



Established 1865

the pioneer

LUCKNOW, WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 4, 2024; PAGES 12-13

www.dailypioneer.com

PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

INSIDE

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



BANGLADESH CHALLENGES INDIA Capital chaos continues

PTI ■ DHAKA

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

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

Earlier, Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohammad Touhid Hossain said the Indian envoy was asked to come to the foreign office after the Agartala incident.

India on Monday described as "deeply regrettable" the incident of the breach of the premises of the Bangladesh consulate in Agartala in the northeastern state of Tripura, bordering Bangladesh, by a group of people protesting the arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das here.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came hours after the protesters reportedly barged into the assistant high commission of Bangladesh and allegedly resorted to vandalism.

The envoy described the relationship as "multifaceted and wide-ranging," which could not sit with one issue or agenda and India is interested



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

AP/PTI

to work with Bangladesh government to fulfill the two countries' shared aspiration for peace, security and development. "We are working across so many issues. And we really want to build a positive, stable, constructive relationship," he said.

Verma also pointed out the many interdependencies and Delhi is keen to build on that "for mutual benefits."

India will keep ensuring that the mutual cooperation benefits the two peoples, and the number of positive developments that have taken place in the bilateral relationship in the last few months, "whether it is trade, it is power transmission, supply of essential commodities, we

have maintained lot of positive momentum in the relationship," he added. "We are willing to engage with the interim government of Bangladesh, and we remain interested in working with the Government of Bangladesh to fulfill our shared aspirations for peace, security and development," the envoy added.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh announced that all consular services at its Assistant High Commission in Agartala will remain suspended until further notice "because of security reasons" with immediate effect.

Earlier in the day, terming the vandalism at Bangladesh's diplomatic mission in Agartala as India's "failure,"

Law Affairs Adviser in the interim government Asif Nazrul asked New Delhi to reassess its neighbour afresh after the toppling of the Sheikh Hasina regime. "We believe in a friendship based on equality and mutual respect. While Sheikh Hasina's government followed a pro-India policy to cling to power without elections, India must realise that this is not Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh," he wrote in a Facebook post.

Three days after Hasina fled to India following widespread protests against her Awami League-led government over a controversial job quota system, Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the

interim government. The tension between the two neighbours simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India, aggravated further with the arrest of the Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das last week. Nazrul alleged an outfit named Hindu Sangharsh Samiti was responsible for what he described as "the disgraceful act" when Bangladesh Assistant High Commission in Agartala was vandalised, and "Bangladesh's national flag was set on fire."

He emphasised that Bangladesh is an independent, sovereign, and self-respecting nation driven by a "fearless and dynamic young generation."

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital's roads, known for their infamous traffic jams, are also notorious for rampant disregard of traffic rules, with official data revealing a massive 150 per cent jump in "wrong lane driving" violations, as compared to last year. While incidents of "driving against traffic" increasing by about 70 per cent. While police credit this staggering rise in number of violations to better enforcement, the city's traffic congestion may also be pushing drivers to break rules, as they look for quicker ways to reach their destination.

According to official data, till December 2 2024, the police issued 4,662 challans on vehicle owners for not plying in designated lanes as compared to 1,732 challans in 2023 and 1,829 challans in 2022. The fine for this violation is Rs 1,000 for private vehicles and Rs 10,000 for commercial vehicles. Similarly, in the same period, 99,962 challans have been issued for driving against the flow of traffic marking a significant rise from the last year when 59,527 challans were issued in 2023 and 43,768 issued in 2022. Violations in this result in a fine of Rs 5,000 against the vehicle owners. Even for "no entry" restrictions, the city witnessed 1,37,318 challans this year while it was 1,14,646 in 2023 and 84,067 in 2022 even as a hefty fine of Rs 20,000 is slapped on drivers.

According to Special Commissioner of Police



PHOTO: PTI

(Traffic) Ajay Chaudhary, the rise can be attributed to special drives conducted by the Delhi Police and coordinated efforts of the department to curb such violations on the roads. The streets of the Capital are also constantly cramped with vehicles parked improperly with a total of 4,88,602 such violations seen this year, marking a rise from 4,70,771 challans in 2023 and 3,58,067 challans in 2022. A fine of Rs 500 is issued for such violations by the police. They also towed 1,78,108 vehicles for improper parking as against 1,60,799 vehicles in 2023, and 1,33,800 vehicles in 2022.

Additionally, a total of 4,56,189 vehicle owners have been slapped with challans, which amount to Rs 10,000, regarding non possession of Pollution under Control Certificate (P.U.C.C.), as against 2,32,885 in 2023 and 1,64,638 in 2022. The police have impounded 8,231 End of Life vehicles (ELVs) while only 528 were impounded in 2023 and 1,147 in 2022.

In light of the air pollution in Delhi and the subsequent

pulling up of the Delhi Police by the Supreme Court for failing to implement the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) Stage 4 restrictions, police have also intensified its drive against non destined goods vehicles trying to enter the city. The police checked 2,28,235 such vehicles this year including 2,16,028 being checked when the GRAP came into force on October 15, marking a steep rise from 23,089 checked in 2023 and 12,268 checked in 2022. Out of the checked vehicles, 26,379 were returned in this year, 10,012 in 2023 and 3,274 in 2022.

Addl/CP (Traffic) Satyaveer Singh Katara added that the police will continue its drive and ensure that tough measures are implemented on the roads. "Some people think they can take shortcuts to avoid traffic but we all need to develop basic road sense. We will ensure that we curb such violations and take strict measures against these offenders," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Shashank Jaiswal said.

Continued on page 8

Google continues to dupe its users

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ BAREILLY



In yet another mishap tied to digital navigation, a car carrying three passengers veered off the road and plunged into the Kalapur canal in Bareilly's Izzatnagar area on Pilibhit Road. The driver had been following a route suggested by Google Maps, once again raising questions about the accuracy and reliability of satellite-based navigation systems in India.

The accident occurred near Barkapur Tiraaha, where erosion has left the road dangerously damaged. The vehicle, a Tata Tigor, overturned into the canal but, fortunately, all three occupants emerged unscathed. The local police, led by Izzatnagar Station Officer Dhananjay Pandey, promptly reached the scene and recovered the car with the help of a JCB machine. The passengers, including Divyanshu, son of Mahendra

Pratap Singh from Auraiya, were en route to Pilibhit following the app's guidance. The incident follows another tragedy on November 24, when three individuals lost their lives after their car, also directed by Google Maps, fell from an incomplete bridge near Muda village on the Dataganj-Faridpur road. That car plunged 20 feet, with the structure lacking barricades or warning signs. Following the incident, the Naib Tehsildar of Dataganj lodged a case against five engineers from the Public Works Department (PWD) for negligence. Police also issued a notice to Google, questioning its accountability for providing inaccurate directions.

Continued on page 8

Congress-led INDIA Bloc tumbling down?

DEEPAK KUMAR JHA ■ NEW DELHI



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other Opposition MPs stage a protest during the Winter session of Parliament

PTI

Fissures are visible in the Opposition's Congress led INDIA Bloc, after the grand old party's massive defeats in the recent Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly elections and not much appreciated performance in the State polls of Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir where the party contested with its alliance partners, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) and National Conference (NC), respectively. Rather one of the key allies in INDIA Bloc, Trinamool Congress (TMC), on Tuesday pitched for their party's supreme West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee be made the Bloc leader for all practical purposes, as the woman leader has a "100 per cent record" to take the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Partners like TMC, Samajwadi Party (SP) have raised eyebrows as the alliance could not work in the bypolls of Uttar Pradesh other States and the defeats have been shouldered on Congress. Congress found itself without its key allies, including the SP and TMC during a joint Opposition protest in the Parliament complex on Tuesday.

Continued on page 8

House to meet on weekends, make up for lost time: Speaker

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday warned the members that if the business of the House is disrupted further due to adjournments, then he will have to convene the proceedings over the weekends to make up for the loss of time.

"The House will convene on Saturday, December 14 at 11 am. If you continue with adjournments,

then for the number of days it has been adjourned, you will have to attend the proceedings on Saturday and Sunday as well," Birla said soon after the Question Hour. Lok Sabha proceedings were washed out last week due to protests by opposition members over the Adani indictment row, recent violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal and other issues.

Airport Authority lands show cause notice at Delhi International Airport

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI



FILE PHOTO: PTI

The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has issued a show cause notice to Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) which operates the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), the country's largest airport, seeking an explanation on certain structural weaknesses detected during the study by an IIT Delhi team following the roof collapse incident at T1 on June 28 that also killed one person, the civil aviation ministry had asked structural engineers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi to carry out an assessment.

When asked, a DIAL spokesperson said that its team of experts is currently preparing a comprehensive response to the queries raised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). "Report of the study conducted by IITD has been shared with us. AAI wanted some clarifications on the points raised by them. Our team of experts is currently preparing a comprehensive response to these queries, and they will be submitted within the stipulated timeline," he said.

The IIT Delhi in its report found weaknesses in the part of the terminal that was not impacted by the collapse and certain strengthening of the structure is required. Till then, old T1 cannot be opened for operations, the official added. "Alternate arrangements have been made around the new T1, and T2 and T3," the official said.

With the study finding certain defects, the official said AAI has issued a show cause notice to DIAL. Specific details about the show cause notice could not be immediately ascertained.

"Report of the study conducted by IITD has been shared with us. AAI wanted some clarifications on the points raised by them. Our team of experts is currently preparing a comprehensive response to these queries and they will be submitted within the stipulated timeline," the DIAL spokesperson said. There was no comment from AAI.

Continued on page 8

Architect of infrastructure Nitin Gadkari Irked by New Delhi air

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Irked by increased pollution levels in Delhi, Union minister Nitin Gadkari, who is a Member of Parliament from Nagpur, on Tuesday confessed that he does not feel like visiting the National Capital as he often catches an infection due to the high pollution levels here. Addressing an event, Gadkari said the city of Delhi is such that, "I do not like to live here. I get an infection due to pollution here. 'Har baar Delhi me aata hua, aisa lagta hain ki (Delhi) jaana chahiye ki nahi. Itna bhayanakar pollution hai' (Every time, while coming to Delhi, I think whether I should go or not because pollution levels are so high)," he said.

As Delhi struggles with worsening air quality, Gadkari has proposed a shift to Compressed Natural Gas (C.N.G.) - powered transportation to combat the pollution crisis. Gadkari also

highlighted the importance of creating an "ethanol ecosystem to promote cleaner and greener alternatives. Gadkari noted that India imports fossil fuels worth Rs 22 lakh crore, which is challenging from the point of view of economy, environment and ecology. "We can reduce import of fossil fuels by encouraging alternative fuels," he said. Meanwhile, a report by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) highlighted that Delhi's PM2.5 concentration soared to an average of 249 micrograms per cubic metre in November 2024, the highest since 2017, despite enforcement of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) and a decrease in stubble burning incidents. Delhi's PM2.5 level in November reached its highest monthly average in eight years despite the implementation of GRAP measures, making it the most polluted city in the

world. In November 2016, the average PM2.5 level was recorded at 254 micrograms per cubic metre, the highest November reading, followed by 249 micrograms per cubic metre this year. PM2.5 are fine particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less, about the width of a human hair. These are so small that they can penetrate deep into the lungs and even enter the bloodstream, posing significant health risks. The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM), a statutory body responsible for formulating strategies to combat pollution in the region, implements anti-pollution measures under the GRAP.

In November 2016, the average PM2.5 level was recorded at 254 micrograms per cubic metre, the highest for the month, followed by 249 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019, 200 micrograms per



the average was 241 micrograms per cubic metre in 2023, 181 micrograms per cubic metre in 2022, 238 micrograms per cubic metre in 2021, 214 micrograms per cubic metre in 2020, 204 micrograms per cubic metre in 2019, 200 micrograms per cubic metre in 2018, and 248 micrograms per cubic metre in 2017, the data said. These fine particles pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. The report highlights a concerning trend,



with 159 out of 268 cities across India exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM2.5 levels in November. The NAAQS limit for PM2.5 is set at 60 µg/m³. Manoj Kumar, an analyst at CREA, said, "After 2017, this

November saw a continuous eight-day stretch in the Severe category (PM2.5 >250 µg/m³) from November 13 to November 20. This was due to the delayed implementation of stricter GRAP stages (3 and 4), despite IITM predicting a Severe AQI category on November 13." Stubble burning contributed an average of 19 per cent to Delhi's PM2.5 levels in November, with the remaining pollution originating from year-round sources. This underscores the need for a long-term, airshed-based strategy to address emissions from perennial sources, rather than relying solely on short-term GRAP measures.

The report, published by CREA, an independent research organisation, further revealed that Delhi experienced 20 days in the "Very Poor" category (121-250 µg/m³) and 10 days in the "Severe" category (>250 µg/m³) in November. It added,

"GRAP's on-ground impact remained questionable, as transportation contributed over 20 per cent to the city's PM2.5 levels, mirroring pre-GRAP periods." Meanwhile, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Noida, and other cities in the Delhi NCR region also struggled with severe pollution, with 28 NCR cities surpassing the NAAQS threshold. Delhi residents received a respite from toxic pollution levels for the third consecutive day as the city's AQI remained in the very "poor" category on Tuesday, recording a reading of 268. In eight locations across the city, the AQI value stayed between 300 and over 400 -- 305 in Bawana, 307 in Jahangirpuri, 325 in Mundka, 304 in Nehru Nagar, 303 in RK Puram, 302 in Rohini, 342 in Shadipur, and 306 in Siri Fort. In the Delhi NCR area, Faridabad stayed at 255 points, Gurugram at 222, Ghaziabad at 181, Greater Noida at 195, and Noida at 162.

PM's emphasis on 'Divyang' inspired PWDs to live with dignity, says Yogi

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on using the term "Divyang" and respecting their sentiments inspired persons with disabilities to advance in life with dignity.

Whenever Divyangians have been given opportunities, they have demonstrated their exceptional talents and abilities, he said.

During a state-level award ceremony on International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the chief minister celebrated the achievements of Divyangians and reaffirmed the government's commitment to their welfare.

He distributed tablets and assistive devices to Divyang students with disabilities, further supporting their empowerment, an official statement said.

Citing the examples of Rishi Ashvavakra, Mahakavi Surdas, physicist Stephen Hawking, and Jagadguru Swami Rambhadracharya, the chief minister said, "Individuals, when provided with a platform and the support of society, have contributed their talents to the nation, the world and humanity, proving they are in no way lesser than others."

"International Day of Persons with Disabilities serves as a platform to inspire society to adopt this inclusive approach and celebrate the capabilities of Divyangians," Adityanath added.

He also extended his greetings on the birth anniversary of India's first president, Dr Rajendra Prasad, coinciding with National Advocates' Day. He emphasised that the state



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath felicitates a specially-abled student during an event in Lucknow on Tuesday

government was committed to the welfare of all sections of society, advancing Modi's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". Adityanath also called for the expansion of academic institutions for visually impaired, deaf and other differently-abled children. The state is home to two prominent Divyang universities — Dr Shakuntala Mishra National Rehabilitation University in Lucknow and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya University in Chitrakoot — he said.

Adityanath stressed the importance of trained teachers, adequate honorariums, improved facilities and the use of technology to empower these institu-

tions. Noting the significant improvements made in pension schemes for Divyangians under his administration, the chief minister said, "In 2017, the pension for differently-abled individuals was a mere Rs 300 and was often delayed for months. Today, the amount has been increased to Rs 1,000 per month, benefiting 11 lakh differently-abled people. The pension is directly transferred to beneficiaries' accounts, ensuring transparency." Families affected by leprosy are provided a monthly pension of Rs 3,000, further demonstrating the government's commitment to inclusivity and support for the marginalised, he noted. Adityanath said all govern-

ment buildings must have ramps for Divyangians and added that Rs 40 crore had been allocated for free travel on transport corporation buses for differently-abled individuals.

Additionally, financial support has been allocated for Divyang couples, with Rs 15,000 for a Divyang husband, Rs 20,000 for a Divyang wife. Grants of Rs 20,000 are also available for shop construction, and Rs 10,000 for operating shops, kiosks or handcars, he said.

The chief minister highlighted the state's efforts in medical care for the differently-abled, with increased grants for cochlear implants for hearing-impaired children.

Already, 24 such surgeries have been successfully conducted this year. "The state is also supporting the operation of several institutions, including pre-primary and daycare centres, as well as mentally retarded shelter homes and training centres in cities such as Meerut, Bareilly, and Gorakhpur," he said.

Adityanath also discussed the government's efforts to uplift backward classes. The budget for the backward class welfare department has increased from Rs 1,295 crore in 2016-17 to about Rs 2,800 crore.

The chief minister shared details of the pre-matric scholarship scheme, funding for which has risen from Rs 107 crore and benefiting 5.19 lakh students to Rs 160.16 crore, benefiting 7.58 lakh students. An additional Rs 300 crore has been allocated for scholarships for backward-class students.

The post-matric scholarship and fee reimbursement programme has expanded, benefiting 19.80 lakh students with Rs 2,070 crore, compared to 11.13 lakh students in 2016-17, he added. The chief minister also announced an increase in grants for girls, with one lakh now benefiting from Rs 200 crore, up from 70,000 in 2016-17.

LU students run riot at wedding party

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A group of Lucknow University students allegedly created a ruckus at a wedding party when they were caught feasting by some guests at the venue in Hasanganj police station area on Monday night. The students, angered by being confronted for eating without invitation, responded by pelting stones and firing at the wedding guests, injuring several of them.

Reports suggest that the group arrived uninvited at the wedding and began eating the feast. They also started dancing with the wedding procession. When members of the wedding party protested their presence, the students attacked them with bricks, stones, and bombs, and opened fire. The students also misbehaved with the women attending the wedding.

During the assault, items in the marriage hall were thrown around. Police arrived after being informed of the incident, and one of the students was detained.

In response to their friend's arrest, students created a ruckus, shouting slogans as the police closed the main gate of the university hostel. The wedding was of the niece of a BJP leader, and after the disturbance, the guests left without eating. The wedding

ceremony continued in the presence of police at Ramadhin Inter College in Daliganj. The father of the bride referred to the attackers as goons rather than students, claiming that they joined the wedding procession, started fighting, and mistreated the women. "Bricks and stones were thrown at the guests. When the police arrived, the students caused a disturbance outside the hostel," he said.

Rinku Sonkar, the bride's father, shared his distress, saying, "We had decorated the mandap with enthusiasm, but the students of Lucknow University ruined everything. Under the influence of alcohol, they misbehaved with the women. Twenty people were injured in the attack, and five are seriously hurt. We had arranged food for 3,000 people, but no one ate. Our guests left without dining, and we were deprived of their blessings," he said.

He continued, "Nearly 150 students gathered. They attacked with anything they could find. There was heavy stone pelting, several rounds of gunfire, and hand grenades thrown. It was a scene of terror. Women and children were screaming."

The groom's father, Manoj Sonkar, expressed his disappointment, saying, "We brought the baraat with enthusiasm. Some boys joined near IT intersection, but when we

tried to stop them from misbehaving with the women, they began fighting. The entire wedding was ruined, and a stain has been left on my son's wedding," Vicky Sonkar, the groom's uncle, who was part of the wedding procession, said, "We were bringing my nephew Rishabh's wedding procession. A short distance from the marriage hall, 15-20 boys joined us. Soon, they started fighting. When we confronted them, they attacked us with sharp weapons. We were covered in blood, and we had to flee, taking the entire procession to the marriage hall. Everyone was terrified."

ADCP (Central) Manisha Singh, who arrived at the scene, stated that she tried to reason with the students, but they refused to listen.

"The injured have been rushed to hospital. One student has been detained, and we will ensure that everyone involved is arrested," she added. Meanwhile, the students protested the arrest of their friend, accusing the police of taking one-sided action.

They claimed that the police were only listening to the wedding party's side of the story and were unfairly blaming all the students. "First, the family members and the wedding guests attacked us. That's when the situation escalated," they alleged.

SDRF constable's body found hanging, wife's lying on bed

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

An SDRF constable and his wife were found dead in their house in the Bijnor police station area of Lucknow on Tuesday in an apparent case of suicide.

"The constable's body was hanging from the ceiling fan, while his wife's body was lying on the bed. There were no ante-mortem injuries on the woman's body," DCP (South) Keshav Kumar said. The incident came to light when police received information that the couple was not responding to calls. A team was sent to the house, where the doors were found bolted from the inside. Upon peering through the iron grill, the constable was seen hanging, and his wife was lying on the bed. The bodies were sent for post-mortem examination. The forensic team inspected the crime scene but no suicide note was found. "The reason

behind the incident is yet to be determined," the DCP added. Preliminary police investigations suggest that the woman may have ended her life first.

The constable is believed to have taken down her body and, unable to bear the grief, hanged himself.

The couple, identified as Ajay Singh (27) and Neelam (23), had been married for two years. Ajay, a 2019-batch constable with the SDRF, was scheduled to attend a parade at the SDRF headquarters on Tuesday. When he failed to report, his colleagues tried contacting him, but his phone was switched off. A team was sent to his house after which the incident came to the fore. Ajay lived in a rented house owned by Ranveer Yadav aka Ramu, away from the SDRF camp. Neighbours reported hearing an argument between the couple the previous night. Ajay's father Niranjana, a farmer, told the police he was

unaware of the marriage. He said Ajay had never mentioned Neelam to the family. Niranjana added that his elder son is an inspector in Delhi.

Police sources noted red marks on Neelam's neck, raising questions about the sequence of events. "The autopsy report will determine the cause of death and guide further investigation," the DCP said.

