that defines us



Touch is the first sense we develop and one that shapes our lives in profound ways. It connects us to each other, fostering love, compassion and resilience

Te have read the story of five blind men and the elephant. Each man touched a part and described the animal differently. They would have correctly visualised the pachyderm if they also had sight. There is no denying that all five senses combined define how we live from birth to death.

The absence of any will make us feel incomplete. Touch is probably foremost. Scientists say touch is the first of the senses we develop. It is not a single feeling. It consists of several distinct sensations communicated to the brain through neurons in the skin. Touch plays an important role in shaping us. It also conveys compassion from one human to anoth-

My earliest memories were those of my parents, their friends, or elders from the extended family, patting and even pinching my cheeks. I do not remember patting the cheeks of my younger siblings, probably because they came in quick succession, within three years of my birth. However, the emotions of my parents holding me in joy and pain alike will forever remain with me. I also

recall the happy gurgling sounds of my younger cousins as I patted or tickled The feeling I had as I held

my fiancé's hand while putting the engagement ring on her finger was different. It gave me a sense of love and belonging to someone for the rest of my life. We got married and in time had children. Touch was important to nurture and cherish our love for each other and

the children. As we held our children close, I could visualise the bliss that my parents might have felt when they held me or my younger siblings. Touch plays an equally important role in grief due to

to the societal norms of engaging the bereaved in an almost endless conversation, that we often forget their thoughts to contemplate the life lived together and mourn the loss. A warm hug is all that the grieving temple, not often, but occa-

A sense of peace pervades me when the priest touches my forehead in blessing. We have heard about the power of healing only through the touch of a saint or even the is the faith people have in the power of touch

It is not unusual to see people across the globe reaching out to their leaders or stars to touch them and shake hands with them. Leaders and stars also feel connected when they are physically close to people. Leaders from different countries, separated by geographies and language, are also seen hugging each other, indicating friendship and camaraderie. We see sportspersons hugging each other after an achieve-

loss. We are so conditioned ment. It motivates them to perform better. COVID left us feeling bereft of several human emotions. Many lost their lives away from their their need to sit quietly with loved ones. Both, the dead and those who survived missed the familiar touch. There were unanswered questions in everyone's person needs at that mind. We were afraid of the moment. I also visit the unknown future. We did not know if touch, the most elementary of our senses that defines our personality, would be a thing of the past for future generations. We faced the unthinkable feeling of living and dying in the sterile 'Don't Touch Me' statue of a revered person. It environment of social distancing.

Touch keeps us alive. It imparts within us the ability to love and be loved. Émily Dickinson wrote in one of her poems, almost two centuries earlier. "He touched me, so I live to know... And now, I'm different than before."

(The writer is an author, speaker, coach, arbitrator and strategy consultant. He conducts workshops on creative writing for young

adults and corporate executives.; views are personal)

TRUMP'S THREAT IS FOR REAL

Madam —This refers to the editorial, 'Trump's tariff threat'. Trump is an emotional activist. He decides his course based on his momentous decisions and emotions. Most of his decisions do not carry convincing logic or rationality. His earlier tenure had seen several such decisions, but none could help the people in terms of employment or faster economic recovery. Trump's challenges to finish the domination of China and the quixotic actions he took could not make anything tangible in the status. The Indian situation is vulnerable, with its export value being \$73 billion versus imports to the tune of \$119 billion. Any hostile imposition of tariffs will have serious adverse impacts on the balance of trade, which is already tilting against India's favour.

Moreover, India needs political will and moral courage to face such a situation of Trump imposing tariff hurdles. As of now the leadership does not have such a shield. During the pandemic period, the US had placed orders for hydroxychloroquine with Indian manufacturers. But the Prime Minister banned the export of this medicine as it was recommended as one of the drugs to treat Covid. Having learnt this, Trump reacted sharply and said if India does not honour orders placed for this drug, the country will have to face the wrath. Immediately, without wasting any time, our Prime Minister revoked the ban and attended to the order. As known to all, the Republican Party is a party of the affluent in the US, Trump, being a Republican leader, would not have any sentiments in safeguarding the interests of the rich in America. He will go all out to re-establish the supremacy of America in terms of international affairs or the power of the U.S. dollar. But he should realise that the world order is changing fast and undergoing sweeping changes in many respects.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

FADNAVIS WINS THE RACE Madam — The selection of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra appears to be

Taj Mahal bears the brunt of pollution

E EDITO

Heritage site.



COP29

the Taj Mahal, which is known for its stunning beauty, has suffered ▲ dramatically from the effects of air pollution over the years. Once a shimmering white monument, it now bears the marks of environmental degradation. This decline is primarily due to pollution and international experts can provide from industrial activities and the increasing vehicle emissions in Agra, as well as the pollution of the Yamuna River, which runs behind this UNESCO World

tougher than winning elections for the Bharatiya Janata Party while going by the race between Devandra Fadnavis and Eknath Shinde to occupy the CM's chair. The hunger for power by the BJP keeps Eknath Shinde in the second line over

The swearing-in ceremony of the new government is likely to take place on December 5, though there's not yet any official report from Raj Bhavan on this issue. Meantime, Eknath Shinde had headed for his hometown after his meeting with the Home Minister Amit Shah with the Mahayuti members. The disappointment of Shinde is wide open and he is in consultation with the NCP leadership and likely to put forth his demands for a cream of portfolios. The BJP is learnt to have offered a Union Cabinet to Shinde if he is unwilling to be a deputy CM also, the speculation is doing the rounds. Whatever may be the reasons, the delay in forming the government for their own benefits shouldn't cost the man-hours. The welfare of the people is more important than witnessing warfare between the elected alliance part-

Importantly, the toxic gas emanating from the Yamuna has been doing greater harm, and it is said to be the main culprit behind the discolouration of the Taj's glorious white marbles. For over two decades, various Indian research institutes have explored restoration methods to reverse the discolouration of the Taj and revive the monument to its past glory, but all their efforts proved unsuccessful. The 17th-century Mughal architecture, which is a symbol of India's rich history, needs swift and decisive action to get back

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urpakkam

its legendary lustre. Involving national

comprehensive solutions to safeguard this

magnificent monument for future gen-

ners, which doesn't augur well for the centre to justify their action.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

PROTECT SEWER WORKERS

Madam — In India, the poor sewer system has dried the citizens' lives with spreading disease, stinks and even taking lives in the cleaning process. Over the last 15 years, across India, 1,288 sewer deaths have been recorded by the National Commission for Safai Karmacharis. Only in the capital city, Delhi, 95 deaths recorded so far. The desperate issue is yet not to halt; on the contrary, it is increasing dreadfully. In the era of access to technology and digital India, the government's failing to launch any welldesigned resource to facilitate the way of cleaning is concerning; maybe, due to particular caste, the government is still giving the cold shoulder. It's not tolerable, at any cost. The authorities must address it and ensure the safety of citizens and cleaners. Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

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FIRST COLUMN

WORKPLACE GOSSIP: A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

It thrives in organisational environments as a form of informal communication



orkplace gossip is an enduring phenomenon in organisational environments, involving informal communication with others, often without their knowledge. While it is frequently dismissed as harmless chatter, workplace gossip can have profound implications for individuals, teams and organisational culture. It is a double-edged sword. On one hand, it can serve as a bonding tool and provide informal channels of communication while on the other hand, it can breed mistrust, damage reputations and create a toxic work environment. Determining whether workplace gossip is harmless, or harmful depends on the nature, intent and consequences of the gos-

The term stems from various psychological and organisational factors. Human curiosity and the desire for social connection often drive employees to share information, even if it is speculative. In many cases, gossip becomes a way to establish or strengthen bonds within a team. Another cause is ambiguity or lack of transparency in communication. Employees feel uncertain about organisational changes, leadership decisions, or colleagues' actions, and may resort to gossip to fill information gaps.

Moreover, competitive workplaces can foster gossip to gain leverage or influence perceptions. Though often vilified, gossip is not inherently negative. Looking at the positive perspective, it can foster social cohesion by creating shared narratives and providing an outlet for



employees to express concerns informally. It can also act as an informal feedback loop, alerting leadership to potential issues like toxic behaviours or dissatisfaction that may remain hidden. However, the negative consequences of workplace gossip often outweigh the positives. Gossip can damage reputations, lower morale and lead to feelings of mistrust and resentment.

Employees who are the targets of gossip may experience stress, anxiety and a decline in productivity. Additionally, pervasive gossip can erode an organisation's culture creating a hostile work environment where collaboration and trust are undermined. It is very often that stressful work environments, complaining about coworkers, personality clashes, or misunderstandings stem from unmet expectations and a lack of effective communication channels. It can exacerbate the urge to vent frustrations informally.

While airing grievances may feel like a release or an attempt to bond with others, it rarely resolves underlying issues. Instead, it creates a cycle of negativity. Organisations and leaders can adopt proactive strategies such as promoting open communication, fostering a positive work culture, leading by example and moreover empowering employees can be a few steps to mitigate the harmful effects of gossiping. Today the term gossiping isn't limited to celebrities and family reunions. When discussing the workplace, it has become a way not to take responsibility for any actions or reactions they create. By focusing on someone else, an individual can shift the focus from the circumstances. Complaining about colleagues behind their backs is a detrimental habit that harms relationships, morale, and workplace culture. By choosing direct, empathetic communication and focusing on solutions, employees can foster a more positive and productive environment. Eliminating backdoor complaints is not just about professionalism rather it is about creating a culture of mutual respect where everyone feels

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Reimagining governance in Punjab



Punjab must address longstanding bottlenecks and embrace digital transformation and foster public-private partnerships to create a model of excellence for the nation

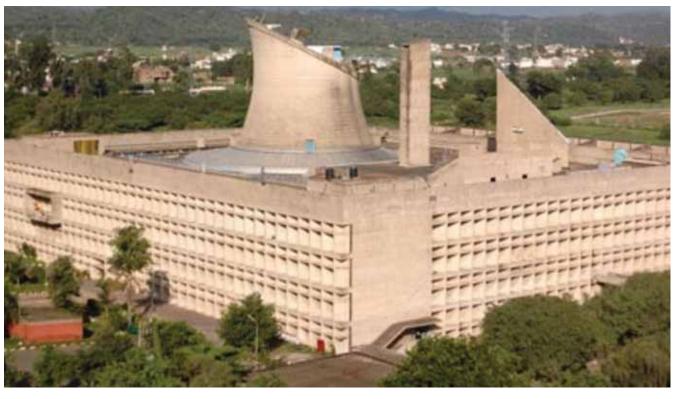
n a rapidly evolving world, governance demands agility, transparency, and citizen-centric solutions. Governments worldwide face the complex challenge of balancing bureaucratic structures with the need for efficiency and innovation. A case in point is the ambitious Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the United States, a high-profile initiative spearheaded by incoming President Donald Trump and the project led by entrepreneur leaders Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy. This bold move aims to revolutionise public administration through structural reforms and entrepreneurial strategies to enhance government efficacy and improve the delivery of citizen services. With its rich legacy and robust potential, Punjab stands at a similar crossroads, where embracing transformative models could redefine governance.

The Governance Landscape: Punjab, with its educated workforce, vibrant agricultural economy, and dynamic MSMEs, has made commendable strides in governance reforms. However, bottlenecks in service delivery, resource misallocation, and policy execution often impede progress. Despite notable efforts, the state lags in efficiency metrics compared to leaders like Kerala, which excels in health, education, and welfare schemes, and Tamil Nadu, which is highly efficient in infrastructure, industry, and public welfare, as highlighted by the NITI Aayog's Good Governance Index 2024. Punjab's governance challenges are compounded by the sheer scale of its administrative machinery-50 parent departments, 163 affiliated organisations, and over 75 administrative secretaries.

This labyrinthine structure creates hurdles for citizens seeking essential services.Introducing the Punjab Efficiency Commission (PEC): Punjab can adopt a model akin to DOGE by establishing a Punjab Efficiency Commission (PEC) to address these challenges. Headed by an apex officer, ideally, of Chief Secretary rank, the PEC would operate as a centralised authority reporting directly to the Chief Minister. Its mandate would be to synchronise key departmental goals, oversee human resource operations, ensure seamless policy execution, and implement data-driven governance frameworks. This institution would embody accountability, transparency, and innovation-hallmarks of good governance. Key Pillars of Reform:

Accountability and Transparency: In the US, agencies like the Government Accountability Office (GAO) ensure effective resource utilisation and transparency. Punjab could establish its own state-level accountability office under the PEC. This body would audit departmental performance, monitor public expenditure, and publish actionable reports to foster trust and combat inefficiency.

