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FIRST GENERATION ENTREPRENEUR
AND ESSAR GROUP CO-FOUNDER
SHASHI RUIA DIES

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Constitution is a guiding light: PM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Hailing the Constitution as a "living stream", Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the sentiment of 'nation first' will keep the Constitution alive for centuries to come. Recalling the words of President Rajendra Prasad in his concluding address to the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, PM Modi said he had stated that India does not need anything more than a group of honest people who will keep the country's interests above their own. Addressing an event marking Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court, Modi said the Constitution has now been fully implemented in Jammu and Kashmir and Constitution Day was celebrated there for the first time. "Our Constitution makers knew that India's aspirations, India's dreams will reach new heights with time. They knew that the needs of Independent India and its citizens will change, challenges will change. That is why they did not leave our Constitution as just a mere book of laws. Rather, they made it a living, continuously flowing stream," Modi said, adding that the Constitution is acting as a "guiding light" at a time when India is going through a period of transformation. "Today every citizen of the country has only one goal, to build a developed India," he said at the event which was attended by Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, Chief



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering during Constitution Day celebrations at the Supreme Court PTI

Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and Supreme Court Bar Association of India President Kapil Sibal, among others. India is going through a period of transformation and at such an important time, it is the Constitution of India that is "showing us the way and is a guiding light for us", PM Modi said. Asserting that Indians should get speedy justice, PM Modi said that for this a new judicial code has been implemented. "The punishment-based system has now changed to a justice-based system," he said. Speaking in a lighter vein while concluding his address, PM Modi said, "I have tried to keep within the boundaries of the job designated to me by the Constitution. I have not tried any encroachment. I

have tried to put forward my views within the boundaries. Only a hint is enough here, there is no need to say much." Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna elaborated concerns in the judiciary, including backlog of cases, delays, costs of litigation, access to justice, and trust deficit in the system. He elaborated on some of these issues while highlighting efforts to address them. He highlighted the backlog of cheque-bouncing cases, which constitute nine per cent of pending cases in trial courts. He also highlighted the limited success of plea bargaining, compounding, and probation, as an area requiring legislative intervention. "The backlog of check bouncing cases in our district

courts have reached an alarming proportion - nearly nine per cent of the cases pending in the trial court. Data also reveals plea bargaining has been a non-starter. Compounding and probation have not gained acceptance. Perhaps these require legislative interference," CJI Khanna said. The CJI also drew attention to the disparity between the judicial workforce and the prison population. With approximately 20,000 judges at the district level and 750 High Court judges, the judiciary handles a prison population of 5.23 lakh. Despite this disparity, data reflects efficient case handling, he said. **Continued on page 2**

India reacts to ISKCON monk's arrest, bail denial in Bangladesh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/ SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ NEW DELHI/ KOLKATA

Taking strong exception to attacks on minorities in Bangladesh, India on Tuesday noted with "deep concern" the arrest, and denial of bail, to Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das there and urged authorities there to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities. Bangladesh police on Monday arrested Das, the leader of the Hindu group, Sammilita Sanatani Jote, from the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport area in Dhaka. In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said it has noted with "deep concern the arrest and denial of bail" to Das who is also the spokesperson of the Bangladesh Sammilita Sanatan Jagran Jote. "This incident follows the multiple attacks on Hindus and other minorities by extremist elements in Bangladesh," it said. There are "several documented cases" of arson and looting of minorities' homes and business establishments, as well as theft and vandalism and desecration of deities and temples, the MEA flagged. "It is unfortunate that while the perpetrators of these incidents remain at large, charges should be pressed against a religious leader presenting legitimate demands through peaceful gatherings," the statement said. The MEA also noted with



