



Centre approves Rs 139 crore for disaster mitigation in Uttarakhand

High-level committee headed by Union Home Minister and Minister of Co-operation, Amit Shah has approved Rs 1,115.67 crore for disaster mitigation and capacity building projects for various States including Uttarakhand.

5-day UPES convocation concludes

The 22nd Convocation of UPES which was held for five days for the first time this year concluded here on Tuesday with graduates from each of UPES' seven schools being honoured.

NDUSSL celebrates National Milk Day through seminars

Nainital Dugdh Utпадक Sakkari Sangh Limited (NDUSSL) while celebrating National Milk Day on Tuesday to mark the birth anniversary of Verghese Kurien organised milk producers' seminars and consumer awareness programmes in the milk committees operating across the district to highlight the need of milk for the human body and the nutrients present in it.

Besides, detailed information was provided at these seminars about the self-employment and other schemes being run by the State government in the milk co-operatives. Speaking at a seminar, the general manager of Uttarakhand Cooperative Dairy Federation Limited Anurag Sharma said that milk was a complete diet for the human body from the viewpoint of nutrition. Seminars were organised in Nainital and Haldwani towns on the directive of the Animal Husbandry Minister Saurabh Bahuguna to mark the occasion.

Confusion regarding National Games dates to be cleared soon: Arya

Sports minister Rekha Arya stated that the confusion surrounding the extended dates for the 38th National Games will be resolved soon following a discussion with chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. She said this in response to various reports suggesting that the dates for the National Games have been postponed from January 28 to February 15. Recently, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had confirmed that the games would be held in Uttarakhand starting January 28. However, some reports are indicating a possible extension of the event dates. Considering this, Arya convened a meeting with officials from the Uttarakhand Olympic Association to discuss the organisation of the National Games. Addressing the reports about the proposed amendment of the schedule, she said that there has been a request for such changes from some sports federations. The upcoming Asian Winter Games in China, which many athletes are preparing for, is also influencing this situation. Arya emphasised that this matter will be discussed in detail with the CM and clarity on the situation will be provided after their meeting.

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कार्यालय नगर निगम, देहरादून ई-निविदा सूचना नगर निगम, देहरादून क्षेत्रांतर्गत मूत पशुओं के शव निस्तारण के लिये गैस चलित शवदाहण फ्लांट की स्थापना हेतु इच्छुक फर्म/कम्पनियों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा फार्म नगर निगम देहरादून की वेबसाइट nagarnigamdehradun.com से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यालय नगर पालिका परिषद मसूरी

Table with 4 columns: क्रम सं०, क्षेत्र/पार्किंग स्थल, दोपहिया/चार पहिया/भासी वाहन, न्यूनतम आरक्षित मूल्य (रु०), एफ०डी०आर०/सी०डी०आर०. Includes details for parking spaces in Masuri.

उक्त पार्किंग के संचालन को ठेके पर लेने हेतु इच्छुक व्यक्ति/फर्म से दिनांक 04.12.2024 को समय अपराह्न 04.00 बजे तक निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र दिनांक 03.12.2024 को रु० 4,000/- एवं 18 प्रतिशत जी०एच०डी० मुद्रातन पालिका कोष में जमा करने के पश्चात दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं।

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING... Applications are invited for the award of NCERT Doctoral Fellowships in the field of education and other disciplines directly related to education.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE In my husband's army record my name is mistakenly recorded as KIRAN ALE whereas my correct name is KIRAN GURUNG as mentioned in other all documents.

In my army record my daughter's name is mistakenly recorded as REETU GURUNG whereas my daughter's correct name is RITU GURUNG as mentioned in other all documents Army No 5449071N Rank Ex-NK (T.S) Mohan Singh Gurung, R/o 71, Vijaypur, Gopiwala, Anarwala, Near Guchu Pani, Dehradun vide UK IN-UK58892902927513W Affidavit 26.11.2024 before Dehradun.

The general public is informed that I have changed my name from PRITAM LAL to PRITAM LAL KUMHAR and in future I should be known as Pritam Lal Kumhar s/o-Tota Ram address: Sharvan Nath Nagar Haridwar Uttarakhand

I, BHARAT KUMAR SAHOO as deponent (existing name) legally father of Army No. JC-349365 NB SUB GYANESH-RANJAN SAHOO, Unit BEG RECORDS have changed my name from BHARAT KUMAR SAHOO to BHARAT CHANDRA SAHOO.

I, Smt Ritu Kothari W/o Shri Vikas Kothari D/o Shri Mala Singh resident of G/359 Nehru Colony, District Dehradun Uttarakhand have lost the original marksheet of Class Xth Roll No. 210452037, Year 1996 somewhere and despite searching a lot it has not been found.