Digital Transformation: Punjab has made progress in digital governance, but much more can be achieved by studying global benchmarks. For instance, USA.gov serves as a one-stop portal for citizens that revolutionises



THE JOURNEY

TOWARDS GOOD GOVERNANCE **ISN'T MERELY** ADDRESSING INEFFICIENCIES-IT'S ABOUT SETTING **BENCHMARKS** FOR OTHERS TO FOLLOW. WITH **BOLD REFORMS**, PUNJAB HAS THE POTENTIAL TO **TRANSITION** FROM A **RESOURCE-RICH** STATE TO A GOVERNANCE

POWERHOUSE

how people interact with their government, showcasing the vast potential of technology to improve efficiency. Punjab could develop a unified digital plat-form for licensing, tax filing, and grievance redressal services. A dedicated state-run mobile application could provide real-time updates on service requests, enhance accessibility, reduce delays, and track the progress of their cases in real time. Performance Metrics and

Dashboards: An essential aspect of U.S. government efficiency is using performance metrics to inform decision-making. For instance, The Obama-era Performance.gov tracked federal projects and outcomes, creating pulsure of accounts hilitated ing a culture of accountability. Punjab could develop a similar tion, agriculture, industry and infrastructure. By leveraging big data and analytics, policy decisions can be based on measurable outcomes, driving impactful governance rather than

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): PPPs have proven transformative in infrastructure and service delivery. These partnerships, from highways to healthcare and education, allow the government to use private sector expertise and funding to improve services and reduce costs. A case study from the USA illustrates the success in Tennessee. The government implemented a data-driven budgeting model, saving millions of taxpayer dollars while improving service quality in education and healthcare.

Similarly, New York City's innovation office streamlined procurement processes, cutting costs by 30per cent. However, Punjab has over 147 PPP projects worth Rs 60,000 crore in critical sectors like healthcare, education and infrastructure, leveraging private expertise for better resource management and infrastructure, accelerating projects through collaborative funding models. This model could be the key to unlocking sustained growth in the agriculture sector, partnering with tech companies for innovative farming solutions to monitor soil health, weather patterns, and crop performance can promote more sustainable practices and increase productiv-

Investing in Human Capital: A critical factor in the success of any government's efficiency efforts is its investment in human capital. Punjab must dashboard to monitor critical sectors like healthcare, educagovernance. The state can cultivate a workforce skilled in the latest management techniques, data analysis, and digital tools by establishing training academies or partnering with top institutions. This approach will enable the government to respond to the evolving challenges of governance and ensure that its public servants are accountable and well-equipped with the knowledge needed to drive meaningful change to perform their responsibilities effectively

Citizen Participation: Finally, the US model of citizen participation in governance through public hearings and feedback mechanisms can be a valuable tool for Punjab. US citizens are encouraged to engage with the government, provide policy input, and hold officials account-

This fosters a sense of ownership and civic responsibility. However, the Punjab government has ini-

tiated 'Sarkar Tuhade Dwar' and 'Sarkar Vyapar Milni'. It must create more avenues for regular engagement with citizens to understand pain points and incorporate real-world insights into governance reforms. Punjab can bridge the gap between policymakers and citizens by making governance more inclusive and participatory, ensuring reforms resonate with public aspirations.

The way forward for a resurgent Punjab: Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's vision for a dynamic Punjab can materialise by embracing these transformative practices.

The Punjab Efficiency Commission, supported by robust technology, accountability frameworks, and participatoparency. The journey towards good governance isn't merely about addressing inefficiencies it's about setting benchmarks for others to follow. With bold reforms, Punjab has the potential to transition from a resource-rich state to a governance powerhouse, leading India's states in delivering citizen-centric solutions. The time to act is now. Punjab's future lies in its ability to reimagine governance, ensuring every citizen experiences the transformative power of efficient and inclusive administration. (The Author is Vice-Chairman

of Sonalika ITL Group, Vice-Chairman(Cabinet minister rank) of the Punjab Economic Policy and Planning Board, Chairman of ASSOCHAM Northern Region Development Council and President of

Tractor and Mechanization Association(TMA); Views expressed are personal)

Breaking the stigma: Prioritising mental health for a happier, resilient future

Depression, anxiety and other mental health challenges must be taken seriously. They affect one in five people worldwide

epression in mental health is a feeling of low, sad and unhappy. Which can lead to loss of appetite, loss of sleep, loss of interest, and negative thoughts. Mental health is about how we think, feel and cope with life's challenges. Just like we take care of our physical health, looking after our mental health is equally important. Parents play a key role in creating a happy, supportive, and understanding environment at

Mental health issues such as anxiety, fear and depression are common, and they can arise due to bullying, family conflicts, changes in school or life, academic stress, or even harsh punishments. These challenges can make children feel isolated, angry, or lose



A SANGODKAR

focus on their studies. It's crucial to understand that seeking help from counsellors, therapists, or trusted adults like parents or teachers is a sign of strength, not weakness. Today, one in five people faces mental health challenges. Professional support, such as therapy, can significantly improve emotional wellbeing. Activities like yoga, sports,

and meditation are also effective for calming the mind and reducing stress. Additionally, practising mindfulness—focusing on the present moment—can help children feel more peaceful and focused. Good habits, such as getting enough sleep, eating healthy food, and staying hydrated, support both mental and physical health. Engaging in enjoyable hobbies can boost happiness and reduce stress.

Schools and families need to work together to provide children with positive environments, where they feel safe and supported. In our society, mental health issues are often overlooked, and stigma prevents many from seeking help. Depression in mental health is a feeling of low, sad and unhappy. Which can lead to loss of appetite, loss of sleep, loss of interest and negative thoughts. World Mental Health Day is celebrated on October 10 every year. Many people are affected by depression in the world. Very common in today's world. Campaigns like World Mental Health Day aim to break these barriers and encourage open conversations. And encourages those affected to seek help from a Psychiatrist. Teachers should be trained to

identify early signs of mental health problems in children provide guidance. Parenting is also a key factor in shaping a child's mental health. Parents should avoid unhealthy comparisons and ensure their children feel emotionally secure. Building a



strong, friendly relationship with children helps them share their feelings without fear.

ness, meditation and breathing exercises can also help children and adults stay calm and Simple practices like mindful- focused. As Lord Buddha said,

not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment.'

This profound phrase highlights the essence of mindfulness-focusing fully on the present and giving your complete attention to whatever you are doing. Mindfulness means being fully present in the moment, whether eating, studying, or walking. Meditation, on the other hand, is about dedicating time to relax the mind and focus on breathing. Both practices help reduce stress and improve sleep, allowing children to perform better in school and other activities. Engaging in activities like participating in marathons, running 5 kilometres, or setting personal fitness goals can help reduce depression and improve mental wellbeing. Yogic exercises like Surya namaskars help in boosting our prana level to stave off depression. Welcoming an idol of Lord

Buddha into your home or

workplace, reading positive

affirmations each morning, and offering gratitude to those around you and God are wonderful practices to keep the mind happy and at peace. By creating supportive environments and normalising mental health discussions, we can ensure that children grow up to be emotionally strong, happy, and resilient individuals. The key is to break the stigma and make mental health a priority for everyone.

(The writer is an author and freelance writer; views are

Get UN forces, save 'our people': Didi to PM Modi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA

Concerned at the deteriorat-ing situation in Bangladesh Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has appealed to the Centre to move the United Nations seeking deployment of UN Peace Keeping force so as to save the lives and properties of the Hindu and other minorities including the tribal people.

Apart from seeking deployment of UN peacekeeping mission Banerjee also demanded a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue. The Chief Minister while delivering a speech in state Assembly on Monday said that she did not have the brief to speak on international affairs, which was why her government had said that it would accept whatever decision the Centre would to

take vis a vis Bangladesh. However, "The Government of India is totally keeping mum on the issue. We respect the Indian government's stance, but atrocities on religious grounds are unacceptable. Considering the deteriorating situation in that country and attack on the minorities I request the PM to



that for other preoccupations at least the External Affairs Minister should give a statement on the issue in Parliament, which is in session."

Expressing solidarity with the affected people Banerjee said, "we have families, properties, and loved ones in Bangladesh. They are in trouble we don't want our people to be the border.

intervene and if he cannot do harassed and tortured like this," adding, "The Centre should appeal to the UN to send peacekeeping mission in

Bangladesh."
The CM, who has always been under attack from the Opposition BJP for her policy of minority appeasement in Bengal would however not dwell on who she meant by the term, "our people" across

The situation in Bangladesh --- that had gone haywire following a "student-led" following a "student-led" uprising backed by the fundamentalist forces that saw the exit of democratically elected PM Sk Hasina --- had assumed volcanic proportions with the Hindu and other minorities including the tribal people being attacked with systematic regularity.

pass when the security forces in Bangladesh arrested a senior monk of International Society of Krishna (ISKON) Consciousness Chinmoy Krishna Das Prabhu along with three other sadhus.

Things reached an alarming

Demanding deployment of UN peace keeping forces the Chief Minister said, "We want our people to be rescued first. If they cannot live there we will open our doors for them. We can feed them easily but for that the Centre has to take a policy decision and give us permission. We are getting information of atrocities from the relatives of those who are returning to India. I had also a talk with the ISKON chief. I was so concerned that I had to make my statement on the issue on the floor of the

NDMC unveils water infrastructure for Lutyens' Delhi

STAFF REPORTER

New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) Vice Chairman Kuljeet Singh Chahal on Monday unveiled key water infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing the quality and round-the-clock availability of water supply for Lutyens' Delhi

An official statement said that these initiatives are aligned with the Jal Jeevan Mission and Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) of the Central government, marking a significant step to ensure safe drinking water for every household. "The NDMC has launched the first phase of its 24x7 water supply initiative in the Vinay Marg area, intending to provide round-the-clock filtered water," Chahal said. Key upgrades include replacing and installing pipes, adding pumps and panels, and integrating advanced systems like Water GeM Software for water balancing, he added.

MEA expresses regret over breach at Bangladesh High Commission

STAFF REPORTER ■

The Ministry Of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday said the the breach of premises at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala is "deeply regrettable."
The incident took place as

scores of people took out a massive rally in the Tripura capital to protest the arrest of International Society for Consciousness Krishna (ISCKON) leader Chinmoy Krishna Das,

demanding his immediate release, and the stopping of attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh.

Issuing a statement on this, the MEA said, "Diplomatic and consular properties should not be targeted under any circumstances."
"The government is taking action to step up security arrangements for the Bangladesh Commission in New Delhi and their Deputy and High Assistant Commission country," it added. The rally near the Bangladesh Assistant High Commissioner's office in Agartala was taken out under the Hindu Sangharsh

VHP's Tripura secretary Sankar Roy told reporters, "Since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government, attacks are being carried out on Hindu temples and Hindu houses and businesses are being looted in Bangladesh."
"Recently, ISKCON's
Chinmoy Prabhu raised voice against the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh and was arrested and sent to prison on false charges. We want his unconditional release," Roy

He said they want the MEA to take up Chinmoy's arrest on false charges and the attacks on Hindus with the Bangladesh government immediately.

added.

A memorandum on this issue was also submitted to Mohammad, Arif Assistant Commissioner

Bangladesh in Agartala. Tensions in Bangladesh have been escalating over the alleged attacks on Hindus and other religious minorities in the country, with additional protests being triggered by the arrest of Hindu priests priests in Dhaka.

Protests have been taking place Bangladesh as well as India, demanding release of former ISKCON leader Chinmoy Krishna Das.

Man arrested for murder of delivery boy in West Delhi

STAFF REPORTER ■ **NEW DELHI**

A²⁷-year-old man was arrested from Punjab, two years after he allegedly killed a Zomato delivery boy over an issue of smoking in west Delhi. According to police on Monday, the accused, who has been identified as Surjeet Singh, disguised his identity as Nihang and associated with local religious groups to avoid recognition and evade arrest. "Singh had been declared a Proclaimed Offender by a court here and was apprehended after a week-long operation in Punjab," DCP(crime) Satish Kumar said.