ISKCON monk Krishna Das Prabhu being taken in a police van after court ordered him detained pending further proceedings in Chattogram in southeastern Bangladesh AP/PTI

concern the attacks on minorities protesting peacefully against the arrest of Das. "We urge Bangladesh authorities to ensure the safety and security of Hindus and all minorities, including their right of freedom of peaceful assembly and expression," it added. Das was reportedly arrested on charges of sedition and his bail application was rejected by the Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Court. The court, noting that the police did not request Das' remand, ordered his transfer to judicial custody. It also directed that he be granted all religious privileges during his detention. He was arrested on charges of disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag during a rally he addressed in October, according to Bangladeshi

media reports. Hindus in West Bengal have announced plans to protest and block the Petrapole Border if bail is not granted to ISKCON's Chinmoy Das. Meanwhile, Suwendu Adhikari, a senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, said the party would hold protests in front of the West Bengal Assembly over the situation in Bangladesh. A torch rally is also planned. Concerned at the arrest of Swami Chinmoy Krishna Das a senior sardu of International Society of Krishna Consciousness, Bangladesh the ISKCON has appealed to the Indian Government to take up the issue with the Government on the other side of the border so as to secure the release of the monk at the earliest. **Continued on page 2**



Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan receives Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's resignation as Chief Minister PTI

Maharashtra still awaits its next CM

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

On a day when he continued to put up covert resistance to Bharatiya Janata Party's plans to name its senior leader Devendra Fadnavis as the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Eknath Shinde on Tuesday tendered his resignation as the CM, to Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan after the completion of the five term of the outgoing government. However, the Governor asked Shinde to remain as the caretaker CM till the new government assumed office in the State. Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, both of whom are Deputy CMs in the outgoing government, were present when Shinde tendered his resignation from his post as the CM to the Governor at Raj Bhavan. "The Governor has asked the Chief Minister to continue to hold the charge of his post till alternate arrangements are made," a communiqué from Raj Bhavan said. **Continued on page 2**

SC asks for creative ways to deal with unruly air passengers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday called for creative ways to deal with unruly air passengers, while directing the Centre and Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to frame more comprehensive guidelines to control unruly air passengers guidelines in accordance with the international norms and observed "something creative" had to be done. A Bench of Justices B R Gavai and KV Viswanathan was hearing a plea filed by a 73-year-old woman, on whom a male co-passenger allegedly urinated in an inebriated condition on board an Air India flight in November, 2022. Interestingly, during the hearing, Justice Viswanathan recalled an incident involving drunk passengers on a flight while travelling with another Supreme Court judge, Justice Surya Kant. "We had a recent experience during air travel. Two male passengers were fully drunk. One went to the washroom and slept off. The other one, who was outside and had a bag to vomit. The crew was all women. For 30 to 35 minutes no one could open the door. The crew then requested my co-passenger to open the door and take him out to the seat. It was a 2.40 hours flight," the judge revealed. Justice Viswanathan, who was on a Bench with Justice BR Gavai, hearing the plea, asked Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati to instruct the authorities concerned to examine and suitably modify the existing guidelines on unruly passengers, in line with the international norms. **Continued on page 2**

EVMs are tampered when you lose, and fine if you win: SC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday indicated that a level of hypocrisy is attached to criticism about the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), saying "EVMs are tampered when you lose and fine if you win". The oral remark was made by Justice Vikram Nath before dismissing a petition filed by evangelist KA Paul, who sought a judicial order to return to paper ballots. As the petitioner pointed out that even prominent leaders like Chandrababu Naidu and YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had raised concerns about tampering with EVMs, the SC Bench remarked, "When Chandrababu Naidu or Mr Reddy lost, they said that EVMs were tampered and when they won, they didn't say anything. How can we see this? We are dismissing this. This is not the place where you argue all of this." Petitioner KA Paul referenced Elon Musk's remarks who had suggested that EVMs could be tampered with. Apart from ballot paper voting, the plea sought several directions including a directive to the Election Commission to disqualify candidates for a minimum of five years if found guilty of distributing money, liquor or other material inducement to the voters during polls. When petitioner-in-person KA Paul said he filed the PIL, the Bench said, "You have interesting PILs. How do you get these brilliant ideas?" The petitioner said he is the president of an organisation which has rescued over three lakh orphans and 40 lakh widows. "Why are you getting into this



political arena? Your area of work is very different," the Bench retorted. After Paul revealed he had been to over 150 countries, the Bench asked him whether each of the nations had ballot paper voting or used electronic voting. The petitioner said foreign countries had adopted ballot paper voting and India should follow suit. "Why you don't want to be different from the rest of the world?" asked the Bench. There was corruption and in June 2024, the Election Commission announced they had seized Rs 9,000 crore, Paul responded. "But how does that make your relief which you are claiming here relevant?" asked the Bench, adding "if you shift back to physical ballot, will there be no corruption?". Paul claimed CEO and co-founder of Tesla, Elon Musk, stated that EVMs could be tampered with and added TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, the current chief minister of Andhra Pradesh, and former state chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy had claimed EVMs could be tampered with. **Continued on page 2**