मेरे सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरे पुत्र का गलत नाम सिद्धार्थ दर्ज है, सही नाम सिद्धार्थ भद्र आधरन नं. 335842667627 S/O आर्मी नं. -JC -331794W सुवेदार मेजर निरंजन भद्र, 370 आरटीओ रोड द्वारिकापुरी फेज-2, कुसुमखेड़ा, हरिपुर नायक, हरिपुरा नायक, नैनीताल, उत्तराखण्ड -263139 है।

मेरे पुत्र के सैन्य अभिलेखोंनुसार, मेरा गलत नाम प्रभावती देवी (PRABHAVATI DEVI) दर्ज है, सही नाम प्रभावती देवी (PRABHAVATI DEVI) आधरन नं. 482964656951 M/o आर्मी नं. 15349425N हवलदार संजीव कुमार, वार्ड संख्या 08, बरवा, बरवा, पूर्वी चंपारण, बिहार-845302 है।

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि मैंने अपना नाम लक्ष्मी मुयाल (पुराना नाम) से बदलकर लक्ष्मी देवी (नया नाम) कर लिया है। भविष्य में मुझे लक्ष्मी देवी (नया नाम) W/o सतीश कुमार के नाम से जाना - पहचाना जाये।

NOTICE

My mother's name is Smt. Dr. Nidhi Jain wife of Shri Dr. Ashesh Agarwal. The deponent's father writes Agarwal in his name, due to this, mother's name is written as Smt. Nidhi Agarwal in some documents of the deponent. Smt. Dr. Nidhi Jain wife of Shri Dr. Ashesh Agarwal and Smt. Dr. Nidhi Agarwal wife of Shri Dr. Ashesh Agarwal are the names of the same person. Radhika Agarwal daughter of Shri Dr. Ashesh Agarwal Resident: C-5, S.G.R.R. Medical College Campus, Patel Nagar, Dehradun.

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FIRST COLUMN LESSONS IN HUMILITY AND FAITH

Are we ready to confront the truth of our smallness in the grand scheme of existence?



AJIT KUMAR BISHNOI

Have we realised that we are intrinsically small souls? That we only play small roles, yes, of different levels, but always small. I will cite many examples to substantiate this fact in this article. The only big is God, who is omnipresent, omnipotent and omniscient. He controls everything. We shouldn't be surprised by the reality of us being small. What did we expect? There are billions of us and all interdependent.

We cannot exist without the support of others right from our birth. Ravana was puffed up because he thought that he was big, having defeated important entities. But he was made to bite the dust and he accepted that his highly bloated ego was his undoing. Hitler thought that he was big and was going to control the world. What happened? He committed suicide having realised his smallness. Nixon was President of the USA – a large and prosperous nation. He was forced to resign, because of his underhanded activities. Napoleon was similarly humiliated when he was banished from his country to live in Elba – an Italian island, away from his dear country France.

Smallness is only one of our handicaps; ignorance is another. Despite the vast knowledge Ravana possessed, he was ignorant like most of us; he ignored the reality of God. Only the most fortunate like



Sant Tulsidas transcend the barrier of ignorance. What will you call Kansa? He kept on trying to kill the child Krishna without realising that the Lord cannot be killed. Ultimately, Lord Krishna had to kill him. Duryodhana saw so much of Lord Krishna, but somehow it didn't sink in that the Lord was different; He was God. He saw how the Lord protected Draupadi from being disrobed; how Arjuna was protected by bringing back sunlight; and many such instances. His ignorance was quite deep-seated. What will you call persons, who outwardly pretend to be servants of God, but molest unsuspecting children?

Their depth of darkness, which engulfs their consciousness does not let them see that punishment is coming. Only after they are hit with severe punishments they realise that they are quite helpless really. Draupadi realised it and cried for the Lord's help, which the merciful Lord provided. Arjuna knew in his heart that he was enjoying the protection of the Lord. That is how he was able to triumph over very powerful adversaries. In the modern era, famous film stars have committed suicide.

We become very impressed by the fame they enjoy but little do we realise that they are just as helpless as we are. Wealthy people are no better when they are hit with mental trauma as a result of extraordinarily stressful events, which shatter their sense of security, making them feel insecure in this dangerous world we live in. Yes, this world is a place of misery (The Bhagavad-Geeta 8.15), as long as one does not take shelter from God. Both external and internal dangers exist. Demonic forces are out there to harm us in order to gain some pecuniary advantage like by stealing from us.

Then, one does not know what is in store due to our past sinful acts. The smart thing is to come under the protection of God. So, what do I do? Having done my duty, I try to leave it to my Lord. Believe me, He takes care of me better than I could have imagined. It sounds like a fairy tale, but I am one of millions, who are benefiting in the present and have benefited thus in the past.

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

Realigning India's economic strategy



ATUL SEHGAL

Achieving the ambitious goal of becoming a developed nation by 2047 demands a decisive overhaul of current economic policies



The world is undergoing rapid political changes. With these geopolitical changes underway, it becomes imperative to relook at the current strategy for economic development to meet the declared target of achieving a developed nation status by 2047. It becomes necessary to realign and readjust the policy points with the changing circumstances. Countries become rich by producing and selling globally valuable and value-added products. India's share in global trade has to grow rapidly from the present measly 1.8 per cent in goods exports and 2.8 per cent in goods imports. In the service sector too, India needs to enhance its share of delivered services upwards from the present 6 per cent. How will this happen? We need to take quantum measures and hard steps without caring for internal political expediency. Global political scenario may affect the choice of strategic steps but it can have, at best, limited effect if we as a nation are determined, focused and forthright.

