





# STF busts gang involved in 'digital arrest' scam

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), Lucknow, claimed to have arrested three accused linked to an organised gang involved in defrauding people by impersonating officers from major law enforcement agencies like the CBI, Narcotics, and Crime Branch. The accused used 'digital arrest' method to extort money from their victims. The arrests were made after an extensive investigation into the gang's fraudulent activities, leading to significant recoveries of cash and evidence. Those arrested were identified as Shyam (27) from New Delhi, Harshal (33) from Shahdara (Delhi), and Puneet Sharma aka Gagan (25) from Gandhinagar, Delhi. The STF recovered valuable items during the arrests, which took place on December 3, 2024, under the right-track bridge of the road descending from the Agra Expressway towards Lucknow. The STF recovered three mobile phones, one Aadhaar card, six credit/debit cards, screenshots of 111 WhatsApp pages containing bank account details used in the fraud, information related to a fraud kit, and Rs 380 in cash. The STF's investigation began after a complaint was filed by Dr Ashok Solanki, a resident of Lucknow, at the Cyber Crime

police station. Dr Solanki had fallen victim to the gang, losing Rs 48 lakh to individuals who impersonated CBI, Narcotics, or Crime Branch officers. These fraudsters "digitally arrested" him for two days, convincing him that he was under investigation. Following this, the STF gathered intelligence and analysed technical data to track the suspects. The investigation led to the arrest of five other suspects in Gurugram, Haryana, on November 14, 2024, and two more in Lucknow on November 16, 2024. During interrogation, Shyam revealed that in February 2024, he had been contacted by Karan aka Nagesh through a Telegram group. Nagesh explained the various fraudulent schemes the group was involved in, including gaming fraud, stock fraud, mixing, and scamming. Each type of fraud had a different commission structure, ranging from 2% for gaming to 30% for scamming. The fraudsters relied on obtaining personal details from their victims, such as bank account information, Aadhaar numbers, and ATM card details. When the victims didn't provide a SIM card, an app was installed on their phone through an APK file to intercept text messages. Shyam further disclosed that Pankaj Surela, who had trained

in Cambodia under the guidance of Suresh Sain, played a key role in the operation. Surela, working with a Chinese cyber fraud gang, helped launder the stolen funds through multiple layers before transferring them to the gang members. The fraudsters used corporate accounts to receive and transfer large sums, making it difficult to trace the money. The gang has been involved in several high-profile scams. In August 2024, they defrauded Rs 8 crore from a hotel in Sector 52, Noida, using a corporate account at ICICI Bank. Between August and September 2024, they stole Rs 1.5 crore from Jaipur. In October and November 2024, they fraudulently transferred Rs 15 crore from Mohan Garden, Delhi, into a Canara Bank account, and Rs 3 crore from Kerala through a Yes Bank corporate account. Harshal and Gagan corroborated Shyam's statements, explaining how the fraudsters would facilitate the digital arrests and move the stolen funds through layers of transactions, converting them into cash or cryptocurrency. The STF is continuing to investigate the matter and is working to verify the bank accounts and digital wallets mentioned by the suspects. Forensic analysis will also be conducted on the recovered electronic devices to gather additional evidence.

# 7-year-old boy meets tragic end

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A seven-year-old boy died after was thrown off the bike he was riding as it collided with a girl and his head struck a sewer lid in Indiranagar police station area. His father and a teenager were also injured in the incident. The deceased, Satvik (7) aka Shiva, was riding on the fuel tank of the motorcycle driven by his father Santosh Tripathi, a resident of Kamta, Chinhhat. Santosh, a lab technician at Amity University, was on his way to visit his brother Rajesh in Khurram Nagar. His wife Supriya, and son Satvik were with him. At around 3:30 pm, their bike collided with 17-year-old Amaira, who was standing on the road near Kalyan Apartment, close to the Khurram Nagar intersection. The impact caused the bike to topple, throwing Satvik off it. He fell onto a sewer lid, and his head collided with it, resulting in instant death. Santosh and Amaira suffered serious injuries, while Supriya sustained minor injuries. Santosh's father Rakesh suggested that an unidentified vehicle might have struck the bike, causing Santosh to lose control. Amaira is receiving treatment at Lohia Hospital. According to the Indiranagar inspector, action will be taken once the complaint is filed. In a separate incident, a bike-borne advocate died after being hit by a speeding car in the PGI

police station area on Tuesday morning. The accused driver has been arrested. The victim, Ajay Yadav (32), from Rajiv Nagar Ghosiana in Telibagh, had gone to drop off his father Ram Sajeevan, who works in the Central Ordnance Department (COD) and had recently come home on leave, at the fruit market. After dropping his father at the market, Ajay was turning his bike to head home when an uncontrolled car coming from the opposite direction hit his bike in the PGI police station area. The impact threw Ajay onto the road. Police rushed him to hospital, where doctors declared him dead. The accused driver, Ashutosh, a resident of Telibagh, has been arrested, and the car has been seized. Meanwhile, three people, including a 12-year-old boy, were killed after an auto-rickshaw was hit by an unidentified vehicle in Banda district, officials said on Wednesday. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Shivraj said the incident took place near Jamrehi village late Tuesday night. "Around 11 pm, a CNG auto was struck by an unidentified vehicle near Jamrehi village. The crash resulted in the deaths of the auto driver Pradeep Singh (20), Saddhu Singh (40), and a 12-year-old boy named Amit," the ASP said. The boy's father, Ramanehi (30), was seriously injured and has been referred to Kanpur for treatment, he said.

# Man duped of ₹40 lakh by impostor promising contract

**Lucknow (PNS):** A man claiming to be a review officer at the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat's library and a close relative of a former Uttar Pradesh Assembly speaker allegedly defrauded his acquaintance of Rs 40 lakh under the pretense of facilitating a woodwork contract for Vidhan Bhawan. The incident took place in the Mahanagar locality, where the victim, Raju Gupta, operates a tea stall in Gopal Purva village. Raju, who also takes up woodwork contracts with his brother-in-law Veeru, a resident of Old Mahanagar, was promised the project and handed over the money. Raju gave Rs 40 lakh as commission to Praveesh Kumar Mishra, a resident of Siddharth Nagar district, based on the promise of securing a Rs 5 crore woodwork tender for Vidhan Bhawan. This commission was paid in response to Mishra's demand of Rs 50 lakh for securing the tender. Police have filed an FIR and are investigating the mat-

ter. According to Raju, Praveesh Kumar Mishra claimed to be a review officer at the Secretariat library and introduced him to Vijay Kumar Pandey. Mishra frequently visited Raju's tea stall, engaging in long conversations with both Raju and his brother-in-law Veeru. During these meetings, Mishra allegedly told Raju that he was a relative of a former UP Assembly speaker, who also held a prominent position in the opposition party. He further claimed to have familial ties with a deputy secretary in the Vidhan Sabha Secretariat, and assured Raju that he could help secure the Rs 5 crore woodwork contract for Veeru. Raju paid Rs 40 lakh in several instalments through net banking and cash, believing the contract would be awarded. "We agreed to give him the commission with the understanding that he would first provide us with post-dated

cheques as a guarantee for a refund if the contract was not awarded," Raju explained. Mishra provided Raju with five cheques from different bank accounts in his name. He also allegedly showed fake tender documents, convincing Raju that the tender was legitimate. However, when the contract was not awarded, Raju grew suspicious and began questioning Mishra. Veeru's inquiry into the matter revealed that no such tender had been issued by the Vidhan Sabha. When confronted, Mishra initially promised to return the money but later began threatening Raju and Veeru. Mahanagar Inspector Akhilesh Mishra confirmed that an FIR had been filed against Praveesh Kumar Mishra following the victim's complaint. "We are collecting evidence related to the allegations. Further action will be taken based on the evidence," the inspector said.

# Constable deletes 116 vehicle challans

**Lucknow (PNS):** Following the shocking incident of missing pages from the prosecution diary at Chowk police station, another controversy has emerged involving a constable from Lucknow's Traffic Directorate, who reportedly deleted 116 vehicle challans without authorisation. The issue came to light when an error was discovered in the challan of a vehicle registered in Unnao. As a result, a complaint was filed against the accused constable at the Sushant Golf City police station. Anand Kumar, the IT cell in-charge at Traffic Line, Lucknow, explained that on October 25, Constable Mukesh Rajput from Unnao informed Aditya Dubey, who works in the Lucknow office. Mukesh reported that on October 24, 2024, a challan for vehicle number UP35 Q7005 had been deleted from the

Traffic Directorate's user ID, utp@nic.in. Since these tasks are typically handled by the NIC (National Informatics Centre) and not the Traffic Directorate, an inquiry was conducted with the NIC. It was revealed that 116 challans had been wrongly deleted and removed from court records using this user ID. The investigation uncovered that Ajay Sharma, who works in the IT cell, was responsible for deleting the challans and releasing them from court without informing any officers. As a result, Ajay Sharma has been suspended, and an FIR has been filed against him for fraud. Meanwhile, a youth ended his life by jumping into the Gomti river on Wednesday morning following a heated argument with his mother over his alcohol consumption. The deceased, identified as

Bablu aka Barkau, a labourer and resident of Hazratganj, reportedly left his home after the altercation, declaring his intention to commit suicide. At around 11:30 am, he jumped into the river near the Nishatganj bridge. Police, with the help of divers, rescued Bablu and rushed him to the civil hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival. Kanhaiya Prasad, a local resident, stated that Bablu had been struggling with alcohol addiction. He mentioned that Bablu had approached him at a temple earlier that morning and handed over the money he had, instructing him to give it to his mother. Bablu's family includes his 80-year-old mother Chanda and his married siblings—three sisters and one brother. The police have launched a probe into the incident.

# Govt to pay musical tribute to Dr Ambedkar on Dec 6

**Lucknow (PNS):** The Uttar Pradesh government is set to commemorate the Mahaparinirvana Diwas of Babasaheb Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar with a series of cultural programmes on December 6. A musical tribute, showcasing the cultural richness of India and paying homage to Dr

Ambedkar's unparalleled contributions to the nation, will be organised. The Culture department has finalised all preparations for the event. Scheduled from 4 pm to 8 pm, the event will feature performances by artists from Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai, and other states, highlighting themes

related to the Constitution and Dr Ambedkar's legacy at Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Memorial in Gomti Nagar. The cultural evening will also include a captivating performance by Mumbai-based sisters Rasika and Kritika Borkar, accompanied by their team. Additionally, Rahul Haribhau Dange Anvilkar from Aurangabad will present a musical tribute, singing about the life

and contributions of Dr Ambedkar. The programme will further provide a platform for talented artists from Uttar Pradesh. Among the performers, Agra's Devendra S Mangalamukhi, representing the transgender community, will present a Kathak dance drama. Lucknow's Ramayan and Bhadohi's Ramesh Bhavra will dish out soulful songs dedicated to Dr Ambedkar.

Additionally, Juhi Kumari from Lucknow will present a dance drama, while Santosh Kumar from Lucknow and Rajaram Bharti from Maharajganj will perform songs paying tribute to Dr Ambedkar. Dhananjay Paswan from Lucknow will also deliver a musical performance, shedding light on Dr Ambedkar's contributions and the facts of the Constitution through his singing.

CLASSIFIEDS

### NOTICE

This is inform that by mistake, my name SUBHASH CHAND YADAV has been registered in the school records of my son Harshit Yadav, which is wrong. My correct name is SUBASH CHAND YADAV. Subash Chand Yadav R/o Village Barsawanpur, Post Mainul, District Azamgarh.

### AUCTION NOTICE

दिनांक 20-12-2024 एवं 21-12-2024 को प्रातः 10:00 बजे ए. एम. सी. सेक्टर एण्ड कोलेज (सी. क्यू. एम. डिपार्टमेंट), नील लाइन्स, लखनऊ में एल. पी. ग्रान्ट स्टोर्स के निष्प्रेषण घोषित सामग्रियों की नीलामी, सिविलीटी रु.10,000/- **बैकग्रेड क्लॉकेट**, ए. एम. सी. सेक्टर एण्ड कोलेज, लखनऊ के नाम, फर्म के जी.एस.टी. पंजीकरण, फैनकार्ड, आधार के साथ जमा करना होगा / आई. पी. सिंह एण्ड सन्स.

### NOTICE

I Sanowar Islam D/o Vaqarul Islam Siddiqui R/o D-41 Defence Colony Jajmau Kanpur Nagar, have changed my name Sanowar Hasan to Sanowar Islam for all future purposes

### NOTICE

In my passport B5237909, my name is mentioned as SHAMREEN D/O RAISH AHMAD, address 4/305, Karimulla Colony, Subhash Nagar, Shuklaganj, Unnao. While in my other documents, my name is mentioned as SAMREEN KHAN D/O RAEES AHAMAD, address 131/127, Begampurwa, T.P. Nagar, PO TP Nagar, Kanpur Nagar (UP) 208023. Both names, addresses belong to the same person.

### NOTICE

I informed that my daughter's name changed from Aadvika Singh to Shrutiika Singh. In future, called her Shrutiika Singh till now. Avinash Singh R/o 2B/46 Rail Vihar Colony, Sec. L, Ashiyana, Lucknow

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from FEROZ AHMED TO FIROZ AHMAD S/o Shri IMTIYAZ AHMED R/o M.G - 2/18, KDA Colony, Jajmau, Kanpur Nagar - 10, In future I would be known & recognise by this name only.

### 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 Sahu for all future purposes.

### NOTICE

पहले मेरा नाम Husna Bano उर्फ Husna था जो कि अब Husna Aara पत्नी Irfan Ali निवासिनी 249-K, निजामपुर मल्लौर, विनहट लखनऊ कर लिया है अब से इसी नाम से जाना जाए।

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from Priya Kumari to Priya. In future I will be known by my new name PRIYA only. Priya D/O Pramod Kumar, W/o Yatindra Nath, R/o-3/81, Rajni khand, Sharda Nagar, Raibareilly Road, Lucknow-226002.

### NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
Affidavit before competent officer, I, deponent Manoj Kumar son of Pandit Daya Ram, resident of 42 Barhada, Tehsil Raniganj, Pratapgarh Babu Patti, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh. I solemnly state that the deponent is a resident of the above address. The name of the deponent is Manoj Kumar, which is true and correct and due to mistake the name of the deponent has been recorded as Manoj Kumar Sharma on the birth certificate of the deponent's daughter, which the deponent will correct again and get registered and issued and use it and get the said case gazetted. Verification, I swear that Sections 1 to 2 of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and no facts have been concealed. I have verified the affidavit by signing it today on 21.10.2024. Place-Lucknow.

### NOTICE

I have changed my name from MOHAMMAD NAEEM To MOHD. NAEEM S/o NAFEEES AHMAD R/o- 130/521, Babu purwa Kanpur Nagar. In future I would be known & recognise by this name only.

### NOTICE

पहले मेरा नाम Mohammad Irfan उर्फ Mohd Irfan उर्फ Mohd Ali Irfan था जो कि अब Irfan Ali पुत्र Akhtar Hussain निवासी 249-K, निजामपुर मल्लौर, विनहट लखनऊ कर लिया है अब से इसी नाम से जाना जाए।

# Woman alleges talaq by husband working in Qatar

**Lucknow (PNS):** A man working in Qatar allegedly divorced his wife via a voice message after she opposed his alleged extramarital affair. The voice message from the accused, Ryan, was sent to his wife via WhatsApp. "You will always give me excuses. Now I don't want to live with you. I divorce you. Your politics is over. Masha Allah, now you are free. Do whatever you want. From today, you are blocked from both places," the woman told reporters while quoting her husband. The woman, who lives in Lucknow, alleged that her husband who sent the message from Qatar had been involved in an extramarital affair. "Whenever I protested, he would beat me. Now, he has sent this message to me. We have two small children. Where should I go with them? Who will pay for their education and boarding?" she asked.

She claimed she went to the Bazaar Khala police station, but no FIR was registered. She was sent to the Hazratganj women's police station, where no FIR was registered either. Reshma alleged that her husband continued to threaten her, even after the divorce, claiming he would kill her. The woman recounted that in June 2024, her husband went to Qatar, leaving her and their children to live with her father-in-law in a rented house. After her husband's departure, she claimed her father-in-law began misbehaving, and when she protested, he attacked her with a knife. She tried to file a complaint at the Bazaar Khala police station, but no action was taken. "Life is difficult with both children. I am tired of going to the police station for the last month. Nobody listens to me. My husband has sent people to follow me," she alleged.

# 5 held for raping 19-year-old girl

**Sonbhadra (PTI):** Five men were arrested on Wednesday for allegedly raping a 19-year-old girl, police said. On Saturday, the victim's parents informed the police that their daughter had been missing for a day. Following this, a case was registered and the girl was found on Tuesday, police said. She told the police that the accused -- Neeraj Yadav, Umesh Yadav, Shyam Sundar Yadav, Vimesh Paswan and Bindu Gupta -- took her from her residence and gang-raped her. Additional Superintendent of Police Tribhuvan Nath Tripathi said. Based on her statement, the police on Tuesday registered a case under sections 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 333 (house trespass after preparation for assault, wrongful restraint) and 70(1) (gang rape) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, he said. All five accused were arrested and further investigation is underway, he added.

# CITY BRIEFS

## ILLEGAL DAIRIES REMOVED

A campaign was launched by the Lucknow Municipal Corporation to remove illegal dairies in and around Jankipuram, Rainbow Public School, Vrindavan Vihar Colony and Kalyanpur in zones 3 and 7 on Wednesday. The drive was led by animal welfare officer Dr Abhinav Verma with the help of police force, enforcement team and cattle catching in-charge Abhinav Bharti, Shivak Verma, supervisor Manoj Singh and other employees. A total of 19 bovines were caught on the spot and confined in the shelter home in Thakurganj. Officials said that an application was received through public representatives in the said area. Illegal dairy operators were dumping dung on the road, thereby obstructing the main route and affecting traffic as well as posing the risk of many mosquito-borne infectious diseases.

## SHIP AIMS TO DRIVE RESEARCH TO ADDRESS PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGES

As part of CSIR-IITR's diamond jubilee celebrations, the IITR Diamond Jubilee Elocution Address (IDEA) Series was inaugurated. The inaugural session featured NIMHANS director

## DR PRATIMA MURTHY, WHO DELIVERED A LECTURE ON 'EXPANDING THE ROLE OF ASSESSMENT IN NEUROBEHAVIORAL TOXICITY'

Director of CSIR-IITR Dr Bhaskar Narayan presided over the event and emphasised the importance of interdisciplinary research.

**IDFC FIRST Bank Limited**  
(Formerly 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-A**  
**[See proviso to rule 8 (6) & 9 (1)]**  
**SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) & 9 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002  
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) as per column (iii) that the below described immovable properties as per column (iv) mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" as described hereunder, for the recovery of amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (Formerly known as IDFC Bank Ltd) from Borrower (s) and Co-Borrower (s) as per column (i). For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on IDFC FIRST Bank website i.e. www.idfcfirstbank.com.

S. NO	(i) Demand Notice Amount	(ii) Agreement Id	(iii) Name of Borrower (s), Co-Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s)	(iv) MORTGAGED PROPERTY ADDRESS	(v) Reserve Price Amount	(vi) EMD Amount	(vii) Date and Time of Auction	(viii) Date and Time EMD of Auction	(ix) Date and Time of Inspection	(x) Authorized Officer Name & Contact Number
1	INR 32516444.78/- Demand Notice dated: 21-Sep-2022	47651441	Sanjay Iron Stores, Mangalika Shukla (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Sanjay Shukla), Mangalika Shukla, Shashank Shukla & Shashank Shukla (In The Capacity Of Available Legal Heir Of Late Sanjay Shukla)	All That Piece And Parcel Of House No. 8/83, Admeasuring 344.44 Sq. Mtr. Situated At Arya Nagar, Kanpur, Built On Plot No. 112, Block-M, Scheme-7, Gutaiya, Kanpur Nagar And Bounded As:- East: Plot No.111 (H.No.8/84), West: Plot No.111 (H.No. 8/82), North: 6.09 Mtr Road & South: 4.57 Mtr. Road.	33350000.00/-	3335000.00/-	27-Dec-2024 11:00 AM TO 1:00 PM	26-Dec-2024 10:00 AM TO 5:00 PM	19-Dec-2024 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM	Name- Sujeet Jha Contact Number- 9795811000 Name- Vidyansh Gupta Contact Number- 8899428998

Disclaimer: Please note that the said notice is issued for sale of immovable property only and IDFC FIRST Bank Limited has no right to sale of the movable assets, if any, present at the immovable property.  
Date: 04.12.2024 Place: Kanpur Nagar

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

# कार्यालय : जलकल विभाग नगर निगम, अयोध्या

पत्रांक:-723/जलकलविभागनियम/अयोध्या/ई-निविदा/2024-25 दिनांक:-4/12/2024

ई-निविदा सूचना पत्र  
नगर निगम अयोध्या क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत 02 नग नये बड़े नलकूप अधिष्ठापन कार्य एवं 01 नग नलकूप रिबोरिंग का कार्य कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रण:-

नगर निगम अयोध्या क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत 02 नग नये बड़े नलकूप अधिष्ठापन कार्य एवं 01 नग नलकूप रिबोरिंग का कार्य कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। जलकल विभाग द्वारा समस्त ठेकेदारों को 15वें वित्त आयोग के अन्तर्गत सूचित किया जाता है कि नगर आयुक्त महोदय के द्वारा ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करने हेतु प्रदान की गयी स्वीकृति के क्रम में समस्त ठेकेदारों से उनके कार्य अनुभव के अन्तर्गत नलकूप अधिष्ठापन एवं नलकूप रिबोरिंग का कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा ऑनलाइन वेबसाइट एवं दो दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित की जाती है। समस्त नियम व शर्त वेबसाइट पर देखी जा सकती है। निविदा प्रपत्र के सम्बन्ध में विस्तृत जानकारी ई-प्रक्रियारेन्ट की वेबसाइट [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा के साथ संलग्न की जाने वाली जमानत धनराशि मुख्य वित्त एवं लेखाधिकारी नगर निगम अयोध्या को <https://emdnagarnigam.ayodhya.in/login/Withotp> के माध्यम से सम्बन्धित फर्म के खाते से जमा करना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा प्राप्त निविदा पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। नगर आयुक्त महोदय, नगर निगम अयोध्या को बिना कोई कारण बताये निविदा को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का पूर्ण अधिकार सुरक्षित होगा।