Neelam, a resident of Nagla Padi in Agra, had moved to Lucknow after her marriage to Ajay. The police are investigating all possible angles, including domestic issues, as the trigger for the tragedy.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No. MD/ACCS/WR-07/2023/1533 Date: 26.11.2024
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE (E-TOR)
Name of the work: Supply of 01 no. All Weather Steel Hull Vessel along with Manning Crew & additional accommodation for 10 Nos. CISF Security staff for deployment at Paradip SPMS on round the clock 24 x 7 as Pollution Response-SMS Security Duties for a period of 07 years. Estimated cost put to tender: Rs. 75,52,98,000/- . Last date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 15:00 Hours on dt. 07/01/2025. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid is 15:30 hours on dt. 08/01/2025.
For further details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Sd/- Deputy Conservator, Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PPR/53/2024-2025 dttd.03.12.2024

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
MARINE DEPARTMENT
No. MD/SPGI-12/2022/1573 Date: 02/12/2024
E-Tender Call Notice
Name of the work: Supply of 01 no. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) (Drone) System for Paradip Port Authority including Installation, Commissioning, Certification, Test, Trial and Training for a period of five years (Comprehensive Warranty + Annual Maintenance Contract for 05 Years) including Buy Back. Estimated cost: Rs. 1,35,15,000/- Plus GST. Last Date & time of submission of tender through on-line bidding is 17:00 hours on dt. 26/12/2024. Technical bids shall be opened at 16:00 hours on dt. 27/12/2024. For further details, please log on to the Website: <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>.
Deputy Conservator, PPA
PPA/PPR/53/2024-2025 / 03/12/2024

Dead foetus shows up in airport security scan, causes flutter

Lucknow (PTI): A seven-month-old dead foetus being sent to Mumbai by road through a courier for testing reached the international airport here, causing a alarm as news channels and social media flashed it stating that it was the body of an infant. However, police rejected the news reports and said the mistake was on the part of the courier company. The foetus was handed over to the courier after the error was mistake was rectified, they said. "It was not a body (of an infant). A couple here underwent an IVF procedure. But it was not a success. The foetus was being sent to Mumbai for testing to know why the IVF was not successful. The dead foetus was to be sent to Mumbai by road, but it reached the airport by mistake," ACP of Krishnanagar Saumya Pandey told PTI.

The matter was reported by the airport authorities after they scanned the foetus, she said, adding the courier agent was interrogated and the couple was contacted.

"The couple told the authorities about their treatment and since it was not successful, the foetus was being sent to Mumbai for testing," Pandey said.

"Prima facie, it was not a criminal matter. The mistake was on the part of the courier company. No case has been registered in this connection," she said. SHO of Sarojini Nagar Police Station Rajdev Ram Prajapati told PTI that the foetus was around seven-month-old and it was handed over to the courier after the matter was resolved.

Panel to ensure quality treatment for muscular dystrophy patients

Lucknow (PNS): The government is committed to providing treatment for patients suffering from muscular dystrophy, and significant progress is being made in this area. The blueprint for the initiative has already been prepared. On Tuesday, Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak announced that a committee has been formed, following his instructions, to ensure quality treatment for patients based on the committee's recommendations. "Many important directives were issued during a recent meeting on this issue. In the meeting with senior officials of the Health department, I emphasised the need for proper treatment for patients suffering from muscular dystrophy. Based on these instructions, Principal Secretary, Medical and Health, Partha Sarthi Sen Sharma has formed a dedicated committee," Pathak said. The committee is chaired by Secretary of the Medical Education department Aparna U, with Special Secretary Kritika Sharma serving as secretary.

MISP offers relief for osteoporotic vertebral compression fracture

Lucknow (PNS): The treatment of osteoporotic vertebral compression fractures is possible even without surgery, as demonstrated in a recent case at the pain medicine unit of King George's Medical University (KGMU). A senior doctor at KGMU explained that a 64-year-old patient, Ramchandra, came to the pain clinic OPD complaining of severe back pain. The patient had consulted multiple doctors but found no relief. "After conducting a blood test along with an X-ray and MRI of the back, we discovered that one of the bones in his spine (L1 vertebra) had collapsed, a condition known as vertebral osteoporotic compression fracture," said the doctor. "We treated this patient using a special technique through a minimally invasive spine procedure (MISP). This method involved repositioning the compressed bone using a balloon and then injecting a special substance called PMMA (Polymethylmethacrylate) cement into the bone. This helped restore the bone's position and provide additional strength," he said. The doctor added that the procedure took just about an hour to complete, and after a few hours, the patient reported significant relief from back pain. "Within 3-4 hours, the patient was able to walk," the doctor said. This treatment was carried out under the Ayushman Yojana, a government health scheme. The procedure was performed under the guidance of Prof Sarita Singh, head of the pain medicine unit, and assisted by Prof Ajay Chaudhary, Prof Manish Kumar Singh, and Dr Mukhtdir Jamal.

Delegation from Malaysia explores Buddhist Circuit

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Tourism department is actively promoting the Uttar Pradesh's Buddhist heritage on a global platform. As part of these efforts, a delegation from Malaysia recently toured the Buddhist Circuit, highlighting the state's pivotal role as the birthplace of Buddhism. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh emphasised the historical and spiritual significance of the state, stating that Lord Gautam Buddha chose Uttar Pradesh for his penance, teachings, and ultimate Mahaparinirvana.

"Uttar Pradesh is the heart of Buddhism, making it a revered pilgrimage destination for followers worldwide," he said. Between November 29 and December 2, the Malaysian delegation visited several sacred sites. Their journey began in Lucknow from where they headed to Shravasti, where they explored landmarks such as the Anand Bodhi Tree, Jetavana Monastery, and the Golden Temple.

In Kapilvastu, they visited the Piprahwa Stupa, Kapilvastu Museum, and Buddha Theme Park. The delegation also toured Kushinagar, home to the Mahaparinirvana Stupa, Rambhar Stupa, and the Meditation Park. In Sarnath, they visited the Dhamek



Stupa, Chaukhandi Stupa, and Mulagandha Kuti Vihar. Additionally, the group experienced the spiritual ambience of Varanasi with visits to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Ganga Aarti, along with a memorable cruise on the Ganges. The delegation also had the opportunity to witness local handicrafts, adding cultural depth to their visit. On the occasion Jaiveer Singh highlighted Uttar Pradesh's rapid growth in the tourism sector, with the state leading in domestic tourism. "Efforts are ongoing to attract more international tourists. Ahead of Maha Kumbh 2025, the government has planned extensive promotional strategies to showcase Uttar Pradesh's cultural diversity and historical significance to pilgrims. Arrangements for accommodation and facilities will also be enhanced to provide a seamless experience for visitors," he added.

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda
6th Floor, V-23, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010, Ph: 0522-6677687, Mob: 9335946588, email: sarldr@bankofbaroda.com

ROSBAR (LUCKNOW DISTRICT) E-Auction Notice

Sale notice for Movable & Immovable properties "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) & 8(6)]
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Movable & Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso of 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 movable & immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis for recovery of below mentioned accounts/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/ Secured Assets/s/Dues/Reserve Price/E-Auction date & time, EMD and Bid increase Amount are mentioned below:

Date of Auction: 06.01.2025, 2.00 PM to 6.00 PM **Last Date of EMD Submission: 05.01.2025, upto 4.00 PM**

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) shall be paid online through i.e. NEFT/Transfer (After generation of Challan from <https://ebkgray.in>) in bidders Global EMD Wallet.

Sl.	Name & Address of the borrower/ Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/ Bid increase (Amount)	Status of Possession (Symbolic/ Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
1	Borrower/Co-Borrower: M/s Gupta Brothers (Prop. Mr. Manish Kumar Gupta) Add (1) H.O. Mohammadi Road, Golagokarnnath, Kheri, U.P.-262802, (2) B.O. Naveenmandi Sthal, Lakhimpur Kheri, (3) House no. 22 in the ward no. 20 at Gola Gokarnnath to Mohammadi Road, Mohalla Munnuganj, City Gola Gokarnnath, District Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P. Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Sonika Gupta W/o Mr. Manish Kumar Gupta Add (1) H.O. Mohammadi Road, Golagokarnnath, Kheri, U.P.-262802, (2) B.O. Naveenmandi Sthal, Lakhimpur Kheri, (3) House no. 22 in the ward no. 20 at Gola Gokarnnath to Mohammadi Road, Mohalla Munnuganj, City Gola Gokarnnath, Pargana- Hyderabad, Tehsil Gola Gokarnnath, District Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P.	Residential cum commercial Land and Building situated at House no. 22 in the ward no. 20 at Gola Gokarnnath to Mohammadi Road, Mohalla Munnuganj, City Gola Gokarnnath, Pargana- Hyderabad, Tehsil Gola Gokarnnath, District Lakhimpur Kheri, U.P. Owner: Mrs. Sonika Gupta W/o Mr. Manish Kumar Gupta. Total Area: 238.454 sq.mtr. or 2566.70 sq.ft. Bounded By: East: Road Approx about 12 ft wide, West: Gola Gokarnnath to Mohammadi Road; North: Building of Shri Uday Narayan Purwar; South: House of Shri Ram Shankar and building of Shri Ram Bharosey. Mortgaged through two sale deed. 1) Sale deed dated 01.05.2013 registered on book no. 1, jild no. 3719, Pg. No. 343/394, Sr. No. 4490 in favour of Mrs. Sonika Gupta. 2) Sale deed dated 11.10.2013 registered on book no. 1, jild no. 3903, Pg. No. 391/452, Sr. No. 11762 in favour of Mrs. Sonika Gupta. Encumbrances: Not Known	Rs. 1,86,27,558.00 as on 02.12.2024 (inclusive of Intt. upto 01.11.2024) + Further Costs, Charges and expenses	06.01.2025 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM (with unlimited extensions of 10 min each)	Rs. 2,20,50,000/- (RP) Rs. 22,05,000/- (EMD) Rs. 10,00,000/- (Bid Increase Amount)	Symbolic	04.12.2024 to 05.01.2025 between 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Note: Notice for sub statutory 30 days sale notice under Rule 6(2) & 8(6) of the SARFAESI Act.
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in Bank of Baroda secured website i.e. www.bankofbaroda.in & ebkgray.in. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Phone No. 0522-6677687 and Mobile No. 9335946588.
Date: 04.12.2024; Place Lucknow

Authorised officer, Bank of Baroda

CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE

I Khushboo Sahu D/o Raj Kumar Sahu R/o MIG- 37, Barra -7 Thana Barra, Kanpur Nagar, Uttar Pradesh -208007, have changed my name Khushboo to Khushboo for all future purposes

NOTICE

I MAHENDRA PAL S/o MANIRAM PAL R/o GORAHU Post Mandhana, Kanpur Nagar, have changed my name MAHENDRA KUMAR PAL to MAHENDRA PAL for all future purposes.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Kanishk Sharma to Kanishk Kumar Sharma s/o K.K.Sharma 60.Deendayal nagar, Kanpur Nagar

NOTICE

It is informed to all that I, Mohd Zahid Khan S/o Mohd Munnu Khan R/o 102, Taki Nagar Unnao (U.P.) changing my name into Mohd Zahid Khan. I will be known as the same name Mohd Zahid Khan for all future purpose.

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Urmila Devi to Urmila Verma, which is also recorded in the government documents, Aadhar Card and PAN Card. In future, I should be known and identified as Urmila Verma. Urmila Verma wife of Late Paras Nath Verma R/o B-1446 Awasth Vikas, Hanspuram, Naubasta, Kanpur

NOTICE

मैंने अपना नाम AFROJ ALAM से बदलकर AFROZ ALAM रख लिया है AFROZ ALAM S/O HAFEJULLA ADD:- PLOT NO 292 SCHEME NO-39 FACE NO 1 EMERALD GULISTAN JAJMAU KANPUR NAGAR

NOTICE

My original registry regarding the land plot Khnasa / Gata No.-533 situated in village Matl Pargana Deva Nawabganj Barabanki whose ledger number - 1 Volume 11593 page number 313 to 334 serial number 14949 dated 08-08-2018 has fallen somewhere on Deva Road on 26.11.24, FIR for which has been lodged. Bhagwati Prasad Goyal son of Ganesh Prasad Goyal Deva Road Lucknow. Mob.- 7275754601

Akhilesh alleges well-planned conspiracy in Sambhal

Rahul-led Cong team to visit today

PTI ■ SAMBHAL/ NEW DELHI

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday alleged a "well-planned" conspiracy by the BJP for the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, where a team of Congress MPs led by Rahul Gandhi is scheduled to visit on December 4 amid restrictions imposed by the district administration. Raising the Sambhal issue in Parliament, Yadav alleged that police personnel fired from official and personal weapons, killing innocent people and injuring several others after some locals pelted stones at

them to protest their high-handedness. Sambhal has been in the eye of the storm 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. Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai said Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi along with the five other Congress MPs from Uttar Pradesh will visit violence-hit Sambhal on Wednesday. Newly-elected Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is also likely to accompany the delegation, he said. Curbs under section 163 (power to issue order

in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were set to expire on Sunday and have now been extended till December 31. When asked about the Rahul Gandhi's visit to Sambhal, Superintendent of Police of Sambhal Krishan Kumar told PTI, "Section 163 of the BNSS is already imposed in Sambhal. No outsider is allowed to enter Sambhal. If they come, then they will be served a notice." Inside Parliament, Akhilesh Yadav demanded the suspension of guilty officials and registration of a murder case against them to ensure that there is no such "violation" of the Constitution again. While he spoke in Lok Sabha, his uncle and Ram Gopal Yadav raised the matter in Rajya Sabha and echoed similar views. Ram Gopal Yadav said Sambhal was converted into a police zone and people were baffled why it was being done. When

Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said certain parts of his statement would not go on record, SP and some other opposition parties staged a walkout. In his speech in Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav claimed the violence was part of a "well-planned" conspiracy. The Uttar Pradesh bypolls were first shifted to November 20 from November 13 and a local civil judge (senior division) ordered the survey of the Mughal-era Shahi Jama Masjid on the same day a petition was filed claiming that a temple once stood at the site, he elaborated. The court passed the order on November 19 without listening to the mosque committee and it is surprising that the local administration reached for the survey within a couple of hours, he said. "It is not without basis when we say that the government does not follow the Constitution," he said. Everyone cooperated and

the survey was completed. Muslim groups started preparing to argue their case in the next hearing on November 29, the SP president said. However, the administration said on November 23 that another survey would be carried out the next day. Muslim groups suggested that another survey should be done only after the court passes another direction but the administration was "dictatorial", he said. While the mosque committee showed patience during the survey on November 24, the circle officer abused locals and ordered a lathi-charge when asked for reasons by locals, Akhilesh Yadav alleged. On Hindu groups in parts of the country raising the issue of some mosques, including the famous shrine of Sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, being built after allegedly demolishing Hindu temples, Akhilesh Yadav said this talk of

digging across the country will end up hurting the communal amity, brotherhood and "Ganga-Jamuni tehzeeb". He made a brief mention of the Places of Worship (Special Provision) Act which provides for the maintenance of religious character of places of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. Indian Union Muslim League (IUM) MP E T Mohammed Basheer said this Act is now under threat and described the Sambhal incident as shocking. Akhilesh Yadav also spoke outside Parliament and said the Uttar Pradesh government was behind the incident. The BJP should look at Kailash Mansarovar, a Hindu pilgrimage site located in China, instead of "digging" everywhere. A day might come when China might not allow Indians to go for darshan, he said. Samajwadi Party MLA from Sambhal Iqbal Mahmood late on

Monday evening said that he had gone to meet the families of the four deceased and expressed sympathy to them. "The atrocities that have happened in Sambhal will be raised in the Parliament and state assembly, and after December 10, a Samajwadi Party delegation will come here. There are some things that these people (state government) want to hide. When such incidents happen in any part of the country, everyone wants to go there," Mahmood told reporters. The SP MLA said his party has demanded that this incident should be investigated by a sitting judge of the high court. Meanwhile, Maulana Tauqeer Raza, the president of Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IEMC), on Tuesday said that anything can come out from the excavation of religious places, and it would be better to abandon the idea of excavation in the country and to work towards development.

MPSP Founder's Week celebrations begin today

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

The 92nd Founder's Week celebrations of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad (MPSP) will commence on Wednesday (December 4). The event will be inaugurated under the chairmanship of MPSP Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad chief patron, Gorakshapeethadishwar, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The inaugural session, set to begin at 9:30 am, will feature Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar as the chief guest. Prof Rajiv Kumar, a member of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), will join as the special guest. The celebrations will culminate on December 10, with Nobel laureate and Bachpan Bachao Andolan founder Kailash Satyarthi being the chief guest.

This week-long event will feature various academic and sports competitions. As in previous years, the opening session will take place on the ground of Maharana Pratap Inter College.

After speeches by special guests, the chief guest, and the programme chairperson, a grand procession of students will be held. The procession will include nearly 3,000 students from various institutions under Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad (MPSP). Around 10,000 students and 5,000 teachers and staff from the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad's 38 institutions will participate in the inauguration ceremony.

Tomar will take the salute during the procession. The highlights of the procession will include disciplined marches, creative tableaux, and slogans promoting social awareness. Dr Nitish Shukla, a member of the organising committee, shared that over 1,000 teachers, staff, and volunteers are working to ensure the event's success.

The concluding ceremony, on December 10, will be chaired by CM Yogi. Kailash Satyarthi will be the chief guest, where 800 students will be awarded for their achievements.

Jaunpur leads Uttar Pradesh in resolving revenue disputes

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

According to the latest report by the Board of Revenue, Jaunpur has emerged as the frontrunner in resolving revenue disputes, with Ghazipur and Sultanpur close behind. Other districts, including Lakhimpur Kheri, Hardoi, and Kushinagar, also secured spots in the top ten, showcasing the widespread impact of these efforts. Under this, the district magistrates and other officers concerned of the state are resolving the cases with full promptness. Jaunpur DM Dinesh Kumar Singh said that revenue cases are being resolved as per the wishes of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. According to the Revenue Court Computerised Management System (RCCMS) report of the Board of Revenue for November, five revenue courts of Jaunpur have disposed of more cases than the standard disposal set by the board. Five revenue courts of Jaunpur have disposed of 567 cases against the board's standard of disposal of 250

cases per month. Its percentage is 226.80. DM Dinesh Singh said, "The District Magistrate Court achieved 403.33 per cent by disposing of 121 cases against the set standard of 30 cases. Similarly, the additional district magistrate (finance and revenue) performed 364 per cent by disposing of 182 cases against the set standard of 50." He added: "At the same time, the Additional District Magistrate Land Revenue Court disposed of 121 cases against the set standard of 50 and the Additional SDM Second Court disposed of 143 cases against the standard of 60, performing 238.33 per cent. As a result, these courts in Jaunpur have secured the top position in case disposal across the entire state." Four courts of Ghazipur disposed of 251 cases against the standard of 190, with a ratio of 132.11 per cent. With this, Ghazipur has secured the second position. Meanwhile, six courts of Sultanpur secured third position by disposing of 320 cases against the standard of 350. Its ratio is 91.43 per cent.

Similarly, according to the standards of the Board of Revenue, Kushinagar, Ballia, Hardoi, Lakhimpur Kheri, Basti, Saharanpur, and Mainpuri have made their place in the top ten in the disposal of revenue dispute cases. Among these, Kushinagar disposed of 208, Ballia 98, Hardoi 205, Lakhimpur Kheri 197, Basti 189, Saharanpur 119, and Mainpuri disposed of 136 cases in November. Lakhimpur Kheri District Magistrate Durgashakti Nagpal said, "As many as 197 cases have been disposed of against the Revenue Board's prescribed disposal standard of 300 cases. With this, Kheri is in seventh place in the state in terms of disposal." He noted that, as the largest district in the state, it handles the highest volume of cases. In line with CM Yogi's directives, revenue cases are being prioritised for swift resolution. Following the release of the board's report, a meeting was convened with all relevant officers, emphasising the need to accelerate case disposal efforts.

CM Yogi envisions Tal Nadaur in GKP as a development hub

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that the Veterinary Science College (Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Mahavidyalaya) being constructed in Tal Nadaur, along with the proposed International Cricket Stadium and Kanha Gausala, should be developed as a pilot project. "The goal is to transform this area into a new model of development," he added. On Tuesday afternoon, CM Yogi inspected the first Veterinary Science College of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, currently under construction in Tal Nadaur, Gorakhpur. He reviewed the design, layout, and key features of the college. During the inspection, he suggested that the proposed International Cricket Stadium, planned for 80-100 acres, and the Kanha Gausala, to be developed by the municipal corporation on 52 acres, should be integrated into a unified pilot project. This project, covering an area of around 250 to 300 acres,

would serve as an exemplary model of development. Public Works Department officials informed the CM that a preliminary survey for the stadium had been completed on 106 acres, while the Gausala would be constructed on 52 acres by CNDS. CM Yogi directed that all related works be brought together under one project. Regarding the progress of the veterinary college construction, the officials shared that the first phase is expected to be completed by March 2026. The CM also inquired about preparations for housing animals such as cows, buffaloes, goats, and horses, as well as their feed. He instructed that sufficient land be allocated for grazing and that a Gau Sarovar be built. Necessary structural adjustments should be made to accommodate these needs, he said. Additionally, CM Yogi visited the large Gausala being built on four acres near the veterinary college and ensured that appropriate arrangements would be made to care for the animals during the summer months. After the inspection, Yogi

engaged with the BJP workers present at the site, inquiring about their well-being. During the visit, MLA Vipin Singh, BJP Mahanagar president Rajesh Gupta, senior officials from the administration, police, animal husbandry, PWD, and a large number of BJP workers were also present. The foundation stone for the veterinary college was laid by CM Yogi on March 3 this year. The college, being built in three phases across 80 acres, will cost over Rs 350 crore. The first phase, with an allocation of Rs 277.31 crore, is being implemented by the PWD. The campus will feature an academic block (ground floor + five floors), a hospital block, residential areas, including a male hostel with 430 beds and a female hostel with 268 beds, an auditorium, a guest house, a community centre, STP, Kisan Bhawan, and research centres dedicated to various veterinary science disciplines. The campus will be developed with a 'Net Zero Energy' concept. In addition to animal treatment, the college will focus on breed improvement. Once completed, the college

will serve as a training centre for veterinarians from across the country. The design of the college draws inspiration from King Shaliohtra of Shravasti, who is considered the father of veterinary science in Indian tradition, having composed the Shalihotra Samhita in the 3rd century. On the day of the foundation stone ceremony, the chief minister had promised to upgrade the veterinary college into a university. Initially, the college will be affiliated with the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Pashu Chikitsa Vigyan Mahavidyalaya Evam Go-Anusandhan Sansthan in Mathura. The establishment of the college will greatly benefit cattle farmers in eastern Uttar Pradesh, western Bihar, and neighbouring Nepal. The approach road to the college will be upgraded to a four-lane road. The 450-metre stretch from the Gorakhpur-Varanasi highway to the college will be reconstructed for Rs 3.90 crore. Additionally, Rs 3.84 crore will be allocated for land acquisition. The PWD will oversee the construction of the four-lane road.