Tragic end to a promising life

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Bardhan sustained severe head injuries and died in the hospital during the course of treatment, while the driver, Manjegowda, suffered minor injuries, a senior police officer

The IPS officer had recently completed his four-week training at the Karnataka Police Academy in Mysuru, police said, adding his father is a sub-divisional magistrate. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah condolences to the officer's family.

"Saddened to hear about the death of probationary IPS officer Harsh Bardhan in a horrific accident near Kittane border of Hassan-Mysuru Highway. It is very sad that such an accident happened while he was on his way to take charge as an IPS officer. This should not have happened when years of hard work were paying off," he said in a social media post. "I pray to God that Harsh Bardhan's soul rests in peace. My condolences to the family of the deceased," he added.

Parking dispute fuels inferno

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Just two days after he was released on bail, Bhasin came to the area and abused and threatened Singh. "We complained to the police. However, he fled from the place for about a month. Upon returning, he surrendered to the police. He was arrested but was given bail again," Singh said.

On October 20, Bhasin, allegedly came to the locality in an intoxicated state, brandishing a gun. "He kept his gun inside after he realised there was CCTV surveillance. However, he urinated in front of my house and hurled abuses at me at midnight," Singh said, adding that when the police arrived he ran away

On November 5, Bhasin was arrested by the police but eventually given bail. On

November 29, Singh lodged a complaint against Bhasin for allegedly damaging his Maruti Suzuki Ciaz parked outside his house, a senior officer said. Upon checking the CCTV footage, Bhasin was seen twisting the rear view mirror of the Ciaz, and parking his own Mahindra Thar in the middle of the road and leaving, the officer said.

Acting on the complaint, police seized the Thar and a probe was initiated. "On the intervening night of November 30 and December 1, the accused brought paint thinner and set the bonnet of Singh's car on fire," the officer added. The act was captured in the CCTV camera. and a team was formed to track and nab Bhasin. The police tracked him down in Amethi on Sunday.

The accused had fled to Amethi in his Honda Amaze car. He has been brought back to Delhi and is being interrogated the officer said. Further investigation in the matter is underway, the police said. However, Singh says he fears for his life, "If I was present that day, he would have burnt me too. This is happening after I have informed the SHO multiple times about him and he was given bail in some hours. What if he kills me after he is released this time?

Although, the matter that escalated from a petty parking issue is not a case of Lajpat Nagar alone. In an incident that went viral over social media, a woman and her husband were assaulted by their neighbours in south Delhi's Amar colony over a quarrel related to a parking spot. The viral video showed the accused Daljeet Singh and four of his family members, thrashing the couple with a wooden log and hurling abuses at them.

Samity's banner, which is an

affiliate of the Vishwa

Hindu Parishad (VHP).

On his part, Shinde has been demanding the crucial state Home ministry, a portfolio, a portfolio that Fadnavis held when he was Deputy CM in the previous Eknath Shindeled government. However, Fadnavis is reluctant to part with the Home portfolio, even after becoming the CM.

Shinde However, reportedly made the Home portfolio as a pre-condition for his accepting the deputy chief minister's post under Fadnavis as the CM. Ajit Pawar, who has held the Finance & Planning

Tripathi said

activities of the navies of

China and Pakistan are being

He said a Chinese submarine

visited Karachi last year and

returned and India had

tracked it. Moreover, the

Indian Navy is well aware of

all activities of Chinese

warships and research vessels

in the strategically important Indian Ocean Region(IOR).

"We are keeping a watch on

including the PLA Navy, their

warships and their research

forces.

closely monitored.

portfolio for a very long time, has been insisting that he be given the Finance & Planning ministry. The BJP, which heads the MahaYuti, will have no other choice but to allocate Home and Finance & Planning portfolios to Shinde and Ajit Pawar respectively. As part of the coalition mantra, the BJP will try to keep its allies in good humour in matters relating to the portfolio allocations. While the BJP will keep the crucial post of Speaker in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, it may hand over the post of the Chairperson of Maharashtra Legislative Council to either the Shinde Sena or the Ajit Pawar-led NCP. Given that the successive governments have long used

the chairman posts of various state-run boards as carrot to keep the disgruntled MLAs under control, it remains to be seen if the new MahaYuti government will appoint the heads of the various State-run boards immediately after the formation of the government or the chief minister will use these appointments as lever to manage the ruling alliance legislators as done by his predecessors.

China making Pak Navy stronger: Admiral Tripathi Opposition, Treasury benches agree to discuss... vessels, and know what they one in 2038-39.

While Congress Opposition sought for an official announcement of on the Adani controversy but dates for the desired they shall not object if the discussion including that on the Constitution before Opposition members may indicate about it in the midst agreeing to the resumption of of any debates. Congress has proceedings, Samajwadi Party has asked to raise the Sambhal prosecutors of Adani Group issue and the TMC will raise chairperson Gautam Adani the Bangladesh crisis in the and other company officials

led the Congress will not be allowed for specific discussion parliamentary been persistent in raising the prosecutors of Adani Group

The BIP on the other hand has the projected main Opposition party as the principal violator constitutional norms and spirit when it was in power, asserting that the Modi Government has strengthened constitutional practices and principles during its over 10vear tenure. Congress general secretary in-

communications

Lok Sabha. However, sources on bribery and fraud charges. Jairam Ramesh recalled that Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had written to Speaker Om Birla on November 26, requesting a special two-day discussion on the Constitution and the leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha had also written a similar letter to the chairman the same day. "Hopefully now the Modi Government will allow both Houses to function from tomorrow," he said.

SC fumes after V Senthil Balaji returns to TN Cabinet

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The Bench noted that the current plea, filed by one of the complainants K Vidhya Kumar, was based on the apprehension that 25, the SC in another matter related to Balaji was informed that a petition seeking review of an order of bail to the DMK leader in the case had been filed.

The SC granted bail to Balaii after he was in jail over 15 months, noting there was no possibility of the completion constituency, on June 14, aggrieved in the alleged scam.

September 30, the SC directed the Madras High Court chief justice to appoint another judge for the trial against Balaii.

assigned the same key portfolios, electricity, nonconventional energy in the Stalin Cabinet. The Enforcement Directorate arrested Balaji,

of trial in the near future. On 2023 in the case when he was the transport minister during the previous AIADMK regime between 2011 and 2015.

On February 13, the TN Balaji, 48, was sworn in as a Governor accepted Balaji's immediately after the grant of bail Balaji was appointed a Governor R N Ravi on cabinet minister. On October September 29 and was reprieve on September 26 ended Balaji's 471-day incarceration. The ED had filed a case of money development, prohibition and excise, he held previously probe the allegations after probe the allegations after three FIRs were registered by the Tamil Nadu police in 2018 and on the basis of

The agency's chargesheet claimed the entire recruitment process in the Tamil Nadu transport department during the tenure of Balaji as minister was turned into a "corrupt chiefdom", and the scam was executed under his authority. Being a public servant, Balaji "misused" his official capacity as the then transport minister and obtained pecuniary benefits by corrupt and illegal means and directly acquired the proceeds of crime, generated out of a criminal activity related to a scheduled offence, the agency

contracts for the procurement of 26 naval variant Rafale fighter jets and three Scorpene additional submarines next month. At a media briefing ahead of

Admiral Tripathi also said the government has accorded approval for building two (nuclear-powered submarines) and that the plan is to have a total of six such boats. The Navy Chief said the first SSN should be ready by 2036-37 and the second

Navy Day on December 4,

Security. Since it is a government-to-government deal, it should not take much time," he said.

In July last year, the defence ministry approved the purchase of the Rafale-M jets from France, primarily for deployment on board the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. "We expect that if not this month, then next month hopefully, both these (Scorpene submarine) and Rafale-M (project) should be signed."

wessels, and know what they are doing and where they are,"

Making these assertions in an annual conference ahead of Navy Day on December four,

Navy Day on December four,

Trightly and Admiral Tripath said.

Making these assertions in an annual conference ahead of Elaborating upon the ongoing modernisation, he said India

"Rafale Marine is at an advanced stage of negotiations and it is only one level short of taking it to the within the country as part of the conference of t is expected to seal separate. Cabinet. Committee on efforts to boost its naval

power. On the modernisation of the Navy, Admiral Indian Tripathi said a large number of platforms are waiting for induction in the next one year and at least one ship will be inducted into the Navy. "We have redoubled efforts to include niche technologies into the force," he added. The Indian Navy hopes to induct nearly 96' warships and submarines in the next ten years, the Navy Chief said.

Delhi airport gears up for foggy days...

From page 1

extra-regional

"This arrangement would save passengers from having to undergo the security check through the normal process, wherein in such cases after disembarking, passengers are taken to arrivals and processed through Domestic or International transfer areas as the case may be before being brought back to the Security Hold Area. Bringing such passengers directly to inconvenience for passengers the reverse entry point and wastes critical flight

taken in the de-boarding and boarding - from boarding approximately 2.30 hours to iust a few minutes.The

proposed changes to the security-checking rules aim to optimise flight slots and reduce passenger inconvenience", it said. The annual winter fog crisis

in Delhi, particularly during December and January, significant causes

significantly reduces the time operation hours. December last year, adverse weather in India led to flight cancellations impacting over 35,000 passengers, while 3.64 lakh people faced delays. These disruptions underscore the challenges airports face during this season. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport ranks among the top 10 busiest airports in the world. In 2023, it hosted approximately 72.2 million passengers and had an annual passenger handling capacity

In of 100 million across its three terminals.

Commenting initiative, CEO-DIAL, Videh Kumar Jaipuriar, CEO-DIAL, said, "DIAL has been working to enhance passengers' experience at Delhi Airport. By implementing this new initiative, DIAL aims to significantly reduce the time taken for the de-boarding and boarding process for passengers of flights affected by fog/weather or technical

NCR IN GRAP IV GRIP TILL THURSDAY

view of the failure of States in the National Capital Region (NCR) to compensate construction workers whose livelihood has been affected restrictions and decided to by the halt of construction wait till Thursday before activities amid the air taking a call on relaxing pollution crisis in the

National Capital. Observing that Delhi-NCR faced a similar situation every year between October and December, the Bench but today we will not permit proposed to go into all aspects relaxations unless you show that cause air pollution and find a permanent solution.

Referring to the lack of The Bench during the hearing

lack of coordination" among stakeholders including the The Bench took a serious Delhi government, Delhi Municipal police. Corporation of Delhi and pollution control committee in implementing

restrictions to ensure there is indeed a steady downward trend in air pollution levels. "What we propose is, we will look into your suggestions, us a clear downward trend," said the Bench.

coordination among the stakeholders, the Bench highlighted the "complete reports filed by advocates" commissioners wanted to continue with the work and asked those desiring to

appointed commissioners to conduct inspection at entry points. The reports indicated to the Bench that the court commissioners risked their lives besides facing threats in order to discharge their duties.

Referring to one such court commissioner's predicament, the Bench asked the police to file a report detailing the action taken. "We cannot allow the members of the Bar to get subjected to risk as the report indicates that some of them have been subjected to threats," it said. The Bench enquired if the court

continue to send emails to the nodal officer appointed by the Delhi Police. Police personnel, including

armed guards, must be given to court commissioners while discharging their duties, directed the SC. "We make it clear that it is the responsibility of Delhi police to ensure that members of the Bar who are acting as court commissioners are adequately protected," it said. Court commissioners Jatin Kumar and Savi Nagpal reported a violation at Jharoda toll, where a BS-IV diesel truck carrying construction and demolition (C&D) materials entered Delhi without valid documentation. Another court commissioner in their

Asiad Village, Khelgaon, New Delhi, observed construction cutting machine operating at a property with a "BHEL" nameplate. Upon attempting to take photographs, he encountered workers fleeing inside the

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Delhi and adjoining areas submitted a report to the court seeking that emergency measures be scaled down from Grap-4 to GRAP-II as the AQI on December 1 was 285 (poor) after being in the severe (400+) or very poor (300+) decided to implement, to all zones for 32 days. "There is authorities concerned and

report, detailing an incident on November 29, 2024, at stage 4 of GRAP to deal with air pollution in the National Capital," remarked the bench, questioning the Delhi government on the number of officers deployed by it to implement the restrictions, especially banning trucks from entering the national capital. The Delhi government, represented by senior advocate Shadan Farasat, said it would look into allegations of noncompliance of the GRAP restrictions.