वेबसाइट पर निविदा अपलोड होने की तिथि	06/12/2024 को अपराह्न 03:00 बजे		
निविदा की अन्तिम तिथि	28/12/2024 सायंकाल 05:00 बजे तक		
निविदा खोलने की तिथि	30/12/2024 को 12:00 बजे तक		
क्रॉस-कार्य का नाम	जमानत धनराशि रूपया	निविदा मूल्य+18% G.S.T सहित	कार्य अवधि
01 नगर निगम, अयोध्या क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत नानकपुरा वार्ड के हेदरराज क्षेत्र में 01 नग बड़े नलकूप का अधिष्ठापन एवं इसकी सड़जिंग में विस्तार का कार्य कराने हेतु।	4,42,000.00	5216.00	60 दिवस
02 नगर निगम, अयोध्या क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत महात्मा गांधी वार्ड के बछड़ा सुल्तानपुर में 01 नग बड़े नलकूप का अधिष्ठापन एवं इसकी सड़जिंग में विस्तार का कार्य कराने हेतु।	4,42,000.00	5216.00	60 दिवस
03 नगर निगम, अयोध्या क्षेत्र के अन्तर्गत विक्रमादित्य नगर वार्ड के अंगूरीबाग क्षेत्र में 01 नग नलकूप रिबोरिंग का कार्य कराने हेतु।	3,40,000.00	4012.00	45 दिवस

महाप्रबन्धक (जल) नगर निगम अयोध्या  
अपर नगर आयुक्त नगर निगम अयोध्या



# New India shapes the course of global polarisation: CM

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, said that today, the entire world was looking towards India, adding that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, global trust in the new India has grown rapidly. "There was a time when India was not aligned with any global bloc, and the nation faced uncertainty about its direction and purpose. However, today's new India defines the course of global polarisation. The world's alignment now shifts in the direction where India stands," he said. The chief minister presided over the inaugural programme of the 92nd Founder's Week celebrations of the Maharana Pratap Education Council (MPEC). Welcoming the chief guest, Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar, and special guest, AICTE Member Secretary Prof Rajeev Kumar, at the Maharana Pratap Inter College campus, Chief Minister Yogi said, "The world follows those who have the strength to prepare themselves for its challenges." He remarked, "Those who cannot stand on their own cannot inspire others to do so." He further said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, New India had prepared itself accordingly, resulting in a scenario where the world's trajectory cannot be imagined without India's role. India has emerged as a symbol of confidence in tackling the challenges facing humanity today, as exemplified by the success of the G20 Summit, he added. He further noted that no major global event now occurs with-



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath garlanding the portrait of late Mahant Avedyanath

out India's involvement. Today, the country is advancing toward self-reliance, having become the world's fifth-largest economy, he added. Chief Minister Yogi mentioned that the responsibility of advancing the country does not rest solely with the government. "Now is the time to take responsibility, understand its significance and prepare ourselves accordingly," he said, calling for collective action from every citizen to contribute to India's progress. The chief minister also mentioned Prime Minister Modi's vision for the nation, emphasising the 25-year roadmap to transform India into a developed nation by its centenary of independence. He urged all institutions and citizens to actively contribute to this vision and help shape a self-reliant India, echoing the dedication of

the founders of the Maharana Pratap Education Council, Brahmali Mahant Digvijaynath and Brahmali Mahant Avedyanath, whose lives were devoted to fostering capable citizens for an independent India. He then addressed the students about the importance of technology in the present era. He advised that while technology is essential for simplifying and enhancing our lives, it is crucial to remember that we should control technology, not the other way around. We must adapt ourselves to technology, but technology should also be designed to meet our needs and serve us effectively, he added. Chief Minister Yogi stated that throughout history, India has consistently showcased its talent to the world. Indian youth now occupy the highest posi-

tions in the 100 most prestigious institutions globally, making up the largest group of executives, he pointed out. He also said that these youth were gaining global recognition for their technical expertise and knowledge. Reflecting on the 92-year journey of the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad, Chief Minister Yogi acknowledged the institution's historical significance, especially its founding during a period of limited resources and British colonial rule. He praised the vision of Mahant Digvijaynath Ji and Mahant Avedyanath Ji, who worked tirelessly to build a foundation for a strong and independent India. In his address to the students, Chief Minister Yogi shared a mantra for success: "Concentration, hard work and team spirit." He emphasised that these principles are key to achieving success in any endeavour. During the inaugural programme of the Founder's Ceremony, the ceremony chairman, chief guest, special guests and other dignitaries offered flowers to the statues of Maa Saraswati, Guru Gorakhnath, Maharana Pratap, Brahmali Mahant Digvijaynath and Mahant Avedyanath. Following this, in his welcome address, president of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad, Prof UP Singh, highlighted the progress and journey of the Parishad. Chief guest Narendra Singh took the salute of the grand procession that was held during the inauguration ceremony. The chief guest inaugurated the exhibition at the Balrampur Hall of Maharana Pratap Inter College, followed by a guard of honour presented by NCC cadets.

# Yogi reviving UP's ancient glory: Tomar

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Madhya Pradesh Assembly Speaker Narendra Singh Tomar said that there was a time when Uttar Pradesh faced difficulties in attracting attention and development, however, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the state had begun to restore its ancient glory. "From improving law and order, attracting investment, strengthening the health sector, eradicating poverty and implementing the National Education Policy, the Yogi government has made significant progress in all these areas," he added. Addressing the inaugural programme of the 92nd Founder's Week Celebration of Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad as the chief guest on Wednesday, Narendra Singh Tomar shared that he had the opportunity to meet Yogi Adityanath in various roles. "As Gorakshpeethadhishwar, Yogi Adityanath guides people on the path of Bhaktiyog, while as a politician, he exemplifies the principles of Karmayog," he said. He commended Yogi Adityanath's inspiring dedication as Gorakshpeethadhishwar and praised his contributions as a politician, Member of Parliament, and chief minister, all rooted in the ideals of Karmayog. He expressed his gratitude for the chance to visit the land of Lord Gorakhnath. While discussing the significant public impact of Gorakshpeeth's project, Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad, Tomar highlighted that while most spiritual institutions, Peeths, or Math primarily inspire Bhaktiyog, Gorakshpeeth stands out by integrating Karmayog alongside Bhaktiyog. This unique

approach not only inspires spiritual devotion but also guides citizens in shaping their lives through active service. In this regard, Gorakshpeeth and its associated institution, Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad, serve as a significant source of inspiration for the entire nation, he added. The Madhya Pradesh assembly speaker further emphasised that while some institutions focus on education and others on technical education, the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad stands out for its comprehensive approach to all-round development and public welfare. "With over 50 institutions under its belt, the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad stands as an exemplary model of educational advancement and holistic growth. The work done by the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad in fostering education and contributing to the development of society is truly inspiring, setting a high standard for others to follow," he said. Reflecting on the growth of the Maharana Pratap Shiksha Parishad, Tomar said that the vision of creating a capable citizenry for the country's future was first initiated by Brahmali Mahant Digvijaynath ji. This foundation was nurtured by Brahmali Mahant Avedyanath ji, and today, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the institution has flourished into a strong and influential force. He noted with pride that the entire Purvanchal region now thrives under the expansive influence of this institution. Tomar highlighted India's steady progress under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, attributing the nation's rising global stature to his wisdom, courage and hard work.

# 'No need to panic, every complaint will be addressed'

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath addressed the grievances of the public during the Janata Darshan held at Gorakhnath Temple on Wednesday morning. Engaging directly with those who came to share their concerns, the chief minister assured, "Don't panic; effective action will be taken on every complaint. The government is committed to resolving the problems of every individual." During the event, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed officials to address every grievance with sensitivity and ensure prompt and transparent resolutions. At the Janata Darshan held in front of Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan within the Gorakhnath Temple complex, the chief minister personally listened to the concerns of approximately 150 individuals, a significant number of whom were women. The chief minister moved among the attendees, calmly listening to their issues one by one. He reassured them, say-

ing, "No one needs to panic; every problem will be resolved." Handing over applications to officials, Chief Minister Yogi emphasised the need for swift, high-quality and satisfactory resolutions. He instructed strict legal action in cases of land grabbing and directed thorough investigations into situations where victims face prolonged difficulties, with accountability to be fixed for any negligence. Several individuals approached the Janata Darshan seeking financial assistance for medical treatment. The CM assured them that lack of funds would not hinder their medical care. He instructed officials to expedite the hospital estimate process and forward it to the government, ensuring that adequate financial aid would be provided through the Chief Minister's Discretionary Fund. Additionally, he stressed the importance of creating Ayushman cards for all eligible individuals to facilitate access to treatment without any hurdles.

Corporate and Services Department, Star House, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Zonal Office, Lucknow-226010, Ph No.: 0522-2306039

बैंक ऑफ इंडिया **Bank of India BOI**

**Tender for Housekeeping for Cleaning of Bank of India Star House**

Detailed Notification inviting Tender for Housekeeping for Cleaning of Bank of India Star House building Lucknow is available on our web site [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in) Prescribed format for submission of offer may be obtained from our Office at Bank of India Star House, Gomti Nagar, 1- Vibhuti Khand, Lucknow-226010 OR may be downloaded from our Website [www.bankofindia.co.in](http://www.bankofindia.co.in).

Last date for submission of offer is up to **04.01.2025 up to 5.00 PM.**

Date : 05.12.2024 **Deputy Zonal Manager Lucknow Zone**

# Sambhal violence engineered by admn: Akhilesh

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Continuing his tirade against the Uttar Pradesh government over the violence in Sambhal, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav, on Wednesday, alleged that the district administration engineered the incident at the behest of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government. In a statement issued here on Wednesday the SP chief alleged that instead of ensuring justice for the common people, innocent citizens are being framed on false charges and sent to jail after the violence in Sambhal. Akhilesh Yadav alleged that the police action was a direct violation of constitutional principles and accused the administration of acting in a dictatorial manner. The SP chief also slammed the Centre for not following due process during the mosque survey and suggested that communal tensions across the country could be aggravated by such actions. The talk of digging up religious sites will hurt the unity and brotherhood of the country, he said. Lashing out at the UP government over the opposition party leaders being prevented from visiting Sambhal, Akhilesh Yadav asked, "Why the leaders

from the opposition parties not being allowed to visit Sambhal? Is it because the government wants to hide its failure from being exposed? Look at the arrogant language of the officers of the district administration of Sambhal. Can the officers be allowed to speak in such arrogant language in a democratic political order?" "The government has imposed a ban on the entry of the leaders of the opposition parties (in Sambhal) till December 10. This shows that the government wants to destroy the evidences and create pressure on the local people to fall in line and remain tight lipped over the incident, in which four innocent lives were lost," the SP chief said. The Samajwadi Party reiterated his charge that the violence in Sambhal was part of a "well-planned" conspiracy orchestrated by the BJP. Sambhal has been under scrutiny since November 19, when a survey was conducted at the Mughal-era Shahi Jama Masjid on court orders, following claims that a Harihar temple once stood on the site. The situation escalated on November 24, during a second survey, when clashes erupted between protesters and security personnel, leading to four fatalities and several injuries.

# UP govt to organise MLA sports competitions

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Wednesday, said that the state government would encourage the organisation of Vidhayak Khel Spardha (MLA sports competitions), similar to the Sansad Khel Pratiyogita, to promote sports activities at the gram panchayat, nyay panchayat, vikas khand and assembly constituency levels. "MLAs will be called upon to support this initiative. After being held at the village and assembly (constituency) levels, this competition will be converted into the MP sports competition at the district level," he added. The chief minister was addressing the inauguration of the 2nd edition of UP Rural Sports League and the closing-prize distribution ceremony of the sixth Brahmaleen Mahant Avedyanath Memorial All India Prize Money Kabaddi Competition. During this, he said, "Sports encourage everyone to play, grow and move ahead. PM Narendra Modi also believes that only those who play will thrive, and only those who thrive will succeed and grow." He further mentioned that inspired by Prime Minister Modi, sports activities are being strongly promoted through initiatives like Khelo India, Fit India Movement, MP Sports Competition, and Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres

in every district across the country. Similarly, the state is running programmes to boost sports activities and provide sports infrastructure to keep up with global competition. The Uttar Pradesh Rural League is part of this effort, he added. Chief Minister Yogi launched the second edition of the league by passing the torch of the Rural Sports League to athlete Abhay, who won two gold medals in the previous league. He also awarded the players after the final match of the Kabaddi competition. The chief minister said that the state government was encouraging private organisations related to sports to promote them. To support this, changes have been made in the sports policy. In addition, a system has been introduced to provide government jobs to medal-winning athletes from international and national competitions, either through direct recruitment or sports quotas, he added. "The state government has already employed over 500 athletes in various departments such as Youth Welfare, Police, Transport, etc., reassuring them about their careers. The programmes run by the state government in the field of sports will help future talents grow and progress," he added. The chief minister also mentioned that to encourage athletes, the state government has arranged financial rewards for

Olympic medalists — Rs 6 crore for a gold medalist, Rs 4 crore for a silver medalist, and Rs 2 crore for a bronze medalist. For team events in the Olympics, the rewards are Rs 3 crore, Rs 2 crore and Rs 1 crore, respectively. He also shared that Asian Games gold medalists receive Rs 3 crore, silver medalists Rs 1.5 crore, and bronze medalists Rs 75 lakh. Similarly, for Commonwealth Games and World Championships, gold medalists get Rs 1.5 crore, silver medalists Rs 75 lakh, and bronze medalists Rs 50 lakh. Athletes from the state participating in the Olympics are awarded Rs 10 lakh, while those competing in the Commonwealth Games and World Championships are given Rs 5 lakh as an incentive. On this occasion, remembering his guru and the person in whose memory the Kabaddi competition was held, Yogi said that the late Mahant Avedyanath dedicated his entire life to the country and religion and he was also committed to promoting sports.

# Maha Kumbh: Bollywood stars, artistes to blend spirituality with entertainment

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

In a bid to make Maha Kumbh 2025 an unforgettable experience, the Yogi Adityanath government has planned a series of grand cultural events which will blend spirituality, tradition and entertainment. Bollywood stars and renowned artists will captivate devotees with their performances, featuring stories from the Ramayana, Mahabharata and the divine significance of the Kumbh. Celebrated actor Ashutosh Rana will perform 'Humare Ram', while actress and MP Hema Malini will present a mesmerising depiction of 'Ganga Avtaran'. Puneet Issar, famed for his role in the Mahabharat television series, will transport the audience to ancient India with his powerful

performance on the epic Mahabharat. These cultural events will take place at the Ganga Pandal, organised by the Uttar Pradesh Culture Department in collaboration with the Culture Ministry of the Government of India, ensuring a grand celebration of India's rich heritage and traditions. Renowned Bollywood actor Ashutosh Rana, known for his captivating performances, will present 'Hamare Ram' on January 25 at the Ganga Pandal, portraying the role of Ravana in this dramatic production. On January 26, legendary actress and Mathura MP Hema Malini will enchant the audience with her dance drama 'anga Avtaran'. On February 8, Bhojpuri and Bollywood actor and Gorakhpur MP Ravi Kishan

will perform 'Shiv Tandava', while Puneet Issar will bring the epic Mahabharat to life on February 21. No Maha Kumbh can be complete without sharing the rich history and significance of Kumbh. Special arrangements have been made for cultural evenings dedicated to this theme. The cultural festivities will commence on January 22 with a Kathak dance drama by Kathak Kendra, Sangeet Natak Academy, centered on the theme of Kumbh. On January 23, Lucknow's Bhartendu Natya Academy will present 'Kakori Mahagatha', followed by a choreographed production, 'Kumbh Ka Safarnama', by Maitreya Pahadi on February 1. The grand finale on February 23 will feature 'Kumbh Gatha', presented by

Reliance Entertainment and Sobro Film, creating a mesmerising conclusion to the cultural celebrations. As part of the cultural programmes proposed to begin on January 10, an exciting lineup of performances will captivate devotees throughout Maha Kumbh 2025. On January 11, Odisha's Prince Group will dazzle audiences with their 'Dashavartar' dance presentation. The schedule includes performances by Mathura's Madhava Band and Agra's Crazy Hoppers on January 16, followed by Grammy Award winner Ricky Kej on January 17, and Kolkata's Golden Girls on January 19. Manipur's Bastar Band will perform on January 21, and Delhi's Shrinkhala Dance Academy will showcase their talent on January 27.

**इंडियन बैंक** (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) **Indian Bank** (A Govt. of India Undertaking)

**इलाहाबाद** **ALLAHABAD**

**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**  
[Under Rule-8 (1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002]

Whereas, the undersigned being the authorised officer of the Indian Bank under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3, 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice as detailed here in below calling upon the borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers/ Guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 and 9 of the said Rules. The Borrowers in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charges of the sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrower's / Guarantor'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.

This Possession Notice is being served to the Borrower (s), Guarantor (s) & Mortgagor (s) to deposit the said dues. Details as under:

S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower (s)/ Guarantor (s)/ Proprietor / Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Property	Dt. of Demand Notice Dt. of Possession Outstanding Amount
<b>Branch : Hazratganj Branch</b>			
1.	M/s Brains Educational Society (Borrower), Murtuza Hussain Road, Raja Bazar, Lucknow-226003.	All the part and parcel of property constructed over Khasra No. 338 M, measuring area 0.254 hectare, situated at more than 300 mtrs away from Ring Road, Village-Malpur, Ward-Haiderganj, Lucknow, in the name of Mohammad Usman Warsi S/o Late Nisar Ahmad & Ayesha Warsi W/o Mohammad Usman Warsi	17.09.2024 03.12.2024 Rs. 79,79,826.80 and interest thereon
2.	Mohammad Usman Warsi S/o Late Nisar Ahmad (Borrower cum Guarantor cum Mortgagor), 51, Sarai Agha Meer, Behind Prakash Cinema, Nadan Mahal Road, Chowk, Lucknow-226003	6. Nahid Fatima D/o Late Nisar Ahmad (Guarantor), 261/51, Sarai Agha Meer, Nadan Mahal Road, Chowk, Lucknow-226003	
3.	Ayesha Warsi W/o Mohammad Usman Warsi (Guarantor cum Mortgagor), 51, Sarai Agha Meer, Behind Prakash Cinema, Nadan Mahal Road, Chowk, Lucknow-226003		
4.	Mohi Uddin S/o Noor Uddin (Guarantor), 418/334, Gauri Peer Khan, Thakurganj, Lucknow-226003		
5.	The estate of the deceased Mrs Asiya Nisar W/o Late Nisar Ahmad (Borrower cum Guarantor) (Deceased on 24.04.2021) represented by legal heirs viz. 261/51, Sarai Agha Meer, Nadan Mahal Road, Chowk, Lucknow-226003		
6.	Nahid Fatima D/o Late Nisar Ahmad (Guarantor), 261/51, Sarai Agha Meer, Nadan Mahal Road, Chowk, Lucknow-226003		
7.	Mohammad Usman Warsi S/o Late Nisar Ahmad (Guarantor cum Mortgagor), 51, Sarai Agha Meer, Behind Prakash Cinema, Nadan Mahal Road, Chowk, Lucknow-226003		

Date : 05.12.2024 Place: Lucknow Authorised Officer Indian Bank

**बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा** **Bank of Baroda**

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

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

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable assets under the securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 Read with Proviso to Rule 6(2) & Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

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

**Branch : Mangalpur, Kanpur Dehat**

**Date of e-Auction : 24-12-2024** **Last Date of EMD Submission : 23-12-2024 upto 4.00 PM**

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers / Guarantors	Description of Immovable Property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of e-Auction	Reserve Price/EMD/ Bid increase Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive/ Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1.	<b>Borrower : M/s Harsh Traders, Address :</b> Mangalpur, Kanpur Dehat, <b>Proprietor :</b> Late Vijay Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Shiv Balak Sharma, Through its Legal Heirs, Smt. Shashi Sharma-Wife, Km. Jahanavi Sharma-Daughter, Km. Bhumi Sharma-Daughter & Shri Kavya Sharma-Son (Minor, Natural Guardian Mother Smt. Shashi Sharma) All R/o : 248, Village Bhandemau, Tehsil Sikandra, Kanpur Dehat and Also at 143, Gali No. 4, Bholia Road, Multan Nagar, Meerut City, Meerut. <b>Guarantor :</b> Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Shiv Balak Sharma and Smt. Sarita Sharma W/o Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Both R/o : Village Bhandemau, Post Mangalpur, Tehsil Derapur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat.	<b>Property (1) :</b> Land & Building Situated at Khata No. 428, Gata No. 236, Mauza Mangalpur, Pargana Derapur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat in the name of Late Vijay Kumar Sharma S/o Shri Shiv Balak Sharma. <b>Area :</b> 70 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded-North :</b> Plot Abhishek Sharma, <b>South :</b> Bambi, <b>East :</b> Plot of Rani Tiwari, <b>West :</b> Plot of Sarita. <b>Property (2) :</b> Land & Building Situated at Khata No. 428, Gata No. 236, Mauza Mangalpur, Pargana Derapur, Distt. Kanpur Dehat in the name of Smt. Sarita Sharma W/o Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma. <b>Area :</b> 140 Sq. Mtr., <b>Bounded-North :</b> Plot of Abhishek Sharma, <b>South :</b> Bambi, <b>East :</b> Land of Seller, <b>West :</b> Rasta 12 Ft. Kachha.	<b>Rs. 12,25,522.28</b> as on Dated 15-05-2023 +Int. and other charges (Minus amount if any paid after the demand notice or possession notice)	24-12-2024 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 3,33,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 34,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 10,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	15-12-2024 to 20-12-2024 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
				24-12-2024 between 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	<b>₹ 6,64,000/- (RP)</b> <b>₹ 67,000/- (EMD)</b> <b>₹ 10,000/- (Bid increase Amount)</b>	Constructive	15-12-2024 to 20-12-2024 between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer / visit to the website link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and Online Auction Portal <https://ebkraj.in>. Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorised officer on Mobile No. 7017098082

Date : 02-12-2024 Place : Kanpur Dehat / Meerut Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda



# CM to oversee, review progress of construction works in Prayagraj

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ PRAYAGRAJ

Prayagraj is gearing up to host the world's largest human gathering and the biggest event in Sanatan culture, Maha Kumbh 2025. More than 40 crore devotees are expected to come to Maha Kumbh from across the globe. Preparations are in full swing to ensure the event is both divine and grand. Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the Kumbh Mela Authority and various departments are working with unparalleled zeal and dedication. To oversee these efforts, the chief minister will personally visit Prayagraj starting January 13 to inspect and inaugurate key infrastructure projects, including the newly built Central Hospital and Khoya-Paya Centre in the Mela area, along with other ongoing developments. The grand Maha Kumbh 2025 will commence with the Paus Purnima Snan on January 13. Extensive permanent and temporary construction projects

are underway across Prayagraj, including the Mela city. Key departments such as the Mela Authority, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation, Public Works Department (PWD), Prayagraj Development Authority, and the State Bridge Corporation are diligently working to complete these projects, many of which are in their final stages. To ensure smooth preparations, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will visit Prayagraj ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. During his visit, Chief Minister Yogi will inaugurate the Central Hospital, the Khoya-Paya Centre in the fair area, and the public accommodation centre in Sector-1. He will also inspect ongoing construction projects within the Maha Kumbh area and address police personnel stationed at the Police Line Parade Ground, boosting their morale ahead of this event. This will be Chief Minister Yogi's second visit to Prayagraj ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 13. During this visit,

Chief Minister Yogi will inspect the ongoing construction of the 6-lane Ganga bridge and review the progress of the Alopibagh flyover. Following this, the chief minister is expected to address and inaugurate various works in the mela area before inspecting the Ganga River Front Road in Jhansi. Additionally, Chief Minister Yogi may visit the Arail Bandha Road, Triveni Pushp, and the Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant. He is also likely to inspect the Shivalaya Park, currently being developed by the Municipal Corporation in the Arail area. Meanwhile in view of the programme of the Prime Minister in Prayagraj, preparations have been intensified by the administration and the Mela administration. A grand pandal is being prepared for the programme and public meeting of PM Narendra Modi at Sangam Nose. It will have a seating capacity of about 12,000 people. After the instructions from the PMO, preparations have started to change the direction of the pandal.