Monks and other people take part in a 'Jan Akrosh' rally against the alleged atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, in Ayodhya on Tuesday

Govt should make statement in Parl: Maya on attacks on minorities in Bangladesh

Lucknow (PNS): Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati on Tuesday expressed concern over attacks on the Hindu community in neighbouring Bangladesh and demanded that the government make a statement on the issue in Parliament. Reportedly, there have been more than 200 attacks on Hindus in 50 districts of Bangladesh since the fall of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5. Hindus constitute about 8 per cent of the 170 million population of Bangladesh. "After the coup in Bangladesh, the violence and atrocities being committed by the new govern-

ment, especially on Hindu minorities, and the deteriorating situation there due to this are very sad and worrying. There is a lot of anger among the people of India regarding this," Mayawati said in a post on X in Hindi. "The government should make a statement in Parliament on this and also take appropriate steps," she said. Reportedly, there have been more than 200 attacks on Hindus in 50 districts of Bangladesh since the fall of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5. Hindus constitute about 8 per cent of Bangladesh's population of 170 million.

Centre releases first instalment of special grant

MAHA KUMBH 2025

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Centre on Tuesday released the first instalment of Rs 1,050 crore of its Rs 2,100 crore grant for the upcoming Maha Kumbh, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said and extended gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Adityanath said that under the successful guidance of Prime Minister Modi, the "double-engine" government is determined to make the world's largest cultural and spiritual gathering 'Prayagraj Maha Kumbh 2025' divine and grand. "In this series, a special grant assistance of Rs 2,100 crore was approved by the Central government, out of which the first instalment of Rs 1,050 crore has been released today. This support from the Central government will help in realizing a clean, safe and well-organized Mahakumbh for the devotees," he said in a post on X. "Heartfelt gratitude to the Prime Minister for this gift which is helpful in realizing the concept of divine-

grand-digital Mahakumbh," he added. Meanwhile, the UP government is preparing to make Maha Kumbh the largest and safest gathering in the history of Sanatan Dharma. As part of these efforts, state-of-the-art remote light buoys are being deployed on a large scale. These advanced devices are designed to quickly reach any location, providing timely guidance and ensuring the safety of individuals before potential dangers arise. To safeguard the 45 crore devotees expected to attend, the government has deployed 700 flag-mounted boats, manned by PAC, NDRF, and SDRF personnel. These boats will operate 24/7 to ensure the security of pilgrims from across the country and abroad. In the event of emergencies, a comprehensive evacuation plan via Maujigiri has also been put in place. Additionally, to enhance safety measures, all dilapidated boats operating between Sangam Nose and Kilaghat will be removed to ensure a secure and seamless experience for devotees.

Star singers to wow devotees

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Maha Kumbh 2025 is set to become a spectacular blend of spirituality and cultural celebrations. In addition to the holy dip in the Sangam, devotees from across the country and abroad will be treated to mesmerising performances by some of Bollywood's finest artists. Renowned singers and composers such as Shankar Mahadevan, Kailash Kher, Sonu Nigam, Vishal Bhardwaj, Richa Sharma, Jubin Nautiyal, and Shreya Ghoshal will perform during the grand event. These performances, taking place at the specially built Ganga Pandal in the Mela area, will elevate the spiritual atmosphere of Maha Kumbh. The Culture department, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, will organise the entire event. A schedule for the artists' performances has been planned, but it will depend on their availability. If any artist is unable to participate, efforts will be

made to find a replacement to perform in their place. According to the proposed plan, performances by these stars will be held in the Ganga Pandal, located in the fair area, with an audience of 10,000 people. The performances will be scheduled from 4 pm to 8 pm. While the Maha Kumbh officially begins on January 13, the devotional and cultural performances will start from January 10. As per the schedule, Shankar Mahadevan will kick off the performances on January 10. On January 11, folk singer Malini Awasthi will enchant the audience with her performance. Singer Kailash Kher will perform on January 18, and Sonu Nigam on January 19. Other artistes such as Maithili Thakur will perform on January 20, Kavita Paudwal on January 31, Vishal Bhardwaj on February 1, Richa Sharma on February 2, Jubin Nautiyal on February 8, Rasika Shekhar on February 10, Hansraj Raghuvanshi on February 14, and Shreya Ghoshal on February 24.

इंडियन बैंक **Indian Bank**

Zonal Office Lucknow, New Building, 2nd Floor, Hazratganj, Lucknow-226001, Ph. 0522-2286272, 2287283, Fax: 0522-2288033, E-mail id: zolucknow@indianbank.co.in

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE U/S 13 (2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorized officer of Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 to the Borrower/s/Guarantor's herein below mentioned. Consequent upon the dispatch of such Notices through Post And returned Bank undelivered from the Borrower's/Guarantor's addresses. Through this Publication they are hereby called upon to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of publication of said notice failing which the bank will take the possession of the immovable and movable property will sell it through the process in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 8 & 9 of the security interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/Date of Demand Notice	Outstanding Amount/ Date of NPA	Description of the Property
Branch : Rajajipuram branch			
1.	1- Mr. Sonu Kumar (Borrower), Address 1-Village- Gulabi khera post behandar kala hardoi 241201 2- Mr. Gajodhar Prasad (Guarantor), Address: Village- Gulabi khera post behandar kala hardoi 241201	Rs. 35,00,342.00 as on 26.11.2024 + interest & other charges Date of NPA: 11.02.2023	All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot no 572 Khasra no 572 rakba 85.501 sq mt Kanak City Saripura Alamnagar Lucknow Village Bhoohar Ward Haiderganj Tehsil and Distt Lucknow in the name of Sonu Kumar S/o Gajodhar Prasad. (CERSAI Asset ID 200016499233 & Security ID: 40001653669) The boundaries of the property are: North: Plot of Seller, South: Plot of Thakur, East: Aaraj Deegar, West: 15 feet wide road

Date: 04.12.2024 Place: Lucknow INDIAN BANK (erstwhile Allahabad Bank)

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited
(erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)
CIN : L65110TN2014PLC097792
Registered Office: - KRM Towers, 8th Floor, Harrington Road, Chetpet, Chennai- 600031.
Tel : +91 44 4564 4000 | Fax: +91 44 4564 4022

**APPENDIX IV [Rule 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For immovable property)**

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) 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 dated 17.08.2024 calling upon the borrower, co-borrowers and guarantors 1. RAMSAKAL TIWARI, 2. ANAND KUMAR TRIPATHI, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 16,02,857.42/- (Rupees Sixteen Lac Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven And Forty Two Paise Only) as on 17.08.2024 within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Demand notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken Symbolic Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under sub - section (4) of section 13 of Act read with rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 on this 28th day of NOV 2024

The borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of THE IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited) for an amount of Rs. 16,02,857.42/- (Rupees Sixteen Lac Two Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Seven And Forty Two Paise Only) and interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub - Section (8) Of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES.

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF PROPERTY HOUSE NO.3/479 EVAS AWAS VIKAS YOJNA-2,HANSPURAM NAUBASTA KANPUR, PINCODE: 208021,KANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH, 208021 AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: 9M. WIDE ROAD WEST: HOUSE NO. 3/477/7, NORTH: HOUSE NO. 3/478, SOUTH: HOUSE NO.3/ 480

Date:28-11-2024 Place: KANPUR Loan Account No.:12938996,18736190

Authorised Officer
IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited and amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited)

KASHI SANSAD SANSKRITIK PRATIYOGITA INAUGURATED

Mayor: Competitions a platform for children to showcase talent



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Kashi Sansad Sanskritik Pratiyogita -2024, being organised in the series of Kashi MP competitions, was inaugurated at Sant Atulanand Convent School here on Tuesday. The programme was jointly inaugurated by Zila Panchayat Chairperson Poonam Maurya, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, district chief of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and MLC Hansraj Vishwakarma, city BJP president Vidyasagar Rai and District Magistrate S Rajalingam by lighting the

lamp and garlanding the idol of Goddess Saraswati. On the occasion, the students of the school presented Saraswati Vandana and a welcome song on musical instruments. Solo singing and group singing were also presented by the students from other schools. The participants were awarded certificates. 'Angavastram' and mementoes were presented to the guests and DM. Children from various schools participated in this programme. While addressing the programme, the mayor said that the competitions provide a

platform to talented children to showcase their talent. "This is a wonderful event in the whole country, in which 17-18 types of events have been included and children as well as the elderly also participate in it. "Kashi has always been the centre of culture and spirituality. Pandit Ravi Shankar, Pt Sajjan Mishra and other famous artistes have emerged from here", Ashok Tiwari said. Zila Panchayat Chairperson praised the children who presented solo and group singing. She said with the inspiration of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the support of the

administration, all the programmes of this competition are being conducted successfully. She said that this programme provides a suitable platform for children to showcase their talent and wished the children a bright future. The DM expressed gratitude to the guests. He thanked the Education department and others for conducting this programme successfully and wished the children a bright future. BSA Arvind Pathak, Sant Atulanand School's Manager Rahul Singh and others were present in the programme.

Rally taken out on World Disability Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Former union minister Ashwini Choubey flagged off the rally for right to equality and dignity from the Divyang School run by Sanjeevani Social Welfare Society, Barji (Danganj, Chhapur) on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The rally went to Danganj Bazar via Bantry with the differently-abled children and a large number of women and men walking in step with placards carrying slogans.

On the occasion General Secretary of Sanjeevani Social Welfare Society Dr Vidyasagar Pandey said, "Divyangjan is a creation of God and we all saw



Former union minister Ashwini Choubey at a function to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities in Varanasi on Tuesday.

the performance of amazing talents of disabled persons in the recent Paralympic Games. Divyang just needs to get an

opportunity", he said, adding that Sanjeevani organisation is constantly working to nurture the talent of physically chal-

lenged persons. He also called upon the people to work unitedly to protect and empower the rights of equality and respect for Divyangjan. He highlighted this year's global theme of the day 'Amplifying the Leadership of Persons with Disabilities for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future'. On the occasion, the children presented a mesmerising cultural programme. Janhvi, Preeti, Kashi and Aalim Ansari were awarded for outstanding performance in the sports competitions. The programme was conducted by Diwakar Dwivedi. KK Choubey (incharge, local level committee), Dr Chandan Pandey, Dr Prashant, Manoj Mishra, Akash Singh etc were present.

Safety inspection of Banaras station conducted



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Executive Director (Safety), Railway Board, Sanjay Mishra conducted a safety inspection of Banaras station and Crew Lobby of North Eastern Railway (NER) located at Varanasi Junction station here on Monday with the aim of ensuring safe rail operations.

The CED (Safety) first inspected the expansion of Banaras railway station, along with route relay interlocking panel, operational system, sheds of platforms and various arrange-

ments for the safety of passengers, glossine station name board, signages, improvements and various works of passenger amenities. After this, he inspected the crew lobby at Varanasi Junction. He thoroughly inspected the duty and rest hours, availability of breath test machine etc. On the occasion Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (SDEE/Operations) Anil Kumar Srivastava, Senior Divisional Safety Officer (SDSO) Balend Pal, Divisional Electrical Engineer (DEE/Operations) Ajay Rishi

and Chief Crew Controller Surendra H Yadav along with the senior observers concerned of Varanasi Division of NER were present.

9 RLY PERSONNEL RETIRE

Under the direction of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Vineet Kumar Srivastava, a total of nine personnel, including one officer and eight employees from various departments who retired on November 30 last were paid their final amount of ₹4,49,65,677 in a simple ceremony organised in the Premchand Auditorium of DRM Office (NER) here on Monday. On the occasion, Assistant Personnel Officer Anirudh Kumar III, Assistant Personnel Officer Virendra Yadav along with inspectors and employees of Accounts and Personnel departments were present. Anirudh Kumar in his presidential address said that whatever records are being established on Indian Railways today, railway employees have an important role in them. Addressing the retired employees, he suggested the retired

employees do regular exercise, yoga etc to stay healthy and spend the remaining time in fulfilling their social and moral obligations. Along with this, he said in the Varanasi Division (NER) all the employees retiring for the past years are paid their dues on the day of their retirement, this is possible due to mutual coordination and hard work of the officers and employees of Accounts and Personnel departments. On this occasion the DRM gave service medals to all the retiring employees and wished them good luck for their future life and expressed gratitude for their long and remarkable services. Before this, Virendra Yadav honoured all the retiring employees by garlanding them. While wishing the retiring employees, he told them in detail about all the documents related to ID-card, service certificate and PPO and explained to them that they should use their receipts very thoughtfully and should not give it to the wrong person by getting influenced by anyone or organisation or by getting carried away by emotions.

Bulgarian culture, language highlighted

Varanasi (PNS): Prof Ekaterina Sofronieva, Department of Pre-School and Media Education, Sofia University, Bulgaria, addressing the students of Faculty of Education, Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Tuesday highlighted the Bulgarian culture and lan-



While telling the faculty members and students about

Sofia University, she also shared her views. The students of the faculty participated enthusiastically in the programme. At the beginning of the programme, Prof Anjali Bajpai, Head of the Department, presented a memento to Prof Ekaterina Sofronieva as a mark of respect. At the end of the programme, Dr

Binita and Dr Shruti Pandey told about the International Day of Disabled Persons, under which awareness is to be raised in the society towards the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities. The programme was conducted by Dr Chhaya Soni and the vote of thanks was proposed by Dr Yogendra Pandey.

BHU launches new internship programme

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Banaras Hindu University (BHU) has launched a new internship programme for Library Science graduate and postgraduates, designed to bridge the gap between academic learning and professional practice. The scheme, launched under the Institution of Eminence (IoE) initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, will equip interns with essential skills while enhancing the library operations at Banaras Hindu University. The programme honours the legacy of Dr SR Ranganathan, the pioneer of Modern Library Science in India. Dr Ranganathan, a globally renowned librarian, was closely associated with BHU. His towering contributions to the field of Library and Information Science laid the foundation for modern library science in India and continue to inspire library professionals worldwide. The Dr SR Ranganathan Internship Programme will provide hands-on learning in library operations while introducing innovative ideas from young professionals and perspectives. Initially 20 interns will be engaged for the one-year long internship, offering a monthly stipend of ₹1,20,000.

Candidates with remarkable performance may be given extension for up to one year. Interns completing at least six months will receive a Certificate of Internship. Vice-Chancellor (V-C) Prof Sudhir Kumar Jain said that the internship programme is a reflection of Banaras Hindu University's commitment for opening new pathways for growth and learning, while also bringing extraordinary talent on board. "This scheme will offer a wonderful opportunity to aspiring library professionals to hone their skills and prepare themselves for future roles", Prof Jain added. The BHU Library System, one of the largest in India, currently offers a library internship programme to train LIS graduates from BHU. This programme has already demonstrated significant benefits by enhancing both the skills of interns and the overall efficiency of library operations. The programme paves the way for growth and learning for Library Science graduates and postgraduates from top 100 Indian Universities (NIRF-ranked institutions or Institutions of National Importance). The programme will be managed by the Sponsored Research Industrial Consultancy Cell (SRICC) of the university.

Illegal constructions demolished

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

The enforcement squad of Kanpur Development Authority (KDA) demolished the ongoing illegal construction of a guest house and a house on the proposed New Kanpur City Project land with the help of three backhoe loaders on Monday. The work was on to identify other illegal constructions and plotting for onward demolition in due course. It may be recalled that the KDA is poised to launch New Kanpur City Project on 153.31 hectare land between Mainawati Road and Singhpur and Singhpur and Kalyanpur area. For this, 89.69 hectares of land is yet to be acquired. So far, registry of only 35 hectares of land had been executed and efforts are on to acquire the remaining 55 hectares of land. Incharge of Zone 1 and OSD Sat Shukla led the demolition drive on Monday in the proposed New Kanpur City Project area. The squad bulldozed the illegal front portion of the guest house (constructed on around 400 square yards). Besides, the squad also demolished an illegally constructed house adjacent to the guest house on 150 square yards area. Assistant Engineer Sandeep Modanwal, junior engineers Janardan Singh and

Kailash Singh were also present during the drive. **TRAFFIC DIVERSION PLAN:** The Kanpur Metro Rail Project is likely to enforce the revised traffic diversion plan, approved by the Traffic Police Department, for the ongoing cut-and-cover tunnel construction work between Double Pulia and Vijay Nagar Metro Station as part of Corridor-2 (CSA to Barra-8) very soon. As per the proposed plan, light vehicles heading from Namak Factory Chauraha towards Vijay Nagar Square can turn left near Akhileshwar Temple and proceed via Sai Chauraha and Baleswar Temple to reach Vijay Nagar Square. The route via Galla Mandi Chauraha for vehicles heading in this direction will be completely closed. Those travelling from Vijay Nagar to Namak Factory Square, can turn right at Sabzi Mandi Tiraha and proceed via Galla Mandi Chauraha. Meanwhile, heavy vehicles will continue to turn right at Vijay Nagar Square as before to head towards Maryampur. The Kanpur Metro has ensured that all construction sites are properly managed with barricades, signage and adequate lighting. Water sprinkling is conducted regularly at night to control dust and maintain environmental standards.

Complex procedure performed to treat rare autoimmune condition

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A team of doctors from Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) has performed a complex procedure to treat rare autoimmune condition myasthenia gravis (MG). The condition causes weakness of muscles and at times becomes life-threatening. This surgery was successfully carried out via VATS (Video Assisted Thoracic Surgery) technique recently by the Department of Surgical Oncology in the CSSB block of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH). VATS is the term used for 'Minimally Invasive surgery' of the chest region which is similar to 'laparoscopy' done for abdominal surgeries. The patient had a speedy recovery due to this VATS technique which avoids long surgical wounds, minimising

pain and shortening the duration of hospital stay. This was possible due to excellent teamwork amongst departments of Surgical Oncology, Anaesthesia, Neurology, Nursing and OT technicians comprising Dr Tarun Kumar, thoracic cancer surgeon, Department of Surgical Oncology, Dr Nimisha Verma, consultant Anaesthesiologist, Dr Shayak Roy, Consultant Anaesthesiologist, Vinay Jain (scrub nurse), staff nurse Pratima (OT Incharge), BB Giri (OT technician) and Harsh Singh (OT technician). The patient's treatment before and after surgery was carried out by collaboration with the neurology team under the expertise of Dr Abhishek Pathak, consultant neurophysician, SSH BHU, exemplifying the apical level of superspecialty exper-

tise and inter-departmental medical and surgical care available at SSH and IMS-BHU. According to Dr Tarun Kumar, MG is a rare autoimmune condition which presents with weakness of muscles of the human body. In a normal person, the brain sends signals via nerves to the neuro-muscular junction (NMJ) located at the interface between nerve and muscle, which then allows the muscle to carry out its action. In MG the body develops antibodies to this NMJ which prevents muscles from carrying out the intended muscle function, causing the affected person to have drooping of eyelids, blurring of vision, difficulty in walking etc. In a worst-case scenario, this condition can affect the human diaphragm, causing a life-threatening situation where the person is unable to breathe.

Another female Sahiwal calf born

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Another female Sahiwal calf following embryo transfer using sex-sorted semen was born at the Faculty of Veterinary and Animal Sciences (FVAS), part of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IAS), at the Rajiv Gandhi South Campus (RGSC), Banaras Hindu University (BHU) here on Monday. This is the second Sahiwal female calf born at BHU. This achievement follows the first female Sahiwal calf, which was born on November 19 last under the same project. Donor Sahiwal cow was inseminated with sex sorted semen from a bull with a good pedigree to ensure production of female calves. The project running under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), a government initiative aimed to promote agricultural development and improving the livelihoods of rural farmers focuses on the conservation and improvement of two elite indigenous breeds — Gangatri and Sahiwal. The initiative employs Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) such as embryo transfer and surrogacy to enhance the genetic quality of these particular breeds and ensure their sustainability in the long term. This second Sahiwal female calf, weighing 30 kg imprinted a major landmark in the ongoing conservation efforts for indigenous cattle breeds. The successful recovery of 11 embryos on February 25 this year, along with the earlier successful embryo transfers

and the birth of female calves in November this year, underscores the growing success of this project. This work was carried out by a team of FVAS under the supervision of Dr Manish Kumar (Principal Investigator) and Co-PIs Dr Kaustubh Kishor Saraf and Dr Ajeet Singh. Dr Manish Kumar and team plans to adopt newer and more advanced techniques like OPU-IVF-ET in the coming years and also extend this technique at farmer's doorstep. This will enhance not only efficiency and effectiveness of its conservation efforts but also contributing to the economic growth of the farmers. On this milestone achievement, Prof SVS Raju (Director of the Institute), Prof NK Singh (Dean of the Faculty), Prof VK Mishra (Professor In-Charge, RGSC) and Prof Amit Raj Gupta, (Head of the department) congratulated the project team and encouraged them to carry out the said work for the benefits of dairy farmers. Prof Raju emphasized that Banaras Hindu University through Embryo Transfer Technology will provide opportunities to farmers for faster genetic improvement, increased productivity, cost-effectiveness and increased income from more milk production. It enables farmers to improve herd quality more efficiently, which directly translates to enhanced profitability and sustainability in the long term. The director also appreciated the team and assured all support needed for the betterment of the dairy farmers.

Human chain formed



MMV students in Kanpur form a human chain to promote ragging-free campus.

Kanpur (PNS): The Sociology Department, Anti-Ragging Cell, and Mission Shakti jointly organised a guest lecture at Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Kidwai Nagar, on Tuesday. The keynote speaker was Assistant Professor of the Sociology department, Dr Saba Yunus, who raised awareness among students on issues like gender inequality, gender transformation and gender-based violence. Informed the students about ragging to ensure a ragging-free campus. Students were given information about ragging to ensure a ragging-free campus. Coordinator of the Anti-Ragging Cell, Dr Preeti Dwivedi, guided the students about filling the online undertaking form on the anti-ragging portal as per UGC guidelines. The students formed a human chain to promote a ragging-free campus. Dr Preeti Dwivedi, Dr Rashmi Singh, Dr Meera Tripathi, Dr Saba Yunus, Dr Pooja Srivastava, Dr Namrata Tiwari, Dr Mamta Mishra and Dr Vandani Sharma contributed significantly in the success of the programme.

TWO KILLED: Two people died and three others were injured when a tanker collided with a truck on Kanpur-Sagar highway (NH-34) near Mavaiya village under Maudaha Kotwali police station area of Hamirpur on Tuesday morning. The injured were admitted to Maudaha CHC. CO R Kamal confirmed the killing of two persons in the incident. Meanwhile a five-year-old boy drowned after falling into a pit while playing at a brick kiln near Mankapur village under Mangalpur police area of Kanpur Dehat. Police sent the body for autopsy after investigation.