Nothing can come in the way if we act united and our government performs its actions without fear or favour. The government's backtracking on the Agriculture and Farm Bills of 2019 was an unfortunate incident. Such incidents should not recur. The government buckled under the fake protests by agro market middlemen masquerading as farmers who created a false show of protests to put spokes in the wheel of the Bills and sabotage them. The government, under fear of burgeoning vandalism by anti-national elements to prevent the promulgation of Bills, backed by foreign enemy countries capitulated and rolled back the Bills. This should not have happened. The country paid a heavy price for this as agriculture is still the mainstay of India's economy. If only those important Bills had been passed, we would have witnessed an economic growth rate increase of at least 2 per cent over the existing. Let our government bring back those Bills at the earliest appropriate time to provide a vital booster to our economy. The other important area



THE GOVERNMENT BUCKLED UNDER THE FAKE PROTESTS BY AGRO MARKET MIDDLEMEN MASQUERADING AS FARMERS WHO CREATED A FALSE SHOW OF PROTESTS TO PUT SPOKES IN THE WHEEL OF THE BILLS AND SABOTAGE THEM

that needs the urgent attention of the government is the MSME sector which continues to lie stagnant. This sector is the prime driver of employment growth and needs steps to facilitate the establishment of new units and expansion of the existing ones. These steps are—bureaucratic reforms to cut red tape and reduce unnecessary regulatory compliances that engender corruption and impede growth. To boost Indigenous manufacturing and increase the share of manufacturing in the national GDP from 16 per cent (almost stagnant since 2015) to upwards of 20 per cent, rebooting the entire Make in India program is needed. The blueprint of this otherwise visionary plan was, alas, not implemented seriously.

Too much dependence on foreign capital and FDI was never forthcoming and efforts should have been made to utilise domestic capital. The central sector and state sector Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) should have taken the initiative in enhancing domestic manufacturing. Also, Make in India should have emphasised Make by India. Bureaucratic reforms, an increase in domestic manufacturing especially by PSUs by increasing import tariffs and further increasing fiscal concessions are some of the steps needed. Good work has been done in the area of defence and space in this context by encouraging and promoting startups.

This should be extended to other sectors of the economy. Value-added manufacturing in agriculture, food, healthcare and education will go a long way in boosting indigenous manufacturing and even exports. It is quite a pity that in spite of the wonderful success of the BJP government in the cleanup of the Banks, its benefit has not percolated to domestic manufacturing. Why out of the

100 smart cities conceived in 2014, only about 20 have seen the light of the day and that too partially? The establishment of special economic zones and specialised product production zones was blueprinted but its implementation has also got stuck in the legislative and bureaucratic quagmires. Bureaucratic reforms, I reiterate, are an emergent necessity. Large imports from China over the last ten years have indeed prevented the growth of MSMEs in the country. Many pre-existing factories faced closure and many manufacturers turned traders. India's exports to China in 2023-24 were USD 16.65 billion, while imports stood at USD 101.75 billion, leaving a trade deficit of more than USD 85 billion. Efforts were made by the ruling NDA government to contain Chinese imports. But most of the curtailment took place in lower-end consumer goods and less dent could be made in import of industrial goods. Irrespective of government policy, if our countrymen had decided to boycott Chinese goods that can be produced in India, we would have made a huge dent in Chinese imports and facilitated the growth of the domestic manufacturing industry. But this did not happen. The Land Acquisition Amendment Bill was presented in Parliament on 10 March 2015 but could not be passed due to opposition by non-BJP lawmakers in the Rajya Sabha where the ruling NDA lacked a clear majority in numbers. The opposition party MPs called the proposed amendments anti-farmer and anti-poor. The proposed amendments sought to remove requirements for approval from farmers to proceed with land acquisition under five broad categories of projects. Its passage continues to hang fire. It is the foundational base of the Make in India program. When will it be

passed? Political expediency has been truly the bane of our country and the main impediment to our fast-track economic progress. In the above context, it would be appropriate to mention that strongly nationalistic citizens can collectively create conditions conducive to the growth of the domestic industry. The economic resurgence of Germany and Japan post World War 2 are case in point. Though the USA lent economic support to these countries, their citizens were patriotically driven to establish their domestic manufacturing base and the countries developed into major industrial and economic powers in a period of barely two decades following their defeat and total devastation in 1945, the end year of the war. Both these countries lay stress on manufacturing, innovation and technology development. Their emphasis was on production and value-added exports. A similar strategy is needed. India has been the world's major economic power for millennia and in keeping with its inherent potential; it is capable of a long-term economic growth rate of 12 per cent. For this to happen, the aforesaid steps brook no delay. In the destiny of nations, there are some phases when it becomes necessary to take bold steps in line with progressive principles of economic development rather than get bogged down by over-strategising and political expediency. Our revered political and economic scholar Chanakya had stated that Dharma (righteousness) should take precedence over everything else in governance and even strategy should be aligned with universal divine Dharma. We need to proceed further in our economic journey accordingly.

(The author is a management consultant based in New Delhi; views are personal)

Reaping our demographic dividend: Can skilling be the secret sauce?

With coordinated action, innovative strategies and a commitment to scalable skill development, India can emerge as a global economic and workforce leader

With a staggering 1.44 billion people 68 per cent of them between the ages of 15 and 64, India stands to gain from an immense, globally unmatched, demographic dividend that presents an unprecedented opportunity for economic growth amidst global challenges of declining birth rates and labour shortages. The vast labour force positions India to realise the government's vision of becoming the world's third-largest economy and the skills capital of the world.

This, coupled with the global shift towards diversifying talent supply chains – particularly to countries like India – can significantly enhance our geopolitical standing. East Asia offers compelling evidence of



ARUNESH SINGH

reaping the demographic dividend. UNFPA reported that Korea saw its per-capita gross domestic product grow about 2,200 per cent between 1950 and 2008, and Thailand's GDP grew 970 per cent. The pressing question now is whether India can fully capitalise on this demographic dividend, and can the skills ecosystem be the key to unlocking this potential. The

Challenge Effectively leveraging the demographic dividend requires addressing several critical challenges. The primary challenge is the need to create sufficient job opportunities to absorb the increasing number of young people entering the workforce.