Pieces of broken window glass lie on the floor after an explosion outside a club in Chandigarh PTI

Two low-intensity explosions outside Badshah's lounge

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Two low-intensity explosions occurred outside as many bar-cum-lounges, one of them owned by rapper Badshah, in the Sector 26 area of Chandigarh early Tuesday. No casualties were reported. The blasts occurred outside De'orra and Seville. Seville is reportedly owned by the rapper. The explosions shattered De'orra's glass windows. In CCTV footage, an unidentified person was seen throwing something towards the lounge and thereafter a cloud of smoke emerged. Sources said two suspects came on a motorcycle. Police said they received a call reporting a "loud sound" from the area around 3.25 am. A police team recovered jute rope pieces from the spot. A team from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory collected the samples, police said. Chandigarh Deputy Superintendent of Police Dilbag Singh Dhaliwal told media an investigating officer who responded to the call found broken glasses at the scene. An FIR has been lodged and an investigation was underway, Dhaliwal said. Puran, a worker at one of the clubs, said though the joint was closed, there were seven to eight workers inside at the time of the incident. He said they heard a loud sound around 3.15 am and rushed outside. They found broken glass, but did not spot anyone, he added.

Doctors on duty still vulnerable to attacks

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

Amid the nation-wide talk about the safety of resident doctors in the aftermath of RG Kar hospital rape and murder case in Kolkata, the medical workers still continue to remain vulnerable as they faced harassment in two Delhi government hospitals including Safdarjung hospital where a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer allegedly verbally abused a doctor on duty, over the treatment of his wife. A CCTV video, purportedly showing the incident, depicted the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Armed Police and Training in Pudukcherry, angrily gesturing at the doctor and pointing his finger towards him. However, no police case has been filed in both the cases even though the Central government had asked heads of all government hospitals in the country to register an institutional FIR within six hours of any incident of violence against an on-duty healthcare worker in the wake of the RG Kar rape and murder case that happened in Kolkata. After the incident, doctors started sharing their concerns, raising questions about the behavior of people toward healthcare workers. Expressing his displeasure over the incident, a doctor on X said, "Brijendra Kumar Yadav, DGP Pondicherry disgraced his position and abused power by threatening and verbally assaulting a young on duty resident doctor treating his wife at Safdarjung Hospital. We turn to the police when we are assaulted. What to do when a top police officer becomes the perpetrator of aggression?" In the first instance at Safdarjung hospital, the incident led operations in the emergency ward being temporarily halted. The wife of Brijendra Kumar Yadav had been admitted to the hospital for postoperative care following surgery at the hospital's Sports Injury Centre (SIC). Although the CCTV footage had no sound, the man's body language clearly conveyed hostility. Later, the official X handle of the Resident Doctors' Association of Safdarjung Hospital shared an audio clip of the incident.



In the clip, a man can be heard saying, "I have studied twice as much as you, so don't think you are indispensable." Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) also issued a press release strongly condemning the incident of verbal harassment and bullying faced by a general surgery postgraduate resident of VMMC and Safdarjung Hospital Delhi on duty. "The concerned person, Brijendra Kumar Yadav (IPS Officer) Batch 2010 AGMUT Cadre, and husband of patient Anita Roy (admitted to the seventh floor of the SIC building), engaged in behaviour that was both disgraceful and unacceptable. Such actions, particularly by a senior government official, are highly condemnable and violate the dignity of healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to serve patients," they said, demanding an apology from Yadav. In another incident that took place in GTB hospital, a male patient, allegedly drunk, created ruckus in the neurosurgery department during treatment, breaking fixtures and threatening doctors on duty. According to a statement by the Resident Doctors' Association of the University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) and GTB Hospital, on Monday evening, a patient became violent during an examination, abused doctors, nurses, and staff on duty, and attempted to assault them. The patient also broke cabin partitions and smashed glass fixtures, it said. **Continued on page 2**