Five criminals arrested

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Prayagraj Police on Monday night arrested five criminals and recovered six stolen bikes, one looted bike, ₹5 lakh in cash, parts of about a dozen looted and stolen bikes etc. based on the information provided by them. The criminals confessed to incidents of loot and theft that took place over the past three years. The arrested accused included Abdul Sattar of Gadiani village under Mauaima police station, Tabrez Alam of Rajapur Maluha under Soraon police station, Ankit Patel of Takhu Ka Pura Lakkdamandi, Dadouli canal under Soraon police station, Mohd Sahil of Gadiyani village under Mauaima police station and Uvaish. A joint team of Nawabganj police station and SOG/Surveillance Cell Ganganagar arrested the criminals near Hathigawan market in Nawabganj. DCP Ganganagar Kuldeep Singh Gunawat said the leader of the gang involved looting and stealing mobikes on the Varanasi-Kanpur highway is Tabrez Alam. The gang was carrying out crimes in Nawabganj, Phaphamau, Tharwai, Soraon, Mauaima and many other areas of the city. During interrogation, the miscreants told the

police that they used to take the looted and stolen bikes from Prayagraj and other districts to Rewa, Satna etc. in Madhya Pradesh and sold them at cheap prices. They used to sell the vehicles stolen from the city in the villages for half the price. In another incident five houses were burgled in an apartment near Mama Bhanja of Naini Kotwali. The thieves broke into the apartment by breaking the wall and decamped with cash and jewellery worth lakhs. **'JAN AKROSH' YATRA:** Various Hindu organisations, including Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, on Tuesday took out a 'Jan Akrosh' Yatra to protest against the alleged continuous atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh. Hundreds of people gathered in the District Panchayat auditorium and started the yatra. From here people reached the Commissioner's office raising slogans against Bangladesh. A memorandum was submitted to the Commissioner here demanding that the 'atrocities' and 'exploitation' of Hindus in Bangladesh be stopped. KP Singh, Dr Kirtika Agarwal, Mahamandaleshwar Kaushalya Nand Giri of Kinnar Akhara along with students and advocates also participated in the yatra.

Crop cafeteria set up for farmers



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A crop cafeteria was set up for farmers at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Dilip Nagar, operating under the Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology (CSAU&T), Kanpur, in which they would be given information about the new species of seeds and plants. Farmers will also be given information about increasing income through crop management. From the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, farmers are informed about the crop management, species, soil and water conservation, pests, diseases etc so that there can be good yield. Besides, training is also given to increase the income of farmers. Farmers are taught new methods of seed selection in the crop cafeteria. Centre's scientist Dr Khalil Khan said more than 20 newly

developed wheat species have been sown by the university and other research institutes where farmers will be able to select climate and soil suitable species as per the requirement of the area. Animal husbandry scientist of the centre, Dr Shashikant, SRF Shubham Yadav and Gaurav Shukla extended special support in setting up the crop cafeteria. **FARMER KILLED:** An elderly man was killed by crushing his head with a heavy object. His body dumped in a dry well in Kathui village under Vidhnu police station area. His blood-stained body was recovered from the well on Tuesday morning. On the information of kin, police rushed to the spot with the forensic team and carried out investigation. Saroj Kushwaha (65) of Kathui village was a farmer. His family comprises wife Manjulata, two sons Omji and Pawan. According to son Pawan, father Saroj Kushwaha had gone to see the field with farming partner on Monday evening. On his failing to return till late night, they started looking for him in the village. His blood-stained body was recovered on Tuesday morning.

Committed to engaging with China for fair, mutually acceptable framework for boundary settlement: EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said here India remains committed to engaging with China to arrive at a fair and mutually acceptable framework for boundary settlement. He also said the recent developments that reflect continuous diplomatic engagements have set India-China ties in the direction of "some improvement."

His statement in Parliament came two months after India and Chinese armies disengaged from friction points in eastern Ladakh. This process came about after nearly four years of stand-off between the soldiers of the two countries there after tension flared up in May 2020 leading to clashes in the Galwan valley. Twenty Indian army personnel including the commanding officer were killed. Nearly 40 Chinese soldiers were died in the clash. On its part, Beijing had stated after disengagement that a resolution had been reached on

"relevant matters" and that it would work alongside New Delhi to implement the terms of the agreement. Jaishankar said India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of a clearly articulated approach. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha, the minister said India-China ties have been abnormal since 2020 when peace and tranquility in border areas were disturbed due to Chinese actions.

"The amassing of troops by China in eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020 resulted in face-offs at a number of points. After the Galwan Valley clashes, we were addressing a situation that not only saw fatalities but events that needed heavy weaponry deployment," he said.

The recent developments that reflect continuous diplomatic engagements have set India-China ties in the direction of "some improvement", he said. "We remain committed to engaging with China to arrive at a fair and mutually acceptable framework for boundary



settlement... The government has maintained that India-China relations cannot be normal in the absence of peace and tranquility in the border areas, the combination of a firm and principal stance on this situation and the border areas, as well as a clearly articulated approach to the totality of our ties," Jaishankar said.

"We have been very clear that the restoration of peace and tranquility will be the basis for the rest of the relationship to move forward," he added.

Jaishankar credited the Indian forces, saying that despite logistical challenges and the Covid pandemic, they countered the Chinese troops rapidly. He said bilateral relations between India and China were on course of some improvement after the successful disengagement along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Our (India-China) ties have been abnormal since 2020 when peace and tranquility in the border areas were disturbed as a result of Chinese

actions. Recent developments that reflect our continuous diplomatic engagement since then have set our ties in the direction of some improvement," he said while briefing the Lok Sabha on India-China ties and the border truce reached in October.

Jaishankar also said in the months following the 2020 Galwan Valley clash, "we were addressing a situation that had not only seen fatalities for the first time in 45 years but also a turn of events serious enough for heavy weaponry to be deployed in close proximity to the LAC."

"While a determined counter-deployment of adequate capability was the government's immediate response, there was also the imperative of a diplomatic effort to defuse these heightened tensions and restore peace and tranquility."

The Minister went on to list a series of agreements reached in the past between India and China, including those signed in 1991, 1993, 1996, 2003, 2005, 2012 and the last one in

2013 to reach an understanding on border defence cooperation.

"The purpose of my recalling these agreements is to underline the elaborate nature of our shared efforts to ensure peace and tranquility and to emphasise the seriousness of what its unprecedented disruption in 2020 implied for our overall relationship," he said.

The current agreement pertains to patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok areas. Earlier, the militaries of the two countries had pulled back from four of six friction points in eastern Ladakh, including the Galwan Valley, after the clash.

In November, Indian and Chinese armies completed one round of patrolling in Demchok and Depsang and also agreed to carry out one coordinated patrol every week in the areas where tensions have persisted.

In an effort to maintain ongoing stability, talks will continue at the local commanders' level, involving brigadiers and officers of similar ranks.

Recent violence in Sambhal figures in both houses of Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Recent violence in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh figured in both house of Parliament on Tuesday. While Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav in the Lok Sabha criticized the local administration, his uncle Ram Gopal Yadav claimed in the Rajya Sabha that violence was pre-planned.

Raising the issue in the Lok Sabha, Akhilesh Yadav said violence part of a "well-planned" conspiracy and that the talk of "khudai" (digging) across the country by the BJP and its associates will end up hurting communal amity. The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister squarely blamed the local police and administration for the recent violence in Sambhal.

He alleged that police personnel fired from official and personal weapons, killing five innocent people and injuring dozens after some locals pelted stones at them to protest their high-handedness.

The MP from Kannauj demanded the suspension of guilty officials and registration of a murder case against them to ensure that there is no such "violation" of the Constitution



again. Akhilesh Yadav, amid occasional interruptions from the treasury benches, suggested that the BJP's inner politics was also at work and claimed that it was a "battle" between Delhi and Lucknow.

Ram Gopal Yadav said in the Rajya Sabha Sambhal was converted into a police zone and people were baffled why it was being done.

At one point, water started flowing out of the mosque and people thought some mischief was happening inside. Peace was disturbed with police opening fire, in which five people were killed and several injured, he said.

Ram Gopal Yadav, however, failed to complete his speech and Chairman Jagdeep

Dhankhar said certain parts of his statement would not go on record. At this, the SP and some other opposition parties staged a walkout.

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) MP E T Mohammed Basheer described the Sambhal incident as shocking.

"The peaceful coexistence (of different communities) in this country is becoming more and more difficult. We have to preserve our secularism," he said.

The apex court directed the deputy commissioners/district magistrates to survey the public and private organisations for ICC compliance under Section 26 of the POSH Act and submit reports. They would engage with private sector stakeholders to ensure ICC constitution and adherence to

Ensure ICC for sexual harassment at workplace in all Govt departments: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With a view to ensure a nationwide compliance of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed all states and union territories to constitute an internal complaints committee in all government departments and undertakings.

Issuing a slew of directions, a bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and N Kotiswar Singh said that the POSH Act must be uniformly implemented across the country. The top court therefore directed the states and UTs to appoint an officer in each district by December 31, 2024, who would constitute a local complaints committee by January 31, 2025 and appoint nodal officers at taluka levels.

The apex court directed the deputy commissioners/district magistrates to survey the public and private organisations for ICC compliance under Section 26 of the POSH Act and submit reports. They would engage with private sector stakeholders to ensure ICC constitution and adherence to



statutory provisions, it said. The bench granted time till March 31, 2025 for the compliance of its directions and directed chief secretaries to oversee the execution.

The direction came on a petition dealing with the implementation of the court's May 2023 order directing the Centre and the state governments to undertake a time-bound exercise to verify whether panels to probe sexual harassment allegations at workplace were constituted in all ministries and the departments.

The top court said it was "disquieting" to note "serious lapses" in the enforcement of the 2013 Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act despite such a long time.

Calling it a "sorry state of

affairs", the apex court said it reflected poorly on all the state functionaries, public authorities and private undertakings.

The court direction came on a plea filed by a former head of department at Goa University Aureliano Fernandes, who challenged an order of the Bombay High Court over allegations of sexual harassment against him.

The high court rejected his plea against an order of the executive council of Goa University (disciplinary authority) which dismissed him from services and disqualified him from future employment.

The top court set aside the high court order, noting procedural lapses in inquiry proceedings and violation of the principles of natural justice.

Former CBI director Vijay Shankar breathes his last on Tuesday



Former CBI Director Vijay Shankar breathed his last on Tuesday after prolonged illness, his family said. He was 76. Shankar was admitted to a private hospital in Noida for some time. His mortal remains will be donated to AIIMS as per his last wish, he said. A 1969-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, Shankar headed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) from December 12, 2005 to July 31, 2008.

During his tenure as CBI director, the agency took over the infamous Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case. As

Additional Director of CBI, he supervised the extradition of gangster Abu Salem and actor Monika Bedi from Portugal. He also supervised the investigation into the Telgi scam. Before being appointed CBI director, Shankar headed National Disaster Response Force, and Civil Defence and Home Guards.

He served as Inspector General in the BSF and was posted in Jammu and Kashmir at the peak of militancy in the 1990s. A recipient of the coveted President's police medals for distinguished and meritorious service, Shankar also served in Uttar Pradesh Police and Moscow under the Ministry of External Affairs.

President calls for empathy, inclusivity, equal opportunities for Divyangjan

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu, on Tuesday, underscored the importance of providing opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship, and economic empowerment for Divyangjan (people with disabilities), saying such avenues can significantly improve their lives, enabling them to live more meaningful and independent lives.

Speaking at the National Awards ceremony on World Disability Day on December 3, President Murmu highlighted the need for empathy, inclusivity, and equal opportunities for Divyangjan (persons with disabilities). She emphasised that persons with disabilities deserve empathy, not sympathy;

natural affection, not special attention; and, above all, they should experience respect. She urged society to foster an environment that treats Divyangjan with dignity and equality.

President Murmu pointed out that being differently-abled is not a limitation but a special condition that requires tailored support. "Special training, counselling, and facilities must be provided for their needs. While the government is prioritizing their welfare, society must also step forward to ensure their inclusion," she said.

The President also lauded the significant achievements of Divyangjan in various fields, especially sports and noted the remarkable improvement in India's performance in the



Paralympics. She said in 2012, India won only one medal, but by 2024, increased awareness and support for Divyangjan had led to a remarkable 29 medals.

"A truly sensitive society ensures equal opportunities and seamless access for everyone," she said. She also praised the collaboration among various ministries and departments under a whole-of-gov-

ernment approach to enhance accessibility and urged them to work more cohesively to advance the social and economic empowerment of Divyangjan.

At the ceremony, 33 individuals, institutions, and organizations were recognized for their significant contributions to the empowerment of persons with disabilities in various fields.

Among the honorees were Iytha Mallikarjuna, recognized as the Sarvshreshth Divyangjan for his work in creating opportunities for persons with disabilities, and Prateek Khandelwal, a Bengaluru-based social entrepreneur, awarded for his efforts in making urban spaces accessible through his initiative Ramp My City. In a related event, the National Centre for Promotion

of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) Helen Keller Awards celebrated 25 years, honoring 17 individuals and organizations for promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce. Notable awards included Role Model Persons with Disabilities to Basant Sahu (Chhattisgarh), Nishtha Thaker (Gujarat), Resham Talwar (Delhi), and Dilip Kumar Dahyatal (Gujarat).

Role Model Supporters of Increased Employment for Persons with Disabilities: Ashish Verma (Hyderabad), Ameesha Prabhu (Mumbai), and Ajay Govind (Dehradun) while Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on Thilakam Rajendran, for her relentless dedication to disability inclusion.

WCD Minister slams two BJP-Opp ruled States for not enforcing women's safety measures

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya rapped the Delhi and West Bengal Governments for failing to implement central flagship Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, Union Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi pulled up the two BJP-Opposition ruled States for not enforcing crucial women's safety measures despite central funding and support.

Addressing the media, the Minister pointed out that the Delhi government had failed to pay the staff working at the One-Stop Centres (OSCs), which were set up under the Nirbhaya Fund to assist women in distress. She emphasised that the Centre had consistently provided support through initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund, yet state-level delays in implementation were disappointing. The Delhi High Court had recently directed the Delhi government's revenue department to streamline payment processes for OSC staff and take action against the responsible officials.

"The Centre has consistently supported states through initiatives like the Nirbhaya Fund, but it is disappointing to see delays in implementation at the state level," the Minister said.

Minister Devi also took aim at the West Bengal government for its failure to operationalise Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) aimed at expediting cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO)



Act, an initiative that received central backing. In contrast, she highlighted the success of these programs on the national level, citing the 802 OSCs across the country that have supported over 10 lakh women and the 752 FTSCs that have resolved over 2.66 lakh cases. Devi further emphasized the central government's commitment to women-led development, noting the increase in the Gender Budget from Rs 97,000 crore in 2013-14 to over Rs 3 lakh crore in 2024-25.

Devi also referred to the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, which reserves 33 percent of seats for women in Parliament and state assemblies, as a landmark step toward empowering women. She reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's belief that India's progress is closely tied to the empowerment of its women. Savitri Thakur, the Minister of State for Women and Child

Development, echoed Devi's sentiments, celebrating the progress in gender equality. She highlighted the election of 74 women to the Lok Sabha in 2024 as a record and noted the successes of programs like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, which have improved the national sex ratio.

Thakur also pointed to the significant number of women who have benefited from housing initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, as well as financial empowerment programs like Stand Up India and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

Former Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had on Monday vehemently criticised the Delhi and West Bengal Governments for not implementing the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme, saying that there should not be any politics over health schemes.

NCPEDP marks World Disability Day 2024 with the launch of a Media Toolkit

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

As one of its vital institutions, media has enormous influence on society and societal values. It's a potent tool to influence behavior and challenge stereotypes. Acknowledging the role of media in transforming societal initiatives, the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP) in collaboration with O.P. Jindal Global University and EXL launched a Media Toolkit - A Guide to Reporting Disability. This toolkit would provide journalists with guidelines on respectful language, best practices, and strategies to engage with disability issues thoughtfully, ensuring that this invis-

ibilized topic receives accurate representation in media. "This toolkit has been developed to equip journalists with the tools to report on disability with accuracy and respect, promote the use of empowering language that highlights rights and capabilities, not just challenges, serves as a resource for understanding the socio-political and legal framework that governs disability rights in India, such as the RPWD Act 2016 and the UNCRPD. I hope this initiative will contribute to building a media landscape where persons with disabilities are portrayed not as victims or heroes but as individuals with equal rights, aspirations, and contributions to make," remarked Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP, during a panel discussion held

on the launch of the toolkit on Tuesday. The launch of the media toolkit was followed up by a panel discussion titled "The Role of Media in Shaping the Discourse on Disability," moderated by Prof. Kishalay Bhattacharjee, Professor & Dean, Jindal School of Journalism and Communication, O.P. Jindal Global University. The panelists included Arman Ali, Executive Director, NCPEDP; Dr. Navneet Anand, Founder Director, GreyMatters Communications; Bharat Sharma, Senior Assistant Vice President - Transformation and Solutioning, EXL; and Muskan Jain, Assistant Vice President - Global Corporate Social Responsibility Lead, EXL.

PM Modi speaks to TN CM enquiring about flood situation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Tuesday to enquire about the flood situation in parts of the state and assured him of all possible support from the Centre. Official sources said Modi called up Stalin regarding the flood situation.

Villupuram district in north Tamil Nadu continued to reel under unprecedented flooding on Monday following extremely heavy rainfall, virtually blocking access to villages and residential colonies as bridges and roads were



submerged and inundating huge acreage of standing crops. In Tiruvannamalai, tragedy unfolded as five bodies were recovered from a house crushed by a boulder that rolled down a hilltop following a mud slip on the night of December 1 during rains.



www.dailypioneer.com

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

PAPER WITH PASSION

Junta under siege

Myanmar's Junta is losing grip as rebel gains mount, raising fears of a balkanised future

After years of oppressive rule, human rights abuses, and atrocities against its own people, Myanmar's military rulers are now on the defensive. Their grip on power appears increasingly fragile as armed rebels gain significant ground. A year-long offensive has allowed anti-junta forces to seize much of the 480-km National Highway 3, connecting Mandalay to China, a critical route cutting through northern Myanmar's rugged terrain. This victory denies the military lucrative taxes, threatens its strongholds in the central plains, and boosts rebel morale as the civil war enters its fourth year. Myanmar is teetering on the edge of disintegration as the military junta, which seized power in a 2021 coup, confronts increasingly severe attacks from armed rebel groups across the country. Over the past year, ethnic armed organisations and local militias have intensified their offensives, capturing key regions and heightening the risk of Myanmar splintering into fragmented zones of control. The most biggest challenge to the junta has



come from the alliance between the Arakan Army (AA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Operating primarily in Shan State along the border with China, these groups have launched strategic, synchronised assaults, undermining the junta's control in this crucial region.

The Arakan Army's offensives in Rakhine and Chin States have yielded significant territorial gains, placing vast swathes of land and critical townships under their control. These advances threaten the junta's ability to project authority in regions vital for natural resources and strategic positioning. China, a key stakeholder with significant economic interests in Myanmar, has sought to balance its influence between the junta and rebel groups. As rebel forces secure near-total control over regions such as Rakhine and parts of Shan State, the junta's ability to govern the country as a unified entity is waning fast. This fragmentation could pave the way for the de facto partition of Myanmar into autonomous zones controlled by various factions. The war within has not been easy and the common people are paying the price. Entire communities have been displaced, particularly in the Rohingya-majority regions, where people face violence from multiple fronts. Basic services are scarce, and the humanitarian crisis is deepening. Prolonged conflict has devastated Myanmar's economy, deterring foreign investment and crippling key sectors. Infrastructure projects backed by China and other countries are at risk, compounding economic instability. The instability in Myanmar has broader implications for Southeast Asia, particularly for neighboring countries like Thailand and India. Cross-border violence, refugee flows, and the potential for illicit activities such as drug trafficking pose significant challenges for regional stability. The coming days will be critical in determining whether Myanmar can salvage its unity or succumb to a spiral of fragmentation and perpetual conflict.

holder with significant economic interests in Myanmar, has sought to balance its influence between the junta and rebel groups. As rebel forces secure near-total control over regions such as Rakhine and parts of Shan State, the junta's ability to govern the country as a unified entity is waning fast. This fragmentation could pave the way for the de facto partition of Myanmar into autonomous zones controlled by various factions. The war within has not been easy and the common people are paying the price. Entire communities have been displaced, particularly in the Rohingya-majority regions, where people face violence from multiple fronts. Basic services are scarce, and the humanitarian crisis is deepening. Prolonged conflict has devastated Myanmar's economy, deterring foreign investment and crippling key sectors. Infrastructure projects backed by China and other countries are at risk, compounding economic instability. The instability in Myanmar has broader implications for Southeast Asia, particularly for neighboring countries like Thailand and India. Cross-border violence, refugee flows, and the potential for illicit activities such as drug trafficking pose significant challenges for regional stability. The coming days will be critical in determining whether Myanmar can salvage its unity or succumb to a spiral of fragmentation and perpetual conflict.

PICTALK



Bullock carts loaded with sugarcane head towards the Sugar Factory for crushing, in Karad

How Nehru targeted his opponents

Nehru targeted Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Dr B R Ambedkar, leaders who had shaped India's Constitution but differed with his vision for the nation



ANIRBAN GANGULY

As the campaign for the first general elections in 1951-1952 played out, the Congress led by Nehru fiercely targeted two leaders. For the fledgling Jana Sangh and Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Nehru came out in open abuse, vowing to 'crush Jana Sangh'. For Dr Ambedkar and the Scheduled Caste Federation, the Congress adopted a ruse.

Nehru deputed his trusted communist friends to ensure Babasaheb's defeat. Jawaharlal was essentially a petty man when it came to his political and intellectual opponents. It did not matter to him that they were his colleagues in the Constituent Assembly till the other day and had contributed to erecting the constitutional edifice of free India. He wanted both Ambedkar and Syama Prasad defeated. He was allergic to their parliamentary skills and to their vocal advocacy of a new polity for India. He wanted a new Parliament shorn of opponents, except communists, who, in any case, were his ideological co-travellers. Nehru did not put up a candidate against A K Gopalan in Kannur. This camaraderie overflowed especially after Sardar Patel's death. Despite Nehru's flame-throwing blitzkrieg Dr Mookerjee won his Calcutta south seat, with his Jana Sangh just about managing to stay afloat as a national party.