Another key challenge is to bridge the 'skills gap' – the discrepancy between the skills that job seekers possess and the skills that employers require, thereby creating opportunities for meaningful employment. This must be achieved on a large scale as the country is already home to 103 million youth categorised as NEET (not in education, employment or training) and millions of youth enter working age annually. Crafting Scalable Solutions To leverage India's demographic

dividend effectively, scalable solutions for skill development are imperative. This involves creating an ecosystem – support large-scale skill enhancement initiatives. Firstly, systemic change cannot occur in isolation; therefore, it is vital for government bodies and private companies to collaborate and pool resources, expertise and funding.

Therefore, fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) is essential for expanding skill development initiatives. It is important to align training programs with market demands, focus on outcome-based skilling, leverage technology and design effective, replicable, and adaptable programs. This collaboration can significantly contribute to cre-



ating a more resilient and practical skill development ecosystem. Several initiatives in the realm of skill development highlight the transformative impact of targeted training and strategic partnerships. One such initiative is Project AMBER, a unique public-private partnership (PPP) where each stakeholder—government, training partners, and the pri-

mate sector (philanthropy)—contributes to the model. This initiative aims to enhance overall employment and retention outcomes by prioritising the quality of training, mentoring, and retention. Such initiatives not only help achieve success at an individual level but also lay the groundwork for broader systemic changes that can redefine the impact of the skilling ecosystem. Secondly, aligning skilling programs with market demand is crucial. Collaborating with businesses provides valuable input on course content which ensures that learners are trained on skill sets that are relevant for the industry. Employer feedback mechanisms enable continuous adjustments to training programs, which are in sync with

industry requirements. This approach addresses the skills gap by equipping learners with relevant skills, helping them adapt effectively to the workplace. Ultimately, this strategy offers a solution to talent scarcity and unemployment by bridging the gap between workforce skills and market demands. To ensure training programmes remain dynamic, it's important to integrate data-driven insights to evaluate the progress of the trainees. Thirdly, focusing on outcome-based skilling is essential as it prioritises employment and retention rather than just training. Outcome-based skilling is an approach to training that focuses on achieving specific, measurable outcomes rather than merely completing a set

curriculum or an instructional programme. Finally, with the right use of technology, we can design skill development programmes that are both effective and scalable and create significant impact. Technology can greatly expand the reach and accessibility of these programmes through online learning platforms, virtual classrooms, and mobile-friendly resources, even in remote areas. At the same time, standardised models like 'train-the-trainer' programmes ensure that rapid expansion does not come at the cost of quality, maintaining consistency across different regions.

(The writer is CEO, Generation India Foundation with inputs from Sourabh Anand, views are personal)

Imran's supporters reach heart of Islamabad, 6 securitymen killed in violence

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Jailed former prime minister Imran Khan's supporters reached the heart of Pakistan's capital on Tuesday after removing barricades and battling police in clashes that killed six security personnel and injured dozens.

Four paramilitary Rangers and two policemen were killed late Monday and over 100 security personnel injured when protesters marching towards D-Chowk turned violent, prompting the federal government to deploy the army in Islamabad along with shoot-at-sight orders, state-run media said on Tuesday.

The 72-year-old former premier, who has been in jail since August last year, issued a "final call" on November 13 for nationwide protests on November 24, denouncing what he termed as the stolen mandate, the unjust arrests of people and the passage of the 26th amendment, which he said has strengthened a "dictatorial regime".

Geo News shared footage, which showed Khan's supporters climbing on the shipping containers placed on the roads leading to D-Chowk, which is located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court.

It was unclear if the protesters would stage a sit-in or leave D-Chowk, though the top leaders

of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had vowed to remain in Islamabad until Khan was released.

Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, who stubbornly led the protests, said in one of her addresses to the protestors to go away only if Khan comes in person to tell about the next course of action. They reached their declared destination despite repeated claims by Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi that nobody would be allowed to make it to D-Chowk.

Naqvi also said the government tried to convince PTI leaders in every way, but they only gained time from negotiations and moved towards the federal capital.

"We offered the protestors to gather at Sangiani. Their entire leadership does not want a bloodbath, but there's one secret leadership controlling all this, which was the apple of the discord," he said.

He also said that all PTI supporters had come from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Led by Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and Khan's wife Bushra, the marchers began their journey from the military-cit province on Sunday.

Pakistan deployed the army amid a tense stand-off with Khan's supporters. The government has vowed to foil their attempt "even if a curfew needs to be imposed."

Hours earlier, the state-run Radio Pakistan said a vehicle



Supporters of imprisoned former premier Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, gather to remove shipping containers to clear way for their rally demanding Khan's release, in Islamabad on Tuesday. (Right) A supporter Imran Khan's party aims to throw stones with slingshot following police fire tear gas shell to disperse them during clashes.



A supporter Imran Khan's party aims to throw stones with slingshot following police fire tear gas shell to disperse them during clashes.

rammed into Pakistan Rangers, killing four personnel on the Srinagar Highway in Islamabad late on Monday night. Five other Rangers and several police officials sustained severe injuries. About five kilometres from this spot, a bunch of miscreants, equipped with weapons and ammunition, pelted stones on the Rangers and carried out indiscriminate firing on the security personnel at Chungi No 26 in Rawalpindi, Radio Pakistan said. It also reported that two

policemen were killed but didn't provide any details. According to Punjab police, one policeman was killed at the Hakla interchange on Islamabad's outskirts during clashes with the PTI protestors on Monday. It did not give details about the second policeman.