The Bench directed the CAQM to take steps for communicating the mitigating measures, which it

coordinate to ensure the implementation. The Bench said it was the responsibility of CAQM to coordinate the activities of all these entities with a view to ensure that GRAP 4 measures were implemented.

"As far as entry points are concerned, needless to add that all entry points must be manned," it said while underlining it was for the Delhi police to decide and ensure the deployment of personnel at the entry points. The Bench while referring to its earlier statement, said, "The commission will have to coordinate efforts of all agencies and ensure that adequate manpower is deputed at the entry points." at 281.

Regarding the aspect of pollution and finding a permanent solution, the Bench asked the amicus curiae to prepare a note within two weeks for the court to assign dates to consider these issues. According to the Central

Pollution Control Board(CPCB), the AQI recorded at Anand Vihar at 6 am on Monday was 303, Ashok Vihar at 284, Bawana at 298, Chandni Chowk at 188, IGI Airport at 270, Dwarka at 307, Jahangirpuri at 310, Mundka at 297, Narela at 266, Nehru Nagar at 334, Patparganj at 285, Punjabi Bagh at 278, Pusa at 249, Rohini at 299, and Wazirpur

56 people killed in stampede following clashes at a Guinea soccer match

AP CONARKY (GUINEA)

→ifty-six people were killed and several injured in a stampede at a soccer stadium in southern Guinea, following clashes between fans, Guinea's government said on Monday.

Authorities are conducting an investigation to establish those responsible for the stampede on Sunday, Communications Minister Fana Soumah said in a statement read on national television.

Among the victims are several children according to local media and a coalition of political parties.

The stampede broke out on Sunday afternoon at the stadium in the city of Nzerekore Guinea, a local news website,

during the final of a local tournament between the Labe and Nzerekore teams in honour of Guinea's military leader, Mamadi Doumbouya, Guinea's Prime Minister Amadou Ourv Bah said on the X platform.

"During the stampede, victims were recorded," Bah said, without giving details. The regional authorities are working to restore calm in the area, he added.

Local media reported that security forces tried to use tear gas (two words) to restore calm after the chaos that followed a disputed penalty.

"This (the disputed penalty) angered supporters who threw stones. This is how the security services used tear gas," Media

reported. It said several of those killed were children while some of the injured being treated at a regional hospital are in critical condition.

Videos that appeared to be from the scene showed fans in a section of the stadium shouting and protesting the referee-ing before clashes broke out as people poured onto the field. People were running as they tried to escape from the stadium, many of them jumping the high fence.

Videos also showed many people lying on the floor in what looked like a hospital as a crowd gathered nearby, some assisting the wounded.

The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy opposition coalition called for an investigation. It said the tournament was organised to drum up support for the "illegal and inappropriate" political ambitions of the military leader. Guinea has been led by the military since soldiers ousted President Alpha Conde in 2021. It is one of a growing number of West African countries, including Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, where the military has taken power and delayed a return to civilian rule. Doumbouya, who ousted the president three years ago, said he was preventing the country from slipping into chaos and chastised the previous govern-ment for broken promises. He has, however, been criticized for not meeting the expectations that he raised.

ISLAND NATIONS FEAR RISING SEAS Landmark climate change case opens at top UN court

AP THE HAGUE (NETHER-

The top United Nations court took up the largest case in its history on Monday, when it opened two weeks of hearings into what countries worldwide are legally required to do to combat climate change and help vulnerable nations fight its devastating impact.
After years of lobbying by island nations who fear they could simply disappear under rising sea waters, the UN General Assembly asked the International Court of Justice last year for an opinion on "the obligations of States in respect

of climate change."

Any decision by the court would be non-binding advice and couldn't directly force wealthy nations into action to help struggling countries. Yet it would be more than just a powerful symbol since it could be the basis for other legal actions,

including domestic lawsuits. "We want the court to confirm that the conduct that has wrecked the climate is unlawful," Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, who is leading the legal team for the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu, told The Associated Press.

In the decade up to 2023, sea levels have risen by a global average of around 4.3 centimeters (1.7 inches), with parts of the Pacific rising higher still. The world has also warmed 1.3 degrees Celsius (2.3 Fahrenheit) since preindustrial times because of the burning of fossil fuels.

Vanuatu is one of a group of small states pushing for inter-national legal intervention in the climate crisis.

"We live on the front lines of climate change impact. We are witnesses to the destruction of our lands, our livelihoods, our culture and our human rights," Vanuatu's climate change envoy Ralph Regenvanu told

reporters ahead of the hearing. The Hague-based court will hear from 99 countries and more than a dozen intergovernmental organizations over two weeks. It's the largest lineup in the institution's nearly 80-year history.

Last month at the United Nations' annual climate meeting, countries cobbled together an agreement on how rich countries can support poor countries in the face of climate disasters. Wealthy countries have agreed to pool together at least \$300 billion a year by 2035 but the total is short of the \$1.3 trillion that experts, and threatened nations, said is needed.

"For our generation and for the Pacific Islands, the climate crisis is an existential threat. It is a matter of survival, and the world's biggest economies are not taking this crisis seriously. We need the ICJ to protect the rights of people at the front lines," said Vishal Prasad, of

Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change. Fifteen judges from around the world will seek to answer two questions: What are countries obliged to do under international law to protect the climate and environment from human-caused greenhouse gas emissions? And what are the legal consequences for governments where their acts, or lack of action, have significantly harmed the climate and envi-

The second question makes particular reference to "small island developing States" likely to be hardest hit by climate change and to "members of "the present and future generations affected by the adverse effects of climate change."

ronment?

The judges were even briefed on the science behind rising global temperatures by the UN's climate change body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, ahead of the

Taiwan's president visits East-West think tank as China criticises his Hawaii visit

 $T^{
m aiwan's}$ president visited a US State Department-funded think tank and educational institution Sunday on the second day of a two-day visit to Hawaii that's part of a Pacific island tour that has already triggered criticism from

Beijing.
Lai Ching-te met and exchanged gifts with the president of the East-West Center, which is on the University of Hawaii's flagship Manoa campus. He spoke to an audience at the center but journalists were escorted out of a conference hall before he began

speaking. China's Foreign Ministry said it "strongly condemned" US support for Lai's visit and had lodged a complaint with the US. It also denounced a newly announced US weapons sale to Taiwan, a self-governing island that China claims as its own territory.
"China will closely monitor

the situation's development, and take resolute and forceful measures to safeguard the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity," said the



Hawaii was Lai's first stop on a weeklong voyage that will later take him to the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Palau. They account for three of the 12 countries that Taipei has formal diplomatic relations with.

Suzanne Puanani Vares-Lum, president of the East-West Center, said her institution is the perfect place for Lai to visit because it promotes relations among the United States, Asia and the Pacific.

She said it's not unusual for leaders from around the world to come to Hawaii given the state's location and what makes

"There is something about Hawaii that allows us to really iust see where we connect on a human to human level," Vares-Lum said in an interview. Lai's predecessor, Tsai Ing-wen, visited the East-West Center in 2019 and 2017. On Saturday, Hawaii Gov. Josh

Green hosted Lai at the state's emergency management agency where they discussed disaster preparedness. Green, who was an emergency room physician before becoming governor, posted on social media that he and Lai discussed how their experiences in health care informed their gover-

nance. Lai is also a physician by training and obtained a Master of Public Health degree from Harvard University.

"Together, we extended a warm

aloha to Lai and his delegation, highlighting Hawai'i's shared values of resilience and collaboration with Taiwan," Green said in an Instagram post. Lai also posed for photos with Hawaii congressional representatives and state lawmakers at a dinner banquet with the Taiwanese American commu-

US Rep. Ed Case, a Democrat who represents Honolulu in Congress, said on social media that he told the audience that "our ties endured on shared values and interests to advance mutual goals and meet shared challenges."

It is unclear whether Lai with meet with any senior officials from the Biden administration or anyone from the incoming Trump administration during his Hawaii stay.

President-elect Donald Trump said in an interview with Bloomberg in July that Taiwan should pay for its defense. The island has purchased billions of dollars of defense weaponry

Indians stranded at Kuwait airport depart for Manchester

PTI KUWAIT CITY

Several Indian passengers of a Manchester-bound Gulf Air flight were stranded at the Kuwait airport for nearly 20 hours and flown out of the city to their destination on Monday morning. The Gulf Air flight from Bahrain to Manchester was diverted to Kuwait due to a technical glitch. Gulf Air GF5 took off from Bahrain at 2.05 am local time on December 1 but a snag forced the plane to land in Kuwait at 4:01 am, as per reports.

With several passengers complaining that they had been stranded at the airport for many hours, the Indian embassy in Kuwait took up the matter with Gulf Air, according to social media posts.

In a series of posts on X, the embassy said its team reached the airport to assist the passengers and coordinate with the airline. Passengers were accommodated in two airport lounges. Food and water were made available for the stranded passengers at the lounges, as per the

"Gulf Air flight to Manchester finally departed at 0434 hours today carrying stranded Indian passengers among others. The embassy team was on the ground till the flight departed," the embassy said in a post. A stranded passenger, on Sunday, took to X, alleging that Indian passengers were left without help.

Nepal govt accepts US\$ 20m grant assistance from China

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Nepal government has acceptded projects worth USD 20 million as grant assistance from China ahead of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's first official visit to the country after assuming office for the fourth time. Minister for Information and Communication Prithvi Subba Gurung talking to media persons on Sunday said the Council of Ministers meeting wished for the success of the prime minister's China visit and also decided to accept projects worth USD 20 million equivalent to Nepalese Rs 2.70 billion as grant assistance from China.

Besides, the Cabinet also decided to accept 300 million Chinese Yuan (USD 4.13 million approximately) equivalent to Nepalese Rs 5.60 billion worth projects proposed by the government of China, according to government spokesperson Gurung. During Oli's China visit, various

President Xi Jinping on various issues of mutual interest. Oli is visiting Beijing at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here

construction at Corala border point

of Mustang, road construction at Kimathanka of Shankhuwasabha, fea-

sibility study of railway line in Rasuwagadhi, expansion of

Kathmandu Ring Road second phase,

starting bone marrow service at

Chitawan Cancel Hospital will be dis-

Oli on Monday embarked on a four-

day official visit to China, his maid-

en trip to any neighbouring country

in this term, during which he is scheduled to hold talks with Chinese

cussed, Gurung said.

With the visit, Oli broke with the usual practice by Nepali prime ministers making India their first destination in the neighbourhood after assuming charge, except former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', who visited China ahead of India in 2008.

Biden pardons son Hunter despite previous pledges not to do so

AP WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden pardoned son Hunter Sunday night, sparing him a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convic-tions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family members.

The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after his convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before Presidentelect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House.

It caps a long-running legal saga for the president's son, who publicly disclosed he was under federal investigation in December 2020 — a month after Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

In June, Biden categorically ruled out a pardon or commutation for his son, telling reporters as his son faced trial in the Delware gun case, "I abide by the jury decision. I will do that and I will not pardon

As recently as Nov 8, days after Trump's victory, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre ruled out a pardon or clemency for the younger Biden, saying, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no."

In a statement released Sunday evening, Biden said, "Today, I signed a pardon for my son Hunter," alleging that the prosecution of his son was politically motivated and a "miscarriage of iustice."

'The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said. "No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son."

"I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision," Biden added, claiming he made the decision this weekend. The president had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Nantucket, Massachusetts with Hunter and his family. Hunter was convicted in June in Delaware federal court of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs. He was set to stand trial in September in the California case accusing him of failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes. But he agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanour and felony charges in a surprise

was set to begin. Hunter said he was pleading guilty in that case to spare his family more pain and embarrassment after the gun trial

move hours after jury selection

aired salacious details about his struggles with a crack cocaine addiction.