Babasaheb lost from Bombay North seat, primarily because of the machinations of the communists who were outsourced by Nehru to carry out the hit-job against him.

It did not matter to Nehru that Dr Ambedkar's health was failing restricting his mobility. It did not matter to him that Dr Ambedkar had completely exhausted himself in the gargantuan task of putting together the Constitution and was therefore worthy of a noble gesture of support. Speaking of his defeat, Dr Ambedkar, one of his most authentic biographers Dhananjay Keer tells us, felt that it 'was due to the machinations of S.A.Dange.'

During the campaign Dange had given out a vicious slogan, he said, 'Spoil your votes but don't vote Dr Ambedkar.' To Dr Ambedkar,



Communism, was 'like a forest fire; it goes on burning and consuming anything and everything that comes in its way.' Nehru deftly fanned that forest fire. Dr Savita Ambedkar, in her reminiscences of her life with Dr Ambedkar, recalling this first election writes how Nehru was 'keeping a sharp eye on the constituency' and of how 'S K Patil (Mumbai boss of the Congress) and S A Dange of the Communist Party had agreed.'

It emerged, writes Savita Ambedkar, that 'Nehru, S K Patil and Dange had decided that they would do all that was required, use whatever strategy suited the occasion, but they were determined not to let Dr Ambedkar win.' The Congress-Communist conspiracy, as Savita Ambedkar describes it, left 'the Constitution-making Doctor Saheb defeated.' It was a terrible psychological blow for Saheb...

It was Congress's manipulation that caused the defeat of the maker of the Indian Constitution. This first defeat, deliberately inflicted on Dr Ambedkar, deeply disappointed him since he was looking forward to returning to Parliament. Parliament, he felt, was his natural arena of work, a forum standing on which he



NEHRU AND CONGRESS ENGINEERED A SECOND ELECTORAL DEFEAT WHEN BABASAHEB LOST THE BY-ELECTIONS TO LOK SABHA FROM THE BHANDARA SEAT

could give his best to his country's regeneration in his remaining years. 'This horrendous defeat in the elections,' writes Savita Ambedkar, 'had an extremely harmful impact on his already debilitated health, melancholy, disappointment, depression and disability returned.'

Nehru and Congress engineered a second electoral defeat when Babasaheb lost the by-elections to Lok Sabha from the Bhandara seat. For this election, Babasaheb chose a young RSS pracharak Dattapani Thengadi as his election convener.

Thengadi would closely work as Babasaheb's understudy for the next two years and would go on to found the world's largest trade union movement Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. The Bhandara by-elections were a chance for the Congress to make amends and to give up its pettiness, but Nehru stuck to his blind opposition to Babasaheb.

Dr Savita Ambedkar, ruefully writes that the Congress 'should have displayed the largeness of heart to re-invite [to Parliament] the sculptor of the Constitution with due honour. For the sake of the welfare of the nation, if not for anything else, Nehru should have left the way open for Saheb to be elected to the Lok

Sabha. But quite to the contrary, the Congress shook hands with a person like Dange and applied all its strength and got into all kinds of machinations to defeat Saheb, which proves that Congress cared more for the party than for the welfare of the country.'

During the Bhandara elections, Dr Ambedkar writes Keer, was scathing of Nehru and Congress. He was fighting the elections, he said, 'so that he might give the people the other point of view from the Opposition. It would not have been difficult, he said, for him to be in Parliament if he was prepared to make a compromise with the Congress.'

Babasaheb firmly chose not to compromise or succumb before Congress and thus faced political humiliation and insult in his last years. When Nehru's heirs, thus, comically wield the Constitution today, they must be greeted with loud guffaws. Their action needs to be dismissed as the irrelevant and desperate posturing of the managers of a defeated political cartel.

(The writer is chairman Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation and member National Executive Committee, BJP; views are personal)

One nation one subscription as a catalyst for equitable education

Access to quality academic resources remains a significant challenge for students and researchers, especially in India's remote regions

Access to quality resource materials remains a critical challenge for students and research scholars, particularly in the remote corners of India. While the digital age has transformed the way information is disseminated, physical libraries continue to be the cornerstone of academic excellence.



Yet, these essential knowledge hubs are increasingly becoming relics of the past, accessible only to a privileged few associated with national institutions and selected universities. So far, every agency in the country has subscribed for their digital library resources, UGC have INFLIBNET, which is available in selected universities and colleges, CSIR and DST institutions have the National Knowledge Resource Consortium (NKRC); ICAR institutions have CeRA, etc, paying crores of rupees. In many cases, these e-resources are limited to the users of the host institute alone, though they are funded through public money. The ambitious One Nation One Subscription initiative, if implemented effectively, has the potential to

address this disparity and revitalize the educational landscape. Despite technological advancements, access to quality academic resources has not been democratised in India till now. Libraries in most colleges and universities face an alarming decline for various reasons. The lack of interest among younger generations in visiting libraries and shrinking funds has exacerbated this crisis. Unfortunately, in many public institutions, mainly libraries associated with national institutions, library staff often lack the enthusiasm and interpersonal skills to create a welcoming environment for readers. This, in turn, alienates even the most genuine readers who, despite the odds, make the effort to visit libraries. A

lack of support and an uninviting atmosphere can deter students and researchers from making libraries their go-to space for academic and intellectual pursuits, further eroding the library culture that is already under threat. The One Nation One Subscription initiative aims to address these challenges by providing nationwide access to high-quality academic resources through a centralised system. By negotiating bulk subscriptions to international and national journals, databases, and e-books, the initiative can ensure that every student has the same knowledge regardless of geographic or economic constraints.

What a student or scholar gets in a national institute will be available to a student in a university situated in a remote corner of the country. It's democratising the knowledge resource. However, the success of this initiative depends on more than just access. India needs a parallel effort to rejuvenate its library ecosystem. Even in the digital age, physical libraries are irreplaceable as spaces for reflection and collaboration.

The Government should provide adequate funds to modernise the libraries and also take steps to recruit skilled, motivated librarians who understand the evolving needs of readers and can effectively manage digital and physical resources. To ensure inclusivity, The One Nation One Subscription must provide individual login credentials to every registered student and scholar, enabling direct access to resources anytime, anywhere. This would bypass traditional institutional gatekeeping and foster a more reader-friendly environment.

Policymakers must ensure this ambitious plan does not falter due to a lack of implementation or neglect of complementary measures. Knowledge is the cornerstone of progress, and access to it must be recognised as a fundamental right, not a privilege. To fully realise the potential of this initiative, it is essential that the government ensures access to these resources for every student.

(The writer is an adjunct faculty at the National Institute of Advanced Studies; views are personal)



BIJU DHARAMPALAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POPULATION GROWTH RATE DECLINES

Madam — The Rashtriya Swayamsevak (RSS) Sarsanghachalak (chief) Mohan Bhagwat raised concerns about declining birth rates, emphasising the importance of maintaining a birth rate of at least 2.1 to ensure the existence of social groups. He underscored unity despite differences and highlighted the inclusivity of Indian culture without caste discrimination. It is, however, true that birth rates are falling in every nation and in the developed West, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and China.

Population is shrinking because of decreasing incidence of marriages among eligible young bachelors and spinsters and traditional marriages for life are fast getting replaced by live-ins, same-sex marriages, increasing rates of incidence of divorces, consensual/temporary affairs, and above all, spreading birth control measures irrespective of religious opposition to the same due to loosening of popular restraints or fear of religious tenets and prescriptions in all faiths. In India, Middle-class families are finding it difficult to provide better education for even two children and the value of rupees is decreasing and the purchasing power of rupees is going down. No educated person would like to have a third child. Just see how high the inflation is, GDP (gross domestic product) is down, the rupee is weak against the dollar, and we are having more children-who will feed them? Moreover, does Bhagwat have any solutions for real problems like poverty, jobs, and inflation? I feel this statement from Mohan Bhagwat is absurd and illogical.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

CONTROVERSY OVER EVM

Madam — The growing controversy over the performance of EVM shows the dire need for a thorough study of its tamper-proof quality. Only when one loses, finds fault with EVMs is it acceptable? Definitely, it is the loser who seeks

Earth suffers from plastic pollution



not seem that there is any scope for any kind of agreement after this. It is estimated that since 1950, more than eight billion tonnes of plastic have been produced worldwide, but less than 10 per cent has been recycled. Due to this, millions of tonnes of plastic waste have reached the oceans around the world, posing a serious threat to aquatic life and their environment.

While developed countries want a complete ban on its production. A group of 95 countries, including the UK, the European Union, the African Group and many South American countries, has emerged, calling for making Article 6 a legally binding pledge to reduce production levels. But a group of oil-producing countries, including Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait and Russia, strongly opposed it. India too has expressed its concern about including any commitment to cut plastic production, as it could impact its right to development.

Jang Bahadur Singh | Jamshedpur

COP29 FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATIONS

Madam — The COP29 conference held at Baku was disappointing to say the least. It would be an understatement to say that it has delivered a deadly blow to international efforts to restrict global warming and put extra pressure on developing nations that are already struggling to emerge from the economic slowdown due to ongoing wars in West Asia and Europe. How can they put developing nations and developing nations at par and expect the latter to do the heavy lifting? And to make matters worse, we have US President-elect Donald Trump, who has completely different ideas on this critical issue. With developed nations shying away from their responsibilities of helping developing nations to fight climate change, the future outlook for global climate mitigation looks grim. Developed nations will have to stop behaving like big brothers now and accept the reality and responsibility.

Bal Govind | Noida

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur



FIRST COLUMN

THE ETERNAL JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

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



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Delhi's pollution crisis: A call for sustainable solutions



RAJDEEP PATHAK

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



As India aspires to emerge as the world's third-largest economy, it continues to grapple with the challenge of crafting a robust policy framework to combat the persistent environmental crises (read pollution) in its capital city, Delhi. Thankfully, the stubble-burning season officially concluded on November 30, 2024, and it is perceived as the end of the annual apocalypse of Delhi's air pollution. But, it needs to be seen that although the practice was outlawed in 2015, it continues unabated, contributing to approximately 35 per cent of Delhi's pollution. However, the core issue extends far beyond stubble burning, encompassing broader atmospheric and industrial factors. Decisive action in addressing these deeper challenges – and not prolonged silence – is the need of the hour.

After weeks of smog and burning eyes and a high Air Quality Index (AQI), on December 2, 2024, Delhi's air quality showed marginal improvement for the second consecutive day, with the AQI that was recorded at 273 in the morning – though still within the 'poor' category. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the city's 24-hour average AQI on December 1 stood at 285, providing a modest reprieve after 32 consecutive days of 'very poor' and 'severe' air quality (AQI levels exceeding 400). However, despite these minor improvements, the Supreme Court on December 2, 2024, refused to ease emergency restrictions under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for air pollution in Delhi.

The Court emphasised that any relaxation of measures would depend on a consistent and substantial downward trend in AQI levels. The schools have nevertheless opened giving a fresh breath to the students from the online or hybrid mode. Although experts caution that pollution levels could potentially worsen, the past three days have seen clear skies and sustained, stronger winds from the northwest, which have facilitated the dispersion of pollutants. One of the most contributing factors of pol-



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

lution, according to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), is 'vehicular pollution' which remains the most significant contributor to Delhi's air pollution, accounting for 51.1 per cent of emissions from all local sources, despite technical interventions aimed at reducing emissions. CSE's analysis highlights a persistent 'mobility crisis' in the city, characterised by systemic shortcomings in the public transport infrastructure despite years of investment. This crisis has driven a sharp increase in the number of private vehicles, which now play a substantial role in fuelling winter air pollution. Notably, even during periods of reduced stubble burning, Delhi's air quality frequently remains in the 'poor' or 'very poor' categories. CSE's report draws attention to several critical issues undermining public transportation, including its lack of reliability. For instance, instances of buses breaking down during transit rose significantly, from 781 in 2018-19 to 1,259 in 2022-23.

Furthermore, high waiting times at bus stops reveal a fundamental inefficiency in the system: less than 1 per cent of bus stops offer waiting times of less than 10 minutes, while approximately 50 per cent require passengers to wait over 15 minutes. The state of public transportation in Delhi remains deeply inadequate. According to a report Delhi currently has approximately 45 buses per 100,000 residents, based on data from the 2011 census.

This figure is significantly below the benchmark set by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, which recommends a ratio of 60 buses per lakh of the population. In comparison, major global cities such as London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Seoul exhibit considerably higher ratios, ranging from 69 to 90 buses per 100,000

residents, highlighting a significant disparity in Delhi's public transportation infrastructure. While the Delhi Metro has been championed as a cornerstone of urban mobility, its impact remains constrained. With an average daily ridership of only 2,700 passengers per train, the Metro's limited capacity – that poor labourers aren't able to afford – and reach is evident, failing to address the broader needs of the city's commuters. According to The Economic Times, an unskilled daily-wage labourer in Delhi spend approximately 8 per cent of their income on travel via non-air-conditioned buses, 14 per cent on air-conditioned buses, and an alarming 22 per cent on the Metro.

These figures underscore the economic burden placed on vulnerable sections of the population. The challenge is addressing the issue of 'affordability'. Data from the 'Economic Survey of Delhi 2023-24' further paints a stark picture of the city's growing vehicle population. Delhi currently has 7.9 million registered vehicles, with an additional 650,000 vehicles added in 2023-24, a figure that surpasses the pre-pandemic (COVID) annual average of 610,000. Moreover, the city experiences a daily influx and outflow of 1.1 million vehicles. The annual growth rate of two-wheelers and cars stands at 15 per cent, contributing significantly to transport-related pollution. Notably, according to the CSE, the transport sector accounts for 81 per cent of nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions in the capital, further worsening its air quality challenges.

There is a reports that the number of vehicles in the capital doesn't correspond to the size of its population, showing how a small proportion of the population has an outsized contribution to the air pollution crisis. According to data obtained in

the latest cycle of the National Family Health Survey, only a small proportion of families residing in Delhi own cars – 19 per cent in its rural areas and 28 per cent in its urban centers. Yet, Delhi streets are often congested by this small proportion of car-owners.' However, an equally concerning factor lies in the extensive proliferation of industries across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), which persist as major and consistent sources of pollutants.

These industrial emissions subject the residents of Delhi to a form of 'slow violence (read poison)'. Therefore, enhancing public transportation systems is a pivotal strategy for addressing the challenges posed by urban mobility and environmental sustainability in Delhi. Key measures such as improving last-mile connectivity, reducing fares to ensure affordability for a broader demographic, and expanding the public transport fleet to accommodate the city's growing population are essential for reducing the dependence on private vehicles.

By prioritising these initiatives, it is believed that a significant decrease in traffic congestion and vehicular emissions can be achieved, contributing to a cleaner and healthier urban environment. Moreover, such measures would improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the city, enabling individuals without personal vehicles to navigate Delhi more efficiently. In the long term, a robust and affordable public transport network would not only promote environmental sustainability but also enhance the overall quality of life for all residents by fostering greater equity and mobility within the city.

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

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

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

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

Origins and Ethical Considerations

The origin of COVID-19 remains controversial, though it is widely believed to have stemmed from an animal sold at the Huanan Seafood Market in China. The consumption of meat, normalised for centuries, has often been linked to the emergence of infectious diseases. Diseases arising from the butchering of animals highlight the need for dietary shifts. Vegetarianism, for instance, is a proactive step that could reduce the likelihood of zoonotic spillovers and the spread of diseases like COVID-19.

This also raises an ethical question: is it justifiable to kill animals merely to satisfy human taste preferences?

The Role of Vaccination
Vaccination has long been a topic of debate, and the

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

The concept of the "socialism of the microbe" emphasises our responsibility to protect

others by safeguarding ourselves from infectious diseases. For instance, self-isolation, mask-wearing, and vaccination not only protect individuals but also shield vulnerable populations who cannot be vaccinated.

Preventative Measures
Personal precautions, such as wearing masks, self-isolating, and following hygiene protocols, are critical in containing the spread of viruses like SARS-CoV-2. A study in Bangladesh revealed that mask usage significantly reduced COVID-19 infections. As an RNA virus, SARS-CoV-2 evolves quickly, facilitating asymptomatic transmission. Research by Wang and Tong, published in the 'National Library of Medicine', stresses the importance of strict quar-



antine measures for asymptomatic individuals to control the pandemic.

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

Global Virome Project and DEEP VZN aim to identify high-risk regions, animals, and viruses, enabling better predictions and preventive measures.

India's 2021 healthcare crisis serves as a stark example of unpreparedness. A lack of oxygen, hospital beds, and essential facilities led to thousands of deaths daily. Despite this, the country still faces a deficit in healthcare infrastructure, highlighting the urgent need for increased healthcare budgets.

Economic barriers also prevent many from accessing necessary care. A study published in the 'National Library of Medicine' found that one in six adults avoids healthcare due to cost. Governments could address this by subsidising

basic health insurance, covering vaccines, health check-ups, and screenings. This would ensure equitable access to healthcare and encourage public participation in disease eradication efforts.

Education as a Tool for Change

Education plays a vital role in fostering behaviour change. Courses like "Global Change and Infectious Disease," offered at Wesleyan University, teach valuable skills for reducing infection risks. Such courses should be mandatory to instill a lifelong sense of personal and social responsibility. Teaching hygiene practices, such as proper handwashing, should start at a young age, while mass educational campaigns can raise awareness about infectious diseases across all age

groups. Social media can amplify these messages, encouraging responsible behaviors and helping curb the spread of future diseases.

Conclusion

Minimising the spread of COVID-19 and preventing future pandemics requires a combination of personal behavioural changes and robust government interventions. These pandemics are a wake-up call, reminding us of the harmful impacts of human activities on the planet. By promoting practices like vegetarianism, personal hygiene, and social responsibility, we can mitigate the dangers of pandemics and build a hopeful future.

(Ahluwalia & Saisha are studying economics at Wesleyan University; views are personal)

Taking the spirit of the Constitution to the last mile

Nine years ago, we launched the Sugama Bharat Abhiyan. Over the years, the way this initiative has empowered Divyangjan fills me with immense satisfaction



NARENDRA MODI



Dear sisters and brothers, Today, the 3rd of December, is a very important day. Today, we mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. This is a day to salute the courage, determination and achievements of persons with disabilities.

For India, this day is sacred. Respect for Divyangjan is deeply embedded in our cultural ethos. Our scriptures and ancient texts teach us to respect everyone and their innate potential. A verse from the Ramayana states: उत्साहो बलवानार्य, नास्त्युत्साहात्परं बलम्। सोत्साहस्यास्ति लोकसंस्मृन् न किञ्चिदपि दुर्लभम्।

It means that for those with determination and zeal, nothing in the world is impossible. Today, our Divyangjan exemplify this spirit, becoming a source of strength and pride for the nation.

This year, the occasion is even more special as we celebrate 75 years of the Constitution. Our Constitution inspires us to work for equality and to reach the person at the last mile.

Inspired by the values enshrined in our Constitution, we have laid a strong foundation for the progress of Divyangjan over the past 10 years. In this period, numerous policies have been formulated, and several significant decisions have been taken for their welfare.

These decisions illustrate that our government is guided by the values of inclusion, sensitivity and commitment to all-round development. In this spirit, today serves as an occasion to reaffirm our dedication to the well-being of our Divyang brothers and sisters. Since my early days in public life, I have always strived to make the lives of Divyangjan easier. After becoming Prime Minister, I have worked to transform this spirit of service into a national mission. One of our first actions in 2014 was to replace the term "Viklang" with "Divyang". This was not merely a change in terminology; it ensured their dignity and recognised their contributions. This decision sent a clear message that the government



FOR THOSE WITH DETERMINATION AND ZEAL, NOTHING IN THE WORLD IS IMPOSSIBLE. TODAY, OUR DIVYANGJAN EXEMPLIFY THIS SPIRIT, BECOMING A SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND PRIDE FOR THE NATION

envisions an inclusive environment where physical challenges do not become barriers, and every individual is given the respect and opportunities they deserve to contribute to nation-building according to their talents. On various occasions, my Divyang brothers and sisters have blessed me for this decision. Their blessings have become my greatest strength in working towards their welfare.

Every year, numerous programs are organised across the country to mark Divyang Diwas. I still vividly remember that nine years ago, on this very day, we launched the Sugama Bharat Abhiyan. Over the years, the way this initiative has empowered Divyangjan fills me with immense satisfaction. Powered by the resolve of 140 crore Indians, this initiative has paved the way for a more inclusive India.

The policies of previous governments often left Divyangjan lagging in accessing opportunities for government jobs and higher education. We changed that scenario. Reservation policies were reformed and over the past 10 years, the expenditure on the welfare of Divyangjan has been tripled, reflecting our deep commitment to addressing their needs and unlocking new opportunities.

These decisions have opened new pathways of opportunity and progress for Divyangjan. Today, our Divyang companions are proudly contributing as dedicated partners in nation-building. I have personally witnessed the immense potential of young Divyangjan in India. The honour our athletes have brought to the nation in the Paralympics reflects this incredible energy. To channel this energy into driving the nation's progress, we have connected our Divyang friends with skill development programs, aiding their potential to contribute meaningfully to India's growth.

These training programs are not merely government initiatives. They have boosted the confidence of our Divyangjan and empowered them with the spirit of self-reliance to seek employment and build their lives with

dignity. The core principle of our government is to ensure that the lives of my Divyang brothers and sisters are easier, more convenient, and dignified. It was with this spirit that we implemented the Persons with Disabilities Act. This historic legislation expanded the definition of disability from 7 to 21 categories. For the first time, acid attack survivors were also included under its ambit. Today, this law is serving as a powerful tool for empowering Divyangjan to lead more self-reliant and empowered lives.

These laws have also transformed societal perceptions of Divyangjan. Today, our Divyang brothers and sisters are fully contributing to the development of a prosperous India. Indian philosophy teaches us that every individual in society possesses unique talents; we only need to bring them to light. I have always believed in the remarkable abilities of my Divyang friends, and I say with immense pride that over the past decade, my faith in them has only deepened. It fills me with great joy to see how their achievements are reshaping our society's aspirations and giving it a new direction.

When our athletes, adorned with Paralympic medals, visit my home, my heart swells with pride. Every time I share the inspiring stories of my Divyang brothers and sisters during Mann Ki Baat, I am overwhelmed with joy. Whether it is education, sports, or startups, they are breaking barriers, reaching new heights, and actively contributing to the nation's development.