Mewar dynasty descendants spar in bizarre battle royale

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI/ JAIPUR

The descendants of Rajput ruler Maharana Pratap, who fought against the mighty Mughal emperor Akbar nearly 450 years ago, have now had to deal with a family to complete the rituals of accession to the "throne" in Udaipur. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Vishvaraj Singh Mewar, was challenged by his uncle Arvind Singh Mewar and his son Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar who allegedly denied him entry to the 'dhuni' (sacred fire) temple in the palace premises and then to Eklingnath Ji temple to finish the ritual. This led to a heated



confrontation on Monday night as tensions flared between two factions of the erstwhile royal family of Mewar, resulting in stone pelting, injuring several persons and a standoff at the historic City Palace. The clash followed the coronation of BJP MLA Vishvaraj Singh Mewar as the 77th Maharana of Mewar earlier that day at Chittorgarh Fort. On Tuesday, the district administration of Udaipur appointed a receiver to

manage a disputed area of the City Palace. The issue stands unresolved. However, the situation is under control, district officials said. Property dispute is at the core of this entire episode, which apparently has turned into the battle of supremacy. City palace and Eklingnathji temple are under the control of Arvind Singh. A stand-off between Vishvaraj Singh and his cousin Dr Lakshay Raj Singh Mewar followed at the gates of the historic city palace after Vishvaraj Singh Mewar was refused entry into the palace, which is now run by a trust managed by his cousin and uncle Shreeji Arvind Singh Mewar. **Continued on page 2**

LEST WE FORGET



Police officers with their dogs pay tribute to the martyrs of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks on its anniversary PTI

Soren invites Modi, Kharge, Rahul, Kejriwal for swearing in



STAFF REPORTER ■ RANCHI
Saturday stormed to power in Jharkhand for a second consecutive term, winning 56 seats in the 81-member assembly, despite an all-out campaign blitz by the BJP-led NDA, which managed only 24 seats. He also retained the Barhait seat by defeating BJP's Gamiyel Hembrom by a margin of 39,791 votes. Senior leaders of the INDIA bloc, including RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, may attend the swearing-in ceremony on Thursday. "All top leaders of the bloc are being invited to attend the swearing-in ceremony at Morabadi Ground here on November 28. Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav are likely to attend the event," a Congress leader had earlier said. As far as ministerial berths are concerned, in all likelihood, there may be four ministers from the grand old party. The JMM had contested 43 seats and won 34, the highest-ever tally of the party in its history. The Congress got 16 seats, RJD four and the CPI (ML) secured two seats in the INDIA bloc. As per the arrangement, RJD may get one ministerial berth. Meanwhile, preparations are underway for the oath-taking ceremony. Soren had on Sunday met Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and staked claim to form government, soon after leaders of the INDIA bloc in the state unanimously elected him as the legislature party leader. He will officiate as the acting chief minister till the oath is administered to him.

Doctors on duty still...

From page 1
There was speculation during the past two days that Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar would meet Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah to formalise the nomination of the CM candidate. However, no such meeting has taken place during the last three days. With no intervention by the central BJP leadership, Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar stayed put in Mumbai, resulting in the delay in the nomination of a chief ministerial candidate. Informed sources said that Shinde was yet to come to terms with the reality that the BJP's central leadership

India expresses...

From page 1
inc. urges the Government of India to ... Speak to the Government of Bangladesh and convey that we are a peace-loving Bhakti movement." The BJP and the Hindu Jagaran Manch in Kolkata also warned of a strong movement if the Iskon monk was not released immediately. Bengal Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari on Tuesday took out a procession

SC asks for creative ways...