The tax charges carry up to 17 years behind bars and the gun charges are punishable by up to 25 years in prison, though federal sentencing guidelines were expected to call for far less time and it was possible he would avoid prison time entirely. Hunter Biden said in an

emailed statement that he will never take for granted the relief granted to him and vowed to devote the life he has rebuilt "to helping those who are still sick and suffering." "I have admitted and taken

responsibility for my mistakes during the darkest days of my addiction - mistakes that have been exploited to publicly humiliate and shame me and my family for political sport," the younger Biden said.

A spokesperson for special counsel David Weiss, who brought the cases, did not respond to messages seeking comment Sunday night.



President Joe Biden accompanied by his son Hunter Biden and his grandson Beau leave a book store as they walk in

Scroll less, connect more: New study shows how to make social media work for you

THE CONVERSATION VANCOUVER

We all know using social media is considered bad for you. A high social media diet is linked to anxiety, depression and FOMO (the fear of missing out). Even internal research data from Meta, the company behind Instagram and Facebook, agrees. However, over the last decade,

social media has become woven into the fabric of our daily lives. It's hard to imagine life without it.

Young adults are especially vulnerable: 80 per cent of young adults use social media daily, spending close to three hours per day on it. For many, scrolling social media is the first thing they do when they wake up and the last thing before they go

On the plus side, social media can

friends and family. This is especially true for people with minoritized or stigmatized identities: social media can help them find a community of similar others, who may live far away. So what should we do? Is the only answer for us to quit social media altogether? Or is it possible for us to learn how to use social media in smarter ways?

A new study from our lab, the Promoting Equitable, Affirming Relationships Lab at the University of British Columbia, suggests that not only is it possible, but also, that using social media intentionally can actually improve well-being. The study's findings highlight the potential for social media to be a tool for good, rather than a source

of stress. Multiple digital self-control tools like lockout mechanisms and timers also help people connect with exist to help us cut back on social

media, but we asked the question: what if simply using social media differently could maximise its positives and minimise its negatives in our lives?

Using social media for maximum **benefit:** In our six-week study, 393 Canadian young adults with some mental health symptoms and concerns about social media's impact on their lives were split into three groups: A control group that continued their usual routines

An abstinence group asked to take a break from social media entirely An educational programme group that was coached in intentional

The educational programme showed people how to avoid the downsides — like feeling pressured to look or act a certain way online - and instead focus on the good

To do this, we emphasised quality over quantity in social media interactions. Participants built a healthier online environment by muting or unfollowing accounts that triggered envy or negative self-comparisons, and by prioritizing close friendships.

Rather than passively scrolling, they were encouraged to actively engage with friends by commenting or sending direct messages a behaviour that tends to deepen meaningful connections while helping users feel more socially

supported. We also asked all participants to track their screen time and tell us

about their well-being.
The study found that participants who took a break from social media or participated in an educational program on intentional social media use experienced

improvements in their mental health. Feeling less lonely: Our results are promising. Those who took a break felt fewer depression and anxiety symptoms, while those in the educational program felt less lonely and experienced less FOMO. Our educational programme also inadvertently impacted social media habits. Although partici-pants in this program didn't cut back on their social media use as much as those in the abstinence group, they still reduced their screen time relative to the control

group. We suspect that as they started to use social media more intentionally, they cut out the type of use that made them feel bad but increased or maintained the type of use that made them feel good. Stopping social comparisons: Both groups — those who took a

the educational program showed a decrease in the tendency to compare themselves to others online. This is a big step since social comparison is often touted as the root of all evil stemming from social media use.

Overall, both approaches reduced unhealthy social media habits and improved well-being. Using social media in an intentional, connected way might be just as beneficial, and potentially more sustainable for some, than quitting altogether. Our results suggest that with the right guidance, young adults can curate a more positive experience, using social media to support their mental health instead of

detracting from it. Looking for genuine connections: At the Promoting Equitable, Affirming, Relationships Lab, we

break and those who completed research how young people form supportive and lasting relationships — both online and in-person. Part of what we do is to find out and understand how social media can be harnessed to help people find community. Conversely, we are looking at ways to avoid the potential negatives of the online sphere. While our study offers some solu-

tions, the bigger question remains: How can we continue to foster supportive and authentic connections in an increasingly digital world? Bottom line? Social media is here to stay and we need to find the healthiest ways to live with it. Through our research, we hope to

start a conversation about how we can make social media a tool for genuine connection, rather than a source of stress, for a healthier online experience.

Government scraps windfall profit tax on domestic crude oil, export of fuels

The government on Monday scrapped 30-month old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol following a decline in international oil prices.

Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary tabled a notification in Rajya Sabha scrapping the levy on crude oil produced by firms like state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and exports of fuels done by companies like Reliance Industries Ltd.

The notification rescinded June 30, 2022 order and withdrew levy of special additional excise duty (SAED) on production of crude oil (which is refined into fuels like petrol and diesel) and on export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol, he said.

Alongside, the road and infrastructure cess (RIC) levied on export of petrol and

diesel withdrawn.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies. At that time, export duties of Rs 6 per litre (USD 12 per barrel) each were levied on petrol and ATF and Rs 13 a litre (USD 26 a barrel) on

40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on domestic crude production was also levied. The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the

previous two weeks. While the levy on export of petrol became nil in the very first fortnightly review that happened in mid-July 2022, the tax on diesel and ATF diesel. exports became nil in mid
A Rs 23,250 per tonne (USD April 2023 but were back in

August that year. There has been no levy on export of ATF and diesel since March this year.

As far as crude oil is concerned. the levv fluctuated every fortnight. It was Rs 1,850 per tonne in August 31, 2024 and became nil in the next fortnightly Now, the levies on both

domestically produced crude oil and fuel exports have been

The government had garnered about Rs 25,000 crore from the levy in the first year of its implementation, Rs 13,000 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 6,000 crore this year.

Reliance Industries Ltd, which operates India's largest only-for-export oil refinery at Jamnagar in Gujarat, and Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy are primary exporters of fuel in the country.

The government levied tax on windfall profits made by oil producers on any price they get above a threshold of USD 75 per barrel.

The levy on fuel exports is based on cracks or margins that refiners earn on overseas shipments. These margins are primarily a difference between the international oil price realised and the cost.

The decision to scrap the levy follows softening in international oil prices. The basket of crude oil that India imports averaged USD 73.02 per barrel in November, down from USD 75.12 a

barrel in the previous month.

The import price was about USD 90 per barrel in April this year but has continued to slide in subsequent months. It fell to USD 73.69 per barrel in September but rose marginally in the following month.

since its levy, the windfall profit tax has been a subject of controversy. While it initially sought to balance government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices, industry players argued that it negatively impacted profitability and disincentive production. For private and foreign players, it brought in an element of uncertainty in the fiscal regime.

The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas too had been lobbying for its removal for some time now.

While doing away with tax on domestically-produced crude oil will benefit ONGC and Oil India Ltd, the scrapping of levy on fuel exports would help Reliance and Nayara.

Commerce ministry reviewing India-US trade relations amid Trump statements

Brazil.



SpiceJet to operate 100 Haj flights in 2025

Domestic carrier SpiceJet on Monday said it has secured the rights to operate Haj flights in 2025 from four key cities in the country - Kolkata, Guwahati, Srinagar, and Gaya.

As part of its mandate, SpiceJet will operate over 100 special flights for Haj

expected to fly 18 per cent additional pilgrims (around 15,500) compared to this year, the airline said.

Haj has been a significant revenue generator for SpiceJet, and the airline expects to generate Rs 185 crore from these operations in 2025, it said.

During the previous Haj season, SpiceJet deployed two wide-body Airbus A340 2025, using a mix of aircraft, each with a seating narrow-body and wide-capacity of 324 passengers, body aircraft, and is SpiceJet said. aircraft, each with a seating

India's power consumption up five per cent to 125.44 Billion units in November



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Tndia's power consumption rose 5.14 per cent to 125.44 billion units (BU) in November as compared to the year-ago month.

In November 2023, power consumption was 119.30 GW, as per the government data. The highest supply in a day (peak power demand met) also rose marginally to 207.42 GW in November 2024 from 204.56 GW in the year-ago

The peak power demand touched an all-time high of about 250 GW in May this year. The previous all-time high peak power demand of 243.27 GW was recorded in September 2023. Earlier this year, the power ministry projected a peak power demand of 235 GW during the day and 225 GW during evening hours for May while

for June. The ministry had also

240 GW during daytime and

235 GW in the evening hours

estimated that peak power demand may hit 260 GW this

Noting that November 2024 was the warmest in last four to five years as per official data, the experts opined that power demand as well as consumption showed subdued growth mainly due to slow onset of winters. They further said that

marginal rise in peak power

than-normal due to dip in mercury.

However, they said that the demand for power and consumption will continue to be steady in the coming days

demand in November also shows the effect of warmermonth. especially in Northern India where consumption of electricity rises due to use of heaters and geysers in winter

due to good commercial and industrial activities as well as dip in the temperature.



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The commerce ministry is reviewing various aspects of India-US trade relations focusing on implications of statements made by US
President-elect Donald
Trump during his election campaign and after the results, an official said.

The official added that there are no irritants in the relations between the two countries that can lead to discriminatory tariffs against

Trump, during his election campaign, has called India an "abuser" of import tariffs, a claim that echoed his October 2020 statement labelling India

the "Tariff King".
Trump on Saturday also warned BRICS countries against any move to replace the US dollar and has sought a commitment from the ninemember group that includes India, Russia, China, and

cent), and chemicals (56 per In the wake of such cent).

statements, brainstorming is fundamental to discuss the trade relations as the US is the largest trading partner of

Trade experts have time and again stated that Trump's claim that India is an "abuser" of import tariffs is unfair as many nations including America protect their domestic industries by imposing high customs duties on certain products.

According to AMERICA

According to WTO's World Tariff Profiles 2023, the US also imposes high duties on items like dairy products (188 per cent), fruits and vegetables (132 per cent), coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (53 per cent), cereals and food preparations (193 per cent), oilseeds, fats and oils (164 per cent), beverages and tobacco (150 per cent), fish and fish products (35 per cent), minerals and metals (187 per

An expert said that if the US would seek a cut in customs duties for some of their products, India should also demand a similar reduction to get greater market access for domestic items.

The US was the largest trading partner of India in 2023-24. India's exports stood at USD 77.51 billion, while imports aggregated at USD 42.2 billion in the last fiscal. Commerce and Industry

Minister Piyush Goyal has recently stated that the US President is a "friend of India" and India-US friendship will only continue to blossom and grow further. India's trade relations with

the US will continue to grow irrespective of the change in regime in America and according to the commerce ministry data, India's exports to the US jumped to USD 39.2 billion in October against

USD 21.46 billion in October 2015.

During 2001-23, at a Compounded Growth Rate (CAGR), India's exports to America rose by 10.48 per cent. In this period, the US imports from the world have grown by 4.76 per

"The India-US economic integration is growing over the period of time and that is a good thing for us and I trust that it will continue to grow," the official said.

During April-October this fiscal, the country's exports to America rose by 6.31 per cent to USD 47.24 billion, while imports grew by 2.46 per cent to USD 26 billion.

Experts have also stated that Indian exporters may face high customs duties for goods like automobiles, textiles and pharmaceuticals, if the new US administration decides to pursue the 'America First

mines rises 35 per cent to 112.65 MT

April-November period of the ongoing fiscal.

The output of coal from captive and commercial mines was 83.60 MT in the year-ago period, the coal ministry said in a statement.

The total dispatch of coal from captive and commercial mines between April and government is strategically and government is strategically. mines between April and November rose to 119.62 MT from 89.32 MT in the same period last financial year. the total coal dispatch from

these mines was 16.109 MT,

PTI NEW DELHI

with a daily average dispatch of 0.537 MT, which is an increase of 27.6 per cent compared to the daily average of 0.421 MT in November 2023," the April-November period of the proving fixed by the appring fixed by the proving fixed by the proving

government is strategically advancing India's economic self-reliance, infrastructure period last financial year. development, and global "In November 2024 alone, competitiveness through the total coal dispatch from transparent and innovative

Coal production from captive, commercial | Gold falls ₹200 to ₹79,200 per 10 grams | India's potential GDP growth is in

PTI NEW DELHI

Gold prices fell Rs 200 to Rs 79,200 per 10 grams in the national capital on Monday amid weak trends in the international markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

The yellow metal of 99.9 per cent purity closed at Rs 79,400 per 10 grams on Friday. Silver also plummeted Rs 2,200 to Rs 90,000 per kg due to reduced offtake by industrial units and coin makers. It had closed at Rs 92,200 per kg in closed at Rs 92,200 per kg in the previous trading session. Price of gold of 99.5 per cent purity slipped Rs 200 to Rs 78,800 per 10 grams. The precious metal ended at Rs 79,000 per 10 grams on Friday. Meanwhile, in futures

per cent, to trade at Rs 75,896 per 10 grams.