The PM is coming to Prayagraj on December 13. At Sangam he will formally start the Maha Kumbh by worshipping Ganga. This will be the first time when the PM of the country is going to formally start the Maha Kumbh Mela with worship. Till now only the district officials used to start it. After the worship, the PM's public meeting is to be held at Sangam Nose itself. After reaching Prayagraj, the PM will first go to Shringaverpur Dham. Here he will land on the helipad built in the DPS school of Arail by an army helicopter. From here he will go to Sangam by Nishadraj Cruise. After worshipping here, the PM will observe the exhibition to be held on the Ganga River Front. The PM will visit Akshayvat Corridor after inaugurating it. Then he will go to Bade Hanuman temple Corridor and from there he will visit Nag Vasuki temple. After this he will go to the Sabha Sthal being built at Sangam Nose from where he will inaugurate projects worth ₹7,000 crore.

# Ensure proper fire safety system in schools: DM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The meeting of the District Level School Safety Coordination Committee was held in the Collectorate Auditorium here on Wednesday under the chairmanship of District Magistrate (DM) S Rajalingam. During the meeting the DM directed an audit of the fire NOC (no objection certificate) of all the schools operating in the district and asked the officers concerned to ensure proper fire safety system in all schools of the district. He also directed the officers concerned to conduct a survey of schools in which new buildings have been constructed to verify fire safety in them and in the schools whose NOC has expired report regarding its renewal should also be obtained. He directed that a list of all the schools located on the sides of the roads in the district should be prepared and a report should also be taken from those respective schools regarding what measures have been



DM S Rajalingam addressing a meeting of District Level School Safety Coordination Committee in Varanasi on Wednesday.

taken regarding the road safety of the children. He directed the Electric Safety Department to conduct a wiring safety audit of the buildings of all the schools. The DM directed to conduct a survey of the coaching institutes operating in the basement of the buildings and cancel the registration of such institutes. Chief Development Officer (CDO) Himanshu Nagpal, officers and employees of the Fire and Electric Safety, Social Welfare and Education departments were present in this meeting.

Meanwhile DM S Rajalingam inspected the drain construction work and road widening and strengthening works going on on both sides of the Police Lines crossing to Pahadia intersection, Rustompur, Ghazipur Road, Sandha Road via Belwa Bazaar (Azamgarh Road), Lalpur police station and Namdeswar Temple (Pandeypur road) on Wednesday and gave necessary instructions to the ADM (City) and PWD officials. Expressing his displeasure, the DM directed to speed up the work by tak-

ing necessary action in the incomplete drain construction work and widening of roads at various places. He directed to get the widening and strengthening done speedily by shifting the electric poles coming in the way. He directed to issue notice to the contractor for delay in construction work, unsatisfactory condition of the plants planted in the middle of the road near Sandha and some damaged poles. He had a detailed discussion with ADM (City) and Executive Engineer of PWD regarding shifting of Lalpur police outpost to another place along with some places which are becoming a hindrance in road construction. He talked to the local people about shifting some places and appealed to them to cooperate with the administration. The DM said that wherever there is encroachment on this road, it should be ensured to be removed immediately. ADM (City) Alok Kumar Verma and Executive Engineer of Public Works Department KK Singh were present on the spot.



Sadhvi Trikal Bhavanta Shankaracharya of Akhada Pari in Prayagraj on Wednesday during the 'Patta Abhishek' ahead of Maha Kumbh-2025

# BHRSS to stage dharna on Dec 10

Kanpur (PNS): In a bid to unite global community in support of Bangladeshi Hindus, activists of Bangladeshi Hindu Raksha Sangharsh Samiti (BHRSS) will stage a grand dharna at the Bara Chauraha here on December 10. They will also hand over a memorandum, addressed to the President of India, to the divisional commissioner on this

occasion. Addressing media-persons, Mahant Jitendra Das of Panki Hanuman temple, Mahant Arun Bharti of Baba Anandeshwar temple and seer Arun Puri said all global organisations and human right organisations, should take cognizance of violence in Bangladesh. They should mount pressure on Bangladesh government to immediately stop humiliation of Hindus and attacks on their places of worship. They also demanded the immediate release of Hindu monk Chinmoy K Das.



The members of Bangladeshi Hindu Raksha Sangharsh Samiti addressing mediapersons on Wednesday.

# Atrocities on Hindus in B'desh: Cong submits memo, demands action

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

A delegation of Congress Party submitted a memorandum against alleged atrocities on the Hindus in Bangladesh here on Wednesday. They said for the past several months, Hindus are being attacked and harassed by extremists in Bangladesh on which the Government of India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have maintained silence. They submitted their memorandum to the President of India through Additional District Magistrate (City) under the leadership of state vice-president (Legal Cell) of Congress Ashok Kumar Singh. Through the memorandum, the Congress demanded that the government should take immediate cognizance and raise the matter at the international level to stop the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh immediately and take strict action against the attackers by talking to the Bangladesh government. The ADM (City) assured to send the memorandum to the President immediately. While submitting the memorandum, district vice-president of Congress Party Ashok Kumar Singh and other advocates including Lokesh Kumar Singh, Ram Aashray, Rajiv Shukla, Sushil Kumar Pandey, Ashok Kumar, Virendra Kumar Pandit, Mohsin Khan, Neha Sadab etc were prominently



Congress delegation submitting a memorandum to ADM (City) in Varanasi on Wednesday

present. Earlier, the members of various Hindu organisations of Kashi raised their voice against the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh for the last four months. They demanded that atrocities on Hindus and minority communities in Bangladesh should stop. Under the aegis of Hindu Raksha Samiti, Varanasi, before giving a memorandum to the President of India, they took out a protest rally from Mint House trijunction (Swami Vivekananda statue site) located in Nadesar. The demonstration reached the district headquarters via Doordarshan Centre, Varuna Pul, Kachheri where the memorandum was handed over to the district magistrate. While giving the memorandum, national general secretary of All India Sant Samiti Swami Jitendrananda Saraswati alleged that the 'deep

state' planned Hindu genocide by overthrowing the elected government in Bangladesh under a conspiracy and Muhammad Yunus was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize under it. On the basis of this award, Muhammad Yunus was given the responsibility of running the interim government of Bangladesh which was not legal even from the point of view of law. He said the killing of Hindus was started under the leadership of Muhammad Yunus. "Temples were demolished, Hindu sisters and daughters were being humiliated. The biggest attack on Hindus in the known history of Bangladesh is happening during the tenure of the current acting Prime Minister Muhammad Yunus", he said, adding that now the Hindu society has stood up all over the world and will not tolerate

such incidents. Swami Jitendrananda said that it is unjust for the Bangladesh government to send ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, who was leading Hindus in such peaceful demonstrations, to jail. On this occasion, the prantiya (provincial) pracharak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Kashi province, Ramesh Kumar, Mayor Ashok Tiwari, Dr Rakesh Tiwari, Satyaprakash Singh, Arvind Srivastava, Vidyasagar Rai, Bipin Singh, Rajesh Vishwakarma, Nitin, Kanhaiya Singh, MLCs Hanstraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Singh, Pooja Dixit, Raghavendra and active workers and citizens of 102 organisations were present. The programme was organised by Pramod Ram Tripathi of Bharat Vikas Parishad and conducted by Naveen Srivastava. The members from the organisations which participated in the protest were Bharat Vikas Parishad, All India Sant Samiti, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Vishwa Samvad Kendra (Kashi), Bairang Dal, Krida Bharti, All India Consumer Panchayat, BJP, Seva Bharti, Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Bharatiya Kisan Sangh, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, All India Advocates Council, Mahila Vyapar Mandal, District Vyapar Mandal and people from other religious/social/economic organisations operating in Kashi.

# Minister watches film 'The Sabarmati Report'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration Ravindra Jaiswal on Wednesday watched 'The Sabarmati Report' film at a theatre in a mall with scores of people of his assembly constituency (City North). Jaiswal praised the film and said that 'The Sabarmati Report' has shaken the audience across the country with its powerful story. He added that people are liking this film which touches upon a delicate and important period of Indian history. HEMOCON KASHI-2024: The Department of General Medicine, Institute of Medical

Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU), under the aegis of Indian Society of Hematology & Blood Transfusion (ISHBT) and Kashi Hematology Group, will organise the inaugural First Annual Conference of Hematology (HEMOCON KASHI-2024) on December 7 and 8 at KN Udupa Auditorium, IMS-BHU. Giving this information while addressing a press conference at BHU here on Wednesday, organising chairman Prof Kailash Kumar along with Prof Vijai Tilak (co-organising chairman) and organising secretaries Prof LP Meena and Dr Arun Kumar Singh, Dr Nilesh Kumar, Dr Anju Bharti and Dr Annu Singh said the proposed conference represents a significant milestone in advancing haematological research, treatment and education. The HEMOCON KASHI-2024 is designed to provide an outstanding platform for medical professionals, researchers and students to exchange ideas, present groundbreaking research and collaborate on the future of haematology. Eminent speakers who will attend the conference are Dr Tejinder Singh, Dr MB Agarwal, Dr RK Jena, Dr AK Tripathi, Dr SP Verma and Dr Tuphan Kanti Dolai. The conference also offers a unique opportunity to experience the cultural heritage of Kashi (Varanasi) enriching the academic journey with spiritual and historical significance.

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# Mishap claims man's life

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

A motorcyclist was fatally knocked down by a speeding tractor-trolley in Fattepur village on Fattepur-Nadiha road under Bilhaur police station area on Wednesday afternoon. When he fell down on the road the tractor-trolley ran over him killing him on the spot. According to a report, Tribhuvan Nath Tripathi (45) son of Chhedilal Tripathi of Barhat, Bithoor, was coming towards Kakwan on the bike. He was suddenly hit by the speeding tractor-trolley on Fattepur-Kakwan road near Fattepur village. He was run over by the tractor and died on the spot. The tractor driver fled from the spot leaving the vehicle behind. On the information of villagers, police rushed to the spot and after impounding the tractor, started procedural formalities. The body was sent for an autopsy. From the mobile phone recovered from the possession of the deceased, police identified the body and informed the kin of the deceased. Station House Officer (SHO) Avaneesh Kumar said after sending the body for an autopsy, kin of deceased had been informed. Raids were being conducted to search the absconding tractor driver after impounding the vehicle, he added. In a separate incident a youth, living at his maternal grandparents house, was found hanging from the ceiling fan under mysterious circumstances in Patari, Mullahnagar under Sadar Kotwali police area of Unnao on Wednesday. During investigation, police recovered a suicide note and sent the body for autopsy. The parents of Mithun (28) — Rani and Radhelal — of Bhogaiga under Bighapur police station, had died during his childhood. Since then, Mithun and his married sister Suman had been living with maternal grandparents Kalloo and Nanhi for the past 25 years and earning livelihood by assisting him in farming. Mithun's marriage was fixed for February 7 next year. On Wednesday, on finding him missing, his grandparents searched for him in the house and found him hanging from the ceiling fan. Maternal uncle Lala informed the police which rushed to the spot and carried out a probe. In the suicide note recovered by the police, Mithun said that no one in the family should be humiliated for his committing suicide. He also mentioned the account of expenses in the suicide note. Police have initiated action after investigation.

# BOB hands over cheque of ₹60L to deceased cop's kin



BOB regional chief Shailesh Kumar Parakh handing over a cheque of ₹60 lakh to brother of the deceased cop on Wednesday

The Bank of Baroda (BOB), Regional Office, Kanpur, has handed over a cheque of ₹60 lakh to the kin of deceased policeman Shrawan Kumar son of Kishori Lal under the life insurance cover provided in his salary package in the Police Lines conference hall on Wednesday. Regional chief Shailesh Kumar Parakh in the presence of the city police commissioner Akhil Kumar and DCP HQ Arti Singh handed over the cheque to Shailesh Kumar, brother of the deceased Shrawan Kumar. He also assured him of extending all possible assistance available in the bank. It may be recalled that Bank of Baroda had signed an MoU with the UP Police in 2023 which allowed the cops to open bank account under their salary package carrying different banking facilities including life insurance, personal accident insurance cover, higher education

cover for children, insurance cover for daughter's marriage and many other types of loans. Deputy Regional Chief Sanjay Kumar, chief managers Anoop Kumar and Narendra Mehta were present on the occasion. SUICIDE: A woman committed suicide by hanging herself after putting her children to bed in Karsui village of Vidhnu police area on Tuesday evening. Her husband was out of the house at the time of the incident. On return he found her hanging and informed the police which rushed to spot and sent the body for an autopsy. Police and forensic team reached the spot and carried out investigation. In another incident, a girl, upset by failing by two marks in the police examination, committed suicide by hanging herself in Vidhnu police station area on Tuesday night. On getting information police and forensic team rushed to the spot and sent the body for autopsy after investigations.

# Cornea transplant successful

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Regional Institute of Ophthalmology (RIO), Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University (IMS-BHU) transplanted cornea donated to BHU Eye Bank successfully through triple surgery recently. Head of Ophthalmology Department and Chairman of BHU Eye Bank Prof RP Maurya said when a woman of Shivpur, admitted in the emergency ward of Sir Sunderlal Hospital (SSH-BHU), died during treatment, on the request of her brother the team of BHU Eye Bank comprising Dr Sanvida Parihar, Pratik Kumar Singh and Ashutosh Tripathi completed the process of eye donation within one hour after death. On receiving the donated cornea Prof Maurya called five corneal blind

patients for transplantation. Out of these a 50-year-old woman from Sayedraja (Chandauli) agreed and Prof Maurya admitted her in the hospital and completed the examination process. The patient had a white pupil and cataract since birth. Later, RIO Chief Prof VP Singh and Prof RP Maurya together performed triple surgery and performed cataract lens operation and cornea transplantation together. "Now the patient will be able to see properly from the other eye as well. The second safe cornea will be transplanted to another patient later", Prof Maurya said. Director of the IMS-BHU Prof SN Sankhwar and Medical Superintendent (MS) of Sarsundar Lal Hospital Prof KK Gupta congratulated the surgery team and thanked the eye donor's family for this noble deed.

# Discussion on Devanagari script

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

The Rajbhasha department of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), under the guidance of General Manager and Chairman of City Rajbhasha Implementation Committee Naresh Pal Singh, organised a Hindi workshop on the subject 'Revised Standard Spelling' on Wednesday. In it Senior Rajbhasha Officer Dr Sanjay Kumar Singh and Alok Kumar Pandey discussed in detail various aspects related to Devanagari script and standard spelling on the basis of the updated booklet issued by

the Central Hindi Directorate. The changes and updates included in the booklet were specially discussed. The representatives of various central government offices and undertakings located in Varanasi actively participated in the workshop. On the occasion Rajesh Kumar (Public Relations Officer), Vijay Pratap Singh (senior translator) and Arvind Pratap Singh (junior translator) were prominently present. The workshop provided an in-depth understanding on the usage and effective implementation of standard spelling of Hindi language.

# Isc-BHU scientists uncover natural method to protect maize crops

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

In a remarkable discovery, a team of scientists led by Dr Satish Kumar Verma from the Department of Botany, Institute of Science, Banaras Hindu University (ISC-BHU) has reported to have uncovered a natural method to protect maize crops from the destructive Fusarium verticillioides fungus. This pathogenic fungus, responsible for significant crop losses, threatens global food security. The team's research revealed that seed-borne bacteria, known as endophytes, plays a vital role in promoting plant growth and safeguarding maize from fungal pathogens. These microbes, which have been largely overlooked in previous studies, hold significant potential to enhance plant resilience against a variety of biotic and abiotic stresses. The team comprised Gaurav Pal, Kanchan Kumar, Samiksha Saxena, Anand Verma, Deepak Kumar, and Pooja Shukla. Endophytes, residing within the maize seeds, serve as natural bio-factories that produce phytohormones like auxins, cytokinins and gibberellins, essential for plant development, growth and differentiation. Moreover, they fix atmospheric nitrogen and solubilise minerals like phosphate and iron, which are crucial for plant nutrition. Beyond their growth-promoting functions, these microbes act as biocontrol agents, producing a range of antimicrobial compounds that inhibit the growth of harmful pathogens, including Fusarium verticillioides. The study suggests that removing these microbes can compromise the seedling's growth and development while reintroducing these microbes can restore plant health and boost overall resilience, reducing the dependency on chemical fertilisers and pesticides. Dr Verma's research highlights that wild maize varieties

contain even higher concentrations of these beneficial microbes, a focus for future investigations. One particularly noteworthy bacterium, Bacillus velezensis, has demonstrated remarkable efficacy in protecting maize seedlings from Fusarium verticillioides. The study found that Bacillus velezensis produces antimicrobial lipopeptides, such as bacillomycin D and fengycin, which inhibit the fungal pathogen's growth. In addition to direct inhibition, Bacillus velezensis acts as an elicitor of maize's immune response, stimulating the plant to produce its defensive compounds, resulting in enhanced resistance to the fungus. This dual approach—direct pathogen suppression and immune system activation—represents a promising natural strategy for protecting crops. Additionally, another endophytic bacterium, Lysinibacillus, was found to play a crucial role in shaping maize root development by regulating the production of auxin, a hormone critical for root formation. Lysinibacillus also improves nitrogen metabolism in maize, leading to more efficient nutrient absorption and healthier plant growth. The findings hold significant promise for sustainable agriculture, as the utilization of such naturally occurring microbes could reduce reliance on chemical pesticides and fertilizers, contributing to more eco-friendly farming practices. The implications of this research are profound, not only for maize but for broader agricultural practices. By harnessing the power of endophytes, farmers can enhance crop productivity while promoting environmental sustainability. This breakthrough opens up new avenues for developing robust, high-yielding, and stress-tolerant crops that can better withstand the challenges posed by climate change and global food demands.



# Peace in border areas pre-requisite for developing ties with China: EAM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday said in the Rajya Sabha peace and tranquility in border areas is a pre-requisite for the development of bilateral ties with China and the two sides will be discussing de-escalation and effective management of activities in these areas in the coming days. He made these assertions while making a statement on India-China relations. A brief uproar was also witnessed following the statement and Opposition MPs walked out of the House after Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, disallowed them from seeking some clarifications. Jaishankar, while making a statement on "Recent Developments in India's Relations with China", also

said disengagement has now been achieved in full in eastern Ladakh through a step-by-step process, culminating in Depsang and Demchok. He had earlier made an identical statement in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. Jaishankar, in his statement, said India was and remains very clear that the three key principles must be observed in all circumstances, he said explaining: "one: both sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control (LAC), two: neither side should attempt to unilaterally alter the status quo, and three: agreements and understandings reached in the past must be fully abided by in their entirety". "Our relationship had progressed in many domains, but was obviously negatively affected by recent events. We are clear that the main-



Jaishankar said disengagement has now been achieved in full in eastern Ladakh through a step-by-step process, culminating in Depsang and Demchok. He had earlier made an identical statement in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Jaishankar's detailed statement came weeks after Indian and Chinese militaries completed the disengagement of troops from two last face-off points in eastern Ladakh, effectively ending the over four-year military face-off along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. "The next priority will be to consider de-escalation, that would address the massing of troops along the LAC with associated accompaniments," he said. He said with the task of disengagement completed, it is now our expectation that dis-

Soon after the Minister completed his statement, Opposition leaders wanted to seek some clarifications. It was, however, disallowed by the Chair, leading to a brief ruckus in the House. "Time and again, I have invited your attention, indulgence, that we are being watched by the entire nation and our demeanour is causing a serious dilution of the institution, an institution meant for debate is not having it, therefore getting into irrelevance," Dhankhar said as Opposition members demanded that the minister answer their questions. "The rule on a statement is explicit. The Minister... Has taken the House in confidence. He could be as exhaustive as possible," he said. Chairman said the House rule on statements is explicit wherein no questions are

asked at the time of the making of a statement. "Even on such an issue, the kind of indecorous behaviour I saw, the kind of body language reflected, when I say it every time, it does not earn me any accolades," Dhankhar said. "I want you to kindly contribute and believe in some kind of rules. I have no doubt the statement of the honourable minister must have been seen by the entire country. They must be taking note of how comprehensively he has expressed his point of view." "Evolve some kind of consensus. There are issues of security and national importance where we need to display exemplary conduct," Dhankhar added. As the Chair did not allow questions, opposition MPs staged a walkout.