From page 1
The judge remarked something creative needed to be done. Advocates Rahul Narayan, Tanya Srivastava, and Harshita Malik appeared for the petitioner. The SC in May, 2023, issued notices to the Centre, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and all airlines, including Air India, on the woman's plea. During the hearing, the woman's counsel submitted the DGCA filed a reply stating everything was in place but the petitioner had suggestions that could be incorporated. Bhati, representing the Centre, informed the Bench that an affidavit was filed and guidelines and circulars were

Six arrested in Delhi for robbing shopkeeper to fund trip to the hills

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
Six men who were recently released from jail planned a series of robberies in Delhi's Dwarka area to finance a trip to the hills. However, their plan unraveled when they were caught by the police soon after robbing their first target. According to the police on Tuesday, the gang of criminals, residents of Bindapur's JJ Colony, had robbed a shopkeeper at gunpoint in the southwest locality on the evening of November 12. "Mukesh, a grocery shop owner, was returning home on his scooter when he was intercepted near the DDA flats in Bindapur. Three individuals on a motorcycle stopped him and robbed Rs 50,000 at gunpoint," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Ankit Singh said, adding that multiple teams were formed to identify and nab the accused. They analysed footage from over 500 CCTV cameras to trace the movements of the suspects and identified them, police said. Acting on a tip-off, police laid a trap and arrested the three accused - 23 year old Mohammad Sazid, 19 year old Mohammad Shoaib, and 22 year old Mohammad Rashid, on November 17. During interrogation, they confessed to the crime and disclosed the involvement of three more accomplices, leading to the arrest of Mohammad Ayan, 19, Mohammad Aftab, 22, and Mohammad Altab, 24, said the police officer. "All the accused are history sheeters and had been struggling financially. Recently released from jail after serving sentences for various crimes, they planned to experience snowfall at a hill station. But as they were short on funds, they decided to commit robberies," said the DCP. They targeted Mukesh based on insider information obtained from a market acquaintance. The gang meticulously planned the heist, conducted reconnaissance, and used a motorcycle and a country-made pistol to execute the crime, he said. The police recovered Rs 35,200 of the robbed cash, a motorcycle and a country-made pistol, the officer said. According to police, the gang had planned to rob other shopkeepers in the area but was caught.

J and K police raids overground terror workers

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU
The Jammu and Kashmir (J and K) Police have raided at least 56 locations in the last two days across four districts after it launched a massive crackdown against the terror networks channelled by the overground workers (OGW) across the Jammu region. So far raids have been conducted across the twin border districts of Rajouri and Poonch and the hilly districts of Reasi and Udhampur. These districts witnessed a maximum number of targeted terror strikes in the recent months. The modus operandi of Pakistan based terrorists also remained the same and in majority of incidents of terrorist violence they relied on the OGW network for logistics support. The searches were conducted in cases linked to proscribed terrorist organizations like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT). According to intelligence reports, these terrorist outfits were trying to activate OGWs to initiate, organise, and execute terror-related activities in the region. According to the police, searches were conducted at multiple locations, including residential houses and hideouts, based on specific intelligence inputs. According to a police spokesman several OGWs and terror suspects were arrested in these raids. The police teams also recovered incriminating materials, including electronic devices, documents, unaccounted cash, weapons, and ammunition, during the searches. The spokesman said the operations were aimed at identifying, tracking, and apprehending OGWs and other terror suspects involved in providing support to terrorist outfits, including managing the logistics, recruitment, and facilitating the movement of arms, ammunition, and funds. According to the spokesman these searches were carried out as part of investigations into two separate cases registered at Thanamandi Police Station in 2023 and Rajouri Police Station this year. "Investigations will continue based on the material and information gathered during the raids. Further operations

Maharashtra still awaits its next CM

From page 1
There was speculation during the past two days that Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar would meet Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah to formalise the nomination of the CM candidate. However, no such meeting has taken place during the last three days. With no intervention by the central BJP leadership, Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar stayed put in Mumbai, resulting in the delay in the nomination of a chief ministerial candidate. Informed sources said that Shinde was yet to come to terms with the reality that the BJP's central leadership

Mewar dynasty descendants spar in bizarre battle royale

From page 1
The row it sparked escalated as the day progressed. Post-10 pm, the MLAs supporters started throwing stones and attempted to storm the palace gates. Others are retaliating from inside the palace. Vishvaraj Singh Mewar was anointed as the titular head of the erstwhile royal family after his father Mahendra Singh Mewar's death on November 10. However, the ceremony was overshadowed by a long-standing feud between Mahendra Singh, and his estranged younger brother, Arvind Singh. Both are descendants of the Rajput king Maharana Pratap. In the ceremony, Vishwaraj's 'Tilak' was done by the head of erstwhile Salumbar royal family, Devvrat Singh who slashed his finger on a sword and anointed him in blood - a tradition which has been followed for hundreds of years. Vishvaraj and others had plans to go to pay obeisance at the 'Dhuni' in Udaipur city palace and at Eklingnathji temple but both the places are under the control of Arvind Singh. The latter, through his lawyer, reportedly got two public notices published in local