Silver contracts for December delivery slumped Rs 574, or 0.65 per cent, to Rs 88,307 per kg. During the day, the white metal declined Rs 1,081, or 1.22 per cent, to hit an intra-day low of Rs 87,800 per kg on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX).
Globally, Comex gold futures

fell USD 23.50 per ounce, or 0.88 per cent, to USD 2,657.50 per ounce. "Gold continued its downward trajectory, after hitting an intra-day low of

USD 2,621 during the Asian session.

"The decline was driven by a

trade on the MCX, gold contracts for December delivery fell Rs 478, or 0.63 recovery seen in US dollar, fuelled by rising US Treasury bond yields and inflationary concerns tied to President-elect Donald Trump's proposed tariffs," Maneesh Sharma, AVP - Commodities & Currencies, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers, said.

According to Kaynat Chainwala, AVP-Commodity Research, Kotak Securities, last week comex gold closed on a weaker note as safe-haven demand faded, following a ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Also, concerns about persistent inflation have raised doubts about the pace of rate cuts next year, Chainwala said.

range of 6.5-7per cent, says CEA

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's potential GDP growth is in the range of 6.5-7 per cent and the country should be able to achieve it on the back of things that done already in the last 10 years, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said on Monday. The Economic Survey

projected India's GDP to grow at 6.5-7 per cent in 2024-25, down from a high of 8.2 per cent in the preceding financial year. Addressing IVCA's GreenReturns Summit, he said, "India's potential GDP growth is in

the range of 6.5-7 per cent invest in." and we should be able to The other achieve it on the back of already in the last 10 years whether it is in terms of augmenting the physical infrastructure or achieving financial inclusion."

intermittency. The investment shouldn't focus on setting up solar power plants or wind energy plants as we need to take into consideration the increasing waste. That is an area to approach.

The other areas to invest in is the area of grid capabilities things that we have done and technologies which will be able to withstand the intermittency of supplies from these renewable energy sources, he said. With 45 years remaining for India to Emphasising the investment areas, he said, "We all know about the issue of emissions by 2070, he said about the complex challenge

sustainability. He also shared the current cost of recycling solar panel strategies and steps and waste and wind turbine urged for a collaborative

of balancing robust economic

growth with the urgent need

environmental

Rupee drops 13 paise to all-time low of 84.73 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee depreciated 13 paise to close at an alltime low of 84.73 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, on d i s a p p o i n t i n g macroeconomic data and broad strength of the American currency in the overseas markets

On Friday, the rupee plunged 13 paise to settle at a fresh all-time low of 84.60 against the US dollar. Traders said disappointing macroeconomic data and persistent foreign fund outflows also dented investor sentiments overseas markets.

Forex traders said Asian currencies were down after Trump Rhetoric on BRICs currency, as the move may further strengthen the greenback.

President-elect Donald Trump on threatened a 100 per cent tariff on the BRIC bloc of nations if they act to undermine the US dollar.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.59 and touched the lowest level of 84.73 against the greenback during intra-

paise over its previous close. On Friday, the rupee plunged 13 paise to settle at

investor sentiments. India's manufacturing sector

growth fell to a joint 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory Saturday orders, a monthly survey

said on Monday.
"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias on strong dollar and FII outflows.

A recovery in crude oil prices may also weigh on the rupee. Donald Trump's tariff the greenback during intra-day trade. threat may further strengthen the greenback," record USD 17.761 billion to USD 657.892 billion in the previous reporting week ending November 15.

(provisional) against the Asset Sharekhan. dollar, registering a fall of 13 However, positive domestic markets may support the rupee at lower levels.

Traders may take cues from US ISM manufacturing PMI data, Choudhary said, adding that USD-INR spot price is expected to trade in a range of Rs 84.50 to Rs 84.95.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.51 per cent at

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, surged 0.99 per cent to USD 72.59 per barrel in futures trade. India's forex dropped USD 1.31 billion to

USD 656.582 billion for the

week ended November 22,

the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday. The reserves had dropped a

Sensex, Nifty settle higher on buying in blue-chip stocks



PTI ■ MUMBAI

 $B_{\text{and Nifty ended higher on}}^{\text{enchmark indices Sensex}}$ Monday amid buying in blue-chip stocks Reliance Industries, Infosys and HDFC Bank along with a firm trend in the US markets.

Recovering the early lost ground, the BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 445.29 points or 0.56 per cent to settle at 80,248.08. During the day, it hit a high of 80,337.82 and a low of 79,308.95.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, JSW Steel, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Titan, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Steel and Reliance Industries were the biggest gainers. NTPC, Hindustan Unilever,

Mahindra Bank, Kotak IndusInd Bank and Larsen & Toubro were among the laggards. In Asian markets, Seoul settled lower while Tokyo,

Shanghai and Hong Kong ended higher. European markets were trading mostly lower. US markets ended in the positive

Foreign Ínstitutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 4,383.55 crore on Friday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) bought equities worth Rs 5,723.34 crore.

territory on Friday.

The NSE Nifty surged 144.95 India's economic growth points or 0.60 per cent to slowed to a 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 the fastest-growing large economy, data showed on Friday.

India's manufacturing sector growth fell to a 11-month low of 56.5 in November, restricted by competitive conditions and inflationary pressures amid a softer increase in factory orders, a monthly survey said on Monday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.85 per cent to USD 72.45 a barrel. The BSE benchmark jumped

759.05 points or 0.96 per cent to settle at 79,802.79 on Friday. The Nifty climbed 216.95 points or 0.91 per cent to 24,131.10.

INBRIEF

TCS HIRED 106 GNDU STUDENTS

AMARAVATI: Directorate of Placement & Career Enhancement of Guru Nanak Dev University organized Campus Placement drive by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) company for B.Tech. and MCA students of GNDU – Batch 2025. The company selected 106 students from these courses.



GNDU STUDENTS EXCELLED IN INTER-UNIVERSITY YOUTH FAIRS



AMRITSAR: - In the Inter-University Youth Competitions being held at Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana, students of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts of Guru Nanak Dev University participated in the Var, Kavishri and Kali

PSPCL RECEIVES 92 LAKH METRIC TONNES OF COAL

CHANDIGARH: Punjab Power and Public Works Minister Harbhajan Singh ETO announced on Saturday that the Punjab State Power Corporation (PSPCL) has achieved substantial savings of approximately Rs 1,000 crore due to the procurement of cheaper coal from the Pachwara coal mine



Max Verstappen wins Qatar Grand Prix

¬rom a smashed mirror and crashes to unusually severe penalties, there were plenty of hazards at the Qatar Grand Prix. Max Verstappen steered clear of them all to follow up his Formula 1 drivers' title with his ninth win of the year on Sunday.

Lando Norris, Verstappen's closest title rival until he secured the championship last week in Las Vegas, was trying to overtake the Dutch driver for the lead until he was dropped to the back of the field by a penalty for failing to slow for yellow warning flags.
Verstappen, who secured his

fourth consecutive title in Las Vegas last week, has won two of the last three races but hadn't won in dry conditions since June.

"It was a lot of fun out there," Verstappen said.

"Very happy. It's been a while in the dry to be this competitive. Very proud of everyone within the

Verstappen disposed of another

rival off the line, beating George Russell into the first corner. The Mercedes driver had been elevated to pole position in Verstappen's place after a contentious dispute in qualifying that got Verstappen a one-place penalty for driving too slowly. Charles Leclerc finished second

for Ferrari and Norris' McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri was third. Penalties spark debate

In a season of controversy over the rules and upheaval at the governing body, the stewards again played a crucial role. Norris had been chasing down Verstappen for the lead before his penalty. McLaren team principal Andrea Stella said Norris hadn't slowed down but argued the penalty was disproportionately

"It's definitely material that the FIA should consider very seriously if we want fairness to be part of going racing in Formula 1," Stella

'To me, it looks like somewhere there must be a book with a lot of



dust on the cover that was taken out. Let me see what it says, I apply this.' Seems a little too simplistic.' The stewards were busy, issuing a

wide range of penalties for and one for Russell, who was offenses like causing collisions, but also two for Lewis Hamilton for a

judged to have dropped too far back in a safety car period. Russell false start and pit-lane speeding, said later he didn't know "when or

how or why" he'd been penalized. The safety car came out three times, first for crashes at the back of the pack on the opening lap, then for debris from a smashed mirror, and again when Nico Hulkenberg's Haas ended up in the

gravel.
Constructors' title fight
At one stage, it looked like
McLaren could seal its first constructors' title since 1998 in Qatar as Norris and Piastri both eyed podium places.

After Norris' penalty, Ferrari cut McLaren's lead from 30 points to 21 with Leclerc's second place and a solid sixth for Carlos Sainz Jr. After a puncture seemed to have wrecked his race. The constructors' title will now be decided at the final race of the season in Abu Dhabi next week. That's a boost to Ferrari's morale. "We knew it was going to be a very difficult weekend compared to the McLaren but we even managed to

take some points away from them, so the fight will be all the way to

the last race in Abu Dhabi next

"It's going to be an exciting end to the year. Hopefully we can be strong but it's going to take everything we've got to seal the deal," Piastri said.

Russell was fourth, ahead of Pierre Gasly continuing Alpine's recent good form, with Sainz sixth and Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso seventh.

Zhou Guanyu picked up his and Sauber's first points in eighth, ahead of Kevin Magnussen for Haas in ninth and Norris 10th after having been dropped to 15th by the penalty. Hamilton and Sainz both picked up punctures shortly after a

discarded wing mirror on the track was shattered by Valtteri Bottas' Sauber. Carbon fiber and glass were spread across the circuit, bringing out the safety car again, though it wasn't immediately clear if that or tire failure caused the punctures. It was a long, hard race for seven-time champion Hamilton, who finished



Mbappé and Bellingham respond to unhappy fans with goals in Real Madrid's 2-0 win over Getafe

Kylian Mbappe made some peace with Real Madrid's fans.

Mbappe scored in Madrid's 2-0 win over Getafe in the Spanish league on Sunday to help ease the pressure on the France star.

Mbappé, who has been criticized by some supporters because of his disappointing performances 2-1 to Las Palmas on since joining the Spanish Saturday. Madrid, the powerhouse this season, defending champion, has a ound the net in the 38th minute to seal Madrid's victory at the Santiago

Bernabeu stadium.

Mbappé was coming off a lackluster outing — which included a missed penalty

Wednesday.
Jude Bellingham, also the target of some fans' criticism farget of some tans criticism for recent poor play, had put Madrid ahead at the Bernabeu by converting a 30th-minute penalty. He also assisted in Mbappe's goal — a well-placed low shot from outside the area.

Mbappé had scored only once in the team's last six matches across all competitions, and twice in

"He scored and created opportunities. He was very active, it's what we want from him."

Mbappé was still far from his best, and he did not take the penalty kick which was converted by Bellingham. Sociedad def 2-0 at home.

Another penalty — which was overturned by VAR was also set to be taken by Rodrygo.

"The order for the penalties is Mbappé and Vinícius Júnior, but without Vinícius, it was up to Bellingham and Mbappé to choose," Mbappé Ancelotti said.

The win moved Madrid within a point of league leader Barcelona, which lost game in

Madrid was one point ahead of city rival Atletico Madrid, which won 5-0 at Valladolid on Saturday. Madrid has lost three of its

kick — against Liverpool in the Champions League on Wednesday. Catalan club is winless in three consecutive league

Things have been going well in La Liga since the last defeat, but we can't get sidetracked because this is what Real Madrid demands," Madrid defender Antonio Rüdiger said.