Separately, Interior Minister Naqvi said, at a late Monday night media interaction, that more than 100 security personnel, mostly from police, were injured. "One senior police

officer was critically injured - he suffered a severe head injury - due to stone-pelting by protesters," he said.

Radio Pakistan further reported that the Pakistan Army was called in "to deal with the miscreants with an iron hand" and "clear orders have also been issued to shoot miscreants and troublemakers on sight."

Strongly condemning the attack on Rangers and police personnel by protesters, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in a statement, directed to immediately identify those involved in the incident and ensure they are brought to justice.

"Attacks on police and Rangers, under the guise of a so-called peaceful protest, are condemnable," he said, adding that the anarchist group seeks bloodshed and "Pakistan cannot afford any form of chaos or bloodshed. Bloodshed for nefarious political agenda is unacceptable and highly condemnable."

Meanwhile, Khan's party has accused the authorities of using

Israel bombards Beirut suburbs as its leadership prepares to vote on ceasefire

AP ■ BEIRUT

Israeli warplanes struck buildings in Beirut's suburbs and in a southern Lebanese city Tuesday, as Israel's security Cabinet prepared to vote on a US-brokered ceasefire proposal aimed at ending more than a year of fighting with Hezbollah.

Hopes have risen for the deal, which calls for a two-month initial halt in fighting and would require Hezbollah to end its armed presence in a broad swath of southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops would return to their side of the border.

Israel's security Cabinet, meeting Tuesday afternoon, was expected to approve the proposal, which Lebanese officials have said Hezbollah also supports.

Among the main sticking points has been an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations.

Under the proposal, thousands of Lebanese troops and UN peacekeepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor all sides' compliance.

Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said the military would strike Hezbollah if the UN peacekeeping force, known as UNIFIL, doesn't provide "effective enforcement" of the deal.

"If you don't act, we will act, and with great force," he said, speaking with UN special envoy Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert.

The European Union's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, said Tuesday that Israel's security concerns had been addressed in the US-French-brokered deal.

"There is not an excuse for not implementing a ceasefire. Otherwise, Lebanon will fall apart," Borrell told reporters in Fuggi, Italy, on the sidelines of a Group of Seven meeting. He said the US would chair a ceasefire implementation committee, and France would participate at the request of Lebanon.

Bombardment of Beirut's southern suburbs continues

Even as Israeli, US, Lebanese and international officials have



Israeli soldiers inspect the site where a rocket fired from Lebanon landed in a backyard in Kiryat Shmona, northern Israel on Tuesday.

expressed growing optimism over a ceasefire, Israel has continued its campaign in Lebanon, which it says aims to cripple Hezbollah's military capabilities. Israeli jets struck at least six buildings in Beirut's southern suburbs Tuesday. One strike slammed near the country's only airport, sending large plumes of smoke into the sky. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The airport has continued to function despite its location on the Mediterranean coast next to the densely populated suburbs where many of Hezbollah's operations are based.

Other strikes hit in the southern city of Tyre, where the Israeli military said it killed a local Hezbollah commander.

The Israeli military also said its ground troops reached parts of Lebanon's Litani River - a focal point of the emerging ceasefire. It said troops clashed with Hezbollah forces and destroyed rocket launchers in the Slouji area on the eastern end of the Litani, just a few km from the border.

Under the ceasefire deal, Hezbollah would be required to

Trump to impose tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, China

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President-elect Donald Trump has said he will impose a 25 per cent tariff on all products coming from Canada and Mexico, and 10 per cent on Chinese goods to check the flow of illegal immigrants and drugs into the United States.

In a series of posts on his Truth Social platform on Monday, he said he would sign executive orders imposing tariffs on the three countries as one of his first actions after assuming office on January 20.

"As everyone is aware, thousands of people are pouring

through Mexico and Canada, bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before. Right now, a Caravan coming from Mexico, composed of thousands of people, seems to be unstoppable in its quest to come through our currently Open Border," Trump said.

"On January 20th, as one of my many first Executive Orders, I will sign all necessary documents to charge Mexico and Canada a 25% Tariff on ALL products coming into the United States, and its ridiculous Open Borders.

"This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all

Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country! Both Mexico and Canada have the absolute right and power to easily solve this long simmering problem," he said. "We hereby demand that they use this power, and until such time that they do, it is time for them to pay a very big price," Trump said.

Further, the president-elect accused China of failing to stop the flow of drugs into the US. "I have had many talks with China about the massive amounts of drugs, in particular Fentanyl, being sent into the United States - But to no avail," Trump said.

"Representatives of China told me that they would institute their maximum penalty, that of death, for any drug dealers caught doing this but, unfortunately, they never followed through, and drugs are pouring into our Country, mostly through Mexico, at levels never seen before," he alleged.

"Until such time as they stop, we will be charging China an additional 10% Tariff, above any additional Tariffs, on all of their many products coming into the United States of America," he added.

Trump said the executive order to this effect would be signed on the first day of his presidency on January 20, 2025.

Interpol clamps down on cybercrime, arrests over 1,000 suspects in Africa

AP ■ DAKAR (SENEGAL)

Interpol arrested 1,006 suspects in Africa during a two-month operation clamping down on cybercrime that left tens of thousands of victims, including some who were trafficked, and produced millions in financial damages, the global police organisation said Tuesday.