## Over one lakh positions vacant in CAPFs, AR: Government

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Over one lakh positions are vacant in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and Assam Rifles (AR), Rajya Sabha was informed on Wednesday. The total posted strength of CAPF and AR was 9,48,204 as on September 30, according to the Union Home Ministry data. Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the government is taking steps to fill the vacancies expeditiously. It has created 71,231 new posts in the CAPFs and AR in the last five years, according to the data provided by Rai in a written response to a question. The minister said vacancies in CAPFs and AR arise on account of retirements, resignations, promotions, deaths, the raising of a new battalion, the creation of new posts, etc, and filling them up is a continuous process. The data showed that 1,00,204 posts are vacant in CAPFs



The data cited by the minister shows that 42,797 CAPF and AR personnel have availed 100 days' leave in a year between 2020 and October 2024. To a question on financial assistance provided to martyred CAPF and AR personnel through the Bharat Ke Veer portal, the minister said financial assistance of Rs 25 lakh in addition to other financial entitlements is being provided to next of kin (NoKs) of martyrs through the portal. "The Bharat Ke Veer Trust ensures that NoK of martyrs get a minimum of Rs one crore from all entitlements. Parents of married martyrs are also provided financial assistance of Rs. 10 Lakh from 'Bharat Ke Veer Trust', he said. The minister said the Bharat Ke Veer portal was launched in 2017 while the Bharat Ke Veer Trust was established in 2018 and 501 dependents of martyrs have been provided financial assistance from it so far.

and AR with 33,730 vacancies in CRPF; 31,782 in CISF; 12,808 in BSF; 9,861 in ITBP; 8,646 in OSB and 3,377 in AR as on October 30. "The Ministry has been taking and will continue to take earnest steps to fill up the vacancies expeditiously through UPSC, SSC and the forces concerned," the minister said. He said the government has taken several steps to increase intake like a reduction in the time taken for medical examination to expedite the recruitment, lowering the cut-off marks for short-listing candidates for Constable-GD to get sufficient candidates (especially in categories where shortfalls have been observed). In response to a separate question, the minister said the government has given due importance to the overall well-being of personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces. "To this end, the Ministry has made constant efforts so that CAPF personnel spend 100 days in a year with the family in order that their life balance is enhanced," he said.

## Were OCCRP's Adani reports funded by US agencies?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP), which published articles on the Adani Group last year, is now under the scanner over its funding from the US government agencies. French newspaper 'Mediapart' in an investigative piece published on Monday has revealed about its ties with the US government and certain vested stakeholders. "While the OCCRP does indicate on its website that it receives funding from the US Department of State, and notably from the US Agency for International Development, USAID, it conceals the extent of the funding and the strings attached to it from its media partners, journalists and the wider public. The US government financing is never mentioned in OCCRP-produced articles," the French newspaper mentioned.

It mentioned OCCRP receives a huge share of funding from certain stakeholders from United States including US Agency for International Development (USAID). "The OCCRP has omitted from its official history the role played by the US government in its creation, only mentioning the funding by the UN. Sullivan responds to that by underlining that the UN Democracy Fund payment was indeed the first that the NGO received," Mediapart stated. Since its inception, OCCRP has received at least \$47 million from the US government, \$14 million from European countries (Britain, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, Slovakia and France) and 1.1 million from the European Union. "The OCCRP appears uncomfortable about the scale of US funding, as the amounts are not published on the NGO's website," Mediapart noted further. According to Mediapart,

OCCRP has funded a programme which uses investigations by OCCRP to prompt sanction procedures and judicial probes. "The Department of State also gave 173,324 dollars to the OCCRP for a mission of "uncovering and combatting Venezuelan corruption" - Venezuela's autocratic president Nicolás Maduro is a high-profile enemy of the US," the French newspaper revealed. In the same article Mediapart stated for a journalistic organisation to lead such activities upon the initiative and with the funding of the US, even for a just cause, raises important ethical questions. The revelations made by Mediapart come at a time when industrialist Gautam Adani is in the thick of storm over dubious allegations of bribery in US which has rocked the Parliament since day one of ensuing Winter Session.

## Stalled MGNREGS funds: Centre not discriminating against Bengal, says Chouhan



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

With funds under the flagship MGNREGS stalled for West Bengal for more than two years now, Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Wednesday said the Centre is not discriminating against the state, which he blamed for not complying with the Union government's directives. His comments come a day after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and the central government clashed in Parliament over the disbursement of funds under the MNREGA to the State, after TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee claimed in the Lok Sabha that the West Bengal government is yet to receive funds under the central scheme for the fiscal years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024. The funds for West Bengal under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have been stopped since March 2022 due to non-compliance of directives of the Central government, according to the Ministry of Rural Development. Asked what is the way forward, Chouhan told reporters at a press conference here, "We are concerned about the poor people in West Bengal as well. We have asked for certain compliances, and if the state fulfils them, we will consider it". Chouhan also said the state has been provided funds under other schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). "West Bengal has received funds under PM Sadak Yojana

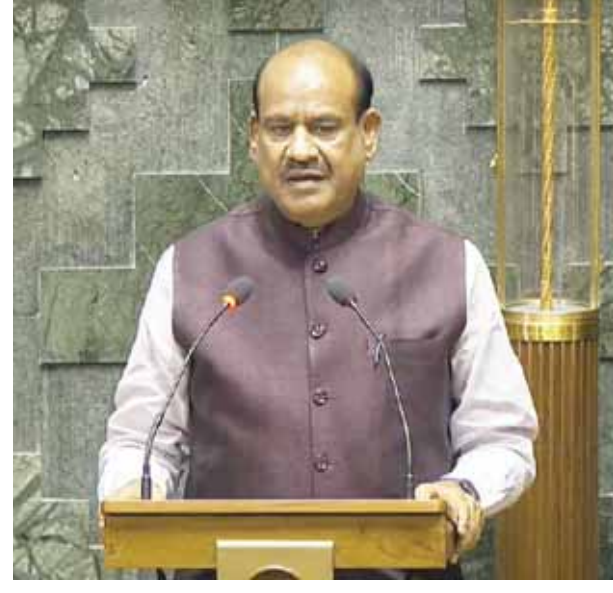
because there were no discrepancies in that. We give funds for a purpose. If that purpose is not met, if names of schemes are changed, non-eligible people are made beneficiaries, standards are not followed, should we not ask for answers? Should we keep giving money," Chouhan asked. "The Centre has the right to conduct a probe. It was done, irregularities were found, so we had to take action," he said. The minister added that action will be taken if similar irregularities are found in other states. While replying during the Question Hour in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday, Chouhan strongly refuted Trinamool Congress member Kalyan Banerjee's allegation that Central funds under various welfare schemes were not released to West Bengal. Chouhan also accused the West Bengal government of diverting Central funds and making "undeserving" people beneficiaries of welfare schemes. "It has been demonstrated that non-beneficiaries have been registered as beneficiaries, and vice versa, under this scheme. The names of village development schemes were changed, which is not permissible. For instance, they committed an offence by renaming the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as their own. Furthermore, benefits intended for beneficiaries have been given to non-beneficiaries," Chouhan had said in Parliament on Tuesday. Trinamool Congress has been repeatedly accusing the Union government of depriving the state of Central funds.

## LS Speaker urges MPs not to create hindrances

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of Opposition MPs holding protests at the entry gate of Parliament House, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday urged MPs not to create hindrances as it obstructs those entering the building, especially women members. His appeal came a day after the Lok Sabha secretariat urged MPs not to hold protests in front of the gates of Parliament House, contending that such obstruction of movement could affect their safety and security. "I request all political parties not to obstruct the entry gate when others are entering the

building to attend proceedings. Women MPs have personally flagged their difficulty. I have already given directions and I request once again that if there is an issue, meet me but there should be no obstruction at the entry gate," Birla said ahead of Zero Hour. The secretariat's advisory on Tuesday came on a day parliamentarians held protests on the steps of Makar Dwar of Parliament, a gate reserved exclusively for their use and that of the officials. "Members are requested not to hold protests or demonstrations in front of gates of Parliament House as such actions cause serious hindrance to the movement of members to the Parliament Chambers



during sittings of the Houses," the advisory said. Earlier, the Speaker said Ministers should give up the habit of responding to members during the Question Hour till permitted by the Chair. This came after Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav made a comment while Union Minister Pralhad Joshi was replying to a question on solar energy and Union Minister Piyush Goyal responded to the Kannauj MP. Goyal earlier served as Power Minister. Joshi, who holds the New and Renewable Energy portfolio, was responding to supplementaries related to Pradhan Mantri-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBMY). Birla said Ministers should

not reply to members till they are allowed by the Chair. Later, the Speaker also asked members to keep their questions and answers short. He made the comments when Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia was responding to questions about BSNL. Scindia was also asked to keep his reply short. Members and Ministers should keep their questions and answers crisp and to the point so that more members can get the opportunity to ask questions during the Question Hour, Birla said. He was of the view that all the 20 questions selected for oral reply through a lottery system should be taken up during the Question Hour.

## UP Gangsters Act appears to be draconian, observes SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that the Uttar Pradesh Gangsters and Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Act appeared to be "draconian". The observation by a bench of Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan came while it was hearing a plea filed by a man who has challenged a May 2023 Allahabad High Court order dismissing his application seeking to set aside proceedings against him pending before a District Court in Kasganj in a case registered under the Act. "This Act appears to be draconian," the apex court observed. "We will consider it," the bench said while admitting the appeal. While hearing the matter in November last year, the SC had sought responses from the Uttar Pradesh Government and others on the plea and said, "By way of ad-interim order, no coercive steps be taken against the petitioner qua Gangster Act." On Wednesday the petitioner's counsel said he has been



booked in the case under the provisions of the 1986 Act on allegations of illegal mining in the Ganga river. The counsel argued that earlier, another FIR related to alleged illegal mining was registered. "They have booked me twice for the same allegation," the lawyer argued. The counsel appearing for the State referred to the provisions of the 1986 Act. "It requires consideration," the bench said, adding that a separate plea challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the Act was also pending adjudication before it. Before the High

## 970 persons rehabilitated under SMILE sub-scheme: RS told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A total of 970 persons have been rehabilitated under the SMILE sub-scheme, which focuses on the comprehensive rehabilitation of individuals, including children, engaged in begging, the Rajya Sabha was told on Wednesday. The scheme is being implemented across 81 cities and towns in 26 States and UTs, particularly those of religious, historical, and tourist importance, where the issue of begging is more prominent. The goal is not only to rehabilitate these individuals but also to provide them with long-term opportunities for reintegration into society, said Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha. This rehabilitation includes a diverse range of interventions to address their immediate and long-term needs, said the Minister adding that among the 352 children rehabilitated, 169 children were reunited with their parents while 79 children were sent to Anganwadis (early childhood care and education



centers). In reply to a written question, he further said that 33 children were handed over to Child Welfare Committees for further support and care. 71 children were enrolled in schools, ensuring access to education. In Andhra Pradesh ( Tirupati, Visakhapatnam, Guntur and Vijayawada), Assam ( Hojai/Doboka, Golaghat, Guwahati and Tezpur), Arunachal Pradesh (Itanagar, Namsai), Bihar (Bodh Gaya, Dharbanga, Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Patna and Purnia), Chandigarh (Chandigarh), Delhi (NCT (New Delhi)), Haryana (Sonapat, Panchkula), Himachal Pradesh

(Dharamshala, Shimla), Jammu & Kashmir (Jammu, Srinagar), Jharkhand (Deoghar, Ranchi, Giridih, Jamshedpur), Kerala (Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode), Karnataka (Mysuru), Gujarat (Vadodra, Pavagarh Mahakali, Somanath, Kevadia), Manipur (Bishnupur), Maharashtra (Trimbakeshwar, Shirdi, Nagpur, Pune (PMPRI\_MC), Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Jalgaon). The other States are Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.





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PAPER WITH PASSION

## No love lost

The relations between India and Bangladesh are on the ebb and if steps are not taken now, could deteriorate further

The relations between India and Bangladesh, long characterised by cultural ties and strategic cooperation, have soured in recent months. Protests, diplomatic outrage and heightened security concerns are the latest manifestations of the growing rift between the two neighbours. The arrest of a Hindu monk in Bangladesh has sparked unrest, further straining ties that have been under pressure since the ousting of former Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August 2024. The minority has historically faced discrimination and sporadic violence, often exacerbated by political upheavals. Sheikh Hasina's government, in power until her abrupt ousting in August, was seen as somewhat supportive of minorities, though her critics argue this support was inconsistent. Hasina's exit, triggered by mass protests against alleged corruption and authoritarianism, plunged Bangladesh into political instability. The arrest of Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh has reignited long-standing grievances about the treatment of minorities in the country. Das was detained on charges of sedition and inciting unrest during an October protest advocating minority rights in Chittagong. His denied bail and the subsequent delay of his hearing until January 2025 have escalated tensions.



This has led to protests in India, headed by Hindu organisations and supported by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These protests culminated in an attack on the Bangladeshi consulate in Agartala, causing significant diplomatic fallout. The vandalism at the consulate prompted sharp criticism from Dhaka,

which labeled the incident 'heinous' and demanded stringent action from India. Bangladesh also summoned Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka to show its displeasure over the incident. Meanwhile, Indian authorities, while condemning the attack and increasing security for Bangladeshi diplomatic missions, have struggled to contain public sentiment. In Dhaka, the storming of the consulate sparked counter-protests, with students and activists condemning the incident and demanding accountability from India. The situation has become a flashpoint for nationalist and religious tensions on both sides. The strained relations carry significant risks. For India, Bangladesh is a vital partner in maintaining border security and managing regional stability. The two countries share deep economic ties and cultural connections, making any prolonged estrangement costly. However, mutual trust has eroded. While Indian side urge Bangladesh to address violence against minorities, Bangladeshi officials accuse Indian media of propagating disinformation. Both nations have had good relations and they must urgently de-escalate tensions. Resolving the immediate crisis surrounding the monk's arrest, addressing minority rights concerns in Bangladesh, and curbing inflammatory rhetoric in India are critical steps.

### PICTALK



Artistes perform during a show of Rambo Circus, in Mumbai

## Election results challenge the Opposition unity

The electoral setbacks have exposed fractures within the INDIA alliance while the BJP has emerged stronger after the recently held state elections



KALYANI SHANKAR

The aftermath of the recent election results in Maharashtra and Jharkhand has led to cracks within the Opposition coalition known as the INDIA alliance. Following these disappointing results, some partners in the INDIA bloc, such as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Trinamool Congress, are focusing on their agendas and show little interest in collaborating for the current winter session of Parliament. AAP chief Kejriwal has announced that his party will go solo in Delhi Assembly polls, ruling out tie-up with Congress. The INDIA bloc hoped to consolidate anti-BJP votes in the capital.

Still, Kejriwal's announcement signals a potential fracture in unity. Additionally, it seems unlikely that the Uddhav Thackeray coalition will work together in the upcoming civic election. Consequently, the immediate concern for these partners is to unite and collaborate effectively. However, achieving this is proving to be quite challenging. Every political party makes mistakes, but the successful ones learn and improve. The INDIA bloc aimed to defeat the BJP in the Lok Sabha polls, ultimately allowing the BJP to form a government with support from the JD(U) and the Telugu Desam Party. The Assembly polls lacked a joint strategy. Two key points stand out in the recent elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. First is the significant victory of the BJP-led NDA in Maharashtra. Second is the ease with which Hemant Soren retained his position in Jharkhand despite being jailed on allegations of corruption. Another important question is whether the Congress, NCP and the Uddhav faction of the Shiv Sena misinterpreted the signals on the ground. Did the BJP make errors in Jharkhand? The recent results reveal missed growth opportunities. It could have performed better if Congress had learned from past experiences and made necessary adjustments. Unlike the Pachmarhi or Shimla conclaves,



there has been a lack of post-election analysis.

The Grand Old Party is entirely under the control of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition, and his chosen associates. Rahul worked hard and campaigned, but the party could not deliver. The results suggest they have yet to learn from the recent Haryana Assembly elections, such as relying heavily on one leader, ignoring the others, and the wrong distribution of tickets despite being in a winning position.

The most crucial aspect the Congress Party, NCP and the Uddhav faction of Shiv Sena must address is the narrative. For the Congress, the focus on caste issues, defending the Constitution, and making personal attacks on the Prime Minister has not resonated with the voters. This disconnect is a clear sign that the party needs to reevaluate its strategy and focus on issues that truly matter to the electorate, such as the bread and butter issues.

It is a pressing concern that needs alignment. Even earlier, Rahul Gandhi's Gandhi's attack on Savarkar did not garner any support for Congress; instead, it created friction between the Shiv Sena, which idolised Savarkar and Congress. These parties also did not realise the political impact of the BJP's par-



FOR THE CONGRESS, THE FOCUS ON CASTE ISSUES, DEFENDING THE CONSTITUTION, AND MAKING PERSONAL ATTACKS ON THE PRIME MINISTER HAS NOT RESONATED WITH THE VOTERS

ent organisation, RSS, which worked for the party's success. Maratha strongman Sharad Pawar must feel disheartened after losing his party and the election to his nephew, Ajit Pawar, whom he groomed. The warning signs became clear when Ajit joined the BJP, betraying his uncle to help form the government. The situation worsened when the Election Commission recognised Ajit's faction as the real Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), despite Sharad Pawar having founded and led it to power multiple times.

This decision severely undermined Pawar. So must Uddhav Thackeray, son of Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray, who succeeded his father, lost the party and elections to his rebel Eknath Shinde, who helped BJP form the government in Maharashtra in a coalition. Both must introspect about what led to their loss of popularity.

On the other hand, JMM, a partner in the INDIA bloc, has demonstrated how to win despite numerous challenges. JMM Chief Minister Hemant Soren and his wife, Kalpana, faced several hardships, including a jail sentence for Soren. The results of the bye-elections after the Assembly polls show that the BJP is not invincible.

Elections in India happen almost continuously in various states, which means the election season never truly ends. The next significant event will be the Rajya Sabha elections for six seats on December 20. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is expected to win five of these six seats. At the same time, the Trinamool Congress is likely to secure one. If this prediction holds, the NDA will gain a majority in the Upper House, which could weaken the Congress Party's position in Parliament. There are currently eight vacancies: four in the nomination category and four in Jammu and Kashmir. Elections around the world highlight both victories and defeats. Each election offers valuable lessons regarding the successes and mistakes of the candidates and parties involved. These outcomes are not exclusively driven by generational change, as change is a constant process. Future generations must strive to advance their party. Ultimately, the true winner is the one who learns from their mistakes swiftly. Winners should avoid becoming complacent, while those who lose must stay motivated.

(The writer is a popular columnist; views are personal)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### DELHI NEEDS TO BE DECONGESTED

Madam — Delhi's role as India's political capital and administrative nerve centre has created a lopsided dependence on a single city, which is becoming increasingly untenable for several reasons. Delhi is overcrowded and heavily polluted, with air quality regularly breaching hazardous levels. This is posing several health risks to its residents, particularly children and the elderly, leading to long-term implications for public health. Basic amenities like water and electricity are stretched thin. Traffic congestion and overburdened public transportation systems result in wasted time and reduced productivity. Concentrating the country's entire administrative apparatus in one city makes it vulnerable to dangers of terrorism, natural disasters and other calamities. The concentration of central government offices in Delhi, apart from inflating property prices, skews economic activity and perpetuates regional inequality.

The idea is not to displace Delhi as the national capital entirely but only to distribute its administrative load. The top-level officials of all the ministries and departments may be retained in Delhi for administrative convenience. Ministries and departments within ministries could be relocated to different cities/towns best suited for their focus areas, avoiding already congested metros like Bengaluru and ensuring balanced regional development. The government may start with a pilot involving one or two ministries, followed by an evaluation of costs, benefits, and scalability. Advances in IT and communication enable virtual conferences and seamless coordination, making physical proximity less critical. The conduct of G-20 meetings last year successfully should give the government confidence to take off in this direction. Decentralising national capital is not merely an administrative adjustment; it is also a transformative step toward equitable development and stronger governance.

Gopalaswamy J | Chennai

#### Uncertainty in Maharashtra



It is disgusting that after such a huge mandate, the Mahayuti cannot form the new government, though the results were declared on November 23. They are insulting the mandate. By rights, the chief ministerial post belongs to the leader of the party that has more MLAs than the combined total of the other two constituents. With Ajit Pawar publicly endorsing Fadnis for chief ministership, Shinde should gracefully bow

to the inevitable and propose the BJP leader's name for heading the new government. He betrays the trust the Maharashtra voter has reposed in the Mahayuti by throwing a sulking fit and vanishing to his village, while the more urgent task of government formation awaits him in Mumbai. Such childish behaviour is unbefitting of a senior politician like him.

Decency requires that the leaders of the Mahayuti work together in the same cooperative and concerted manner with which they had worked to win the large popular mandate. Now with Fadnis as chief minister and Shinde and Ajit Pawar as Dy CMs, they should show the same zeal and energy to resolve the myriad socio-economic problems facing the people of Maharashtra. Excessive ambition, especially unsupported by numbers in the Assembly, can be counterproductive.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

deposits are proving to be a reliable support.

Dattaprasad Shirodkar | Mumbai

#### MRP REGULATION NEEDED

Madam — Manipulating the MRP (Maximum Retail Price) of medicines is a significant issue in India. Pharmaceutical companies often set MRPs much higher than the production cost, burdening patients financially. Retailers further exploit this by charging inflated prices. While the government's Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) regulates essential medicines, many drugs remain outside its scope, allowing companies to set arbitrary prices. Initiatives like Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which provide affordable generic medicines, are commendable but need wider promotion. Transparency, awareness, and the promotion of generics are key to ensuring affordable healthcare for all.

R K Jain | Barwani

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## The role of teachers in building positive learning spaces

A successful classroom isn't just about books and resources; it's about creating an environment where students feel valued, heard and empowered to succeed

A thriving learning classroom is grounded in the way the students perceive their classroom. It's not just about utilising the appropriate resources but establishing a space where students feel recognised, heard and valued. Teachers are the key catalysts in making this possible by nurturing a balanced, cohesive and well-organised environment that allows students to reach their potential. By implementing strategies to cater to individual requirements, connect thoughtfully, and commemorate milestones, educators can establish an educational atmosphere that supports progress, self-esteem, and teamwork.

Teachers can build a positive and inspiring learning space. **Develop a sense of anticipation:** Teachers should give explicit instructions and procedures to their students so that they feel comfortable. When students know what comes next, their interaction with the lesson increases and their belief in their learning abilities is enhanced, leading to a serene and concentrated mood. Address students' needs. No student is entirely



similar to another in the classroom. Instructors should appreciate academic and emotional needs and take a personalised approach to materials, attention, and motivation.

**Welcome learners into the classroom** First impression means a lot. A simple smiling morning wish makes students receive and look forward to the day. A welcoming environment causes active involvement and participation in the class's activities.

**Interact with students** Ideally, this should help prepare a powerful fondness between teachers and students. Teachers must take an active role in students' lives; they should ask questions and pay attention to the answers. This builds trust, develops reading skills, and makes students want to speak

more. **Team-building activities** help in practising directives and showing appreciation to others.

**Be experiential** Sometimes, the mistakes, failings and losses of the teachers make the learning environment comfortable and emotionally intelligent. This ensures that students are encouraged to connect and share, indicating that learning is collective and not individual.