"We must continue and do better in the Champions League."

the last nine games.

"He played very well, was active and was as dangerous as always," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said.

"He played very well, was after leading 2-0 and eventually conceding an equalizer seven minutes into stoppage time. Athletic Bilbao rallied to win

2-1 at Rayo Vallecano with a pair of second-half goals by Oihan Sancet, while Athletic's Basque rival Real Sociedad defeated Real Betis

Edoardo Bove in medically induced coma after collapsing in Italian soccer game

AP ■ FLORENCE

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m F}_{
m Edoardo}^{
m ion}$ midfielder medically induced coma after collapsing on the field during his team's Serie A match at home to Inter Milan, with the game abandoned shortly afterward. teammates Bove's

immediately called for medical help and both sets of players surrounded the 22year-old while he was being treated before he was swiftly stretchered off to an ambulance near the pitch and taken to Careggi Hospital in Florence on Sunday.
"Fiorentina and the Careggi

University Hospital announce that the footballer Edoardo Bove ... Is currently under pharmacological sedation and hospitalized in intensive care," Fiorentina said in a statement. "The first cardiological and neurological tests performed have ruled out acute damage to the central nervous system and the cardio-respiratory system. Edoardo Bove will be re-evaluated in the next 24



Sky Italia reported that the player regained consciousness while he was in the ambulance and was managing to breathe on his own.

Bove's parents and his girlfriend have arrived at the hospital along with Fiorentina coach Raffaele Palladino and most of his teammates, as well as club directors and the city's mayor.

Fiorentina fans have also gathered outside the hospital and displayed a banner with the words: "Forza Edoardo, Florence is with you." Fiorentina president Rocco

Commisso echoed that sentiment and the club said he and his family are in constant contact from the United States to support Bove and his family.

"Forza Edoardo, we're with you," Commisso said. 'You're a strong boy with a great character."

More messages of support flooded in on social media from players and clubs. Inter midfielder Federico Dimarco, who was on the field at the time, wrote "Forza Edo, we are all with you and your family." The incident happened in the

16th minute of the match, with play stopped following a VAR check. Bove apparently bent down to tie the laces on his boot before he suddenly dropped to the ground.
Fiorentina players were distraught on the field and

were comforted by staff members as well as Inter players. Several were openly sobbing before the teams filed off the field.

The Italian league match was immediately halted, before being abandoned. The score at the time of Bove's collapse was

Many at Fiorentina — as well as the fans — remember former captain Davide Astori, who was found dead in his hotel room in March 2018 before a match in Udine. It is the second incident this

year of a player collapsing during a Serie A match. It happened to Roma defender Evan Ndicka during his team's match at Udinese in April. Bove is a product of the Roma

youth academy and joined Fiorentina on loan in the offseason with the option to make the move permanent.



World Chess Championship: Gukesh, Liren eye breakthrough after hat-trick of draws

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

ndian Grandmaster D Gukesh and defending champion Ding Liren will be aiming to break the deadlock after three consecutive draws when they square off in the seventh round of the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday, having stayed on equal footing for most part of the interesting showdown. Hailed as the favourite to win

by many chess pundits, the 18-year-old Gukesh, who is the voungest ever challenger to the title, has not been able to really show his class and has often depended on the Chinese to play safe or make mistakes in decent positions. The two are currently locked at three points

If game one was a wake up call for Gukesh after a loss with white pieces, the second game was a confidence-booster for the Indian as Liren barely did anything and allowed an easy

Gukesh won the third game but only after Liren miscalculated from what may have been a

promising position. In the fourth game Gukesh played solidly again when Liren gave nothing away out of an irregular opening and it was again a draw.

At this point, it was clear that Liren was banking on Gukesh to make mistakes. Game five saw Gukesh fighting

for the initiative yet again and went too far as he came under threat in the resulting endgame. Liren yet again failed to spot them and it was another

The sixth game of many world championship matches have massive history and this time too, it was not disappointing for

the last World championship, Liren had beaten Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia in the sixth game and back in 1972, Bobby Fischer had beaten Boris Spassky in what is a favourite of many chess fans across the world even today.

Gukesh turned down an early draw vide repetition and was worse. However, the nature of the

position remained complicated and Liren did not risk things in the queen and rook endgame that was the fourth draw of the match out of six games. As far as the openings go, Liren

has chosen three moves with his white pieces to start the game while Gukesh has stuck to a Classical approach using only King and Queen's pawn in the beginning. "I think so far it has been good I still can improve my play, there are 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 at the end of the sixth game.

On Tuesday, the Indian will play with white.

Going by the proceedings so far, things are not particularly clear and as of now, there are no

favourites. Gukesh has been his general ambitious self while Liren has shown aggression only when necessary, often missing out on key moments.

The next three games wherein Gukesh will play with two whites and a solo black is perhaps the best opportunity for the Indian to go ahead in the match and put pressure. Liren, so far, has been better in

defending the opening positions and might like the trend to continue.

Manchester (England), Dec 2 (AP)

Chastened. Relieved. Defiant.

unlikely low.

Make that seven matches without a win for a team which, not so long ago, never lost. That's all in the past for Guardiola, though.

Liverpool in the Premier League on Sunday. "There's a feeling we start from here this season."

Nottingham Forest.

"Many, many things are happening. The teams are good and we can't handle it right now. I have to find the solution to

"These players gave me a chance to lead maybe the best years of my life. All I can do is find a solution — in the right moment, the club will make the decision what is needed for this club to continue to be there."

the first time in recent days that Guardiola brought up how fragile his position could quickly become if City

Was he referring to making signings in the January transfer window? City's fatigued and injury-ravaged squad sure needs some, especially in midfield.
Or was he referring to his future? It's not

Greenwood's late penalty helps Marseille beat Monaco 2-1 and move into second place shoving from both sides. Coulibaly and Lille defender

> Montpellier player Rémy Cabella — who plays for Lille — was involved in heated incidents. Canada striker Jonathan David scored a penalty in each half for Lille, which is unbeaten in 13 games in all competitions and

Mitchel Bakker were red carded.

remained in fourth place.
David's second penalty in the 54th was awarded following a long video replay after Cabella

tumbled. David slotted it into the top right corner to move to nine league goals and 99 in 205 matches overall since joining Lille four

Montpellier midfielder Téji fifth place.
Savanier and TV images showed
Cabella shoving his forearm into
Savanier's face. Both players
received a yellow card.

Ighth place.
Lacazette gave Lyon the lead and restored it later in the first half after midfielder Sofiane Diop had equalized for sixth-place Nice. Montpellier coach Jean-Louis Gasset had been sent off near the end of the second half and former

A clumsy challenge from Jordan Ferri on Matias Fernandez-Pardo led to the first penalty, and David tucked it calmly into the left

corner. Savanier's well-flighted corner from the right allowed defender Issiaga Sylla the chance to head the equalizer in the second minute of first-half stoppage time. Cabella argued with some home fans after being substituted midway through the second half and was asked to stop remonstrating by the fourth

official. LACAZETTE HAT TRICK Veteran striker Alexandre Lacazette scored a hat trick as Lyon beat Nice 4-1 to move into Nantes on Saturday.

Midfielder Jordan Veretout put Lyon 3-1 up before the break and

Lacazette's penalty in the 70th put Lyon in total control. The 33-year-old Lacazette is in his second spell with Lyon, having

spent five seasons in the Premier League with Arsenal, and now totals 190 goals for the club. Norway striker Joshua King and

Vincent Sierro scored in midtable Toulouse's 2-0 home win against Auxerre, and midfielder Himad Abdelli netted as Angers won 1-0 at Le Havre to move out of the relegation zone.

draw at home to struggling

Guardiola hits 'reset' with Manchester City floundering in Premier League

For Pep Guardiola, the season starts now.

The Manchester City manager displayed a whole range of emotions after his latest ordeal at Anfield that plunged the out-of-sorts English champions to an

"Reset," he said after a 2-0 loss to

How he intends to move on from the worst run of results in his managerial career remains to be seen. But, it all starts Wednesday with a home game against

'We are not used to this," Guardiola said.



keeps losing. Moments before walking down the tunnel after the final whistle at Anfield, Guardiola held up an outstretched hand and an extra finger as a retort to taunts by Liverpool fans. It was a nod to six Premier League titles he has won in eight

full seasons at City.
No. 7 doesn't look likely this season. Not with City already 11 points behind Liverpool.

"Call me delusional or something like that," Guardiola said, "but I have the feeling we will try to build back our confidence to win games."
Indeed, Guardiola said he was taking some belief from recent training sessions. From the return to fitness of

some players, such as Ruben Dias, Nathan Ake, Jack Grealish and Jeremy

Maybe, from a second-half display against Liverpool that, while hardly vintage City, at least showed some spirit and resolve, even if Liverpool appeared happy to play on the break and never looked troubled.

Mason Greenwood's late penalty gave Marseille a 2-1 home win over Monaco and lifted the team over its rival into second place in the French league.

Greenwood placed the ball into the bottom left corner in the 89th minute for his ninth league goal of the season on Sunday — level with Lille's Jonathan David and one behind Paris Saint-Germain's Bradley Barcola in the scoring

Marseille moved above Monaco on goal difference, with both sides seven points behind leader Monaco's defeat exposed shortcomings in coach Adi

Hütter's young and talented yet error-prone team.

Monaco lost 3-2 at home to Benfica in the Champions League

Neal Maupays cross.

Earlier Sunday, Arnaud Nordin grabbed the equalizer in the fifth minute of second-half stoppage time as rock-bottom Montpellier

on Wednesday after leading that game 2-1 before conceding twice in the last six minutes.

After going unbeaten in its first

11 games in all competitions this season, Hütter's erratic side has had four defeats in the past seven matches — including at home to strugglers Angers and away to Nice after again taking the lead. This time, Monaco scored first at Velodrome midfielder Aleksandr Golovin beat Gerónimo Rulli in the 41st minute with a slightly deflected

strike after being set up by midfielder Denis Zakaria. Brazilian winger Luis Henrique equalized for Marseille in the 53rd with a header from forward Neal Maupay's cross.

earned a 2-2 home draw with Lille in an ill-tempered contest. Moments after Nordin's goal, a

Montpellier forward Tanguy Coulibaly kicked the ball against Lille coach Bruno Genesio when player from each side was sent off.
The incident happened when throw in, prompting pushing and

years ago. While the penalty review was taking place, Cabella argued with

PSG followed up its defeat against Bayern Munich with a tame 1-1

Bumrah will go down as one of the greatest pacers: Head

ustralia batter Travis Head feels Jasprit Bumrah will go down as "one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game" and said he'll proudly tell his grandchildren about the formidable challenge of facing the Indian pace maestro.

Bumrah reinforced his status as the best bowler in the world with a

the best bowler in the world with a stunning performance in the opening Test in Perth which India won by 295 runs.

"Jasprit will go down as probably one of the greatest fast bowlers to play the game. I think we're finding that at the moment -- how challenging he can be and it's nice. challenging he can be, and it's nice to play against that," Head told reporters on Monday.
"It's gonna be nice to go back and

look at your career and go tell the grandkids that you faced him. So not a bad series of playing with him. Hopefully I'll face a few more

times, but he has been challenging," he added.
Bumrah, who was captaining the visiting side, led from the front with a match-haul of 8/72,

including several pivotal wickets, showcasing his exceptional form. His stellar performance was a testament to his remarkable consistency this year.

Earlier this year, he was named Player-of-the-Series in the T20 World Cup, where he played a key role in India's title-winning

campaign. Head was the sole Australian batter to get a fifty in Perth as the top order comprising the likes of Steve Smith, Usman Khawaja and Marnus Labuschagne struggled but the explosive middle-order batter is certain his teammates won't be approaching him for tips. "They are not coming to me for batting tips, that's for sure. Everyone goes about it in different ways. We'll have a chat over the next three or four days.

"(Bumrah) is so unique, and that's with any of the bowlers, really. Every (batter) picks up different cues and goes about it in a different way.

on Monday after a short break. The two sides will now play a pink ball Test in Adelaide from Friday

The Australian squad reconvened at the same venue where India were all out for 36 in their previous visit in 2020. Recalling that match, Head said, "I

remember that it was a quick test, so it was good. We got to enjoy all of the bits of Adelaide afterwards. "It'll be nice to do that again.