Delhi court gives nine months to man who tried to kill kin after they bury hatchet

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
In an unusual ruling, a Delhi court has sentenced a man to a mere nine months of imprisonment in a 2017 attempt to murder case where he attacked his cousin after being denied money to buy liquor. The incident occurred on November 17, 2017, and Mahesh suffered serious injuries on his vital body parts, it said. In an order passed on November 25, the court said, "Complainant (Mahesh) who is present in the court today has submitted that convict is his cousin brother, hence, there is no bad blood between them so he does not want any monetary compensation from the convict and also prays for lenient view against the convict in terms of punishment." The court underscored the victim had forgiven the convict for his deeds and resolved all the disputes and had been "living in harmony" for the past several years. The court noted Kumar did not have a criminal history and had a "good social background". It said, "Convict (also) has a medical record pertaining to mental illness for which he has been under treatment for the last 20 years." The court sentenced Kumar to rigorous imprisonment of nine months and a fine of Rs 20,000, saying it had balanced the aggravating and mitigating factors. Kumar, however, got the reprieve of Section 428 of CrPC, which allows the period of detention undergone by an accused to be set off against their sentence. "As the convict has remained in judicial custody for nine months 17 days as per the record, therefore the benefit of Section 428 CrPC be given to the convict and the period already undergone in custody be adjusted against the sentenced period," the court said. Crucially, the court convicted Kumar after rejecting the plea of insanity taken by his counsel. It said at the time of committing the offence, Kumar was not suffering from any mental disorder and he was very much aware of his violent act. "If the words and actions of the accused clearly demonstrate that he is capable of understanding the nature of his act during the commission of offence, he cannot take the benefit of plea of insanity," held the court.

Gujarat cop attacks Patidar leader

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI
A police inspector allegedly attacked and injured a senior office-bearer of a prominent Patidar community organisation in Gujarat's Rajkot district over the issue of the latter joining the outfit, an official said on Tuesday. The inspector, Sanjay Padaria, has been booked on attempt to murder charge after the victim lodged a complaint. As per an FIR, Padaria attacked a local businessman and Patidar community leader, Jayanti Sardhara, at a marriage function over the latter's decision to join the outfit, 'Sardardham', said Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) B J Chaudhari. While Sardhara is vice-president of

EVMS are tampered when you lose...

From page 1
"When Chandrababu Naidu lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with. Now this time, Jagan Mohan Reddy lost, he said EVMs can be tampered with," noted the Bench. When the petitioner said everybody knew money was distributed in elections, the Bench remarked, "We never received any money for any elections." The petitioner said another prayer in his plea was the formulation of a comprehensive framework to regulate the use of money and liquor during election campaigns and ensuring such practices were prohibited and punishable under the law. The plea further sought a direction to mandate an extensive voter education campaign to raise awareness and importance of informed decision making. "Today, 32 per cent educated people are not casting their votes. What a tragedy. If democracy will be dying like this and we will not be able to do anything then what will happen in the years to come in future," the petitioner said. In April, the Court dismissed a batch of petitions seeking a return to the paper ballot system. Terming the suspicion of manipulation of the EVMS "unfounded", the apex court then rejected the demand for reverting to the old system, saying the polling devices were "secured" and eliminated booth capturing and bogus voting. However, the Court opened a window for aggrieved unsuccessful candidates securing second and third places in poll results and allowed them to seek verification of microcontroller chips embedded in five per cent EVMs per assembly constituency on a written request upon payment of a fee to the poll panel. It directed that from May 1, the symbol loading units should be sealed and secured in a strongroom along with the EVMS for a minimum period of 45 days post-declaration of results.