**Celebrate success and appreciate students:** Recognising and celebrating students' achievements enhances their self-confidence and encourages them to try again. Teachers must reward such behaviour with verbal appreciation, prizes, or other forms of reward in the classroom.

**Avoid judgement:** Acceptance and open-mindedness are evident in a conducive learning environment. Judgement should not be attached to the students so that the students can feel free to explore and even commit mistakes without being laughed at.

**Suppress anger and act strategically:** Emotional regulation is expected from the

teachers. Keeping cool during conflicts or problems serves as a good decorum for the students' emotions and problem-solving skills, this practice leads to a learning environment that is calm and goal-oriented.

**Listen to their thoughts** Allowing students to express their opinions also encourages them to take responsibility for their learning. Studies suggest that teachers should nurture students to enable them to speak their minds.

**Acknowledge feedback:** The teachers should encourage and respond to any feedback from their students. If the students are appreciated for their response, then the atmosphere becomes interactive. Simple activities such as organising the room, attending to students, or recognising achievement encourage teachers to design a safe, friendly, and welcoming space for students. A welcoming and nurturing classroom facilitates academic achievement among learners and emotional and social development.

(The writer is principal of Modern School; views are personal)



ALKA KAPUR

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com





## FIRST COLUMN

## SVABHAVNA: A PATH TO TRANSFORMATION

Our innate nature is both, a defining force in our lives and a formidable adversary



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

We are born with it. Nature ('svabhava') is what we have done in earlier lives and our deep desires, which are still unfulfilled. It is part of our fate and big events, both good and bad ('parabdha'). Svabhava defines us. Character, personality, behaviour, moods, attitude, opinions, faith, preferences, how we decide, how we interact and what we care about, all have links with our natures. Spiritually speaking, three modes ('gunas') constitute this. They are present in every person in different percentages.

For example, a good man will have more of the goodness mode; not a good man will have more of the mode of darkness and the rest will fall in between. However, these modes always compete for supremacy. "Goodness become predominant by overpowering passion and darkness; darkness becomes predominant by overpowering even goodness and passion; and passion becomes predominant by overpowering goodness and darkness." (The Bhagavad-Geeta 14.10) This is what happens with good people.

Temporarily, their thinking and actions come under darkness, and they behave lustily, angrily, etc. Compare this with what happens with bad people, who naturally behave badly. Only when the mode of goodness gains ascendancy they behave better. Unfortunately, a common man falls in between, and he has many faults in his svabhava. What does he normally do? He wishes to enjoy his senses as much as possible; likes to avoid duties; tries to act smart, even resorts to cheating; feels superior; laughs at others; and hates suffering, whenever



it comes, blames others for it. This is not so bad as to come under negative emotions like lust, anger, greed, hate, etc. Driven by them, one acts badly and becomes deserving of punishment. For example, when lust overpowers, one crosses limits ('maryada') and does what will taint for life. A greedy person thinks nothing beyond gaining more and wastes precious human life. Anger raises its ugly head when lust is denied. (18.66) And hate, when it is uncontrolled, dooms a person. (16.19) Therefore, one has to be very careful at all times. Svabhava, which controls our thinking and surely our actions can be our worst enemy. What can be done to safeguard ourselves?

The very first thing is to introspect at all times. Are my deep desires faulty? Am I crossing social norms? Am I violating dharma? Am I avoiding duties? We will find that we are. Then, what is to be done? Can I control myself? Maybe, a little, but not fully. Am I stuck? Yes and no. Yes, because drastic change in nature is not possible, as svabhava is part of our destiny, just like big occurrences such as losing one's job will come and we cannot stop them from coming. No, as God is very merciful. He has left an opening in both cases. If one takes shelter from God sincerely, God helps one to come out of all one's troubles (18.58) As far as nature goes, God can help change it for the better if one is determined. This is tough and a slow process, but doable. What is the conclusion? We have a problem with our natures. Whether it is lust or anger or greed or hate or overinflated ego, we are well and truly stuck. Therefore, rush to God's shelter, i.e. get started to please Him now. Let God be convinced that you are determined; He will surely help. And when we do that, those around us will also begin to have some inspiration from us, rather than trying to correct one another, which is an impossibility.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher; views are personal)

## COP29: A disappointing climate finance deal



B K SINGH

COP29, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, left developing nations frustrated over unmet climate finance commitment making chances of climate reversal bleak



UNFCCC's COP29 concluded in Baku, Azerbaijan on November 24, leaving the vulnerable countries disappointed in the deal made in climate finance. The deal was announced by the Presidency to mobilise \$300 million annually by 2035 as against the \$1.3 trillion target put forth by developing nations, which was also supported by India. Developed countries have abandoned the global south, and have to muster their resources for mitigation and adaptation towards the challenges of the climatic crisis.

It is more than three decades that Scientists have been constantly reminding us of the transition of our energy dependency from coal, oil and gas to solar, wind and other renewables. Burning of fossil fuels ever since industrialisation began in 1919 has caused the cumulative emission of 2400 gigabits (Gt) of CO2 equivalent greenhouse gases (CO2, methane, oxides of nitrogen and fluorocarbons - measured as CO2 equivalent). It was also added that an additional 500 Gt would warm the planet by 1.50 C above the preindustrial level leading to frequent and destructive climate events like cyclones, cloudbursts, forest fires, floods, droughts and heat waves disrupting our lives and livelihoods.

Despite such a warning, global annual emission is nearly 40 Gt of CO2 equivalent. World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has found 2023 as the warmest year in recorded history and evident from the data till September 2024 is set to register a new temperature record.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has brought all 200 countries together to review actions on their pledges in the annual conference of parties (COP). At COP29 held in Paris in 2015, countries made certain pledges to be fulfilled by 2030 about cutting dependency on fossil fuels, transitioning towards renewables and providing finance to vulnerable countries for adaptation and mitigation etc. G20 countries which contribute 80 per cent of the global emissions and also hold 85 per cent of global GDP have become rich at the cost of global warming. Except for India, none of the G20 countries is on course to fulfil NDC pledges by 2030. South Asian, African and island countries have been the most vulnerable and greatest suf-

ferers of extreme climate events and have been deprived of adequate funds for adaptation and mitigation. It was resolved at the COP held in 2009 in Copenhagen that developed nations would provide climate finance of \$100 billion to vulnerable countries annually with effect from 2020, but only \$400 million was provided till 2022. The annual \$100 billion fund committed by developed nations is set to continue till 2035 and only after that, it would be \$300 billion. Though the Paris climate deal set in 2015 called for an upward revision of the annual fund of \$100 billion in 2025, the Baku conference did not respect it and revised it only with effect from 2035.



EXCEPT FOR INDIA, NONE OF THE G20 COUNTRIES IS ON COURSE TO FULFIL NDC PLEDGES BY 2030. SOUTH ASIAN, AFRICAN AND ISLAND COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN THE MOST VULNERABLE AND GREATEST SUFFERERS OF EXTREME CLIMATE EVENTS AND HAVE BEEN DEPRIVED OF ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

A new collective quantified goal (NCQG) on climate finance was mandated to be set by COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to support vulnerable and developing countries. In 2025 it was to replace the \$100 billion annually set in 2009. UN evaluation estimated \$500 billion annually, while some other projections suggested that \$1.3 trillion is needed annually. Developing countries that are at the receiving end estimate an annual requirement of \$5 trillion for the purpose. Trump is not likely to contribute, COP29 in the first week of deliberations, failed to get any solid commitment from other developed nations to contribute towards it. Big emitters like the US and China were not even represented by heads of state at Baku.

As COP29 could not take a call on NCQG in the first week, UN climate chief Simon Stiell urged world leaders assembled at Rio de Janeiro for the G20 meeting, to send a strong signal that climate action is the core business for the world's biggest economies and step up climate finance globally but they too did not make any firm commitment and failed to break the deadlock. The cumulative emission of the US since industrialization began has been 537 Gt CO2 equivalent, China 324 Gt, EU 305 Gt, Russia 184,

Brazil 122, Indonesia 101 and India 89. The cumulative figure of China has recently gone passed the EU.

At present annual emissions of China have been 14 Gt, the US 8 Gt, the EU 6 Gt and India under 3 Gt. China's cumulative emission is 213 Gt behind the US and as it closes the gap by 6 Gt every year, it would take 36 years at this rate to surpass the US's cumulative emission. Developed countries that contributed to 2400 Gt cumulative emission have announced measures and pledged to cut emissions, but their action is not visible on the ground and the emissions are rising every year. Also, there has been an expansion of oil and gas production in the EU, US, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Russia etc. and many fold expansion of coal in China. Developed countries that want bigger economies like China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, and Saudi Arabia should also contribute to climate finance towards NCQG. China's scuttling this move is unjustified.

At present China is contributing to warming the planet in a big way. Why should it not pay? Scott Bessent who has been picked as Treasury Secretary for Trump 2.0, has announced a "3-3-3" plan that includes 3 per cent annual growth in GDP, bringing down the budget deficit to 3 per cent of GDP and additionally producing 3 million barrels of oil and gas daily. This is bound to spike the GHG emissions globally and further the increase in temperature. The vulnerable nations at the end of COP29 argued for raising at least \$1.3 trillion towards NCQG, but amidst a hard fight, protests by a group of 77 and walk out by island nations, the developed nations agreed to provide \$300 billion annually that too by 2035 and continue with the existing \$100 billion till then. India also supported the demand of the developing nations and said that without adequate support in terms of finance, technology and capacity building the fight against climate change

would be severely impacted.

The delegates from developing nations voiced anger and lambasted wealthy nations for not doing enough. The rich countries responsible for warming the planet are now leaving vulnerable countries in the lurch to face the consequences. Starting from 2005, Carbon trading has been increasing exponentially, but a lot of fraudulent accounting and greenwashing have undermined its credibility.

Rule 6 dealing with the carbon market needed some resolution and the same was pending for the last few COPs, although the funds are quite useful for climate mitigation works. COP29 cleared this long pending agreement allowing countries to trade carbon credits - certified reductions of carbon emissions at prices determined as a consequence of emission caps imposed by the countries. It has also been agreed that the operations of the carbon market would be supervised by the UN body.

Strict UN control is needed, as a project proponent in the developed nation can pay for an afforestation project to absorb 1000 tons of CO2 in a developing nation where trees fail to put in desired growth and are unable to sequester the entire quantity of carbon credited. Further, whether the countries claim credit generated across borders and also whether it can be counted in their NDC? Last year at Dubai COP 28 it was agreed to transition away from fossil fuel consumption, but none of the developed nations have demonstrated to cut the emissions. It is distressing that COP29 did not take up a review. The leading economies are consuming fossil fuels increasingly, without bothering about disastrous consequences. I recommend countries to slow down GDP growth, till renewable energy is fully developed.

(The writer is principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Head of Forest Force, Karnataka; views are personal)

## Maharashtra villages embrace green energy, move towards zero waste, zero bills

## The State is setting a benchmark for climate resilience by integrating water security with renewable energy

In a significant push towards climate resilience and sustainable development, Maharashtra is pioneering innovative solutions that combine water security with renewable energy. The state's groundbreaking initiatives are transforming rural communities while addressing the dual challenges of water scarcity and energy transition.



SANJAY SINGH

The Water Supply and Sanitation Department, along with the Ground Water Surveys and Development Agency (GSDA), has initiated a revolutionary automated solar-hybrid water pumping system across 69 communities. This innovative approach, supported by UNICEF Mumbai, represents a major leap in rural

water management technology. These systems reduce grid energy consumption by up to 80 per cent while ensuring 24/7 water availability. The hybrid technology prioritizes solar power and supplements it with grid electricity only when necessary, resulting in potential energy bill reductions of up to 90 per cent. The system's sophistication lies in its IoT-

enabled infrastructure. Digital flow meters and sensors installed at storage tanks allow Gram Panchayats to monitor and control water distribution remotely, preventing over-extraction and waste.

The technology includes an automatic solar panel cleaning mechanism, making it highly sustainable and low-maintenance. In Nagpur, the innovative "Green Project" demonstrates how integrated approaches can yield multiple environmental benefits. The project combines solar systems, rooftop rain-water harvesting, ground-water recharge and innovative cooling solutions. Early results are promising: a typical 250-square-meter rooftop can harvest approx-

imately 200,000 litres of water while reducing electricity consumption by 50 per cent. Perhaps the most inspiring success story comes from Manyachiwadi village in Satara district, which has become Maharashtra's first fully solar-powered village. Through the installation of over 100 rooftop solar panels, the village has achieved energy independence, eliminating electricity bills for its residents.

The project, funded through the Majhi Vasundhara Campaign state award money and community contributions, serves as a model for rural energy transition. Similarly, Tikekarwadi village has earned recognition under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj



Abhiyan (RGSA) for its comprehensive approach to sustainability. The village has successfully integrated solar and wind energy, biogas plants, and reverse osmosis water treatment systems, setting new standards for rural development. These initiatives are particularly significant given Maharashtra's

vulnerability to climate change.

The state faces recurring droughts, intense heat waves, and water scarcity issues. The year 2020, tied with 2016, was recorded as the hottest year, highlighting the urgent need for cooling solutions in rural areas where air conditioning is often unaffordable.

The state's approach aligns with multiple national programs, including the Jal Jeevan Mission, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Catch the Rain Campaign, and the Majhi Vasundhara Campaign. This convergence of schemes has enabled comprehensive solutions that address both immediate needs and long-term sustainability goals. The economic viability of these

projects is particularly noteworthy.

The Green Project, with an investment of approximately INR 420,000, achieves break-even within 3-4 years while providing lasting environmental benefits. The solar-hybrid water pumping systems have a payback period of 5-6 years, generating significant long-term savings for rural communities. These innovations represent a significant shift in rural development strategy, demonstrating that environmental sustainability and economic viability can go hand in hand.

The success of these projects has caught the attention of other states, with many looking to replicate Maharashtra's model.

These initiatives are in a way unlocking significant productivity gains and strengthening the development outcomes by accessing clean and green energy for water, health, etc.

As climate change continues to pose increasing challenges, Maharashtra's integrated approach to water security and energy transition offers valuable lessons for sustainable development. These initiatives not only address immediate environmental concerns but also build long-term resilience in rural communities, proving that local solutions can have a global impact in the fight against climate change.

(The writer is chief, UNICEF Maharashtra Office; views are personal)



## Didi clips Abhishek's wings, asserts her leadership



SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Forcing the message down the party line as to who the real boss in the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is, West Bengal Chief Minister (CM) Mamata Banerjee has taken some administrative decisions, making it loud and clear that her decision will be final in all spheres. To begin with the CM has reportedly decided to snap her party's ties with the professional election managers India Political Action Committee (I-PAC) of Prashant Kishore, who was imported into the state politics by her nephew Abhishek Banerjee five years ago. Dealing out an assertive message regarding the party command structure during a meeting of a select few, Banerjee said that she was still in command and that she would continue to remain the final word on the party. "I am still here, I am the final word (in the party). Connect with the people. Speak less, work more. All the decisions will be taken by Bakshi da (former MP Subrata Bakshi) and I," Banerjee said without uttering the name of Abhishek Banerjee, the party general secretary, who is often seen as the CM's successor to the Bengal masnad. She stopped short of asserting her dislike for the recent chorus in the party in favour of Abhishek, whom many leaders wanted to be

appointed as her deputy. Saying that no one should share any information with any "Pack" and that the TMC workers were enough to win elections without any outside "package" Banerjee said that "I am not bothered about these PAC-facs. A lot of incorrect information is coming... But I will decide on the information I get... so don't share any information with any Pack." The CM's statement apparently was aimed at I-PAC, insiders said, adding the election consultants were likely to work in Delhi with another political party and there was "good possibility of TMC leaving Prashant Kishore." I-PAC was imported to Bengal politics by Abhishek Banerjee after the 2019 General Elections, which saw the TMC's fortunes dwindle to just 20 seats compared to the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 18. In fact, it was the junior Banerjee who introduced Kishore to the CM at state secretariat Nabanna. In 2021 Banerjee roared back to power with a thumping majority and much of the credit was given to the poll consultancy firm. Subsequent to 2021's electoral success the general secretary's office and I-PAC gained in prominence and height, while Abhishek used the election consultants for conduct electoral advertisements and election campaigns sidelining the

traditional workers. It was during this period that a parallel power hierarchy developed with a number of leaders beginning to show allegiance to Abhishek Banerjee with a senior MLA and former minister Humayun Kabir even going to the extent of advising a deputy CM role for him. "No one can continue in a post for whole life... besides there is much pressure on Mamata Didi, who is likely to assume bigger role in the national politics in near future... is so it is time appoint Abhishek Banerjee as the deputy chief minister with the port folio of home ministry," Kabir said even as the party started to get divided vertically between two blocks: one led by the old-timers like Saugato Roy, Kalyan Banerjee, Sudip Bandopadhyay and Firhad Hakim and the other led by Kabir, Naryan Goswami, Shaikat Molla and others. Banerjee's decision to wrest back the organisational reins of the party tends to come at this juncture. As late as on Wednesday the Chief Minister transferred out the State Additional Director General of Criminal Investigation Department Rajshekhara known for his proximity to Abhishek Banerjee to a comparatively less ceremonial post of ADG, Training. He will replace present ADG Training Damiyanti Sen.

## Opposition protests new railway bill, claims will be used to privatise carrier

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs on Wednesday said the government should not privatise Indian Railways as it will hurt the interest of poor people and demanded that concession for senior citizens be restored. The Bill that seeks to simplify the legal framework in the Railways Act, 1989, however received strong backing from NDA partners, including the TDP, Janata Dal (United), and the LJP (Ram Vilas), in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday. However, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partners also highlighted areas that need attention, particularly passenger safety and concessions for senior citizens. Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said the number of rail accidents has come down from 171 during UPA regime to 40 in 2023-24. In the current fiscal, 29 rail

accidents have taken place so far. Minister was replying during the debate on Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 bill in Lok Sabha, which proposes to simplify the legal framework by incorporating the proposals of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 in the Railways Act, 1989. This will reduce the need to refer to two laws. Also, the Rail Budget has been hiked in 10 years from Rs 29,000 crore in 2014 to Rs 2.52 lakh crore, he said. Neeraj Maurya (SP) said the Government should have sent this bill to an all-party committee for deliberation. Manoj Kumar (INC) claimed that after the passage of the Bill, the government would look for scope to privatise railways. Bapi Haldar (TMC) demanded that rail ticket concessions to senior citizens, which was withdrawn during Covid, be restored. Moving the Bill for discussion, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the efficiency

of Indian Railways will improve with the passage of the Bill. Earlier during the Question Hour, replying to the demands of MPs demanding better facilities, Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is focusing on the improvement of services of the general coach passengers and, as part of the process, 1000 more general coaches will be added to the railway network by the end of this month. He said the Railways is also planning to build 10,000 additional general compartment coaches in the coming years. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus is to improve the services of the general class coaches. As part of the exercise, 1000 more general coaches will be added by the railways by the end of December. Our focus is more on general coaches rather than AC second or AC 3rd class coaches," he said during

the Question Hour. TDP MP GM Harish Balayogi praised the Bill for its transformative potential. "This Bill marks a significant step towards shedding outdated colonial laws and replacing them with indigenous, futuristic legislation. It introduces essential changes to streamline administrative and legal procedures, empowering the Railway Board," he said. Janata Dal (United) MP Kaushalendra Kumar lauded safety measures such as the Kavach automatic train protection system but urged the government to address lingering issues. Shrirang Barne of the Shiv Sena echoed the call for benefits for senior citizens, reminding Parliament that concessions were standard practice before the pandemic. LJP (Ram Vilas) MP Rajesh Verma called for an expansion of mechanised laundries across all railway divisions.

## Forensic team finds Pak made cartridges at Sambhal riot site

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh Police have uncovered a troubling development in the Sambhal violence case, with a forensic team recovering six empty cartridges bearing markings from Pakistan. Superintendent of Police Krishan Kumar confirmed the discovery and stated that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) would assist in the probe. Addressing the media, Kumar said, "The forensic team unearthed the cartridges during an inspection on Tuesday. Among them, one cartridge is marked with 'POF', indicating Pakistan Ordnance Factory, while another is labeled 'FN Star.'" Describing the findings as "highly concerning," Kumar emphasized that the incident warrants a deeper investigation with support from central agencies like the NIA. The SP disclosed that miscreants had sabotaged CCTV cameras near the Jama Masjid before launching their attack, which involved stone pelting and firing at the police. "The destruction of CCTV cameras was deliberate. The attackers then fired bullets, evidence of which has now been recovered," Kumar explained. Retrieving the 9mm pistol believed to have been used in the incident remains a priority for investigators, who have already begun analyzing the DVR from damaged CCTV systems to extract key evidence. Kumar assured the media that the conspiracy was premeditated, and efforts to recover the firearms and identify the perpetrators are in full swing. The violence erupted on November 24 during a controversial survey of the Mughal-era Shahi Jama Masjid, which had reignited claims over its historical origins. The recovery of cartridges linked to Pakistan has added a sensitive dimension to the case, raising questions about potential external involvement. "The presence of these cartridges points to a serious issue. We are leaving no stone unturned in uncovering the full extent of this conspiracy," Kumar said.



Lt Gen Shankar Narayan, NM, VSM, Commandant inaugurated "DEEPAK HALL" on Monday 02 and dedicated it to troops. Mrs(Dr) Shankar Narayan also graced the occasion along with other senior dignitaries. "DEEPAK HALL" is named in the memory of martyr NAIK (Nur Asst) Deepak Singh who has made the supreme sacrifice for the nation in the line of duty during Operation "SNOW LEOPARD" at GALWAN in the intervening night of 15/16 Jun 2020 and was awarded "VIR CHAKRA" (posthumously) on 26 Jan 2021.

## Armyman shot dead in J and K



Security personnel stand guard on a road amid a joint operation by Indian Army and J and K Police. File photo

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ JAMMU

In another targeted strike on an army jawan, unidentified terrorists late Wednesday evening fired upon a soldier who was on leave in the Tral area of South Kashmir's Pulwama district. According to preliminary reports, a jawan of the Territorial Army received bullet injuries on his legs

when he was fired upon outside his residence in the Sofigund Arpal area of Tral. The residents in the neighborhood rushed the injured soldier to a nearby hospital where his condition was stated to be stable. Meanwhile, the security forces have also cordoned off the area and launched searches in the area to nab the terrorists behind the attack.