DREAM11

Don't know if we can revisit. It wouldn't take very long to watch it. I don't think that will happen Australia last played a pink ball

Australia last played a pink bail Test in January.

"It's been a long time since we played one (pink ball), India got another look at it last night. Everyone's well experienced enough, especially that team as well, that in your international

"I think you can accustomed to things pretty quickly. I don't think it'll take them long to be prepared for it, and same as us." No divide in the team

Head asserted that there is no "divide" between Australia's struggling batting and the bowling unit. A possible rift within the team was suggested following a comment from Josh Hazlewood during the first Test.

and it's a very individualised sport," Head said.

So batters, we want to hold our

While India played a day-night pink-ball game against the Prime Ministers XI over the weekend, runs on the board, we put ourselves in a great position.

"As a batter myself, I try to take a whole lot of pride in what I do, and knowing that if I can set it up for the big boys, that they can knock it down for us, so definitely no divide," Head said.

Australia have dealt with adversity

Head backed the Australians to bounce back from their horror show in Perth.

This team has dealt with adversity well. The small amount that we have had in the last three or four years, we have played well. unit. A possible rift within the team was suggested following a comment from Josh Hazlewood during the first Test.

"We hold high expectations for both sides (batting and bowling) and it's a very individualised sport?" Heads

for the last few years.
"Over the last couple of years, there's a lot of teams that lost the own - we know how good our bowlers have been for us in the past and they've got us out of played really well."



We have found the right mix: **Hardik Pandya**

PTI MUMBAI

Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya has expressed his delight at the way things panned out for them in the IPL mega auction in Jeddah and said the but somethies, you just lose. (So), it's very important to not be very so emotional, and in the end, we have to create a whole team." franchise has "found the right

The star all-rounder said they had a clear plan of having a blend of youth and experienced players.

"I was in touch with the table as well, exactly who we are going for, and I think we came out pretty well from the auction and how the team is looking," he said in an MI video posted on social media. "We have found the right mix, which is experienced players, like Boulty (Trent Boult) is back, Deepak Chahar, who has been around, and at the same time, young guns like Will Jacks, Robin Minz and Rickelton, who are fresh.

"So, I think we have done pretty well. We have covered all the bases."

Explaining the auction dynamics, Pandya admitted that while the entire process is thrilling, it is important to keep the emotions in check, especially while going for a particular player the team desperately needs.

'The auction dynamics are always tricky. When you are watching it live, it is very exciting, and the emotions are make them flourish."

always up and down because you want this player," he explained.

"But sometimes, you just lose.

'Mumbai Indians has the facility to make them flourish'

MI bought quite a few uncapped young players --Naman Dhir, Robin Minz, Vignesh Puthur, Arjun Tendulkar, Bevan Venkata Jacobs, Satyanarayana Penmetsa, Rai Angad Bawa. Shrijith

Ashwani Krishnan and Kumar. Referring to these youngsters, Pandya urged them to work hard and said that MI possesses the best facilities to

help them develop into top cricketers. "My message to all the young guns who are joining Mumbai Indians this year is that if you are here, you have that spark, you have that talent, which the scouts have

seen," he stated. They found me, they found Jasprit, they found Krunal, they found Tilak. They all eventually played for the country.

"All you have to do is show up, train, work hard, and the best part is that Mumbai Indians has the facility to

Australia quashes rumours of divide in their camp ahead of pink ball Test

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Australian big-hitter Travis Head on Monday asserted there is no "divide" between his team's struggling batters and its team's struggling batters and its potent bowling attack as they geared up to bounce back in the pink-ball Test against India, starting here on December 6. Australia suffered an embarrassing 295-run loss as their batters struggled to cope with the bouncy Perth pitch, managing just 104 & 238 in their two innings. On day three of the Test, pacer Josh Hazlewood, who picked four wickets in first essay, made

four wickets in first essay, made a comment that seemed to suggest frustration with the team's batters. Triggering speculation of tensions in the dressing room.

Head said there was no reason to doubt the dressing room

dynamics.
"It can be put to bed. We hold high expectations for both sides (batting and bowling) and it's a very individualised sport," Head said.

"So batters, we want to hold our own - we know how good our bowlers have been for us in the



past and they've got us out of trouble a lot. As a batting group, we know that if we get enough runs on the board, we put ourselves in a great position.

"As a batter myself, I try to take a whole lot of pride in what I do, and knowing that if I can set it up for the big boys, that they can knock it down for us, so definitely no divide," he explained.

Hazlewood was questioned about Australia's approach to day four, given they were 12/3 day four, given they were 12/3 in pursuit of 534. to get some big runs. "Knowing Marnus, he would have worked on a few things in pursuit of 534.

of the batters that question

probably, I am sort of relaxing and trying to get a bit of treatment, and I am looking mostly to next Test," Hazlewood had said.

comprising the likes of Usman Khawaja, Steve Smith and Labuschagne Marnus crumbled at Perth. Labuschagnem, in particular, has been woefully out of form

The Australian top-order

and several former players have called for his exclusion from the side but Head backed him

over the last few days and it

would have been hard to probably keep him out of the nets," he said.

"No doubt over the next few days we'll see him working hard again. He's a guy that has played well over a long period of time. He would like some more runs — so would

Trailing the five match series 0-1, Australia have their backs against the wall as the race for the World Test Championship final has also intensified.

However, Head backed his team to bounce back from the horror show in Perth. "This team has dealt with adversity well. The small

amount that we have had in the last three or four years, we have played well," he said. "We didn't have a very good week. That's fine. But we have

got four more opportunities to do it, we will crack on as we do, as we have done for the last few

"Over the last couple of years, there's a lot of teams that lost the first Test or gone down in the series and brought it back and played really well," he added.

Rohit will either open or bat at No. 3, reckons Harbhajan

Captain Rohit Sharma will Ceither open or bat at number three in the Adelaide Test against Australia, reckoned former India offspinner Harbhajan Singh on Monday while ruling out the possibility of a senior star coming in at number five or

KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal added a record 201 runs for the opening stand during the second innings of the Perth Test, which the visitors won by 295 runs with plenty of time left in the match.

"I don't see Rohit coming in at number five or six. Either Rohit will open with Yashasvi Jaiswal, with KL Rahul coming in at number three, or he will bat no later than number three," Harbhajan told PTI on the sidelines of the inauguration of the World Tennis League here. "Number six for Rohit wouldn't be in best interest of the team. Your top four in batting order should be the four pillars and someone like Rohit at the top would only



add greater fillip." The second Test, a day/night affair to be played with the

pink ball, will begin at Adelaide Oval on Friday. Harbhajan described the move to play Washington Sundar over R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja in the series opener as a

massive step. "Washington had showed during the New Zealand series that he is ready to take over the mantle from Ashwin in coming

days," the 'Turbanator' said. When asked if Ashwin's age is a factor, he said:"I don't think 38 is old. He is not a 58- year-old. But yes, after so many years, the shoulders do experience fatigue and wear and tear, so the zip can just be a bit less."

India beat Japan by 211 runs in Under-19 Asia Cup

PTI SHARJAH

Mohamed Amaan led from the front with an unbeaten century, while KP Karthikeya and opener Ayush Mhatre made fifties to hand India a comfortable 211-run victory over minnows Japan in the Under-19 Asia Cup here on Monday.

Amaan slammed an unbeaten 122 off just 118 balls, a knock studded with only seven boundaries, after India were invited to bat. Besides Amaan, Karthikeya made 57 off 49 balls with the help of five fours and one six, while Mhatre's fiery 29-ball 54-run knock featured six

boundaries and four hits over the fence. C Andre Siddarth (38), Hardik Raj (25 not out), and Vaibhav Suryavanshi (23) also played useful knocks to help India post a mammoth 339 for 6 in their 50 overs.

Hugo Kelly (2/42) and Kiefer Yamamoto-Lake (2/84) took two wickets each for Japan. It was an easy outing for the Indians, as they restricted Japan to 128 for 8, securing their first

However, the Indians will be a little disappointed, as they failed to bowl out Japan.



After picking up two wickets earlier in the day, Kelly returned as Japan's top-scorer with a gritty 50 off 111 balls. Charles Hinze remained unbeaten on 35.

For India, Karthikeya (2/21), Hardik Raj (2/9), and Chetan Sharma (2/14) shared six wickets between them.

India had lost to arch-rivals Pakistan by 43 runs in their tournament opener. India will play United Arab Emirates in their final group game on Wednesday.

The top two teams from each group will qualify for the semifinals, scheduled for December 6, with the final slated for December 8.

Hosts India open against Hong Kong in 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship

PTI NEW DELHI

Hosts India will look to make a strong start when they face Hong Kong in their opening match of the 20th Asian Women's Handball Championship, which kicks off here on Tuesday.

India is hosting the tournament for the first time, and the 25-member squad, captained by Diksha Kumari, faces a tough challenge against some of Asia's top teams. India is placed in Group B alongside powerhouses Japan, Iran, and Hong Kong.

In addition to their opener against Hong Kong, India will take on Iran on December 4 and Japan on December 6 at the Indira Gandhi Arena here. The top two teams from each group will advance to the semi-finals, with the top four securing spots in the 2025



World Women's Handball Championship. As part of their preparation,

the team underwent a rigorous training camp at the NCO SAI Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, under head coach Sachin Chaudhary.
"Our focus in the training

camp was on addressing the gaps from our previous outings and building a cohesive, unified team. We worked hard to strengthen our

collective game," said Sachin, who also led India in the 2022 AWHC, in a release.

The team features standout players like Menika, who was named in the Team of the Tournament at the 7th Asian Women's Club Championship, Bhawana Sharma and Priyanka Thakur from India's historic 2022 Asian Women's Junior Championship gold-winning

Women's Asian Champions Trophy win was important for India for LA 28 buildup, says Rani Rampal

Pormer captain Rani Rampal believes the Asian Champions Trophy title was an important feat for the Indian women's hockey team as it kick started its preparation for the Los told PTI. Angeles Olympics on a rousing note.

The Indian women's hockey team produced a dominant show to win its third Asian Champions Trophy title after struggling to win matches the entire year, which culminated in its failure to qualify for the Paris Games.

win was very important for our women's hockey team in terms of build up. It started the buildup for 2028 LA Olympics. It's a good start. Under coach Harendra Singh the team will do well," Rani

The-29-year-old signed off her career as one of India's most decorated hockey players after leading the women's team to its best-ever finish at the Olympics -- a fourth show at the Tokyo Games in 2021.

She was roped in as the national coach for sub-junior women's team before she

"The Asian Champions trophy officially announced her retirement last month. "My experience was great learnt a lot while working with the sub juniors. They were

win in Group A.

young girls who were coming from similar background as me, it was easy to understand their issues and to guide them," Rani said. "I told them 'if I can do it (be successful) then all of you can also do it. They need guidance

and I tried to give that to them

by sharing my experience with

them," she said of her experience as coach. The former striker will serve as a mentor for the Soorma



Hockey Club in the upcoming Hockey India League, which will also have a women's tournament for the first time. Rani made her international debut in 2008 as a 14-year-old in the Olympic qualifiers. And the former captain knows the pressure a young athlete experiences. As a coach and mentor she hopes to help youngsters manage the burden of expectations.

"I am going to be a mentor for Soorma club so I will try my best to fulfil that role to the best of my abilities. There is a lot of pressure on young athletes to perform mentally

and emotionally. So I will like to help them. "Pressure is normal but I will

try and tell them how to perform even under pressure. So I will try my best to share my experience and knowledge that I have gathered over the years with them," she said. Asked if she aspires to coach the Indian women's team in the future, she said "One task

at one time, I want to focus on the role I have for the next two months." Hockey was among sports like

badminton, wrestling and cricket that were axed from the official programme for the

Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland, a decision that has left Rani disappointed.

"It is quite said hockey has been removed form the CWG because when hockey wins a medal it's not one but 18 medals. Imagine 18 players come from different places, villages. Even if they come from 8 different states they inspire so many chilldren from those states.

This tournament is good and the CGF (Commonwealth Games Federation) should think about the decision," she said.

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