Constitution is a guiding light: PM

From page 1
Underlining that Constitution Day was a day for stocktaking and an occasion for engagement on future road maps, Venkataramani said all citizens "being custodians of the great and perennial values of Bharat" were also custodians of the Constitution. "The question, however, would always be, how faithful are we in our roles as custodians? How accommodative are we in bridging and narrowing the social gaps which require and deserve elevated levels of resolutions? How inclined are we to astutely avoid wasteful and distorting social conversations which can debilitate our social fabric?" he said.

SC uphold land acquisition for Yamuna Expressway

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the validity of land acquisition for the integrated development of the Yamuna Expressway and its adjoining areas in Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. The Court decided a batch of appeals and the cross-appeals filed by the landowners and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) respectively. The cases arose from two conflicting verdicts of the Allahabad High Court. One judgement upheld the acquisition by the YEIDA and another quashed state action of taking the land of farmers by invoking the urgency clauses. A bench comprising Justices B

R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta dismissed appeals by the landowners while allowing the appeals filed by the YEIDA, resolving a long-standing dispute over the application of urgency provisions in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Writing a 49-page judgement for the bench, Justice Mehta said the acquisition was deemed integral to the Yamuna Expressway's development. The judgement emphasized that the expressway's construction and the development of adjoining areas were inseparable components of a unified public-interest project. It upheld the invocation of urgency clauses of the law, saying it was justified under the planned development policy for the region. It noted that concerns about unauthorized

encroachments and the need for rapid development warranted bypassing the usual inquiry under the relevant law. The bench acknowledged that majority of affected landowners had accepted the compensation awarded by the Allahabad High Court and endorsed the 64.7 per cent enhanced compensation granted as a "No Litigation Bonus". It ruled out further enhancement, emphasizing uniformity in benefits for all affected parties. The bench dealt with three key questions in the case. "Whether the present acquisition is a part of the integrated development plan of 'Yamuna Expressway' undertaken by respondent No.3-YEIDA," read the first issue. Answering in affirmative, the bench held, "The present acquisition forms

part of the integrated development plan for the Yamuna Expressway initiated by YEIDA." "The objective of the acquisition is to integrate land development with the Yamuna Expressway's construction, thereby promoting overall growth serving the public interest. Consequently, the Expressway and the development of adjoining lands are considered to be inseparable components of the overall project," it held. The second issue was whether the application of sections 17(1) and 17(4) of the Act was legal and warranted in the instant case, thereby justifying the government's decision to dispense with the inquiry under the land acquisition law. "Yes, the invocation of sections 17(1) and 17(4) of the Land

Acquisition Act, 1894, was legal and justified in this case. The urgency clause was applied in accordance with the planned development of the Yamuna Expressway, as held in the Nand Kishore case," it said. The third issue was whether the view taken by the Allahabad High Court in the Kamal Sharma case lays down the correct proposition of law or whether the law laid down in the Shyoraj Singh case was justified. The apex court affirmed that the judgement in the Kamal Sharma case, which relied on earlier precedents, correctly interpreted the law and upheld the acquisition. The bench set aside the conflicting judgement of the High Court in the Shyoraj Singh case as "per-incuriam" and thus invalid. This had ruled

in favour of the landowners. The case stemmed from land acquisition initiated in 2009 under the urgency provisions of sections 17(1) and 17(4) of the Land Acquisition Act for the planned development of the Yamuna Expressway region. The landowners opposed the acquisition, citing misuse of the urgency clause and claiming that their lands, classified as Abadi Bhoomi (residential land), were unsuitable for acquisition without due inquiry. The high court had issued divergent rulings in related cases. In Kamal Sharma vs State of UP, the court upheld the acquisition and granted enhanced compensation, while in Shyoraj Singh vs State of UP, another bench quashed the acquisition, citing arbitrary application of the urgency provisions.