I firmly believe that when we celebrate 100 years of independence in 2047, our Divyangjan will stand as a source of inspiration for the entire world. Let us resolve today to work toward this goal. Together, let us create a society where no dream is too big and no goal is out of reach. Only then can we truly build an inclusive and developed India. I see a crucial role for my Divyang brothers and sisters in achieving this vision. Once again, I extend my best wishes to all Divyangjan on this special day. —The author is Prime Minister of India

Fadnavis meets Shinde at latter's official residence

By TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a clear indication of the return of normalcy within the ruling MahaYuti, senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis met care-taker chief minister Eknath Shinde at the latter's official residence on Tuesday evening, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of the new government scheduled for Thursday.

The meeting between Fadnavis and Shinde lasted for more than an hour. The two leaders are understood to have discussed matters relating to the formation of a new MahaYuti government in Maharashtra. The import of the crucial meeting is that Shinde has come around to accepting the reality that he would have no other choice but to accept the deputy chief minister's post under the BJP's chief minister who will in all likelihood be Devendra Fadnavis. If anything, Shinde will be number two in the new government.

Tuesday's was the first meeting that took place between Fadnavis and Shinde after the dead-lock arose within the ruling MahaYuti over the chief minister's post.

The two leaders along with NCP (AP) leader Ajit Pawar had earlier met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda in New Delhi on Thursday to formalise details about the formation of a government in Maharashtra. Fadnavis, who is the front runner for the chief minister's post in the state, is understood

to have taken the initiative to call on the care-taker chief minister -- both as a move to placate somewhat sulking Shinde and break the ice between them after the strains that surfaced within the MahaYuti in over the chief minister's post.

Fadnavis, Shinde and Ajit Pawar are likely to meet on Wednesday afternoon or evening, after the election of the BJP's Legislature Party leader and chief minister-designate scheduled to take place earlier in the morning to discuss the matters relating to the power-sharing in the new government, including the number of ministries to be held by each of the three constituents and portfolio allocations.

In a related development, the Ajit Pawar-led NCP on Tuesday demanded that it be given equal number of ministries like that of the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde) in the new BJP-headed MahaYuti Cabinet on the basis of its "better strike rate" in the recent Maharashtra Assembly polls.

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.

In the normal course, the BJP will get 21 ministerial berths in the 43-member Cabinet, while the Shinde Shiv Sena is entitled for 12 ministries and the Ajit Pawar-led NCP will have to be satisfied with 10 berths. However, in the ongoing

struggle for power-sharing that is going on within the BJP-led MahaYuti ahead of the government formation, the NCP (AP) is demanding 11 ministries instead of ten berths, after carving one ministry from the Shinde Sena's quota of 12 ministries.

Staking a claim for one more additional ministry in the to-be sworn in MahaYuti Cabinet, senior NCP (AP) leader and former minister Chhagan Bhujbal said: "If you look at the winning strike rate in the MahaYuti, the BJP is number one, the NCP (AP) is number two and the Shinde Sena is number three. Considering that we are a number two party in terms of strike rate, we deserve a better deal. That's why we are demanding that the NCP (AP) be given equal number of ministries in the new Cabinet." The "strike rate" that Bhujbal is speaking about refers to the fact that the BJP achieved a strike rate of 88.5 per cent, winning 132 of the 148 seats it contested, while the NCP (AP) registered a strike rate of 69.5 per cent, bagging 41 out of the 59 seats it contested. On the other hand, the Shinde Sena managed a strike rate of 69.13 per cent, by winning 56 seats out of the 81 seats it contested.

Apart from 11 ministries, the NCP (AP) is demanding the post of a Cabinet ranked minister for its national working president Praful Patel and the post of a Governor. The Ajit Pawar-led party is understood to have placed its demands before the BJP's central leadership.

LeT commander killed, two arrested in J and K

By MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

A joint team of security forces eliminated a self-styled commander of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, (LeT) involved in civilian killings at Gagangir, Ganderbal in the ongoing operation in the upper reaches of the Dachigam forest area in Srinagar on Tuesday while a bullet-ridden dead body of a former Village Defence Guard was recovered far away from his home near Chapper, Latti area of Udhampur.

Meanwhile, Udhampur police have also detained two female terror associates under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) as they were posing a significant threat to the safety and security of the state.

In Jammu, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired another high-level security review meeting with the Director General of Police and other senior police officers at Raj Bhawan.

This is the third security review meeting after the formation of the newly elected government in Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting took place close on the heels of the culmination of the All India Conference of Directors Generals and Inspectors Generals of Police (DGPs-IGPs), at Bhubaneswar. The conference was chaired by the Prime Minister and attended by NSA, Union Home Secretary and several others.

Omar Abdullah, who returned from Umrah, remained present in his office in the civil secretariat, Jammu. While LG was holding a security review meeting Omar took stock of the working of the civil aviation department along with his political advisor and senior bureaucrats. Confirming the elimination of one terrorist Srinagar-based

Chinar Corps posted on X, "One terrorist has been neutralised by the security forces in the ongoing Operation at upper reaches of Dachigam Forest, Srinagar. Jammu and Kashmir police have identified the slain terrorist as Junaid Ahmed Bhat belonging to the pro-Pakistan Lashkar-e-Tayyeba outfit. According to police, the said terrorist was involved in civilian killings at Gagangir, Ganderbal, and several other terror attacks. Search Operation is in progress".

Earlier, a joint operation was launched by the Indian army and the Jammu and Kashmir police late Monday evening based on specific information about the presence of terrorists in the area. Security was also tightened in and around Srinagar due to ongoing anti-terrorist operations in the Harwan area.

In Udhampur, while confirming the detention of two female OGW's police also revealed their identities.

The female OGW's have been identified as Maryama Begum W/O Mohd. Shafeeq R/O Loudhara, Basantgarh and Arshad Begum W/O Late Jamal Din R/O Rai Chak, Basantgarh.

According to a police spokesman these terror associates were found to be involved in providing logistics support to terrorist groups and working as guide/facilitators for terrorist organisations. Their continuous actions posed a serious risk to public safety and tranquility.

To prevent further criminal activities detrimental to the security of the state and keeping in view their activities both were ordered to be detained under PSA.

Indian Classical Music Festival kicks off in Delhi

By STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Tuesday inaugurated the 2024 edition of the Indian Classical Music Festival, drawing a packed audience for the three-day event. Addressing the event at the Shri Ram Centre in Mandi House, Minister of Art and Culture Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "The Festival is a celebration of the country's rich musical heritage. We are proud to host this event, which helps preserve our cultural traditions." He said that the aim is to raise awareness about Indian classical music and inspire the younger generation to connect with and carry forward this timeless art form.

Capital chaos continues

From page 1

Further, the Delhi Traffic Police also said that to make sure that non-destined vehicles do not enter the national Capital, they have also deployed police personnel on several pickets outside Delhi as well in different districts including Sonapat, Gurugram and Jhajjar in Haryana, and Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. Moreover, Katara informed that they had deployed traffic personnel in 42 entry points even before GRAP IV came into effect in which 23 entry points in Delhi witness 98 per cent of traffic flow from other neighbouring states to Delhi.

Airport Authority lands show...

From page 1

Under the Operation, Management and Agreement (OMDA), inked back in 2006, DIAL is also required to comply with various service quality requirements. DIAL is a joint venture in which GMR Airports Ltd has a 64 per cent while AAI and Fraport AG Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide have 26 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively. Delhi airport has three terminals, T1, T2 and T3, and handles around 1,400 flights daily. From August 17, DIAL started operating the new T1. The old T1 has been shut from June 28 following the roof collapse incident.

Google continues...

From page 1

These incidents highlight the potential dangers of over-reliance on GPS systems, particularly in areas with incomplete infrastructure or inadequate safety measures. While tools like Google Maps have made travel easier, they are not infallible, especially in regions where real-time updates on road conditions are lacking. Residents and experts alike have called for better infrastructure management and coordination between local authorities and tech companies. Regular updates to navigation platforms and the inclusion of alerts for hazardous or incomplete

routes could help prevent such accidents in the future. The recent spate of accidents has sparked outrage in Bareilly, with citizens demanding stricter oversight of both public infrastructure and digital navigation tools. Experts urge drivers to verify road conditions, especially in rural or underdeveloped areas, rather than relying solely on GPS directions. As investigations into these incidents continue, they serve as a grim reminder of the need for vigilance on the roads and accountability from all stakeholders, including government agencies and tech platforms.

Congress-led INDIA Bloc tumbling down?

From page 1

The protest, spearheaded by members of the INDIA Bloc, focused on the demand for a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into allegations of bribery and fraud against the Adani Group. While SP has prioritised the Sambhal violence issue to raise in Parliament, TMC has so far skipped all opposition meetings on formulating the INDIA Bloc's joint strategy during the session. TMC MP Samik Bhattacharya called the protests led by Congress as their agenda where TMC and others do not figure. Mamata Banerjee-led TMC said it will not be a rubber stamp for Congress decisions

and advocated for smooth functioning of the ongoing Winter Session of the Parliament which was marred by continuous protest resulting in no business or discussions ever since it began on November 25. The Government and Opposition parties reached an agreement on Monday to break a week-long impasse in Parliament with the dates announced for a discussion on the Constitution, to mark its 75th year of adoption, in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi led the demonstration in Parliament premises which saw MPs from the Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP),

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Shiv Sena (UBT), Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), and Left parties, among others. However, the absence of SP and TMC highlighted fissures within the INDIA Bloc. "Different parties have different perspectives, TMC has said that it is a part of the INDIA alliance but they sometimes have different agenda," Congress chief spokesman Jairam Ramesh said. Congress and the TMC had contested the Lok Sabha elections and the recent bypolls in West Bengal separately. The Trinamool Congress won all six seats in the bypoll and 29 of 40 constituencies in the Lok

Sabha elections, bettering its 2019 tally despite a big effort being put into the state by the BJP.

"This attitude leads to electoral losses, if we feel we're winning, we will not accommodate regional party but, in States where we're down, regional parties must accommodate us." Arrogance, entitlement, and looking down on regional parties is a recipe for disaster," Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Saket Gokhale said. On TMC leaders suggesting that Mamata Banerjee should be made the INDIA bloc leader, TMC Lok Sabha MP Kirti Azad said Mamata Banerjee has a 100 per cent record. "Whenever Prime Minister Narendra Modi

faced a humiliating defeat, it was only in West Bengal... Whenever he comes to insult Bengal and its honour, her vote share increases. She is a very senior leader. She speaks clearly.

The Government of India did not say anything despite there being a grave situation in Bangladesh. She said that if the Centre does not do anything, the UN should intervene. Mamata Banerjee is not a leader but a 'panth'. She resides in every household in West Bengal, in every household in the country. Mamata Banerjee is someone who takes everyone together. She calls people only after making preparations and taking her time," Azad said.

China retaliates, bans export of chip-making minerals to US

AP ■ BANGKOK

China announced Tuesday it is banning exports to the United States of gallium, germanium, antimony and other key high-tech materials with potential military applications, as a general principle, lashing back at US limits on semiconductor-related exports.

The Chinese Commerce Ministry announced the move after the Washington expanded its list of Chinese companies subject to export controls on computer chip-making equipment, software and high-bandwidth memory chips. Such chips are needed for advanced applications. The ratcheting up of trade restrictions comes as President-elect Donald Trump has been threatening to sharply raise tariffs on imports from China and other countries, potentially intensifying simmering tensions over trade and technology.

China's Foreign Ministry also issued a vehement rebuff. "China has lodged stern protests with the US for its update of the semiconductor export control measures, sanctions against Chinese companies, and malicious suppression of China's technological progress," Lin Jian, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, said in a routine briefing Tuesday.

"I want to reiterate that China firmly opposes the US overstretching the concept of national security, abuse of export control measures, and

illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction against Chinese companies," Lin said.

The minerals sourced in China are used in computer chips, cars and other products. China said in July 2023 it would require exporters to apply for licenses to send to the US the strategically important materials such as gallium and germanium. In August, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said it would restrict exports of antimony, which is used in a wide range of products from batteries to weapons, and impose tighter controls on exports of graphite.

Such minerals are considered critical for national security. China is a major producer of antimony, which is used in flame retardants, batteries, night-vision goggles and nuclear weapon production, according to a 2021 US Trade Commission report.

The limits announced by Beijing on Tuesday also include exports of super-hard materials, such as diamonds and other synthetic materials that are not compressible and extremely dense. They are used in many industrial areas such as cutting tools, disc brakes and protective coatings. The licensing requirements that China announced in August also covered smelting and separation technology and machinery and other items related to such super-hard materials.

China is the biggest global source of gallium and germa-

nium, which are produced in small amounts but are needed to make computer chips for mobile phones, cars and other products, as well as solar panels and military technology.

China says it's protecting itself from US trade restrictions. After the US side announced it was adding 140 companies to a so-called "entity list" subject to strict export controls, China's Commerce Ministry protested and said it would act to protect China's "rights and interests." Nearly all of the companies affected by Washington's latest trade restrictions are based in China, though some are Chinese-owned businesses in Japan, South Korea and Singapore.

Both governments say their respective export controls are needed for national security.

China's government has been frustrated by US curbs on access to advanced processor chips and other technology on security grounds but had been cautious in retaliating, possibly to avoid disrupting China's fledgling developers of chips, artificial intelligence and other technology.

Various Chinese industry associations issued statements protesting the US move to limit access to advanced chip-making technology.

The China Association of Automobile Manufacturers said it opposed using national security as a grounds for export controls, "abuse of export control measures, and the malicious blockade and suppression

of China."

"Such behaviour seriously violates the laws of the market economy and the principle of fair competition, undermines the international economic and trade order, disrupts the stability of the global industrial chain, and ultimately harms the interests of all countries," it said in a statement.

The China Semiconductor Industry Association issued a similar statement, adding that such restrictions were disrupting supply chains and inflating costs for American companies.

"US chip products are no longer safe and reliable. China's related industries will have to be cautious in purchasing US chips," it said.

The US gets about half its supply of both gallium and germanium metals directly from China, according to the US Geological Survey. China exported about 23 metric tonnes (25 tonnes) of gallium in 2022 and produces about 600 metric tonnes (660 tonnes) of germanium per year.

The US has deposits of such minerals but has not been mining them, though some projects underway are exploring ways to tap those resources.

The export restrictions have had a mixed impact on prices for those critical minerals, with the price of antimony more than doubling this year to over USD 25,000 per tonne. Prices for gallium, germanium and graphite also have mostly risen.

Nepal, China sign nine-point pact during Oli's visit to Beijing

PTI ■ KATHMANDU/BEIJING

Nepal and China on Tuesday signed a nine-point agreement as Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli met President Xi Jinping in Beijing when the two leaders discussed connectivity, industrial development, infrastructure development and trade and tourism among other issues.

Earlier, Oli — who is on a four-day official visit — held a bilateral meeting with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang in Beijing, the Prime Minister's Secretariat said.

The bilateral meeting with the Chinese president, at the State Hall in Beijing, mainly

dwelt on matters related to connectivity, industrial development, medical cooperation, agricultural development, trade and tourism, investment, science and technology, sports, disaster management, people-to-people contact and poverty alleviation, Krishna Prasad Dhakal, spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in Kathmandu.

Dhakal said that a nine-point agreement was also signed during the visit, including several memorandums of understanding (MoUs).

Agreements that were signed include an exchange of letters regarding the construc-

tion of the Tokha-Chhahari tunnel road near Kathmandu; an MoU on Nepal-China trade promotion, and an exchange of certificates of completion of the renovation of the historic nine-storey palace situated in Basantapur in Kathmandu.

Also, MoUs on protocol relating to the export of thermally processed buffalo meat to China; on development and construction works; on economic and technical assistance; on Chinese language education, and on cooperation in communication technology between Nepal Television and China Media Group were signed.

There was also an exchange

of letters relating to aid in cash, he said.

Prime Minister Oli is on a four-day official visit to China starting Sunday. He will return on December 5.

On Sunday, the Nepal government announced that it has accepted projects worth USD 20 million as grant assistance from China ahead of Prime Minister Oli's first official visit to that country after assuming office for the fourth time.

Besides, the Nepali Cabinet also decided to accept 300 million Chinese Yuan (USD 4.13 million approximately) worth projects proposed by the government of China, the government spokesperson said.



President Joe Biden is greeted by Angolan Foreign Minister Tete Antonio as he arrives at Quatro de Fevereiro international airport in the capital Luanda, Angola long-promised visit to Africa. AP/PTI

Hezbollah attack draws Israeli strikes on Lebanon, 11 killed

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Israel unleashed its largest wave of airstrikes across Lebanon since agreeing to a ceasefire with Hezbollah last week, killing at least 11 people on Monday after the Lebanese militant group fired a volley of projectiles as a warning over what it said were Israeli truce violations.

The projectiles were apparently the first time that Hezbollah took aim at Israeli forces after the 60-day ceasefire went into effect last Wednesday. The increasingly fragile truce aimed to end more than a year of war between Hezbollah and Israel — part of a wider regional conflict sparked by the devastating Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

In the United States, President-elect Donald Trump demanded the immediate release of Israeli hostages held by the Palestinian militant Hamas group in Gaza, saying on social media that if they are not freed before he takes

office in January there would be "HELL TO PAY."

It was not immediately clear whether Trump was threatening to directly involve the U.S. military in Israel's ongoing war in Gaza. The US has given Israel crucial military and diplomatic support throughout the nearly 15-month conflict.

A new exchange of fire threatens Lebanon ceasefire: Lebanon's Health Ministry said an Israeli airstrike on the southern village of Haris killed five people and wounded two while another airstrike on the village of Tallousa killed four and also wounded two. Israel's military carried out a string of airstrikes late Monday against what it said were Hezbollah fighters, infrastructure and rocket launchers across Lebanon, in response to Hezbollah firing two projectiles toward Mount Dov — a disputed Israeli-held territory known as Shebaa Farms in Lebanon where the borders of Lebanon, Syria,

and Israel meet. Israel said the projectiles fell in open areas and no injuries were reported. Hezbollah said in a statement that it fired on an Israeli military position in the area as a "defensive and warning response" after what it called "repeated violations" of the ceasefire deal by Israel. It said complaints to mediators tasked with monitoring the ceasefire "were futile in stopping these violations."

Before the Hezbollah projectiles, Israeli carried out at least four airstrikes and an artillery barrage in southern Lebanon, including a drone strike that killed a person on a motorcycle, according to Lebanese state media. Another strike killed a corporal in the Lebanese security services.

Israel has said its strikes are in response to unspecified Hezbollah violations, and that under the ceasefire deal it reserves the right to retaliate. Lebanon's parliament speaker,

Nabih Berri, accused Israel of violating the truce more than 50 times in recent days by launching airstrikes, demolishing homes near the border and violating Lebanon's airspace.

Officials in the US — which along with France helped broker the truce and heads a commission meant to monitor adherence to the deal — played down the significance of Israeli strikes. White House national security spokesman John Kirby said, "Largely speaking, the ceasefire is holding."

"We've gone from dozens of strikes down to one a day maybe two a day," Kirby told reporters, referring to Israeli strikes. "We're going to keep trying and see what we can do to get it down to zero." Under the deal, Iran-backed Hezbollah has 60 days to withdraw its fighters and infrastructure from southern Lebanon. During that time, Israeli troops are also to withdraw to their side of the border.

Plea to ban Indian TV channels in B'desh

PTI ■ DHAKA

A writ petition has been filed in the Bangladesh High Court seeking a ban on the broadcast of all Indian TV channels in the country citing provocative news aired on them, according to a media report.

Lawyer Ekhas Uddin Bhuiyan filed the petition and confirmed the matter on Monday, the Dhaka Tribune reported. Bhuiyan said a hearing on the application may take place on the High Court bench, which will consist of Justice Fatema Najib and Justice Sikder Mahmudur Razi.

The writ petition was filed in the High Court seeking a ban on the broadcast of all Indian TV channels in Bangladesh, the report added.

The writ seeks a directive under Section 29 of the Cable Television Network Operation Act 2006 to prohibit the broadcast of all Indian TV channels. It also asks why a rule should not be issued instructing a ban on Indian TV channels in Bangladesh.

The writ calls for a ban on channels like Star Jalsha, Star Plus, Zee Bangla, Republic Bangla, and all other Indian TV channels, the report added. The petition alleges that provocative news is being aired on Indian channels and that unregulated broadcasts of content opposing Bangladeshi culture are leading to the destruction of the youth, the report added.

It further claims that these channels are not adhering to any

regulations. The secretaries of the Information Ministry and the Home Ministry, the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), and others are named as respondents in the petition.

The relations between India and Bangladesh came under strain after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power following the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August.

India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country. There has been a rise in violent attacks against Hindus in Bangladesh. Hindu minority groups have been frequently reporting atrocities against their

community members in different parts of Bangladesh, even after Yunus took charge.

The diplomatic row erupted between India and Bangladesh after Hindu priest Chinmoy Krishna Das, a former member of the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), was arrested from Dhaka's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on November 25.

Das, the spokesperson for the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatani Jagran Jote, was denied bail and sent to jail by the Chattogram's Sixth Metropolitan Magistrate court in a sedition case on November 26.

It triggered clashes between his supporters and the security personnel that led to the killing of a lawyer.

Zimbabwe court allows abortion rights to marital rape victims, girls below 18

AP ■ HARARE

A law prohibiting abortion services for women raped by their husbands and girls under the age of 18 is unconstitutional, Zimbabwe's High Court has ruled. In his ruling handed down on November 22 and made public this week, Judge Maxwell Takuva said since Zimbabwe's laws already criminalise marital rape and sex with a minor, victims should be allowed to abort if they become pregnant.

The ruling is significant, given Zimbabwe's restrictive abortion laws that often lead women and girls into illegal and unsafe backstreet abortions that in many cases turn fatal. Abortion is allowed in very few

circumstances in Zimbabwe, including such as if the pregnancy endangers the life of a woman, or if there is a risk of a physical or mental defect "of such a nature that (the child) will permanently be seriously handicapped." Women can also access legal abortion services in cases of unlawful sex such as incest. Zimbabwe criminalised sex with any person below 18 in September following an earlier constitutional court ruling ordering parliament to raise the legal age of consent for sex to 18 from 16. But the highly restrictive Termination of Pregnancy Act still denied abortion services for girls under 18.