## Active terror module busted...

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During preliminary investigations it was revealed the suspects/inmates were in continuous touch with the handlers / members of terrorist organisation(s) across the border thereby receiving directions and passing on to the active terrorists active in Kashmir valley. The police spokesman said the raids were conducted inside the jail premises to uncover crucial evidence, curb illicit activities, prevent the misuse of communication devices, such as mobile phones, within the security zones including the jails and dismantling the terror ecosystem in the UT by not only identifying terrorist associates/Over Ground Workers (OGWs) supporting and abetting terrorism but by ensuring legal action against them as envisaged by the law of the land.

## Delhi boxer kills his entire family to avenge 'insult'

From page 1

Upon returning, he pretended to be shocked on seeing his family members lying dead, police said. Arjun had alerted the neighbours about finding the bodies lying in the house after he returned from a morning walk. However, an injury on Arjun's hand led to the police being suspicious of his involvement in the crime. "A PCR call was received around 6.53 am. The crime and forensics team were also called to the scene to gather evidence. Rajesh was found lying on the first floor, while the women were on the ground floor. The attacker used a sharp-edged weapon. Prima facie, there is no ransacking or stealing of articles from the house.

Further, proceedings are in progress. A case of murder has been registered at the Neb Sarai Police Station," Deputy Commissioner of police (south) Ankit Singh said. Upon sustained interrogation, the police found Arjun's versions changing, and he was unable to provide satisfactory answers. The police also analysed CCTV footage of his route. Speaking about the incident, Satish Kumar, Arjun's maternal uncle, said, "Rajesh was my brother-in-law. I received a call from my nephew (Arjun) about the incident. Rajesh had retired from the Army, and was currently working as a security officer. His daughter was a college student. I used to talk to my sister every two to three

days." Kumar suggested that a financial dispute might be the possible motive for the attack. Another neighbor said that the saddest part about the tragedy is that today also happened to be Rajesh and Komal's 27th wedding anniversary. "He was an introvert and kept to himself. None of us can comprehend the reason behind this murder," he said. An elderly woman neighbour said that the family's main door has an interlock system that can be operated from both sides. Soon after the incident, former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched a scathing attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party-led Central government after three members of a family were found dead at their home

in the National Capital. Describing the incident as "extremely painful and frightening," Kejriwal, who is also the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener, accused the Centre of allowing criminals a free hand and failing to ensure law and order in the capital. "Three murders in the same house in Neb Sarai... This is extremely painful and frightening. Every day, Delhiites wake up to such frightening news. Criminals have been given a free hand, law and order has collapsed. Homes are being destroyed, innocent lives are being lost. And those who are responsible are silently watching all this happen," he wrote in a post on X. "Will the Central Government keep quiet like this and watch

the law and order situation in Delhi collapse? Will its party still say that crime is not an issue in Delhi?" he added. The Delhi Police reports to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. Delhi Chief Minister Atishi also launched a sharp attack on the ruling party, accusing it of failing to fulfil its responsibility of providing security to the residents. "There was a triple murder in Neb Sarai this morning. Murders are happening in broad daylight in Delhi, bullets are being fired, drugs are being sold openly. The central government has only one responsibility in Delhi, to provide security to the people of Delhi. They have completely failed in their responsibility," she said.

## NCR breathes 'moderate' air after 50 days

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The primary pollutants on Wednesday were PM2.5, with levels recorded at 66.8 µg/m³ at 4 pm, while PM10 levels were 149.5 µg/m³ at the same time. These fine particles pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream. Meanwhile, the Decision Support System (DSS), the primary tool used to assess and estimate the sources of pollution in Delhi, has not been updated since Friday. A Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) official stated that the DSS is still undergoing development and has not yet been fully operationalised. "An evaluation committee reviewed the system and found that its data and accuracy did not meet the

terms of reference established for the model. Additionally, it was observed that some of the data and the emissions inventory being used were outdated," the official explained, seeking anonymity. According to the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, (CREA) report on air pollution, Delhi ranked as the most polluted city in India in November 2024, recording a monthly average PM2.5 concentration of 249 µg/m³, surpassing the daily NAAQS limit of 60 µg/m³ 100% of the days in the month. Delhi recorded 20 days in the 'Very Poor' (121-250 µg/m³) category and 10 days in the 'Severe' (>250 µg/m³) category. The November average is 2.2 times higher than the October average of 111 µg/m³, when there were 5 days in the 'Satisfactory'

category, 8 days in the 'Moderate' category, 4 days in the 'Poor' (91-120 µg/m³) category, and 14 days in the 'Very Poor' (121-250 µg/m³) category. In November 2024, the number of cities with 'Good' (0-30 µg/m³) air quality dropped significantly to 32, compared to 79 in October. Meanwhile, cities with 'Satisfactory' (31-60 µg/m³) air quality decreased from 135 in October to 77 in November. The number of cities experiencing 'Moderate' (61-90 µg/m³) air quality rose to 86 in November, up from 44 in October. There was also a notable increase in cities with 'Poor' (91-120 µg/m³) air quality, rising from 5 in October to 50 in November, and 23 cities recorded 'Very Poor' (121-250 µg/m³) air quality, compared to 0 in the previous month.

## Fadnavis wins Maha musical chairs

From page 1

It did not happen then. But, this time around, Devendra Fadnavis has staged a comeback as the chief minister of Maharashtra. Earlier at a BJPLP meeting held at the Central Hall of Vidhan Bhavan on Thursday morning, senior party leaders Chandrakant Patil and Sudhir Mungatkar proposed the name of Fadnavis as the Legislature Party leader, Pankaja Munde and Pravin Darekar seconded his name. After that, BJP's central observer Vijay Rupani declared that Fadnavis had been elected unopposed as the BJPLP leader. Congratulating Fadnavis on his election as the BJPLP leader, Union Finance Minister and party's central observer Nirmala Sitharaman said: "The 14 crore people of Maharashtra have given us a mandate for 'Viksit Bharat'. The double engine government under PM Narendra Modi's guidance will drive Maharashtra to new heights

of growth with full fervour and strength. The promises made in the manifesto will be fulfilled." Later in the afternoon, Fadnavis, accompanied by Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena (ES) and Ajit Pawar of the NCP (AP), drove to Raj Bhavan and called on the Governor. Together, the three MahaYuti leaders staked a claim to form a new government in the state. The BJP, which has emerged as the single largest in the recent Assembly polls with 132 out of total 288 seats, staking claim to form a new government. Eknath Shinde of the Shiv Sena (with 57 MLAs), Ajit Pawar of the NCP-AP (with 41 MLAs) and some Independent MLAs gave letters of support in Fadnavis' name. Satisfied with the claim, the Governor invited Fadnavis, Shinde and Ajit Pawar for the swearing-in ceremony scheduled for Thursday. Earlier, speaking at the BJPLP meeting after his election as its leader, Fadnavis thanked the party's newly elected MLAs for

electing him as the BJPLP leader unanimously. "You people have elected me unopposed. With this, my responsibility has increased." "The outcome in the recent election was historic. The verdict has proved our slogan "Ek hain toh safe hain". After the Lok Sabha polls, it has once again been proved "Modi hain toh mumkin hai"... I would like to bow before the people of the state for giving us a landslide victory in the polls. I would also like to thank MahaYuti leaders Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar on this occasion." Fadnavis thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for making an ordinary party worker like him as the chief minister of the state for the third time "We have not come into politics for big posts. Let's work for the larger interests of the people. Certain things may go in our favour, while certain other things may go against us. That being the case, let's work together in the larger interests of the people," he said.

## Commuters suffer, police, Cong lock horns...

From page 1

The Uttar Pradesh Police put up barricades and checked vehicles to prevent any untoward incident and Congress workers were seen attempting to climb over the barricades amid sloganeering. A scuffle broke out near the barricades. Prime facie, it seemed that some commuters and Congress workers clashed with each other at the border. With the carriageway from Delhi to Uttar Pradesh heavily congested, commuters faced a harrowing time in reaching their destinations. The other carriageway was open, but the vehicles moved at a snail's speed. Members of the Congress' youth wing raised slogans and waved the party flag as the police stopped Gandhi, citing prohibitory orders in place in Sambhal. The leaders left Delhi at around 10.15 am and reached the border at around 11 am.

However, their convoy was unable to move further. After they were blocked, Congress General Secretary KC Venugaopal tweeted, "We are determined to meet the victims' families in the interest of peace and communal harmony in our country; the UP government must allow the delegation to visit Sambhal". Earlier, Ghaziabad Police Commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra said, "We will not permit Rahul Gandhi to Sambhal as prohibitory orders have been issued by the administration there. Police will stop Gandhi at UP gate." A senior Delhi Police officer said the force has been deployed at the border to manage traffic, which is being diverted. Assistant Commissioner of Police Swatantra Kumar Singh said that they had inputs about the gathering on the highway. "We deployed security personnel to prevent any untoward incident," he said.



# Oppn parties in S Korea move to impeach president

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korea's opposition parties Wednesday submitted a motion to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol over the shocking and short-lived martial law that drew heavily armed troops to encircle parliament before lawmakers climbed walls to reenter the building and unanimously voted to lift his order. Impeaching Yoon would require the support of two-thirds of parliament, and at least six justices of the nine-member Constitutional Court would have to endorse it to remove him from office.

The motion, submitted jointly by the main liberal opposition Democratic Party and five smaller opposition parties, could be put to a vote as early as Friday.

Yoon's senior policy advisers and Defense Minister Kim Jong Hyun offered to resign as the nation struggles to make sense of what appeared to be a poorly-thought-out stunt. The Democratic Party on Wednesday submitted a separate motion to impeach Kim, who it alleged recommended the martial law declaration to Yoon.

In his speech announcing the abrupt order Tuesday night, Yoon vowed to eliminate "anti-state" forces and continued to criticise the Democratic Party's attempts to impeach key government officials and senior prosecutors. But martial law lasted only about six hours, as the National Assembly voted to overrule Yoon before his Cabinet formally lifted it around 4:30 a.m. The Democratic Party, which holds a majority in the 300-seat parliament, said Wednesday that its lawmakers decided to call on Yoon to quit immediately or they would take steps to



A National Assembly staff sprays fire extinguishers to block soldiers entering the main hall of the National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday.

AP/PTI

impeach him.

"President Yoon Suk Yeol's martial law declaration was a clear violation of the constitution. It didn't abide by any requirements to declare it," a party statement said. "His martial law declaration was originally invalid and a grave violation of the constitution. It was a grave act of rebellion and provides perfect grounds for his impeachment."

Impeaching him would require support from 200 of the National Assembly's 300 members. The Democratic Party and other small opposition parties together have 192 seats. But the rejection of Yoon's martial law declaration in a 190-0 vote included the votes of 18 lawmakers from Yoon's ruling People Power Party, according

to National Assembly officials. PPP leader Han Dong-hun and Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon, also a member, criticised Yoon's martial law declaration. Cho Jinman, a professor at Seoul's Duksung Women's University, said it's highly likely that lawmakers will back Yoon's impeachment motion given that some from the ruling party already voted down his edict. If Yoon is impeached, he'll be stripped of his constitutional powers until the Constitutional Court rules.

Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, the No. 2 position in the South Korean government, would take over his presidential responsibilities. Han issued a public message pleading for patience and calling for Cabinet members to

"fulfill your duties even after this moment."

The Constitutional Court has only six incumbent justices following three retirements. That means all six must approve Yoon's possible impeachment motion for it to succeed. They include those appointed after Yoon took office, so the Democratic Party is expected to speed up the process of exercising its rights to recommend two of the three new justices. Yoon's martial law declaration, the first of its kind in more than 40 years, harkened to South Korea's past military-backed governments when authorities occasionally proclaimed martial law and other decrees that allowed them to station combat soldiers, tanks and armoured vehicles on streets or at public

places like schools to prevent anti-government demonstrations. Such scenes of military intervention had not been seen since South Korea achieved a democracy in the late 1980s until Tuesday night.

After Yoon's declaration, troops carrying full battle gear, including assault rifles, tried to keep protesters away from the National Assembly as military helicopters flew overhead and landed nearby. One soldier pointed his assault rifle at a woman who was among protesters outside the building demanding that the martial law be lifted. It wasn't clear how the 190 lawmakers were able to enter a parliamentary hall to vote down Yoon's martial law decree.

Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung and National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik were seen climbing over walls. As troops and police officers blocked some from entering, they didn't aggressively restrain or use force against others. No major violence has been reported. The troops and police personnel were later seen leaving the grounds of the National Assembly after the parliamentary vote to lift the martial law. Woo said: "Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military."

Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national emergency states" that require the use of military force to restrict the freedom of press, assembly and other rights to maintain order. Many observers question whether South Korea is currently in such a state. The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lifting of martial law with a majority vote.

A presidential official said that Yoon decided to impose martial law as a way to resolve a political deadlock and did it in the middle of night to minimise its negative impacts on the economy. The official requested anonymity to discuss sensitive nature of the issue. Some experts say Yoon clearly violated the constitution in how he imposed martial law. While martial law allows "special measures" to restrict individual freedoms and the authority of agencies and courts, the constitution does not permit the functions of parliament to be restricted.

But in following Yoon's declaration on Tuesday, South Korea's military proclaimed parliamentary activities were suspended and deployed troops to try to block lawmakers from entering the National Assembly. Park Chan-dae, the Democratic Party's floor leader, called for Yoon to be immediately investigated on charges of rebellion over the way he deployed troops to the parliament. While the president mostly enjoys immunity from prosecution while in office, the protection does not extend to alleged rebellion or treason.

In Washington, the White House said the US was "seriously concerned" by the events in Seoul. A spokesperson for the National Security Council said President Joe Biden's administration was not notified in advance of the martial law announcement and was in contact with the South Korean government.

In Seoul, the streets seemed busy like a normal day Wednesday.

Tourist Stephen Rowan, from Brisbane, Australia, who was touring Gyeongbokgung Palace, said he was not concerned at all.

"But then again, I don't understand too much about the political status in Korea," he said. "But I hear they are now calling for the current president's resignation, so ... apparently there's going to be a lot of demonstrations. ... I would have been concerned if martial law had stayed enforced."

Natalia Slavney, research analyst at the Stimson Centre's 38 North website that focuses on Korean affairs, said Yoon's imposition of martial law was "a serious backslide of democracy" that followed a "worrying trend of abuse" since he took office in 2022.

## Activists file impeachment complaint against Duterte

**Manila (AP):** A group led by left-wing activists filed a second impeachment complaint against the Philippine vice president on Wednesday over her alleged misuse of government funds and demanded that she be permanently barred from holding public office.

The impeachment complaint filed by at least 74 activists, including human rights, labour and student leaders, before the House of Representatives reflects the extent of the political hostilities faced by Vice President Sara Duterte. She did not immediately comment on the new impeachment complaint or an earlier one filed Monday.

Duterte, a 46-year-old lawyer, is the daughter of also-controversial former President Rodrigo Duterte, who oversaw a bloody anti-drug crackdown while in office. The killing of thousands of suspects during the crackdown is being investigated by the International Criminal Court as a possible crime against humanity.

Her No. 1 political adversary has been President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., whom she publicly threatened with death in a November 23 online news conference.

Government investigators have launched a criminal investigation into her threat against the president, his wife and the speaker of the House of Representatives, a cousin and ally of Marcos. Duterte has tried to walk back her comments by saying they were not a direct death threat but rather an expression of concern for her own safety.

# Jewish settlers attack Palestinian towns, clash with Israeli troops

AP ■ JERUSALEM

Jewish settlers mounted a string of attacks on Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank overnight, burning homes and clashing with Israeli troops.

There were no immediate reports of any Palestinian casualties. The Israeli military said Jewish settlers attacked the village of Beit Furik after troops arrived in the area to dismantle an unauthorised farming outpost they had built nearby. It said the settlers hurled stones, wounding two members of the paramilitary Border Police, and one group entered the village and burned property. The West Bank has seen a surge in settler violence since the start of the war.

In Lebanon, a tenuous ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah has held despite Israeli forces carrying out several new drone and artillery strikes on Tuesday, killing a shepherd in the country's south. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed keep striking "with an iron fist" against perceived Hezbollah violations of the ceasefire.

Hezbollah began launching rockets, drones and missiles into Israel last year in solidarity with Hamas militants who are fighting in the Gaza Strip. The war in Gaza began when Hamas-led militants stormed into southern Israel on October 7, 2023, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 people hostage.

Israel's blistering retaliatory offensive has killed at least 44,500 Palestinians, more than half of them women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many of the dead were combatants. Israel says it has killed over 17,000 militants,



Palestinians check the rubble of a destroyed building following an overnight Israeli strike in Deir al-Balah, Gaza Strip, Wednesday.

AP/PTI

without providing evidence. The war in Gaza has destroyed vast areas of the coastal enclave and displaced 90 per cent of the population of 2.3 million, often multiple times.

Jewish settlers mounted a string of attacks on Palestinian towns in the occupied West Bank overnight, burning homes and clashing with Israeli troops. There were no immediate reports of any Palestinian casualties.

The Israeli military said one group entered the village, where they threw stones and burned property. An Associated Press reporter saw a blackened home and a destroyed car on Wednesday morning.

The military said Jewish settlers attacked the village of Beit Furik after troops arrived in the area to dismantle an unauthorised farming outpost they had built nearby on land privately

owned by Palestinians. It said the settlers hurled stones, wounding two members of the paramilitary Border Police. Settlers also attacked the village of Huwara, which has been the target of several previous attacks — even before the outbreak of the war in Gaza — and clashed with troops near Rujeib, another Palestinian village. Israeli police and the Shin Bet security agency said in a statement that they were investigating the settler attacks.

They said they arrested eight Israelis for suspected property damage and assaulting security forces. The West Bank has seen a surge in settler violence since the start of the war, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel. Settlers have also raced to establish new farming outposts that rights groups say are among the biggest drivers of the violence.

The UN's humanitarian office said settler attacks on Palestinian farmers during the recent olive harvest season "at least tripled" in 2024 compared to the last three years. Israel captured the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians want all three territories for an independent state.

### 4 CHILDREN KILLED IN GAZA STRIKE

Palestinian medics said an Israeli airstrike on the Gaza Strip killed at least five people, including four children, on Wednesday. The Awda Hospital, which received the bodies, said the five were gathered outside of shelters in the built-up Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza, which dates back to the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation.

# Relatives hunt for missing after Guinea stadium crush

**Conakry (AP):** A distraught Kambaly Kouroumah is searching for his teenage brother, Adama, at a local morgue in southern Guinea's Nzerekore city, where dozens of people died at a crowded stadium after chaos erupted during a soccer game.

Kouroumah is one of many bereaved people searching hospitals and mortuaries for missing relatives following Sunday's tragic events during the final of a national tournament honouring military leader Mamadi Doumbouya.

Official estimates say 56 people died in the crush, but the unofficial death toll is at least 135, according to the Collective of Human Rights Organisations of the Nzerekore region. More than 50 people remain missing, including Adama, 15, who was "every-

thing" to his devastated brother.

"I want to see him now, dead or alive," a heartbroken Kouroumah said.

The world's latest sports crowd disaster happened during the final of the tournament at the Third of April stadium in honour of Doumbouya, who overran the country's elected president three years ago and added it to the list of several West African countries hit by military coups in recent years. But for a football-loving nation hungry for its first World Cup qualification and an Africa Cup of Nations triumph, the two-week tournament in Nzerekore, almost 1,000 kilometres from the capital of Conakry, had attracted not just adults and youths, but also children.

Chaos had erupted at the crowded and open stadium after fans protested a referee's penalty call and were throwing stones towards the field, according to witnesses and local media. Security forces reacted to the disturbance with tear gas as fans poured onto the pitch, survivors said. While some fans managed to jump over the high fence to escape, videos from the scene showed many struggling to squeeze themselves through the main stadium entrance, ending up being crushed by the crowd.

Desperate fans were seen shouting and crying for help, many of them being trampled as they struggled to avoid the crush. Among the dead was Jaquerine Keba Koéovogui, 15, whose father said she rarely visited the stadium and, although she loved soccer, would always

prefer to watch it on television. "My daughter was with other members of the family, mostly boys who were able to jump over the stadium walls while she tried to get out through the entrance," said Jules Koevogui, 42. Mamadou Sanoh's painful search for his 10-year-old son ended with heartbreak.

"I went to the morgue and saw his body," said Sanoh. "I cannot tell you the shock I am feeling." The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy opposition coalition said the tournament was organized to drum up support for the "illegal and inappropriate" political ambitions of the junta leader. While videos showed the stadium was filled at full capacity, Cissé Lancine, a local sports journalist, estimated there were between 20,000 and 30,000 spectators.

# Rishi Sunak, Akshata Murty plan new UK office

**London (PTI):** Former British prime minister Rishi Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murty, are believed to be in talks to set up a new private office in the new year to make a positive contribution to Britain, according to a UK media report on Wednesday. The Times newspaper reports that Sunak and Murty, both 44 and with a combined estimated fortune of around GBP 500 million, are to fund the so-called "Office of Akshata Murty and Rishi Sunak" themselves. While the couple are still deciding on the focus of the new initiative,

both are said to be passionate about education and likely to incorporate that among its goals. "Rishi Sunak and his wife, Akshata Murty, are in talks about setting up an office next year to pursue initiatives that they believe will make a positive contribution to Britain," claims the newspaper report. "The former prime minister has elected not to take the GBP 1,15,000 a year allowance to which he is entitled after leaving No. 10 [Downing Street]. They are being supported by Coulson Partners, a PR firm set up by Andy

Coulson, a former No. 10 adviser and newspaper editor," it adds. Sunak, who stepped down as Conservative Party leader in the wake of a bruising electoral defeat in July, is now a backbench member of Parliament for Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire. Back in October, he addressed his final Prime Minister's Questions (PMQs) as Leader of the Opposition in the House of Commons to make way for his successor — Kemi Badenoch. Alluding to some media specu-

lation around his family's relocation plans to California, Sunak had stated that he will be spending more time in his constituency while continuing to raise issues of concern from the backbenches. "I am happy to confirm reports that I will now be spending more time in the greatest place on earth, where the scenery is indeed worthy of a movie set and everybody is a character — that's right, if anyone needs me, I will be in Yorkshire," he said, amid laughter from his parliamentary colleagues. Last month, Britain's first prime minister of

Indian heritage received a rockstar welcome at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's annual Diwali gala in London — where he joined Akshata and her mother Sudha Murty as the guest of honour. During her time at 10 Downing Street, Akshata Murty — daughter of Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy — held a regular "Lessons at 10" programme to provide children from across the UK an opportunity to see behind the scenes of the famous black door — the office and residence of the British PM in London.

# Trump team signs agreement with Justice Department for background checks

**Washington (PTI):** The transition team of President-elect Donald Trump has reached an agreement with the Department of Justice, paving the way for the department to conduct background checks and start the security clearance process for Trump administration nominees and appointees. The Memorandum Of Understanding was signed on Tuesday and comes amid controversy over some of Trump's

picks for top positions in the government.