Operation Serengeti, a joint operation with Afripol, the African Union's police agency, ran from Sept 2 to Oct 31 in 19 African countries and targeted criminals behind ransomware, business email compromise,

digital extortion and online scams, the agency said in a statement.

"From multi-level marketing scams to credit card fraud on an industrial scale, the increasing volume and sophistication of cybercrime attacks is of serious concern," said Valdecy Urquiza, the Secretary General of Interpol.

Interpol pinpointed 35,000 victims, with cases linked to nearly USD 193 million in financial losses worldwide, stating that local police authorities and private sector partners, including internet service providers, played a key role in the opera-

tion.

"Through Serengeti, Afripol has significantly enhanced support for law enforcement in African Union Member States," Jalel Chelba, Afripol's Executive Director, said in the statement. In Kenya, the police made nearly two dozen arrests in an online credit card fraud case linked to losses of USD 8.6 million. In the West African country of Senegal, officers arrested eight people, including five Chinese nationals, for a USD 6 million online Ponzi scheme. Chelba said Afripol's focus now includes emerging threats like Artificial Intelligence-dri-

ven malware and advanced cyberattack techniques. Other dismantled networks included a group in Cameroon suspected of using a multi-level marketing scam for human trafficking, an international criminal group in Angola running an illegal virtual casino and a cryptocurrency investment scam in Nigeria, the agency said.

Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centennial last year, works to help national police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterror-

ism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organised crime.

The world's biggest - if not best-funded - police organisation has been grappling with new challenges including a growing caseload of cybercrime and child sex abuse, and increasing divisions among its member countries.

Interpol had a total budget of about 176 million euros (about USD 188 million) last year, compared to more than 200 million euros at the European Union's police agency, Europol, and some USD 11 billion at the FBI in the United States.

Tamil film Maharaja to be released in China

PTI ■ BEIJING

Tamil suspense film Maharaja will be released in China on Friday becoming the first Indian cinema to be screened for Chinese audiences after the normalisation of ties between the two countries following last month's agreement to resolve the standoff in Eastern Ladakh.

The suspense film Maharaja has already begun pre-screenings and its release here coincides with two major competitors - Hollywood's Gladiator II and local film Her Story.

State-run Global Times reported on Tuesday that the film currently holds a high rating of 8.7/10 on Chinese

movie review site Douban and is regarded as one of the highest-rated Indian films in recent years.

Directed by Nithilan Swaminathan, the film stars actors Vijay Sethupathi, Anurag Kashyap, Mamta Mohandas and Natty Natraj. It hit the Indian screens on June 14 and was a huge hit. Maharaja - which is titled 'Yin Guo Bao Ying' in Chinese - will be first Indian film to be screened in China after both the countries firm up an agreement on patrolling and disengagement of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, in a major breakthrough to end the over four-year border standoff.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at their meeting in Kazan in Russia on the sidelines of the BRICS summit on October 23 endorsed the agreement and issued directions to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms and normalise ties that were hit by a deadly military clash in 2020 at Galwan Valley.

Indian films specially Aamir Khan's Three Idiots, Dangal and Secret Superstar have become a major success in China in recent years as the themes largely resonated with the Chinese audiences and earned a significant amount of revenue.

Khan has become a household name in China.

US goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher retires from international soccer

AP ■ WASHINGTON
US women's national team goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher, known for her unflappable demeanor in the face of pressure, is retiring from international soccer. Naeher was on the team's roster for a pair of upcoming matches in Europe but those games will be her last after a full 11 years playing for the United States. Naeher was the starting goalkeeper for the U.S. Team that won the Women's World Cup in 2019 and the gold medal at this year's Olympics in France. She's the only U.S. goalkeeper to earn a shutout in both a World Cup and an Olympic final. She made a key one-handed save in stoppage time to preserve the Americans' 1-0 victory over Brazil in the

Olympic final. Mallory Swanson, who scored the only goal, ran down the length of the field to embrace Naeher at the final whistle. Naeher announced her retirement on social media Monday. "Every tear shed in the challenging times and disappointments made every smile and celebration in the moments of success that much more joyful. This has been a special team to be a part of and I am beyond proud of what we have achieved both on and off the field," she wrote. "The memories I have made over the years will last me a lifetime." Naeher has been known throughout her career for her calm and steady leadership. She is one of just three goalkeepers to make more than 100 appearances for the



United States. Naeher made her debut with the national team in 2014 and was a backup to Hope Solo at the 2015 World Cup, which the United States won. She became the team's regular starter following the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics and was on the squad that repeated as World Cup winners in 2019. For her career, Naeher has appeared 113 games with 110 starts, 88 wins and 68 shutouts. She had four shutouts over the course of the Olympic tournament in France. In all, she was on the U.S. Roster for three World Cups and three Olympic teams. The 36-year-old has also played for the Chicago Red Stars in the National Women's Soccer League since 2016. She plans to play for Chicago next season.

The United States is headed to Europe for a match against England at Wembley Stadium on Saturday and on Dec. 3 against Netherlands in The Hague. In addition to her save at the Olympics, Naeher has had many other memorable moments. In the 2019 Women's World Cup semifinals against England, she stopped Steph Houghton's penalty kick in the 83rd minute. The Americans won 2-1 before downing the Netherlands 2-0 in the final. Earlier this year in the semifinals of the CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup, Naeher made three saves during a penalty shootout with Canada and also converted a penalty kick herself — tucking the ball neatly into the corner of the net.