"There is no doubt that it is torture, cruel and degrading treat-

ment for a child to carry another child, for a child to give birth to another child or for a child to be forced to illegally abort because of cruel circumstances," said the judge. The government did not mount any opposition to the case, which was brought by a women's rights group, although the ruling must still be approved by the Constitutional Court to become effective.

The judge said providing access to safe and legal abortion services for underage girls "is significant in light of the massive instances of teenage pregnancies in Zimbabwe, and consequently illegal teen abortions and teenage mortalities."

The country of 15 million people records about 77,000 unsafe

abortions annually, but many others go unreported. Many girls and women die from abortion complications each year, according to the United Nations children's agency, UNICEF. Teen pregnancies are rife in the southern African country because of lax enforcement of laws, cultural and religious practices and widespread poverty that also make it difficult for girls and women to access contraceptives and clinics.

Almost one of every four girls falls pregnant between the ages of 10 and 19, according to figures by the government and UNICEF. One of every three girls is wed before age 18 in the deeply conservative southern African country.

UK Parliament raises concerns over attacks on Hindu minorities in Bangladesh

PTI ■ LONDON

The British government continues to monitor the situation in Bangladesh as members of Parliament raised concerns over recent attacks on the minority Hindu community there and arrest of religious leaders, a senior minister said here.

During an urgent question tabled in the House of Commons by Labour MP Barry Gardiner on Monday, the Foreign Office Minister in charge of the Indo-Pacific, Catherine West said that she had been given assurances by the interim government in Bangladesh that support was available for minority com-

munities during her visit to Bangladesh last month. She stressed that the UK was one of the first countries with ministerial support to arrive in Dhaka to speak with Chief Adviser Professor Yunus and be "vocal" in support of minorities.

"We are aware of the statement of concern from the Indian government following the arrest of Chinmoy Krishna Das, a well-known Hindu leader, on sedition charges. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) desk is closely monitoring those developments," said West. "The UK government will continue to monitor the situation,

including making representations from this House, and will engage with the interim government in Bangladesh on the importance of freedom of religion or belief specifically as it affects the Hindu community," she said.

Tension between India and Bangladesh has been simmering since August 5, when deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India. The situation aggravated further with Das' arrest last week. The Hindu community in Bangladesh has regularly faced attacks on its members and places of worship during the widespread protests against Hasina's Awami League-led government over a controver-

sial job quota system. The attacks have continued even after Muhammad Yunus, a Nobel laureate, took over as the Chief Adviser of the interim government on August 8.

Gardiner, MP for Brent West in London with a large British Hindu population, described the situation as being "clearly on a knife edge" and raised concerns on behalf of the "large diaspora populations in the UK and large Hindu communities with strong links to the community in Bangladesh." The shadow foreign secretary, Conservative MP Priti Patel, noted that the degree of escalation in the violence is "deeply, deeply concerning".

Thanks to peace, luxury housing most sought after in Kabul

AP ■ KABUL

In a town that has been through it all and is clawing its way back, a man named Omidullah is looking to hit paydirt.

The Kabul real estate agent is selling a nine-bedroom, nine-bath, white-and-gold villa in the Afghan capital. On the roof's gable, glittering Arabic script tempts buyers and brokers with the word "mashallah" — "God has willed it." The villa is listed at \$450,000, a startling number in a country where more than half of the population relies on humani-

tarian aid to survive, most Afghans don't have bank accounts, and mortgages are rare. Yet the offers are coming in.

"It's a myth that Afghans don't have money," Omidullah said. "We have very big businessmen who have big businesses abroad. There are houses here worth millions of dollars." In Kabul, a curious thing is happening to fuel the high-end real estate market. Peace, it seems, is driving up property prices.

Many are coming home: People who spent years living and working abroad are return-

ing home, keen to take advantage of the country's much-improved security and stability after decades of war, destruction and infrastructure decay. They include Afghans escaping deportation campaigns in Iran and Pakistan who are taking their cash with them.

Mortgages are rare because banks don't have the deposits to facilitate lending. Afghans buy in cash or use the "geerawi option" — when someone provides a fixed sum to a landlord in return for living on his property and staying there until the landlord returns the money. People were afraid to

invest in Kabul before the Taliban takeover, according to another real estate agent, Ghulam Mohammed Haqdoost. But the country's rulers have created better conditions for the property market in more ways than one.

The city is less violent since the Taliban transitioned from insurgency to authority and foreign forces withdrew, although armored vehicles, checkpoints and militarized compounds remain common sights. The Taliban, sticklers for an intricate bureaucracy, have pledged to stamp out corrup-

tion and regulate legal and commercial matters. That means no more dealing with warlords or bribing local officials for land purchases or construction projects.

Haqdoost is happy with how easily and quickly things are getting done under the new administration. "House prices have risen by almost 40%," he said. "In the last three years, we have sold almost 400 properties. It wasn't like that before."

For builders, times are good: Business is good for Haqdoost, who employs 200 people in administration, including

women who deal exclusively with female customers, and then some 1,000 in the construction arm of his company. He said most customers bring their wives along to viewings. That's because it's women who call the shots when it comes to real estate purchases — even in a nation that critics say oppresses and disempowers women. "The power and authority of the house is in the hands of the women," Haqdoost said. "They decide whether to buy the house or not." Omidullah and Haqdoost said their clients want a garden, gym, sauna, swimming pool,

guest quarters and at least one kitchen. Hospitality is a major part of Afghan culture and this tradition is built into housing. Afghans typically accommodate and host visiting friends or family in their homes, rather than in hotels or restaurants. Haqdoost's client base is mostly overseas, and their international tastes are influencing interiors. They want novelties like dining tables and beds. In Afghanistan, it's the norm for people to sleep and eat on the floor. It's also the diaspora seeking out purpose-built apartment blocks offering amenities like central heating,

double-pane windows and elevators.

To make the city more attractive and livable, the municipal authority is busy building and repairing roads, installing streetlights, planting trees and removing trash. It's also developing plans to promote affordable housing and encourage home ownership. It needs to. Kabul's population was around 500,000 at the start of the millennium. Now it is more than 5 million. Some neighborhoods remain congested and noisy as a result, despite the municipality's best beautification efforts.

Dharavi redevelopment project revolutionises slum mapping with drones and LiDAR technology

PTI ■ MUMBAI

In a first for any slum rehabilitation project in India, the Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) has embraced cutting-edge technologies to survey and document Asia's largest slum, officials said.

Drones and remote sensing technology Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) are being used to map the 620 acres densely populated Dharavi slums. This is to ensure accuracy, transparency, and efficiency in a redevelopment project of this scale and complexity.

The Dharavi Redevelopment Project Pvt Ltd, in which the Adani Group holds an 80 per cent stake along with the state government, plans to turn 620 acres of prime land, about three-quarters of the size of New York's Central Park, into a glitzy urban hub. About 7 lakh living in rickety shanties with open sewers and shared toilets in the densely populated slums, close to Mumbai's international airport, are to be given flats up to 350 square feet free of cost.

Officials said advanced digital tools are being used to map the entire area and



identify the beneficiaries.

Traditionally, surveys for Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) projects relied on conventional methods such as total station surveys and manual collection of physical documents.

However, the modern tools such as drones, LiDAR technology, and mobile applications has been implemented to collect and evaluate data digitally. These tools are being used to create a 'digital twin' of Dharavi - a virtual replica that facilitates

better data analysis and decision-making, a Dharavi Redevelopment Project-Slum Rehabilitation Authority (DRP-SRA) official said.

LiDAR is an active remote sensing technology which plays a pivotal role in this project. Known for its ability to rapidly capture geospatial data, LiDAR uses laser light to measure distances and create highly accurate 3D representations of terrain, buildings, and objects. A portable LiDAR system, such as a backpack-mounted scanner, is being used to

navigate the narrow and congested lanes of Dharavi.

Drone technology supplements this by capturing aerial images of the area, providing an overhead perspective that aids in mapping and planning.

On the ground, survey teams use mobile applications for door-to-door data collection. These apps ensure that information is gathered at the actual location of each slum dweller, with all data stored and evaluated digitally. This not only improves

accuracy but also reduces the scope for errors or data loss.

"The creation of a digital twin - a virtual representation of Dharavi - marks a significant step forward," the official said.

According to him, this is the first time such advanced technologies are being used in a slum rehabilitation scheme in India.

The digital model will allow authorities to evaluate data more effectively, especially when determining the eligibility of residents for rehabilitation at the end of the survey. It also enables faster resolution of disputes and reduces the chances of oversight.

While an estimated one million (10 lakh) reside in Dharavi, about 7,00,000 are thought to be eligible because of the resident definition of one having proof of living in the area prior to January 1, 2000. The Maharashtra govt had recently approved the acquisition of 256 acres of salt-pan land for the Dharavi redevelopment.

The land will be used to build low-cost and affordable housing for residents of Dharavi. A survey of existing residents and businesses is being done to determine who

would be rehoused in Dharavi or be relocated.

The survey process, however, is not without challenges. To address concerns of Dharavikars like fear of fraud or misuse of data, the P-SRA is conducting extensive information, education, and communication (IEC) activities.

These include meetings, pamphlet distribution, and the establishment of call centres to inform residents about the survey process.

Most importantly, the residents are explained about P/SRA which is a government entity overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the project, including the smooth execution of the survey.

The field supervisors help residents by ensuring they provide the right documents. If the documents are complete, residents get an acknowledgement slip signed by the P-SRA officer and details about the next steps.

Residents, who fail to furnish the correct documents at the time of the survey, are explained about the importance of the survey and are helped in retrieving them.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Domestic air traffic is projected to rise 7-10 per cent to 164-170 million in the current fiscal year, while the aviation industry's loss is pegged at Rs 2,000-3,000 crore during the same period, according to rating agency Ica.

In the first half of 2024-25, Ica said domestic air passenger traffic stood at 79.3 million, marking a 5.3 per cent annual growth that was partly impacted by the severe heat wave and other weather-related disruptions.

The international passenger traffic growth for Indian carriers increased and stood at 16.2 per cent in the first half of the current financial year. On Tuesday, the rating agency said domestic air traffic is expected to jump 7-10 per cent on an annual basis to 164-170 million in FY2025.

Ica maintained a 'stable' outlook on the Indian aviation industry, amidst continued growth in domestic and international air passenger traffic. Kinjal Shah, Senior Vice President & Co-Group Head at Ica, said the industry is expected to report a net loss of Rs 20-30 billion in FY2025 and FY2026 each, significantly lower than the losses witnessed in the past

supported by improved pricing power of the airlines.

"The spread between revenue per available seat kilometre and cost per available seat kilometre saw some moderation in H1 FY2025 over FY2024 due to higher fuel prices and overall increased costs amid grounding of aircraft, while yields moderated marginally as airlines strove to maintain adequate passenger load factors.

"Nonetheless, the same is expected to pick up in H2 FY2025, amid healthy passenger traffic," Shah said.

Airlines' cost structure is typically driven by two key components - Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices and the INR-USD movement.

On a year-on-year basis, Ica said average ATF prices eased by 6.8 per cent to Rs 96,192/KL in the first eight months of FY2025, though exceeding the levels seen during pre-Covid period (first eight months of FY2020) of Rs 65,261/KL. Fuel costs account for around 30 to 40 per cent of an airline's costs, while about 35-50 per cent of the operating expenses, including aircraft lease payments, fuel expenses and a significant portion of aircraft and engine maintenance expenses are denominated in dollar terms.

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited (Tata Power-DDL) and THDC India Limited (THDCIL) has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop a robust pool of skilled and qualified professionals to meet the needs of both the domestic energy sector and international markets.

The MoU was signed by Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resource, Industrial Relations, Facility Management & Health Services of Tata Power-DDL and Dr. A.N. Tripathy, General Manager (HR & A) of THDCIL in the presence of Anoop Nandi, Head (BD & Collaboration), Tata Power-DDL, Ravi Budhlakoti (HRD-THDCIL) and other senior

officials from both the organisations. The MoU aims to establish a mutually beneficial framework for collaboration between Tata Power-DDL and THDCIL to organize leadership, wellness & other training programs, workshops, seminars, research initiatives and consultancy projects with a focus on enhancing skills and knowledge in the energy sector.

This strategic partnership will leverage the infrastructure facilities of the HRD Takshshila - SLDC in Rishikesh and the Learning Centre of Tata Power-DDL in Delhi to develop and deliver advanced training programs in cutting-edge domains such as smart grids, grid automation, and complementary technologies.

Speaking about the partnership, Praveen Agrawal, Chief - Human Resources, Industrial Relations, FM and Health Services, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited said, "This privileged partnership with THDCIL - an institution of national importance, is indeed a landmark collaboration in the area of cutting-edge training programs for the energy sector.

Given the changing landscape of energy sector worldwide, we aim to prepare a highly trained and qualified resource pool both for India and international stakeholders. This initiative also underscores our commitment to enhancing skill development, empowering individuals to meet the dynamic demands of the industry effectively."

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

MSME exporters from the engineering sector on Tuesday said that any move to impose additional duties on steel imports would make domestic products uncompetitive and impact the country's outbound shipments from the sector.

Hand Tool Association Chairman S C Ralhan said that the MSME engineering exporters are already facing problems on the liquidity front and high prices of steel in the domestic market. "Increasing prices of steel by domestic steel makers are hurting us and now we have seen in the media reports that the government is planning to impose a 25 per cent safeguard duty. This will severely impact MSME exporters," Ralhan said. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) Director General Ajay Sahai said that if the government



imposes additional duty, they should ensure that the domestic steel companies do not increase the prices of the inputs.

"Increase in input prices will impact exports of value-added steel products," Sahai said.

The steel ministry has proposed for a 25 per cent safeguard duty on import of certain steel items into the country. The proposal came at a meeting between Union Minister of Steel H D Kumaraswamy and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal here on

December 2. Domestic steel players are raising concerns over rising cheap steel imports from select nations like China.

Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) in its report has claimed that thousands of containers carrying imported steel remain stranded at JNPT and other ports due to complex clearance procedures imposed by the Ministry of Steel (MOS).

"The Customs clearance delays have disrupted production lines and

tarnished India's global reputation, with even countries like Japan formally requesting the government to release stranded shipments," GTRI said.

India's steel imports are neither excessive nor unwarranted, GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said, adding half of these imports are critical raw materials for domestic production, while 40 per cent consist of specialised items that India does not produce in sufficient quantities.

He said that steel imports are just 6 per cent of domestic production and an estimated over 70 per cent imports are done by large steel firms. An impression has been created that India's steel imports are high, lack quality and supplied at below market prices and hence need iron clad controls and data does not support high import theory, Srivastava said. "In FY2024, domestic

production met 94 per cent of India's steel demand, with imports contributing just 6 per cent. Over half of these imports consist of steel scrap (33.8 per cent) and semi-finished steel (17.3 per cent), both of which support domestic steel production. Such imports are made by large steel producers," he added.

The remaining 43.4 per cent imports are of high-end flat-rolled steel products used in critical industries like automotive, construction, and household appliances. "Domestic stainless steel prices are 25-30 per cent higher than comparable imported steel for certain thicknesses, even after accounting for duties. This price disparity, driven by import restrictions, significantly boosts the profit margins of large steel firms while small and medium enterprises (SMEs) bear the brunt," the think tank said.

Hyundai Motor Group ties up with IITs to advance battery

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Hyundai Motor Group on Tuesday said it has tied up with three IITs to establish a collaborative research system in the fields of batteries and electrification entailing an investment of USD 7 million over five years. The South Korean group, which has presence across multiple segments including mobility, has tied up with IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. Hyundai Motor Group plans to invest around USD 7 million over five years, from 2025 to 2029, to jointly conduct battery and electrification-related research with the IITs.

As part of the collaboration, Hyundai Center of Excellence (CoE), will be set up within IIT Delhi and would operate through sponsorships from Hyundai Motor Group, the

group said in a statement.

The primary objective of the Hyundai CoE is to take the lead in driving advancements in batteries and electrification, specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of the Indian market, it added.

"We believe that Hyundai CoE will cultivate a strong network of talented individuals from India's academic landscape, driving innovation and future growth," Hyundai Motor Group Head of Research and Development (R&D) Planning & Coordination Center Naksup Sung said.

The Hyundai CoE will not only conduct joint research on academic-industrial cooperation tasks but also facilitate technical and human exchanges between battery and electrification experts from Korea and India, the group said.

Govt should leverage sports industry for economic growth: Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth and frame policies to encourage more investment in sports infrastructure, events, and related goods and services, according to a report. The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report, titled 'Future of Sports in India,' also suggested that the government could provide incentives to the private sector to fund large-scale, holistic sports programmes to support talent development as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities.

CSR contributions could be leveraged to establish and run high-performance training centres with facilities,

including international coaches, nutritionists, and mental and physical trainers.

It said that the government may formulate policies to establish and support comprehensive skill development programmes for sports coaching, sports management, and sports-related ancillary industries to boost employment generation through sports, especially in tier-2 and rural areas.

While the sports industry has seen remarkable advancements, challenges such as financial insecurity for athletes, underutilised infrastructure, and the need for greater inclusivity persist. Expanding financial aid programmes, developing robust career transition pathways, and fostering a culture of inclusivity can

address these issues, the report said.

"The Indian government should focus on developing a model to leverage the sports industry for economic growth, in addition to developing the capacity of Indian athletes to compete at higher levels," said the Future of Sports in India report.

The report also suggested that the government must actively bid for and host international competitions and sporting events.

It may also diversify sports offerings in multiple states by promoting winter and traditional sports, thereby also encouraging sports tourism. The Nangia Nxt- FICCI Knowledge Report also said that the Indian sports industry is experiencing a period of dynamic growth, with

projections to expand from USD 27 billion in 2020 to USD 100 billion by 2027.

This transformation is driven by various factors, including the commercialisation of sports leagues, technological advancements, and a growing emphasis on diverse sporting disciplines.

Sectors such as sports goods, apparel, and media rights are contributing significantly to this growth, with the sports media market alone expected to grow from USD 1 billion in 2020 to USD 13.4 billion by 2027.

Additionally, landmark achievements by Indian athletes at the 2023 Asian Games and the 2024 Paris Olympics highlight the nation's increasing competitiveness on the global stage, it added.

Japanese firms keen to set up semiconductor units in India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Japanese firms are keen to set up semiconductor units in India and they have all the expertise and specialisation to partner with domestic firms, Deloitte has said.

It also said that skilled workforce, funds and continuation of support measures are key to push growth of the semiconductor sector in India.

Japanese firms are "super enthusiastic" about India, Shingo Kamaya, Deloitte AP and SRT Leader, Deloitte Japan said.

In July, Japan became the second Quad partner after the US to sign an agreement with India for the joint development of the semiconductor ecosystem and maintain the resilience of its global supply chain.

The two countries signed the memorandum for semiconductor design, manufacturing, equipment

research, talent development and to bring resilience in the semiconductor supply chain. With around 100 semiconductor manufacturing plants, Japan is among the top five countries to have a semiconductor ecosystem. Japan houses companies that are global leaders in raw form of semiconductor wafers, chemical and gases, lenses that are used in chip manufacturing equipment, and display technologies. India aspires to have 10 semiconductor manufacturing plants in 10 years.

"Given the technology, given the specialization, there is no better partner to get on to developing such an ambitious and a critical ecosystem of semiconductor than Japan," Rohit Berry, President - Strategy, Risk and Transactions, Deloitte India, said.

He said that the semiconductor story in the country is not just about setting up one factory, but it is about that entire ecosystem. "And that is where many Japanese companies who have set up such ecosystems in Japan or in any other places are going to be absolutely critical to set it up (in India). So this is the vision.

This is a grand plan. This is the investment. This is the commitment," he added. Berry also said that developing the right kind of partnerships between Indian and Japanese firms are fundamental for the growth of the sector.

"This is not a one year game, it's not a two year game. This will basically benefit us and Japan for generations," he noted. He also emphasised that the government incentive program on a sustained basis will also be a key factor for the sector's growth in India. When asked if Japanese firms are looking for any specific support measures from states, he said that a "centre-state partnership, together with the private and Japanese partnership, all four of them coming together will be a prerequisite to create a once in a lifetime setup".

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



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mother Dairy on Tuesday said it has signed an agreement with the National Cooperative Organics Ltd (NCOL) to exclusively distribute the latter's organic

products under the 'Bharat Organics' brand in Delhi-NCR.

In a statement, Mother Dairy said it has "signed up with 'Bharat Organics' as the exclusive distribution partner for their range of organic

staples to the Delhi NCR market."

Under the initiative, Mother Dairy will ensure distribution of packed and certified brand 'Bharat Organics' produce for consumers across NCR through its network of booths across the region. The collaboration marks the launch of 'Bharat Organics Atta' and 'Bharat Organics Sweetener (Jaggery)' in the NCR market.

"With this partnership, Mother Dairy aims to build a healthier and more sustainable India. By combining NCOL's expertise in organic farming with our extensive distribution

network and deep consumer trust, we are uniquely positioned to bridge the gap between premium organic products and affordability," Mother Dairy Managing Director Manish Bandish said.

Mother Dairy has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NCOL to distribute the 'Bharat Organics' brand across multiple channels and geographies.

The Bharat Organics range will be made available at 300 Safal stores and around 10,000 general trade outlets in Delhi NCR, as well as through modern trade and e-

commerce platforms.

Vipul Mittal, Managing Director of NCOL, said "Atta is just the beginning. Our vision is to offer an entire basket of organic staples that cater to the daily needs, while ensuring fair returns for organic farmers."

Mother Dairy was commissioned in 1974. It is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).

Mother Dairy is a leading dairy player which manufactures, markets & sells milk and milk products including cultured products, ice creams, paneer, ghee, etc.

Under the 'Mother Dairy' brand.

The company also has a diversified portfolio with products in edible oils under the 'Dhara' brand and fresh fruits & vegetables, frozen vegetables & snacks, unpolished pulses, pulps & concentrates, etc. Under the 'Safal' brand.

NCOL is a multistate cooperative society, supported by NDDB, NAFED, NCDC, GCMF Ltd, and NCCF. It has been formed to promote organic farming through the cooperative model, creating organic clusters, and ensuring fair trade practices.