This is the next step in the ongoing preparation of senior administration officials for the purpose of serving in President Trump's administration, a press release said on Tuesday.

"This agreement with the Department of Justice (DOJ) will ensure President Trump and his team are ready on Day 1 to begin enacting the

America First Agenda that an overwhelming majority of our nation supported on Election Day," Susie Wiles, President-elect Trump's Chief of Staff. Ultimately, this will afford the transition process additional insights, and it facilitates our agency landing teams gaining access to the information they need to prepare for leadership of the federal agencies and departments, the press statement said.



# 20 per cent cybercrimes involve dark web usage by attackers says report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

At least 20 per cent of cybercrimes in India involve attackers using dark web, according to a report by cyber security firm Lisianthus.

The dark web is a platform on the internet that can be accessed using special tools. It is usually very difficult to trace the identity and location of a dark web user.

"At least 20 per cent of cybercrimes in India involve the usage of the dark web by online attackers," the study conducted by Lisianthus Tech said. The attackers used the dark web for cybercrimes like data breaches, hacking, phishing, ransomware, identity theft, sale and



purchase of banned products like narcotics and weapons. The study is based on a detailed analysis of several cases of cybercrime reported across the country, said

Khushhal Kaushik, founder and CEO of Lisianthus Tech. The study was conducted on a sampling basis over a period of two months which concluded last week, he said.

"Study was completed using several samples of crime data taken from state police, National Crime Records Bureau and other relevant portals reporting cyber crime

and analyzing these in detail with industry experts, cyber security consultants and law enforcement representatives," Kaushik said. Recently a man was arrested for cultivating cannabis in his rented flat and selling it off through the dark web. Attackers had also used the dark web for ransomware attacks on AIIMS in Delhi last year, he said. Gurugram-based Lisianthus Tech is into cyber-security audits and conducting security assessments. As per the report, the usage of dark web has grown two-fold in the past decade and to avoid being a victim of this, users must not give permission to any online notification seeking access to their phone book and other applications.

# Sebi notifies rules on uniform standards for nomination facilities across securities markets

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi has notified rules on nomination allowing nominees to act on behalf of incapacitated investors.

Additionally, it notified the rule mandating every participant to provide beneficial owners with the option to nominate a person to whom their securities will transfer upon their death. "Every participant shall provide an option to the beneficial owner to nominate, in the manner as may be specified, a person who shall be authorised to conduct transactions on behalf of the beneficial owner in the event of the incapacitation of the incapacitated owner," Sebi said in a notification.

The new rules are aimed at enhancing investor convenience and introducing uniform standards for nomination



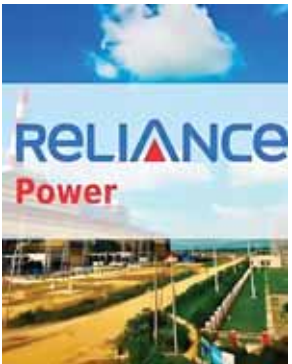
facilities across the Indian securities market.

In the case of joint ownership, the owners can collectively nominate a person to receive the securities in the event of death of all the joint beneficial owners. Further, the depository and participant will not be

held liable for any action based on the nomination provided by the beneficial owner.

To give this effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended Depositories and Participants Regulations that became effective from November 28.

# Reliance Power shares jump five per cent



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of Reliance Power jumped 5 per cent on Wednesday after Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) said it has withdrawn the debarment notice issued to the company enabling the Anil Ambani-led firm to participate in future tenders of the public sector entity. The stock climbed 4.98 per cent to Rs 41.07 - its upper circuit limit - on the BSE.

At the NSE, it surged 4.98 per cent to hit the highest trading permissible limit for the day.

SECI, which serves as the implementing agency for renewable energy projects, had on November 6 debarred Reliance Power Ltd and Reliance NU BESS Ltd from participating in any of its tenders for three years for allegedly submitting "fake documents".

On November 13, SECI had also slapped a show cause notice on Anil Ambani-run Reliance Power, asking why criminal proceedings should not be initiated after a fake bank guarantee was submitted by its unit.

In the latest statement on Tuesday, SECI said the withdrawal of its debarment notice is without prejudice to its right to take all actions in accordance with the law.

Following the legal proceedings related to this matter, the debarment notice issued to Reliance Power Ltd has been withdrawn with immediate effect, SECI said. Meanwhile, Reliance Power in a stock exchange filing said with the withdrawal of SECI's debarment notice, "the company and its subsidiaries, except Reliance NU BESS Ltd (formerly known as Maharashtra Energy Generation Limited), are eligible to participate in all tenders issued by SECI".

# Sensex advances 110 points in choppy trade, banks gain ahead of RBI policy

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark Sensex advanced 110 points in a choppy trade on Wednesday, extending its gains to the fourth day in a row helped by buying in HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and fresh foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share barometer rose by 110.58 points or 0.14 per cent to settle at 80,956.33 with 14 of its constituents ending with gains and 16 stocks with losses. During the day, it jumped 399.64 points or 0.49 per cent to 81,245.39 and dipped to a low of 80,630.53. The NSE Nifty rose marginally by 10.30 points or 0.04 per cent to 24,467.45 as gains in IT, realty and banking shares were offset by profit-taking in auto and FMCG shares.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, HDFC Bank, Bajaj Finserv, NTPC, Titan, Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Bajaj Finance and ICICI Bank were the biggest gainers. Bharti Airtel, Tata Motors,

Adani Ports, Power Grid, Maruti, ITC, Reliance Industries and UltraTech Cement were among the laggards.

Foreign institutional investors turned buyers on Tuesday as they bought equities worth Rs 3,664.67 crore, according to exchange data.

"The domestic market maintained a positive trajectory, despite some volatility stemming from mixed sentiments in Asian markets due to the situation in South Korea. Broader indices showed strong performance, with the banking and financial sectors continuing to excel.

"The upcoming speech by the FED Chair could sway market sentiments, as recent FED minutes have shown confidence in the easing of inflation," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

Analysts said investors exercised caution ahead of the RBI's monetary policy announcement on Friday. The BSE midcap gauge

climbed 0.83 per cent and smallcap index went up by 0.68 per cent.

Among sectoral indices, Realty jumped 2.13 per cent, followed by financial services (1.19 per cent), bankex (0.91 per cent), consumer durables (0.69 per cent), industrials (0.59 per cent), capital goods (0.55 per cent), IT (0.52 per cent), Focused IT (0.44 per cent) and healthcare (0.27 per cent).

Telecommunication, utilities, metal, oil & gas and services were among the laggards. Among Asian markets, Tokyo settled higher while Seoul, Shanghai and Hong Kong ended lower. European markets were trading mostly higher. US markets ended mostly in the positive territory on Tuesday. India's services PMI slipped to 58.4 in November while employment in the segment recorded robust growth, a monthly survey said on Wednesday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude firmed up by 0.34 per cent to USD 73.91 a barrel.

# Adani Defence delivers second Drishti-10 drone to Navy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Adani Defence and Aerospace has delivered a second Drishti-10 Starliner surveillance drone to the Indian Navy, boosting India's maritime forces' capabilities to monitor shipping lines and mitigate piracy risks.

Following the handover of the first Drishti-10 to the Indian Navy earlier this year, the induction of the second unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), a version of the Israel's Hermes 900 medium-altitude long-endurance UAV, into naval maritime operations was initiated at Porbandar in Gujarat, sources aware of the matter said.

Drishti 10 Starliner drone, manufactured by Adani Defence and Aerospace, a part of the conglomerate helmed by billionaire Gautam Adani, at its Hyderabad facility, is an advanced intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platform with 36 hours endurance and 450 kg payload capacity.

The only all-weather military platform, with NATO's STANAG 4671 (standardized

agreement 4671) certification for the UAV systems' airworthiness, is cleared to fly in both segregated and unsegregated airspace.

Sources said the platform provides over the horizon, persistent multi payload, fully autonomous capabilities and Satcom-based operations.

The Drishti 10 is a force multiplier providing the Indian Navy with the ability to monitor vast maritime territories and unparalleled situational awareness.

This marks the first-ever integration of such an advanced payload suites onto a MALE platform, enabling the Indian Navy with differentiated capabilities to dominate maritime surveillance, they said.

MALE stands for Medium Altitude Long Endurance, and is a type of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that can fly at altitudes of 10,000 to 30,000 feet. MALE UAVs are typically used for surveillance and reconnaissance, and can have a flight endurance of 24 to 48 hours.

Adani Defence had previously delivered the Drishti-10 Starliner to the Indian Army

as well. The first Drishti-10 Starliner was delivered to the Indian Navy in January this year and the second to Army in June.

The Indian Army, which has ordered two such drones, will deploy the first at its Bhatinda base in Punjab from where it can keep an eye on the entire western border with Pakistan.

Drishti 10 has reached significant milestones through its flight operations in Porbandar and Bhatinda by the Indian Navy and the Indian Army, exemplifying a new era for India's indigenous unmanned defence capabilities.

Drishti 10, India's only indigenous UAV operating reliably above 32,000+ feet with large payload carrying capacity and distinctively long endurance, is not only endured in harsh conditions but excelled, proving its resilience over the challenging terrains and climates of the Himalayas, sources said, adding this performance reinforces India's capacity for innovation and strength under pressure, serving as a testament to our country's unwavering resolve

to protect and advance our strategic interests.

Moreover, the Drishti 10 Starliner embodies more than a single achievement - it reflects a larger vision for India's defence future. In less than three years, Adani Defence has achieved what traditionally takes five to six years in the industry, delivering MALE UAV capabilities to both the Indian Army and Navy. During a recent visit to the Porbandar base, Rear Admiral Janak Bevl, VSM, Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Air), reviewed the ongoing operations and engaged with the Adani Defence team, led by AVM KVR Raju, VM (Retd.), Technical Head, UAVs & Missiles.

The induction, sources said, marks a defining moment in India's journey toward self-reliance in defence technology, a testament to the seamless collaboration between Adani Defence and the Indian Navy, driven by a shared commitment to safeguarding maritime interests.

# Antler India plans to invest ₹211 Crore in 50 start-ups in 2025: Company



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Venture Capital firm Antel India is planning to invest USD 25 million, or about Rs 211 crore, in 50 startups in 2025, the company said on Wednesday.

The venture capital firm has invested in 30 startups in 2024 through its maiden USD 75 million fund.

"Antler plans to ramp up investments further in the next year and make 50 investments in 2025. We plan to invest USD 25 million in the 50 companies," Antler India Partner Rajiv Srivatsa told PTI.

The company's 2024 investments include a wholesale marketplace for fashion retail Bizup, aluminium-air fuel cell technology company Meine Electric, open mobility

platform Namma Yatri, personal loan facilitator firm Keeper, which uses paid leaves as digital assets for salaried employees, AI-powered dashcam provider Cautio, etc.

"Our investment pace reflects both the quality of the founders we're meeting and our conviction that the next wave of global technology companies will emerge from India. We have invested in 30 companies this year, many of which were born in our Residency program, where founders had the opportunity to validate their ideas, build strong teams, and get early customer traction before raising their first check," Srivatsa said.

Antler's next Residency cohort in India is scheduled to commence in February 2025.

# Rubrik unveils Annapurna: Single API service for building generative AI applications

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rubrik, Inc. (NYSE: RBRK) on Wednesday announced Rubrik Annapurna, a single API service for customers building generative AI (Gen AI) applications, which will integrate with Amazon Bedrock.

Rubrik Annapurna is designed to enable fast access to secure data embeddings from Rubrik Security Cloud, which spans enterprise-wide data and metadata across on-premises, cloud, and SaaS. Rubrik Annapurna's powerful and secure data retrieval capabilities will work with Amazon Bedrock, enabling customers to access a broad selection of high-performing foundation models (FMs) to build enterprise-grade generative AI applications.

Creating generative AI applications customized to an organization's proprietary knowledge is a priority for the C-suite. However, AI development teams not using the cloud must first locate and extract enterprise data from dozens of applications, filter on permissions and sensitivity, embed this data into vector



databases for retrieval, and then build data pipelines to their large language models (LLMs).

"Organizations are faced with significant complexity when developing AI applications due to challenges around data access and sensitive data permissions.

This could lead to applications that lack relevant knowledge or don't adhere to access controls," said Bipul Sinha, CEO, Chairman, and Co-founder of Rubrik. Annapurna's integration with Amazon Bedrock aims to advance organizations' AI innovation with fast API-first secure data access. Out-of-the-box, application aware embedding engine, seamless mobilization of data and

avoid shadow datastores and more intelligent customer support expert for every representative.

"Rubrik is simplifying complex data environments while prioritizing security and compliance continues to give us confidence as we explore new opportunities to innovate and scale with AI. Today's announcement of Rubrik Annapurna and the integration with Amazon Bedrock is a true testament to Rubrik's focus and vision to help customers securely connect enterprise data and metadata to build compelling and AI applications," said Ted Balagtas, SVP, Chief Information Officer at Bankwell Financial Group.

# DRI officers seize 8,224 kilogram contraband and 1,319 kilogram gold in FY24

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

DRI officers have seized about 8,224 kg of contraband in the 2023-24 fiscal year Rs 2,242 crore, with the seizure of cocaine seeing an increase over the past five years.

During the 2023-24 financial year, I has seized 1,319 kg of gold and smuggling through India's porous eastern borders, particularly with Bangladesh and Myanmar, has also emerged as a major concern for law enforcement agencies.

The Smuggling in India Report released by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on its 67th foundation day said in recent years, law enforcement agencies have observed a "troubling increase" in the circulation of 'Yaba', a potent drug tablet that combines methamphetamine and caffeine, mostly produced in Myanmar. Yaba, meaning crazy medicine, has evolved into a recreational drug infamous for its severe addiction potential and devastating health effects, leading to significant seizures

across the region.

The data on narcotics seizure by I showed that during FY24, I officers seized 107.31 kg cocaine worth Rs 974.78 crore in the illicit market. During the year, about 49 kg heroin valuing Rs 365 crore was seized, followed by 136 kg of Methamphetamine worth Rs 275 crore.

7,349 kg ganja worth Rs 21 crore was seized during the last fiscal. During the financial year 2023-24, I seized 1,319 kg of gold. Additionally, I has shared actionable intelligence with Customs field formations, leading to significant gold seizures by those units as well. This is part of the 4,869.6 kg of gold seized by the CBIC, including by Customs officers, in 2023-24. 1,922 persons were arrested by the CBIC during the year.

It said India has become a major destination for illicit gold imports, with gold and silver predominantly originating from Gulf states such as the UAE and Saudi Arabia, where these metals are sourced and available at lower prices.

# ₹15 Lakh Crore required for adding power generation capacity in 2022-27

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

About Rs 15 lakh crore fund is required to add electricity generation capacity during 2022-27, which includes expenditure for projects to be commissioned in 2027-32, a power ministry statement said.

The projected electrical energy requirement and peak electricity demand on all-India basis is estimated as 1908 BU (billion units) and 277 GW, respectively for 2026-27. The projections were made

during a Meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament for Ministry of Power here last evening. Union Power Minister Manohar Lal chaired the meeting.

As per 20th Electric Power Survey (EPS) report published by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the peak demand and energy requirement is pegged at around 366 GW and 2474 BU by 2031-32, it stated. Energy Storage capacity is an important aspect in achieving the targets of NEP.

Energy storage capacity of 16.13 GW/82.37 GWh with PSP (pumped storage) based storage of 7.45 GW capacity and 47.65 GWh storage and BESS based storage of 8.68 GW/34.72 GWh is required by 2026-27.

The projections of total capacity addition are in line with the target of the country to achieve a non-fossil based installed capacity of 500 GW by 2029-30, it stated. The ministry said that the total fund requirement for the period 2022-2027 is estimated to be Rs 14,54,188 crore, which

also includes the likely expenditure during 2022-27 for advance action for the projects expected to get commissioned during 2027-32, it stated.

The average emission factor is expected to reduce to 0.548 kg CO2/kWh in the year 2026-27 and to 0.430 kg CO2/kWh by the end of 2031-32, it stated.

The share of non-fossil-based capacity is likely to increase to 57.4 per cent by the end of 2026-27 and may further increase to 68.4 per cent by the end of 2031-32 from around 46.5 per cent as

on October 2024, it stated. Members of Parliament provided several suggestions concerning various initiatives and schemes. They commended the plan for its ambitious green energy goals and achievements in electricity generation capacity.

The meeting also included discussions on issues related to storage, renewable energy generation, and compensation for farmers. He further directed officials to take appropriate actions to incorporate the suggestions made by

Members of Parliament and prioritize the welfare of the people. Emphasizing India's commitment to achieving carbon net-zero, he stated that the focus would remain on non-fossil-based energy sources. The Union Minister also stressed the importance of enhancing storage capacity to ensure affordable and reliable power for everyone. He also emphasised that state and central governments need to work in coordination to achieve the targets. Minister of State for Power Shripad Yesso Naik said that

India is energy transition as per the NDCs and is on path of achieving SDGs.

He said that the National Electricity Plan (NEP) is a short-term framework of five years while giving a 15-year perspective.

The fourth NEP prepared by Central Electricity Authority includes a review of the period 2017 -22, detailed capacity addition requirement during the years 2022-27 and Perspective Plan projections for the years 2027 -32. Installed generation capacity as on October 31, 2024 was

454.5 GW comprising of 243.1 GW thermal, 8.2 GW Nuclear, 203.2GW Renewables including large hydro of 46.97 GW.

The peak demand has grown at a CAGR of 16 per cent from 2013-14 to 2023-24 while energy requirement has grown at a rate of 5 per cent during 2013-14 to 2023-24.

The peak not met and energy not supplied is very minimal over last five years and was on account of factors other than lack of generation capacity in the country.



# Big test for India's batters against Australia in three-match series

PTI ■ BRISBANE

India will aim to address their batting inconsistency and finalise their combination ahead of the Women's World Cup next year when they take on the mighty Australia in the three-match ODI series, starting here Thursday. The Indian team has landed Down Under after securing a 2-1 home ODI series win over New Zealand. However, it was fairly evident that India's batting was not in top shape. As a result, they have dropped out-of-form opener Shafali Verma from the squad in an attempt to try a different combination. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side would know that it has a huge task cut out against Australia who have historically dominated them in 50-overs cricket. Their record Down Under is dismal, with just four wins out of sixteen WODIs. In the last series in 2021, Australia defeated India 2-1.

The series will give skipper Kaur and coach Amol Majumdar a perfect opportunity to bolster their preparations for the ODI World Cup at home next year. Australia will be without regular skipper Alyssa Healy, who is nursing a knee injury. Additionally, the hosts have not played in this format since March and will be aiming to shake off the rust. "(India) have got superstars ... Always hard-fought and crucial key moments in every game, and while we're at home we're expecting a lot of India support," Australia captain Tahlia McGrath said. For India, Smriti Mandhana will bear the responsibility of providing a solid start with the bat. Besides two single digit scores, the flamboyant opener has been in fine form this year, scoring 448 runs at an impressive average of around 75 in her last six ODIs. Kaur's form will be a significant concern for India, as she has struggled with



consistency this year. With much at stake, her captaincy and batting have come under scrutiny following India's early exit from the T20 World Cup. Additionally, she will face increased pressure after failing to score in double figures in the last ODI series against Australia. The likes of Jemimah Rodrigues and Deepti Sharma will also be keen to get big scores. The Indian team will miss

wicketkeeper-batter Yastika Bhatia, who suffered a wrist injury during the Women's Big Bash League. Young Uma Chetry, who has been included in the team in her place, will want to make an impression in her debut ODI series. Big-hitting wicketkeeper-batsman Richa Ghosh has returned to the team as have Harleen Deol, Titas Sadhu and Minnu Mani. Deepti bowled at an economy rate of 3.6 against New Zealand and she would like to continue this performance. Radha Yadav too had a good series against the Kiwis and would want to continue in the same vein. Aggressive fast bowler Saima Thakor, who made her debut against New Zealand, will also be desperate to leave a mark with her performance. McGrath will be captaining the national side for the first time in a full series. "This is the first time I've had a full series as captain - previously I've stepped into the role at the end of a series

or a tournament. I like to put my own spin on it," McGrath said. Batter Georgia Voll has been given her debut in place of Healy, while veteran Elise Perry will be eyeing the 4,000-run milestone in ODIs, as she is just 42 runs away. The weather is expected to be hot and humid and there is also a possibility of light rain. Squads: India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Smriti Mandhana (vc), Priya Punia, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harleen Deol, Uma Chetry, Richa Ghosh (wk), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani, Priya Mishra, Radha Yadav, Titas Sadhu, Arundhati Reddy, Renuka Singh Thakur, Saima Thakor Australia: Tahlia McGrath (c), Ashleigh Gardner (vc), Darcie Brown, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.



## Bangladesh beats West Indies by 101 runs in Jamaica

AP ■ KINGSTON

Bangladesh won a test in the Caribbean for the first time in 15 years by beating the West Indies by 101 runs inside four days at Sabina Park. Bangladesh set West Indies 287 to win in five and a bit sessions and the West Indies managed to bat less than two sessions, all out for 185. The Bangladeshis had lost their last seven tests in the Caribbean, including the first one of this series in Antigua last week. They have tied the short series. "This was enjoyable," Bangladesh stand-in captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz said. "We were not thinking negatively. The boys bowled especially well. Nahid (Rana) in the first innings, Taskin (Ahmed) and Hasan Mahmud. Second-innings specialist Taijul (Islam) got five wickets. He was excellent. He has been very good for the last 10 years, more than 200 wickets for us." On a pitch offering some grip and the odd low bounce, spin came into play and left-arm Taijul took advantage with 5-50, his best overseas figures in 2 1/2 years and his best figures in the West Indies since his test debut on the same ground in 2014. As West Indies wickets began to tumble — the last six for 42 runs — Jaker Ali's innings for Bangladesh grew in importance. Jaker made a career-best 91 and was last man out in the visitors' second innings just before lunch. That gave West Indies a target of 287, which was gettable, but on a ground where the highest

successful run chase was 212. That record remains. "The batting group needs consistency," West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite said. "Consistency in hard work as well. I believe we have the talent." Hodge offers hope Brathwaite led a positive start to the chase but couldn't sustain a partnership. Mikyle Louis fell to Taijul on the stroke of lunch, and Keacy Carty nicked Taskin behind. Brathwaite, with just one half-century in 18 months, reached 43 off 63 balls when he was out defending against Taijul. The ball grazed his glove and Mahmudul Hasan Joy made a diving close-in catch. Taijul then bowled Alick Athanaze through the gate and West Indies hopes were resting on Kavem Hodge. Hodge reached tea on 49 and West Indies was still in the chase at 133-4, needing 154 more. Hodge, who debuted in January, achieved the West Indies' first half-century of the test, 50 off 64 balls, but just when the chase was half done he was out. Taijul struck again. Hodge played back to a ball coming in from outside off and was pinned for 55 off 75. Still needing 144 more runs, the West Indies fell over from there. Taskin, Hasan Mahmud and first-innings destroyer Nahid Rana got among the wickets, while Taijul got his 15th career five-for when he trapped Joshua Da Silva. Jaker dominates The morning was all about Jaker. He scored 62 of Bangladesh's 75 runs.