ISL: Mohammedan SC hunt for maiden home win against upbeat Bengaluru FC

PT ■ KOLKATA
Mohammedan SC will be desperate to register their maiden home win of the season when they host Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League here on Wednesday. The 12th-placed MSC, competing in their debut ISL season, has suffered three defeats in their previous five matches, along with a success and a draw each. On the other hand, BFC has been on a solid ride this season, winning five games and drawing twice. They have collected 17 points from eight contests and sit second in the standings. Bengaluru is in a close battle with table leaders and defending champions Mohun Bagan Super Giant, who also possesses a similar tally — 17 points from eight fixtures. While the Blues look like the favourite for this tie, the Black Panthers, coming off a goalless draw to city rival East Bengal FC, would want to ride that momentum and go a step further to eventually triumph in a home outing. No side to date has failed to grab a win in its five home meetings, a record that

Andrey Chernyshov and co will be desperate to avoid. The only consolation they can attain is that Bengaluru's only loss this season came in an away match — versus FC Goa. MSC tend to take some time to settle into the proceedings, having conceded four goals in the opening 15 minutes of the contests this ISL — the highest by any side this season. The hosts will have to hold their ground early, especially since BFC has also scored on four occasions in this phase of the ongoing campaign. Meanwhile, success in this fixture will mark only the second time The Blues would bag 20-plus points after their opening nine engagements in an ISL season (23 points in 2018-19). They have performed as a cohesive unit under Gerard Zaragoza this season, netting 13 goals and conceding just six, thus maintaining a sufficient stronghold over most clashes. Also, Bengaluru has drawn and lost twice in its previous five outings while facing a side for the first time in the event. With this being the maiden

encounter between the two in the tournament, The Blues will be hoping to change that record with a victory here. Ahead of the meeting, MSC head coach Chernyshov heralded BFC and its dominant style of play this season. "We will play against one of the best teams at the moment. They are very strong and have started the season perfectly. Their style of football makes them one of the best teams in the ISL," Chernyshov said. Meanwhile, Zaragoza, highlighted his players' hard work on their technical and tactical movements, especially during the international break. "The break was good. We prefer playing matches but breaks help us look at things technically and tactically. The good thing is that we had the whole squad training with us this week," Zaragoza noted. Bengaluru's Sunil Chhetri holds an impeccable record of netting against each of the 14 sides he has faced in the competition. Scoring versus the Black Panthers will make him the first player in the ISL's history to do so against 15 different opponents.

Tiger Woods to skip his holiday tournament in the Bahamas

AP ■ WASHINGTON
Tiger Woods won't be playing in the Bahamas next week at the Hero World Challenge as he recovers from a sixth back surgery he had in September. In announcing Monday on social media he won't be playing, Woods said the 20-man field for his holiday tournament will be filled out by Justin Thomas, Nick Dunlap and Jason Day. Scottie Scheffler is the defending champion. Woods was unlikely to play in the Bahamas since disclosing Sept. 13 he had yet another surgery on his lower back — his sixth in 10 years — that he hoped would relieve some of the spasms he had experienced this year. He described it as a microdecompression



surgery of the lumbar spine for nerve impingement, and the recovery time typically is eight to 12 weeks. Woods said while he was disappointed not to play, he looked forward to his role as the tournament host. Woods finished 18th in the 20-man field a year ago. Thomas is a two-time PGA champion whose wife gave birth to their first child a week ago, a daughter they named Molly Grace. He has played only once since the Tour Championship. The newcomer to the unofficial event — its gets world ranking points but not official money — is Dunlap, who won a PGA Tour event as an amateur, left Alabama to turn pro and picked up a

second win. Dunlap joins Woods as the only players to win the U.S. Junior Amateur and the U.S. Amateur. Woods, meanwhile, is far more likely to play the PNC Challenge on Dec. 14-15 in Orlando, Florida, a 36-hole event with his son, Charlie. Woods is allowed to ride a cart that week because it is sanctioned by the PGA Tour Champions. A year ago at the Hero World Challenge, Woods spoke about his hopes of playing a big tournament every month. But he withdrew after one round at Riviera and did not play again for nearly two months. He finishes the year completing only 11 rounds. He set a Masters record by making his 24th consecutive cut, and then Woods missed the cut in the other three majors.

Iceland coach Áge Hareide resigns ahead of 2026 World Cup qualifying

AP ■ REYKJAVIK (ICELAND)
Veteran coach Áge Hareide has resigned from the Iceland national team ahead of the start of World Cup qualifying, and said he plans to retire. The Icelandic soccer federation announced the 71-year-old Hareide's decision to leave in a statement late Monday. "I have enjoyed my time with the Icelandic national team, but I believe that now is the right time to retire," Hareide was quoted as saying in the federation statement. He added that there are "exciting times ahead" for a team with emerging young leaders. The next coach's first games are against Kosovo in March in a promotion-relegation playoff in the Nations League where the winner advances to the second tier in the next edition of the tournament. Iceland will be in the pot of third-seeded teams when FIFA makes the draw for World Cup qualifying groups for Europe on December 13. Only group winners advance directly to the 2026 tournament being co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico. Iceland has played at one World Cup, in 2018 in Russia, becoming the smallest nation ever to qualify. An international defender for Norway, Hareide coached the Norwegian national team for five years through 2008. He later took Denmark to the 2018 World Cup — losing to eventual finalist Croatia in a penalty shootout in the round of 16 — and helped it qualify for the European Championship played in 2021. Hareide joined Iceland for the Euro 2024 qualifying program and the team was one game from the tournament, losing a playoff final against Ukraine in March.