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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



matches be held, Mahantesh informed that they have zeroed in on two countries. "Pakistan's visually challenged women's team will be based either in

Nepal or in Sri Lanka for the entire duration of the tournament," he stated. "The Indian team will travel to Nepal or Sri Lanka to play against

them. The cost of the entire event will be borne by our cricket board. We will pay for Pakistan team's entire stay in either of these two countries," he added.

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



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

PTI ■ STAVANGER

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

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



Australian Tennis Legend Neale Fraser Passes Away At 91

AP ■ MELBOURNE

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

champion, and a Davis Cup icon," Laver posted. "Neale bested me in 2 major finals, pushing me to become a better player. I'll miss you dearly, buddy." Fraser helped Australia win four consecutive Davis Cup titles as a player and rejected lucrative offers to turn professional in a quest to succeed Harry Hopman as the national team captain. "That ambition was fulfilled in 1970 and he remained in the position until 1993, helming 24 Davis Cup campaigns during which Australia won the title four times," Tennis Australia said. "Generations of players were inspired by his leadership including John Newcombe, John Fitzgerald and Pat Cash." Fraser was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1984. In 2008 Fraser was awarded the International Tennis Federation's Philippe Chatrier Award for outstanding achievement in the sport.

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

AP ■ RIYADH

Cristiano Ronaldo was absent when Al-Nassr lost for the first time in the AFC Champions League Elite, to Al-Sadd of Qatar 2-1 on Monday. Al-Nassr was already guaranteed a place in the round of 16 so Ronaldo, who has five goals in his last three matches, was rested. He watched from the sidelines. Al-Sadd took the lead through Akram Afif, named the Asian player of the year in November, eight minutes after the break. While Sadio Mane and Anderson Talisca went close for Al-Nassr, an own goal from close range by Romain Saiss made it 1-1 with 10 minutes remaining. However, Afif was brought



down in the area and, in the ninth minute of added time, Algeria's Adam Ounas converted the penalty. The win ensured 2011 champion Al-Sadd booked a place in the round of 16, moving into fourth in the 12-team group, a point behind

Al-Nassr in third. The top eight from each of the two groups progress to the knockout stage. "It was a tough and close game," Al-Sadd coach Felix Sanchez said. "We worked hard to stop Al-Nassr having the ball, and to win at their

home stadium. The players showed their character." Al-Ahli was first in the group after the Saudi Arabian side was held by Esteghlal of Iran to 2-2. Ivan Toney scored both goals for the host in Jeddah. Raphael Silva opened the scoring for the Tehran team after 42 minutes but Toney made it 1-1 just before the break from the spot. Mohammad Hossein Eslami restored Esteghlal's lead six minutes after the restart but Toney scored his second penalty four minutes from the end, a fourth goal in Asia for the England striker in the space of a week. Elsewhere, Persepolis of Iran beat Al-Shorta of Iraq 2-1, while Al-Wasl of the United Arab Emirates drew with Al-Rayyan of Qatar 1-1.

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

PTI ■ BENGALURU

The Indian junior women's hockey team departed for Muscat on Tuesday to defend its Asia Cup title which would also help the side qualify for next year's FIH Junior World Cup. The Junior Asia Cup is scheduled to be held from December 7 to 15 and India will begin their campaign against Bangladesh on Sunday. The top three teams in the showpiece will make the cut for the World Cup scheduled in Santiago, Chile. India will be up against China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh in Pool A while Pool B will feature South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong and Sri Lanka. India's campaign will be spearheaded by captain Jyoti



Singh along with vice captain Sakshi Rana and the squad also features players who have had the experience of playing with the senior side. These players are Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo, Mumtaz Khan, Deepika and Beauty Dungdung. The team is being coached by former India captain Tushar Khandker. "We are very confident and upbeat about our campaign. We have a good, experienced team. We have worked hard

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

Arne Slot aims cheeky dig at Manchester City

AP ■ LIVERPOOL

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



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

Mollie Marcoux Samaan stepping down as LPGA commissioner

AP ■ FLORIDA

Mollie Marcoux Samaan is resigning in January as LPGA commissioner, a surprise announcement Monday after record growth in prize money along with criticism the LPGA wasn't gaining in popularity during the surge in women's sports. Marcoux Samaan is leaving on Jan. 9, three weeks before the LPGA begins its 75th season. Liz Moore, the chief legal and technology officer, will be interim commissioner until a search committee hires a new one. Marcoux Samaan did not cite a specific reason for resigning except to mention spending more time with her three children. She will serve the third-shortest stint among nine LPGA commissioners dating to 1975, behind only

Jim Ritts (1996-99) and Bill Blue (1988-90). "With the LPGA positioned for continued growth, it's time for me to have more time to cheer on our three amazing children as they live their dreams while I continue to pursue my passion for building leaders, uniting communities and creating value through sports, particularly women's sports," Marcoux Samaan said in a statement. The LPGA said prize money increased by more than 90% under Marcoux Samaan, a big part of that the major championships. The five majors had a combined prize fund of \$23.4 million in 2021. Next year, the majors combine to offer at least \$47.8 million in prize money. She announced the end of her tenure a week after the

season-ending CME Group Tour Championship awarded \$4 million to the winner, Jeeno Thitikul, from an \$11 million purse. "Since joining the LPGA in 2021, Mollie has been instrumental in solidifying our position as the global leader in women's professional golf, realizing record growth in player earnings and fan engagement," said John B. Veihmeyer, chairman of the LPGA board. "Mollie has been a steadfast advocate for equity in the sport and has worked tirelessly to expand opportunities for women and girls through the game." The LPGA said the average earnings for the top 100 players topped \$1 million this year, compared with an average of just over \$570,000 in 2021. Women's sports across the



landscape has seen a spike in money and interest, though Marcoux Samaan was criticized for the LPGA not getting enough attention behind remarkable story lines this year. Nelly Korda tied an LPGA record with five straight wins, and Lydia Ko

won Olympic gold to qualify for the LPGA Hall of Fame, and then won another major at the Women's British Open at St. Andrews. The Americans also won the Solheim Cup, but not without a transportation mess on the opening day at the Robert

Trent Jones Golf Club in Virginia when there were not enough buses for spectators and many of them waited hours before they could get in, missing the opening tee shot that typically feature packed grandstands and raucous cheering. Marcoux Samaan pointed to growth in defending her job when some of the criticism was raised at the season-ending tournament. "I focus every day on trying to support the athletes, to try to grow the tour, and to try to make this the best place in the world to play and to give additional opportunities to girls and women. So I feel like the statistics really speak for themselves," she said at the Tour Championship. "I think we're experiencing enormous growth. That's really what my job is."

Along with huge increases in earnings, Marcoux Samaan announced full subsidized health care for the LPGA. She was the first in its history. She also was behind stipends for missing the cut and domestic travel in a bid to make sure players were adequately compensated. Official prize money for the LPGA in 2025 is \$127.5 million. Terry Duffy, the chairman and CEO of CME Group, signed a two-year extension of the LPGA deal. In an interview with Golfweek, he gave Marcoux Samaan high marks. "I don't know how you could not give A++ to where the tour is at today under her leadership," Duffy said. "I run markets. I don't care if you're running a business at a hardware store or an

exchange or professional golf, there's ebbs and flows to everything in life and everything in business. ... If you're worth more today than you were 10 years ago or three years ago, you're doing the right things." Marcoux Samaan was the ninth commissioner — and second female commissioner — when she left her role as athletic director at Princeton. Marcoux Samaan replaced Mike Whan, who took over in 2010 when players revolted and ousted Carolyn Bivens. Whan brought high energy and a big personality during his 11 years, making him the longest-serving LPGA commissioner in history. The LPGA board will firm up with an executive search firm to conduct a global search for the organisation's next commissioner.

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

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

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

With their backs against the wall, India came out all guns blazing in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series opener at Perth to win by a massive 295 runs with Bumrah (5/30 and 3/42) ripping apart Australia's batting in each innings.

The heavy margin of defeat left Australia looking for answers as their batters flopped collectively, leaving their famed bowling attack with a lot to do.

"He's obviously a fantastic bowler; (he) has been for a number of years. Our batters are world class as well and always find ways to come up with

solutions," Carey told the media. "We've had a look at him now. Hopefully we can combat that first, second spell. Get him bowling a little bit deeper in the innings with an older ball."

"We saw Travis (Head) sort of counterpunch a bit (in the second innings). I trust our batters, we'll find a way not only (against) Bumrah. They played a couple of other debutantes who bowled well as well," Carey said.

After Australia were set an improbable 534 to win, Josh Hazlewood had invited the media to ask their batters how they planned to go about in the second innings, sparking rumours of a rift between the batting and bowling groups.

Carey, however, declined there was any tensions in the dressing room.

"If you ask the batters, we all want to perform better and (as) cricketers, you go out there to score a hundred and if you don't



do that, I think you're at times disappointed," Carey said.

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

Carey said Australia's resounding loss at Perth sparked a "big reaction externally" but maintained that the team will stick to its processes.

"It's quite a big reaction externally for one Test loss. Internally, we don't feel that. We didn't play the way we would have liked to have played."

"We know (that) over four or five Test matches, (if) we keep rocking up and playing our style of cricket we will have the success. We've had that success to, I guess, call upon the method does work."

"We're calm internally, we're excited to get back out and play a better style of cricket and we've

got that opportunity come Friday."

Carey did not want to draw much attention to the last contest here in which India were shot out for their lowest-ever Test total of 36.

"There are obviously amazing days in cricketing history but we don't expect to go out there and do that again. We have a process and a plan that we try to execute and whatever happens, happens. I was not here for that Test match."

Australia have never lost a pink ball Test in Adelaide, in fact they have only lost once in day and night fixture.

"We are excited. We take a lot of confidence for our record in pink-ball cricket — it doesn't mean we will have the success but (with) our methods, our style of play and the experience we have in this group we'll bounce back from Perth," he added.

The two teams will take on each other in the second Test, starting here from Friday.

New Zealand penalised WTC points, drop to fifth in table

PTI ■ DUBAI

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

The deduction is a welcome news for India, who enjoy pole position with 61.11 percentage points.

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

"The race to feature at next year's ICC World Test Championship Final at Lord's has taken a twist with



New Zealand and England sanctioned for maintaining a slow over-rate during the opening Test of their series in "Christchurch," the ICC said in a statement.

"Both teams were fined 15 percent of their match fees and penalised three crucial World Test Championship competition points, adding more intrigue to the thrilling final stages of the ongoing cycle," it further stated.

While England are already out of contention of reaching next year's final despite the impressive eight-wicket triumph at Hagley Oval, the loss in competition points is a major blow to New Zealand who drop from equal fourth to outright fifth on the standings as a result.

It means the inaugural World Test Championship winners face a tough ask to qualify for next year's one-

off Test in June 2025, with two wins against England and several other results also needing to go their way if they are to reach the Lord's decider.

New Zealand and England were both found to have three overs short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration, with sides penalised one point for each over they were found to be short.

Both captains - Tom Latham of New Zealand and Ben Stokes of England - pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing.

On-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Rod Tucker, third umpire Adrian Holdstock and fourth official Kim Cotton levelled the charges, with David Boon of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees imposing the sanctions.

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

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

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

The stalemate, which came after five hours and 22 minutes of nerve-wracking play, left both players on an identical tally of 3.5 points each, still shy of four more points in order to win the championship.

The two players signed peace after 72 moves.

It turned out to be a tough day in office again for Liren, who was staring at a losing position for a long time, till Gukesh blundered. The Indian, playing white, got a huge advantage but miscalculated to let the Chinese off the hook in what was the longest game of the match thus far.

It was a miraculous save by Liren after getting into what the chess pundits termed as a lost rook and minor piece endgame. Earlier in the day, Gukesh yet again tightened the noose in the opening. He has clearly been the better player when it's come to springing opening surprises.

Moving his knight forward on the first



move, the Indian faced the Neo Grunfeld defense from Liren, and as early as on the seventh turn, Gukesh came up with a surprise idea. Liren, who seemed to have solved his opening problems in the last couple of games, was at the receiving end on Tuesday, and even though he chose normal continuation, white's position remained preferable.

Gukesh exerted pressure through the centre and got a dangerous-looking passed pawn in the early stages of the middle game, with the advantage of the bishop pair only adding to Liren's woes.

The middle game saw inaccuracies from

both sides, and it seemed that Liren was close to obtaining equality. However, the process had yet again eaten up most of Liren's available time as the players are required to make the first 40 moves in two hours without any increment.

Gukesh went for the trade of queens after fracturing black's pawn structure on the king side as the Indian got an indisputable advantage. As has happened so many times in the past, the 40th move proved to be jinxed yet again as Liren lost a pawn. The Chinese either underestimated Gukesh's chances or it was an oversight. Despite the advantage, Gukesh still had to go through the technicalities, which has not been his forte here. Gukesh's 45th move was not the best and Liren slowly clawed back into the game with some really resourceful play. The tenacity of the Chinese came to the fore in the second time control also after he was left with just four minutes with a 30-second increment after each move is made.

Todd Greenberg appointed new Cricket Australia CEO

PTI ■ MELBOURNE

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

Green, who is the current chief executive officer of the Australian Cricketers' Association, will assume the role from March.

Hockley, who was appointed in 2020 initially on an interim basis, had announced in August that he would step down from the post at the end of the current domestic season.

Greenberg has previously worked with Cricket New South Wales. A top-order batter, he played 10 seasons for Randwick CC in Sydney.

Apart from serving as the CEO of NRL, Greenberg also worked with NRL club Canterbury-Bankstown Bulldogs before joining the ACA in January 2021.

"This is an extremely exciting time for cricket with the rapid growth of the



game across the globe creating fantastic opportunities, while also presenting some challenges to ensure Australian cricket retains its position at the very peak of the game," Greenberg was quoted as saying by cricket.Com.Au.

"Thanks to the work of the current administration the game has strong fundamentals in place. I want to ensure we build on this momentum so Australian cricket continues to thrive -

from local parks to the nation's biggest stadiums," he added.

As CEO of the ACA, Greenberg worked closely with Hockley and the two reached an amicable agreement on the current Memorandum of Understanding for cricket, which outlines the distribution of wealth within the game and resulted in a significant increase in women's remuneration.

"We are entering a period of great opportunity and the recruitment panel and CA Board was enormously impressed by Todd's passion for cricket and his vision to build on the achievements of the past few years and continue the game's growth," CA chairman Mike Baird said.

"I would like to thank Nick Hockley who will leave the game in a position of great strength at the end of the season with important foundations including our broadcast rights deal, MOU and seven-year content strategy in place," he added.

Gilchrist advises Australian batters to stay longer at crease

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

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

The swashbuckling former keeper-batter also backed the out-of-form Marnus Labuschagne to regain form.

After Bumrah scythed through the Australian batting line-up, taking eight wickets including a five-for in the first innings at Perth, Gilchrist advised the hosts to "weather the storm."

Steve Smith and Labuschagne, the team's two batting mainstays, flopped in the series opener and that did not help Australia's cause.

"Marnus had the onus to do that (stay at crease) and tried at good effect to nullify 50-odd deliveries. So, if you face an average of 50 deliveries

every Test innings, you're probably going to be on the right side of the ledger more than you're on the wrong side of it," Gilchrist was quoted as saying by Nine's Wide World of Sports.

"He just couldn't find a way to score and maybe that's what (the Australians) as a collective will look to try and

do.

"It will bring with it risk, for sure, but it is a risk for reward."

Queenslander Labuschagne has been struggling for runs in recent months and now finds himself under immense pressure to retain his place in the side.

Gilchrist attributed

Labuschagne's poor run of form to conditions and the quality of bowlers in the opposition camp, and didn't see it as a technical issue.

"I'm sure the people around him are already doing this but he needs to be reminded that he is a class act," Gilchrist said of Labuschagne.

Alastair Cook Praises India for being 'Brave' in Perth Test

PTI ■ LONDON

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

Cook, a former captain and the first England batter to make 10,000 runs in Test cricket, praised India for their remarkable comeback after getting bowled out for just 150 in the first Test at Perth.

"I thought India was so brave. I thought that first, you know, they win the toss and bat on that wicket, you look there, even though there's only 150

they got, the thought process to say, 'we're going to take Australia on there. We know it's going to be hard, but we think it's going to be hard for both sides only, and then it'll be a one-innings game,'" Cook said on TNT Sports.

He added, "I think most captains would have bowled first, certainly would have done and probably got the end of a bad result, like normally in Australia. But India took it on brilliantly. It was just an all-round fantastic performance."

"You think... Bowled out for 150, you think we're struggling here, but to bounce back when you've got Boomer (Jasprit Bumrah) up with the new ball on those kinds of wickets, he's always going to be outstanding and backed up by team."

Captaining the team in the

absence of Rohit Sharma, pace spearhead Bumrah came up with a magnificent performance to grab eight wickets, including a first-innings five-for, to lead India to a memorable win.

Speaking about India's move to exclude the senior off-spinner Ashwin from the playing XI, Cook said, "... Just think of how brave they were? They didn't bother playing Ashwin who has got 500 Test wickets. They've kind of played a couple of like, not makes you spinners, but you know, I thought Ashwin would have been outstanding, but you know, great thinking by them."

"And isn't it nice to see Australia get thrashed?"

Cook lauded the "classy" Yashvi Jaiswal for the manner in which he dominated the

formidable Australian pace attack and said he wouldn't have told the menacing Mitchell Starc he is bowling too slow even if he was.

After failing to open his account in the first innings of the series opener, Jaiswal adapted to the conditions beautifully and played a brilliant 161-run knock in the second essay, his maiden century on Australian soil.

During the second day of the match, Jaiswal told Starc, "It's coming too slow", with his confidence attracting the attention of many in the cricket world, including the former England captain, who had been a prolific scorer in Tests for a prolonged period.

"We've seen his celebration enough here, but it's more enjoyable against Australia than

England, certainly," Cook said, referring to Jaiswal's phenomenal run in the Test series against England, when he amassed over 700 runs.

He added, "And sledging Mitchell Starc, saying at a certain stage, I think he wasn't on 100, he wasn't on anything on a major score, but he's telling him you're bowling slow. And I've faced Mitchell Starc and he certainly doesn't bowl slow. And if he was bowling slow, I'd keep my mouth shut and not wind him up, but have the confidence to do that as a 22-year-old."

"I think he scored the most runs as any Indian player up to after 15 Test matches at the top of the order, which I'll keep saying it, no one else believes me, it's the hardest place to bat. What a classy player he is."

ARYAVART BANK		आर्यावर्त बैंक	
(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India)		(संयुक्त संघटक, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इण्डिया का संयुक्त संघटक)	
Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan 569/20/K/1 Sneh Nagar V.I.P Road Opp Awadh Hospital Alambagh Lucknow			
Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)			
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned below the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipt said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower/legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower/legal Heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets			
Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-			
Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Rs.	Armt. due as per demand notice Date Demand Notice Date of Possession
Borrower & Mortgage: Mr. Ramesh Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Jagdish Chandra Sharma, Village - Narauna, Post - Kakori, Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot part of Khasra No. 432, Narauna Pargana- Kakori, Tehsil & District- Lucknow, TITLE HOLDER- Mr. Ramesh Kumar Sharma S/o Late Jagdish Chandra Sharma & Mrs. Suman Sharma W/o Mr. Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Details of Property As Per Sale Deed Dated 15.05.2019, Boundaries: East: House of Jitendra Pal, West: Rasta 20' Wide, North: Satish Sharma, South: Rasta 20' Wide Area: 92.936 Sqm.	11,49,232.66 and interest thereon	20.08.2024 02.12.2024
Co-Borrower & Mortgage: Mrs. Suman Sharma W/o Ramesh Kumar Sharma, Village- Narauna, Post- Kakori, Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot part of land, Ambekar Nagar, Itifateganj Uttar Pradesh- 224145	Rs. 10,71,629.51 and interest thereon	20.08.2024 02.12.2024
Guarantor: 1. Mr. Amar Bahadur S/o Mr. Ghanashyam, New-6, Salempur Pataura Post- Kakori Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot part of land, Ambekar Nagar, Itifateganj Uttar Pradesh- 224145	Rs. 14,23,435.71 and interest thereon	20.08.2024 02.12.2024
2. Mr. Vijay Gautam S/o Mr. Devta Prasad, Village - Narauna Post- Kakori Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot part of Khasra No. 426, Narauna, Pargana- Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, TITLE HOLDER- Mr. Ghanashyam S/o Late Raghunath, Details of Property As Per Sale Deed Dated 12.12.2017, Boundaries: East: Aaraji Seller, West: Rasta 20' Wide, North: Plot Manisha, South: Plot Vinod Kumar Area: 185.873 Sqm.	14,23,435.71 and interest thereon	20.08.2024 02.12.2024
Branch : Khushhalganj	Branch : Khushhalganj		
Borrower & Mortgage: Mr. Ghanashyam S/o Late Raghunath, New E-6, Salempur Pataura Post- Kakori Lucknow-227107	Residential Property: Plot part of Khasra No. 426, Narauna, Pargana- Kakori, Tehsil & District-Lucknow, TITLE HOLDER- Mr. Ghanashyam S/o Late Raghunath, Details of Property As Per Sale Deed Dated 12.12.2017, Boundaries: East: Aaraji Seller, West: Rasta 20' Wide, North: Plot Manisha, South: Plot Vinod Kumar Area: 185.873 Sqm.	Rs. 14,23,435.71 and interest thereon	20.08.2024 02.12.2024
Guarantor: 1. Mr. Kanhaiya Lal S/o Mr. Nanhe Lal, Village- Narauna Post- Kakori Lucknow-227107			
2. Mrs. Laxmi Devi W/o Mr. Ghanashyam, Village-Salempur Pataura Post- Kakori Lucknow-227107			
Branch : Khushhalganj	Branch : Khushhalganj		
Date : 04.12.2024	Place : Lucknow	Authorised Officer	

Although every possible care and caution has been taken to avoid errors or omissions, this publication is being sold on the condition and understanding that information given in this publication is merely for reference and must not be taken as having authority of or binding in any way on the writers, editors, publishers, and printers and sellers who do not owe any responsibility for any damage or loss to a purchaser of this publication or not for the result of any action taken on the basis of this work. All disputes are subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of competent court and forums in Lucknow only. Readers are advised and requested to verify and seek appropriate advice to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any kind of advertisement before responding to any contents published in this newspaper. The printer, publisher, editor and any employee of the Pioneer Group's will not be held responsible for any kind of claim made by the advertisers of the products & services and shall not be made responsible for any kind of loss, consequences and further product-related damages on such advertisements.