## Odisha FC eye home hat-trick against Mumbai City despite Roy Krishna's absence

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Coming on the back of successive wins, Odisha FC will look to maintain their winning momentum when they face a tricky Mumbai FC test in the Indian Super League here on Thursday. The Kalinga Warriors defeated former champions Bengaluru FC in their previous encounter to jump to third place in the ISL standings with 15 points from 10 matches as they would aim for a hat-trick of wins, while the Islanders would be keen to extend their unbeaten run against Odisha FC. Odisha have scored in each of their previous 10 home ISL contests, and a goal in this game will allow it to equal its record of scoring in 11 successive home fixtures, set between December 2019 and December 2022. The team faces a significant setback as their ace marksman Roy Krishna sidelined for the season due to injury. Confirming the news, head coach Sergio Lobera said, "It's sad news for the team. Roy is



not just an incredible player but also a fantastic human being. "We'll miss him on the pitch, but I'm sure he'll continue to support us off it. He's one of the best professionals I've worked with, and I wish him a speedy recovery." Despite this loss, the team remains focused and ready for the challenges ahead. Mumbai have been unbeaten in its earlier six clashes versus Odisha, having been successful on four occasions and drawing twice. Only against FC Goa (13 games) and Chennaiyin FC (9 games) does the side have a

longer active streak. Meanwhile, Bipin Singh possesses a great record in this tie, contributing to nine goals (7 goals and 2 assists) -- the highest by any player from the Islanders against a single opponent in the event's history. Considering their head-on engagements, in 11 ISL outings, MCFC has prevailed in six encounters, whereas OFC has been triumphant thrice, while two meetings have resulted in a draw. Lobera further said they would stick to its playing philosophy and not get swayed by Mumbai's strengths. "We know our style of play. We know our strengths, and we have to play according to that," Lobera said. "If we don't do that, we won't be strong. The team is ready for tomorrow's game." On the other hand, the Islanders' boss, Petr Kratky, hinted that they will have to be robust with their back-line to stop the juggernauts from finding the back of the net in this match. "Odisha FC have scored 10 goals in their last two matches. We need to find a way to stop this," Kratky felt. "Because they (OFC) have found a way to out-score the oppositions. We have to stay true to our style of play too." Odisha's Diego Mauricio has been involved in five goals in his previous two ISL contests, posing a potent threat versus Mumbai, having been instrumental and contributing to three goals in his last three starts against the latter, registering multiple goal involvements in his last two games.



## IOC official open to back-to-back World Cup in Saudi Arabia

AP ■ GENEVA

Scheduling the 2034 World Cup in Saudi Arabia back-to-back with the 2034 Salt Lake City Winter Games would pose "no risk" to the Olympics, a senior IOC official said. "We don't see at this stage a major issue. On the contrary, it is a lot of sport in the time frame," Christophe Dubi, the International Olympic Committee executive director for the games, said at an online briefing after a board meeting, suggesting two major sports events close together would be "a real feast" for fans. Dubi's comments suggested January 2034 is surprisingly open for FIFA and Saudi Arabia to stage soccer's marquee event despite a near-clash with the Salt Lake City Olympics that aims to have an opening ceremony on Feb. 10 that year. Playing a World Cup in January 2022 was not option when FIFA and future tournament host Qatar — in the planning stages a decade ago — needed to find cooler months to avoid the searing Middle East heat in June and July. Before deciding in 2015 to play in Qatar in November-December 2022, FIFA understood from Olympic officials it would be unacceptable to move too close to the 2022 Winter

Games. Those Olympics eventually were hosted in Beijing, opening on Feb. 4. Saudi Arabia will be confirmed next week by FIFA as host of a 2034 World Cup that cannot realistically be played in summer months when temperature routinely exceeds 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). The new 48-team, 104-game World Cup format takes 38 days to play. Asked if the IOC wants January and early February to be off limits for FIFA in 2034 to protect Salt Lake City, Dubi said: "I think that the risk of having those two in parallel is immensely limited." "From all standpoints, including a commercial one, we have actually virtually no risk," he said. "This is going to be for sports fans a real feast during a period of whatever it is, three, four months, where you are going to have these two events." Saudi Arabia currently has excellent relations — politically and financially — with FIFA and IOC to resolve the scheduling issue. FIFA president Gianni Infantino has built a close working relationship over several years with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and the IOC this year sealed a 12-year deal for the kingdom to host the new Esports Olympics.

## National Karate Federation felicitates six players who won medals at International Karate Competition

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

The national karate federation felicitated six players from Sai Karate Academy of Gurugram who have won medals at the International Karate Competition held at Stadium Titivangsa Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The players from the academy won 6 medals including 1 gold and 1 silver and brought laurels to Gurugram. On this occasion, national federation President Hansi Bharat Sharma said, "play your game with consistency and hard work and set big goals." "Children have started paying more attention to making their future in sports. Due to this awareness, today our country is registering victory in every competition," he added. "Around 2,500 players from 20 countries participated in this competition held from 29 November to 1 December 2024. In which 6 players from Gurugram of Haryana participated and won 1 Gold, 1 Silver and 4 Brown medals." Coach of Sai Karate Academy, Sunil Saini said. For the successful program, Sports Karate Association General Secretary India



Technical Director Shihan Sunil Saini said that all the players impressed everyone with their excellent performance and brought glory to Gurugram. General Secretary Saini assured that the team will bring glory to Gurugram with better performance in future as well. Apart from this, preparations have started for the championship to be held in England recently, he said. Despite tough competition, Indian athletes demonstrated extraordinary skill and determination. Young talents Aditya Dahiya and Kavya Bhardwaj won bronze medals in the sub-junior category Kumut event, while experienced athlete Geeta Godara won a silver medal in the veteran category Kata event and a bronze medal in the veteran category Kumut event. Shalu Hari won gold in the veteran category Kata, and Rinki Goyal won a bronze medal in the veteran category Kata. "Ansha Godara is a very good player in the team. We hope that next time she will represent our India and will do very well and in a great way," he added.

## Lewis Hamilton faces emotional end to amazing Mercedes journey before joining Ferrari in F1

AP ■ LUSAIL

Lewis Hamilton is looking back on an "amazing journey" and the most successful partnership in Formula 1 history as he prepares to bid farewell to Mercedes this week and join Ferrari. The move offers a new start for the 39-year-old Hamilton, who's had a difficult end to his last Mercedes season. Ferrari's first task next year might be to get him back on form. "I don't think we're going to end up on a high," Hamilton said Sunday after finishing 12th in Qatar in another tough race which saw him get penalties, a puncture,

and even ask Mercedes for permission to retire the car. Two days earlier, he said he was "definitely not fast any more" after struggling again in qualifying. Hamilton's last race for Mercedes at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix on Sunday will bring down the curtain on a 12-year stay with the team. He won six of his seven world titles with Mercedes, the most by any F1 driver with a single team. As an all-time great and the sport's only Black driver, Hamilton's influence extends far beyond the F1 grid. Hamilton shook F1 with the shock announcement in February that he would join Ferrari in 2025 — a decision

he even kept secret from his parents — and the prospect of leaving Mercedes has overshadowed this season. "I've had all year to think about it, so there's been those highs and lows through the year. I can't predict how I'm going to feel next Sunday after the race, or the days to follow, or at Christmas time," Hamilton said last week. Hamilton said he would miss the "family" atmosphere at Mercedes and will leave with warm memories, including of Niki Lauda, the former F1 champion who played a key role in bringing him to the team and who died in 2019. "There's many, many great moments. Moments with



Niki, amazing conversations, arguments," Hamilton said. "It's been an amazing journey together, one that I've genuinely loved." The last time Hamilton switched teams, he found it hard to stay away from his old employer. Hamilton recalled the incident in 2013 when he mistakenly drove into McLaren's pit at the Malaysian Grand Prix, in his second race after leaving for Mercedes. "I remember when I joined this team it was strange driving past my old team in the pit lane, to the point that I stopped at theirs at one point," he said. After an emotional victory at his home British Grand

Prix in July ended a 945-day wait for a win, Hamilton took another win at the Belgian Grand Prix when his teammate George Russell finished first but was disqualified. Since then, though, Hamilton has placed behind Russell in 10 of 12 races, including sprints. Qualifying has been Hamilton's biggest problem, forcing him to try to make up places on race day. "When you're always back where I am (on the grid), it makes it very hard, almost impossible, to be competing for wins," he said last week. Hamilton is missing one potential chance to drive the Ferrari this year in the

testing session after the season-ending Abu Dhabi Grand Prix. He said it's not possible under his contract with Mercedes but he didn't want to start his Ferrari career that way, anyway. Hamilton will likely get to take the wheel behind closed doors at Ferrari's famed Fiorano test track early next year. "I know (Ferrari team principal) Fred (Vasseur) wanted it to happen. For me, I was in two minds. Driving the red car for the first time in Abu Dhabi does not excite me. In a perfect world you'd get to drive and not be seen and do the first rollout next year," he said.



# Indian team is a group of superstars, we are not focusing just on Bumrah or Kohli: Lyon

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

India is a team of superstars, and Australia is not focused on countering just 'extraordinary' players like Jasprit Bumrah and Virat Kohli, but the entire group as everyone is incredibly talented, spinner Nathan Lyon said on Wednesday. In the buildup to the Border Gavaskar Trophy and post India's emphatic 295-run with the series-opener in Perth, the chatter has revolved around specific Indian players including Kohli and Bumrah. "I look at the Indian squad and see a group of superstars. Cricket, however, is a team game, winning requires the entire side to perform well. India boasts extraordinary players like Bumrah and others, but it's not just about the superstars," Lyon said ahead of the pink ball Test here.

"The rest of the Indian squad is also incredibly talented. They're an incredible cricket team. We're not focusing



solely on any one player, that's for sure. "We have nothing but respect for every Indian cricketer

who takes the field on Friday. That doesn't mean we're not going to compete. We respect them, but we're determined



to play our brand of cricket and compete hard against a quality side. India is one of the best teams in the world,"

he added. Seasoned India off-spinner R Ashwin, who has 536 Test wickets, could not find space

in India's playing XI in Perth with the tourists opting to play all-rounder Washington Sundar as the sole spin option.

"More than surprises me. But the quality of Indian cricketers that they got in that squad, don't they? You've got Ashwin with 530 odd wickets and then you got Ravindra Jadeja over 300 wickets or whatever it may be.

"So it's pretty remarkable to see the quality of player that are sitting on the bench. But I can't control with who they run out, but it would be a good challenge, no matter who they bring out," Lyon said.

Debutant Nitish reddy displayed his attacking instincts by taking on the Australian off-spinner, hitting him for several boundaries in Perth. However Lyon wasn't surprised.

"I wasn't surprised. But yet again, here for boundaries, it provides opportunities for me to hopefully take a few chances along the way," he added.



## Kaun banega next BCCI secretary?

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

With Jay Shah taking over as International Cricket Council's youngest chairman on December 1, the role of secretary in the mighty BCCI lies vacant and as officials wonder who the replacement might be, they have time to figure out the next course of action. Following the constitutional amendment in 2022, the secretary is the most influential office-bearer in the BCCI, having "all powers in relation to cricketing and non-cricketing matters" with the CEO working under his supervision.

Shah was elected unopposed for the ICC top position in August and the stakeholders have been wondering ever since how the transition process will take place. Gujarat's Anil Patel and current BCCI joint secretary Devjit Saikia could replace Shah in the BCCI. The name of DCCA president Rohan Jaitley was also floated but remained just speculation.

"We don't know what is happening. Everyone (BCCI officials and state units) is quiet on the matter. Most likely joint secretary (Saikia) will be interim for the time being," said a BCCI administrator. "There are issues that need to be dealt with on a day to day basis and anyone who comes in, needs to have a bit of knowledge on how the BCCI is run," he added. From the time an elected office-bearer resigns, the

board has 45 days to call for a Special General Meeting and choose his successor. If one calculates the 45 days from the day Shah took charge of ICC, the board has time till mid-January to fill up the position.

The BCCI also needs to appoint an electoral officer at least four weeks prior to the election, as per the constitution. A senior state unit official said the board had ample time to complete the transition.

"Transition should have been complete by now. The secretary has to sign majority of documents. This matter should have been taken up at the AGM (in September) but nobody questioned at that time," said the official.

"There is a power vacuum right now at the BCCI, the most powerful cricketing body in the world," added another office-bearer of a state unit.

With the current three-year term of officer-bearers coming to end in September next year, the incoming secretary will be in charge for close to one year.

There is also no word yet on who the new BCCI representative in the ICC board would be. Shah held that position too and Board president Roger Binny is in the list of alternate directors.

IPL chairman Arun Dhimal is India's representative in the ICC's Chief Executives' Committee.



## Yashasvi is standing exactly where I was 10 years back: KL Rahul

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

KL Rahul sees shades of himself in 22-year-old Yashasvi Jaiswal, who on his first trip Down Under, seems to be in a similar position like he was on his maiden Australia tour 10 years back. In the 2014-15 series, the then 22-year-old Rahul, batting at No. 6, had scores of 3 and 1 on debut at the MCG but came back strongly as an opener in the very next game with a eye-catching 110 in Sydney.

He also faced nerves but during the second innings in Sydney where he scored 16, he battled for an hour with Murali Vijay which eased him a lot.

Rahul is trying to play a similar role with Jaiswal what Vijay, the former opener and his national team senior had done to him back then.

Rahul and Jaiswal shared an Indian record opening stand of 201 in the second innings in Perth where Jaiswal scored a classy century but Rahul played his part with a very useful 77.

"I saw a bit of myself in him how I was 10 years ago, opening the batting for the first time, lots of doubts, lot of nerves and you keep doubting

your own game and a lot that happens in your head, and so all you can do is try and slow things down, try and take a few deep breaths," Rahul replied when asked about his conversations with Indian cricket's next 'pin-up' boy. "That's what was passed on to me by my fellow opening partner (M Vijay), I just passed that on to him," Rahul remembered his Test hundred in Sydney, which was his second game of his career. Having said that, Rahul doesn't deny that self doubts could creep in time and again but he has tried to preach Jaiswal what he practices.

"I am not saying I don't have all these thoughts, I do. But having been there, I know what I need to do to get past those doubts and thoughts you have in your head. And so whatever I told Jaiswal was what I have myself practiced," he said.

Rahul felt that once he had played around 40 balls, Jaiswal seemed more and more confident about his game.

"Once he got past those first 30-40 balls, he started feeling more confident, he was seeing the ball really well and batted beautifully," he said.

## Ollie Pope stays as stand-in wicketkeeper for England in second Test against New Zealand

AP ■ WELLINGTON

England has kept Ollie Pope as its stand-in wicketkeeper for the second Test against New Zealand starting Thursday.

After Jordan Cox broke his thumb ahead of the series opener in Christchurch last week, Ollie Robinson was called up as wicketkeeping cover and was in contention to make his maiden international appearance in the second Test at Wellington's Basin Reserve.

However, England kept faith with the same team that won by eight wickets on the fourth afternoon of the first test at



Hagley Oval, meaning Pope retained the gloves and Jacob Bethell stayed at No. 3. Pope was solid behind the

stumps and hit 77 after moving down to No. 6 in the batting order. Bethell was also impressive on his debut,

hitting 50 not out in the second innings.

"They always say when you don't notice a keeper, he's done a good job and Ollie certainly did that," England fast bowler Chris Woakes said. "To step up at short notice like that and do the job he did was fantastic. "For him to score runs just shows his character, putting his hand up for the team without any fuss and cracking on."

England: Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Jacob Bethell, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ollie Pope, Ben Stokes (c), Chris Woakes, Gus Atkinson, Brydon Carse and Shoaib Bashir.

## Spin expected to play a role in the second Test: Adelaide Oval's head curator

PTI ■ ADELAIDE

Spin is expected to play a role in the second Test between India and Australia, but the Adelaide Oval's head curator Damian Hough has also promised a 6mm grass cover to ensure that the ball doesn't wear out early during the day-night game here.

Hough said the grass will assist the pacers early on with the spinners coming into play as the match progresses.

"History suggests that it is hard to bat under lights in Adelaide. The pitch will have 6mm of grass. We're trying to allow all facets of the game to shine at some stage during the game," Hough told media ahead of the second Test starting Friday.

"What we're trying to do is have a coarse mat grass -- thatchy type of grass that's dry and hard. And the reason

we do that is we're trying to get as much pace and bounce out of the pitch as what we can get for us, for Adelaide, which is a lower clay content," he added.

The opening Perth Test, which India won by a record 295 runs, lasted four days with batting becoming easier as the game moved ahead. Hough has similar plans for the pink-ball game.

"Spin normally plays a role so it can get a good bite or purchase out of that grass and it normally gets good bounce. So that's a game plan. Hopefully, as the ball gets older, the batters can cash in and if there's a partnership out there, they cash in and go from there."

While spinners didn't have much to do in the Perth Test, Hough said the tweekers will have more assistance at the Adelaide Oval.



"Spin always plays a role in Adelaide. You need to pick a front-line spinner. There should never be a question of 'do we, don't we?' It should always be 'do,'" Hough said highlighting the role of spinners in Adelaide.

"From my side, always pick a spinner. The idea of leaving that extra bit of grass and that

matty grass is for the spinner to be able to get purchase out of that mat and get it to bite, grip, and bounce," he added. "We want spin to play a role at Adelaide. We might not be able to get as much as other places around the world, but spin traditionally plays a role." He reiterated that the aim is

to have a good, balanced contest.

"Normally the quicks should be able to get some assistance throughout the game. And we know the quicks can. Spin can come into it in that night session. Under lights, if they can get hold of a new ball in that night session, normally is quite entertaining.

"We're trying to get that balance right...We're trying really hard to ensure that the balance between bat and ball is there and we can allow the batters to shine strategically throughout the course of the game."

Potential thunderstorms are forecast for the opening day of the match, which is unusual for Adelaide at this time of the year.

"I am not sure exactly on the timing of those storms coming through, but we're expecting to pull covers a bit

on Friday. Hopefully it clears out on Saturday morning... Then it should be good for the remainder of the Test."

Hough said weather has a huge role to play in the movement of the pink ball. "The ball hooping around has got nothing to do with the pitch. Under right conditions, right weather, the ball will move."

It will be India's first pink-ball Test in Australia since they were famously bundled out for 36 at the same venue back in 2020 but Hough maintained there were no demons in the pitch even back then.

"On the morning of day three, no one would have expected that Test match to finish in three days. That was just really good bowling from Australia...I don't think the pitch played a part in that," he said.

## Rishabh Pant has taken to Test cricket like a duck to water, says Rahul Dravid

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The void left by MS Dhoni's retirement in Indian cricket lineup was quickly filled by Rishabh Pant, who embraced Test cricket like a "duck to water", feels former head coach Rahul Dravid.

The flamboyant wicketkeeper-batter, who returned after surviving a horrific car crash in December 2022, scored a match-winning 89 in the fourth Test at the Gabba and contributed 274 runs throughout the series, playing a key role in India's historic 2-1 triumph in the 2020-21 tour.

"It's hard to imagine that, after Dhoni left, you felt there might be some time for someone to come in and

replace him," Dravid told Star Sports.

"I'm not saying he's replaced him, but certainly in Test cricket, his performances have been absolutely sensational, an incredible performance."

"Watching Rishabh there and chasing to get 89 to win that Test match at the Gabba, with everything on the line and such a depleted side, to put in that kind of performance under that kind of pressure -- truly sensational... What a special cricketer he's been. He's just taken to Test cricket like a duck to water. It's just phenomenal."

Pant's heroics that included two fifties at 68.50 in five innings helped India become the first Asian side to win

successive Test series wins Down Under.

In the ongoing five-Test series, the 27-year-old scored a vital 37 off 78 balls in the first innings of the Perth Test, including a remarkable six that lifted India's spirits, helping them recover from 59/5 to 150 all out.

The Jasprit Bumrah-led team then bowled out Australia for 104 and won the match by 295 runs to take a 1-0 lead going into the Adelaide Test beginning on Friday.

While India have dominated Australia lately, Dravid's knock of 233 during the Adelaide Test in 2003 still remains a fan-favourite.

Nostalgia and regrets. Reflecting on his knock, Dravid admitted that he still



regrets not winning the series. "I'm grateful for it, but I wouldn't have voted for myself, put it that way.

Probably, I've got a lot of recency bias as well," he continued. "I think the way India has

performed in Australia over the last two series in particular -- winning series there -- that counts for a lot.

"However great my performances or India's performances were, we couldn't actually win that series. We came close, but we couldn't get the wickets on the final day in Sydney that we needed."

"The last two teams that have gone to Australia have done that, and that's a fantastic achievement -- a terrific achievement -- and there have been some absolutely sensational performances right through those."

Dravid was joined by VVS Laxman when India were reeling at 85/4, especially after the hosts had posted a

mammoth 556 in just a day and a half.

Ganguly run-out: My mistake The 51-year-old reflected on the incident where he had accidentally run out his captain Sourav Ganguly and admitted it was his "mistake". "I was thinking, 'I've got the captain run out. I better do something meaningful.' It was totally my mistake getting Sourav (Ganguly) run out. I will own up to that one -- it was my mistake."

"But, I think you're just trying to bat, you're just trying to build a partnership, you're just trying to get to the target. "The thing with Laxman and me is that we had batted together a couple of really big partnerships before that. We did it once in Kolkata in 2001

and even in a domestic game when we first played South Zone against West Zone.

"So, we had kind of batted a lot together and built this partnership. Not that we were thinking about that when we got out there, but I think the idea was really just to bat and try and build partnerships, stitch something together."

"It's always nice batting with Laxman as well... Because he's just a beautiful player to watch and such a lovely player."

"He really attacked back, which, in some ways, complemented me quite well in how we went about our innings," he recalled as Indian won the Adelaide Test by four wickets but the series ended in a 1-1 draw.