West Ham surprise Newcastle with 2-0 away win at St James' Park

AP ■ NEWCASTLE
Newcastle's winning run in the English Premier League came to an abrupt end when goals from Thomas Soucek and Aaron Wan-Bissaka gave West Ham a surprise 2-0 win at St. James' Park. The Hammers rose into 14th place and the pressure on coach Julen Lopetegui was eased. The London club has been inconsistent all season and Monday's win was just its fourth in 12 league games. West Ham was worth it in the end but the three points came courtesy of slack defending by the home side. Emerson whipped in an out-swinging corner after 10 minutes and, with Newcastle defenders rooted to the spot, Soucek stole in to nod home the opener. Then eight minutes into the second half, captain Jarrod Bowen found Wan-Bissaka in the penalty box and he was left unchallenged and had time to fire an angled drive past Nick Pope. "The second goal... If you settle on a



lead it can come back to haunt you," Bowen said. Newcastle brought on Harvey Barnes, and then Callum Wilson returned from a long-term back injury to make his first appearance of the season, but to no avail. "I said we needed a performance and we did that," Bowen said. "Newcastle

always score at home so to keep them to a clean sheet and score twice... It's a tough place to come to. We did that perfectly." The defeat ended a three-game winning streak for Newcastle and left the Saudi Arabia-owned club in ninth place, four points outside the top four.

F1 expands grid to add General Motors' Cadillac brand, new American team for 2026 season

AP ■ LAS VEGAS
Formula 1 at last said it will expand its grid in 2026 to make room for an American team that is partnered with General Motors. "As the pinnacle of motorsports, F1 demands boundary-pushing innovation and excellence. It's an honor for General Motors and Cadillac to join the world's premier racing series, and we're committed to competing with passion and integrity to elevate the sport for race fans around the world," GM President Mark Reuss said. "This is a global stage for us to demonstrate GM's engineering expertise and technology leadership at an entirely new level." The approval ends years of wrangling that launched a U.S. Justice Department investigation into why Colorado-based Liberty Media, the commercial rights holder of F1, would not approve the team initially started by Michael Andretti. Andretti in September stepped aside from leading his namesake organization, so the 11th team will be called Cadillac F1 and be run by new Andretti Global majority owners Dan Towriss and Mark

Walter. The team will use Ferrari engines its first two years until GM has a Cadillac engine built for competition in time for the 2028 season. Towriss is the CEO and president of Group 1001 and entered motorsports via Andretti's IndyCar team when he signed on financial savings platform Gainbridge as a sponsor. Towriss is now a major part of the motorsports scene with ownership stakes in both Spire Motorsports' NASCAR team and Wayne Taylor Racing's sports car team. Walter is the chief executive of financial services firm Guggenheim Partners and the controlling owner of both the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers and Premier League club Chelsea. "We're excited to partner with General Motors in bringing a dynamic presence to Formula 1," Towriss said. "Together, we're assembling a world-class team that will embody American innovation and deliver unforgettable moments to race fans around the world." Mario Andretti, the 1978 F1 world champion, will have an



ambassador role with Cadillac F1. But his son, Michael, will have no official position with the organisation now that he has scaled back his involvement with Andretti Global. "The Cadillac F1 Team is made up of a strong group of people that have worked tirelessly to build an American works team," Michael

Andretti posted on social media. "I'm very proud of the hard work they have put in and congratulate all involved on this momentous next step. I will be cheering for you!" The approval has been in works for weeks but was held until after last weekend's Las Vegas Grand Prix to not overshadow the showcase

event of the Liberty Media portfolio. Max Verstappen won his fourth consecutive championship in Saturday night's race, the third and final stop in the United States for the top motorsports series in the world. Grid expansion in F1 is both infrequent and often unsuccessful. Four teams were granted entries in

2010 that should have pushed the grid to 13 teams and 26 cars for the first time since 1995. One team never made it to the grid and the other three had vanished by 2017. There is only one American team on the current F1 grid — owned by California businessman Gene Haas — but it is not particularly competitive and does not field American drivers. Andretti's dream was to field a truly American team with American drivers. The fight to add this team has been going on for three-plus years and F1 initially denied the application despite approval from F1 sanctioning body FIA. The existing 10 teams, who have no voice in the matter, also largely opposed expansion because of the dilution in prize money and the billions of dollars they've already invested in the series. Andretti in 2020 tried and failed to buy the existing Sauber team. From there, he applied for grid expansion and partnered with GM, the top-selling manufacturer in the United States. The inclusion of GM was championed by the FIA and president Mohammed Ben Sulayem, who said Michael

Andretti's application was the only one of seven applicants to meet all required criteria to expand F1's current grid. "General Motors is a huge global brand and powerhouse in the OEM world and is working with impressive partners," Ben Sulayem said Monday. "I am fully supportive of the efforts made by the FIA, Formula 1, GM and the team to maintain dialogue and work towards this outcome of an agreement in principle to progress this application." Despite the FIA's acceptance of Andretti and General Motors from the start, F1 wasn't interested in Andretti — but did want GM. At one point, F1 asked GM to find another team to partner with besides Andretti. GM refused and F1 said it would revisit the Andretti application if and when Cadillac had an engine ready to compete. "Formula 1 has maintained a dialogue with General Motors, and its partners at TWG Global, regarding the viability of an entry following the commercial assessment and decision made by Formula 1 in January 2024," F1 said in a statement.