Delhi air quality swings between severe to poor

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality was on the brink of the "severe" category again on Tuesday a day after it briefly improved to the "poor" range as winds continued to remain calm leading to a gradual deterioration in pollution. An Air Quality Index (AQI) of 394 (very poor) was recorded at 8 am. By 4 pm, it stood at 343 (very poor) and 383 by 7 pm. The wind speed remained below 4 km per hour, which failed to disperse the pollutants. Predicted maximum mixing depth was traced to be 1650 m. The ventilation index lower than 6000 m²/s with average wind speed less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants. The 24-hour average AQI was 285 (poor) at 9 am on Monday. By 4 pm, it deteriorated to 349 (very poor) and 377 by 7 pm, and 391 by 10 pm. An AQI of 318 (very poor) was recorded at 4 pm on Sunday and 412 (severe) on Saturday. The last time Delhi's AQI was below 300 was on October 29. Seventeen out of 39 stations recorded "severe" AQI at 8 am and the rest "very poor" on Tuesday. The highest AQI of 443 was recorded in Mundka, followed by 432 at East Delhi's Anand Vihar and 432 at Rohini. According to IQ Air, PM2.5 concentration is currently 34.7 times the World Health Organization annual PM2.5 guideline value at 11.30

am. A thick layer of smog covered the National Capital as the Air Quality Index in several areas continues to remain in the 'Very Poor' category. The Centre's Decision Support System (DSS) for Air Quality Management estimated that vehicular emissions contributed 22.004 per cent to Delhi's pollution on Tuesday. Notably, there is a ban on entry of non essential trucks from other states to Delhi and around four lakh vehicles are off the road due to stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan imposed in the Delhi-NCR. The contribution of the residential sector to air pollution is estimated 5.393 percent, industries contributed 4.173 percent, construction 3.251 percent, energy sector 1.564 percent, waste burning 1.651 percent, and road dust 1.686 percent. According to DSS, shallow fog reported at Safdarjung airport during early morning today. Safdarjung airport recorded lowest visibility 700 m at 0230 hours IST which improved thereafter becoming 800m at 0530 hours IST. Mainly clear sky condition with wind speed less than 10 kmph west direction prevailed over the region in the forenoon. Meanwhile, the city's minimum temperature settled 0.6 notches above normal at 11.9 degrees Celsius, the India Meteorological Department said.

BJP to target AAP in Assembly on corruption, pollution

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a move to expose the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government ahead of the upcoming assembly polls, the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has decided to take a tough stand on the issues of corruption and issues related to public interest during the assembly session beginning from November 29. At the BJP's legislative party meeting, it was also decided to pressurise the government to include a question hour during the session. Furthermore, issues like Yamuna river pollution, the failure of 1.5 lakh students in grades 9 and 11 in government schools, Delhi Jal Board's Rs 73,000 crore debt, financial irregularities in the construction of 24 hospitals, massive corruption in educational institutions like DSEU, non-funding of 12 colleges under Delhi University, frequent road accidents due to poor road conditions, crumbling public transport systems, and overflowing sewers will also be raised to hold the government accountable.

Center manipulating electoral rolls in Delhi fearing BJP defeat



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Atishi alleged on Tuesday that the central government is attempting to manipulate the electoral process by getting AAP supporters removed from electoral rolls as the BJP fears defeat in the upcoming Delhi Assembly polls. Addressing a press conference, Atishi claimed, "The central government is trying to win the Delhi elections by unfair means.

They are orchestrating the removal of voters from the electoral roll, particularly those aligned with AAP." There was no immediate response from the BJP. The senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader cited an October 28 order by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi transferring 29 Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) as the first step in this alleged conspiracy. Atishi also claimed that a District Magistrate (DM) over-

seeing seven assembly constituencies had instructed officials to remove 20,000 voters from the rolls. She flagged that the SDMs are directing officials to erase traditional AAP voters from voter rolls, calling it a blatant misuse of power. "I urge all AEROs and BLOs to record any pressure to carry out these tasks and send me the recordings. Let's expose this plot and take strict action against the officials involved," she said.

Appealing to booth-level officers to resist such actions, she urged them to document any undue pressure or coercion. "If someone tries to force you into cutting voters' names, record it and send it to me. I will ensure action is taken. The Constitution of India is in your hands today," she said. With Delhi elections slated for February 2025, AAP is vying for a third consecutive term following its resounding 2020 victory, where it won 62 of 70 seats.

LG announces month-long anti-drug campaign in Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena has announced a month-long anti-drug campaign across the city, which would include inspections at schools, colleges, hostels, pharmaceutical stores, paan shops, clubs, and bars, to combat the rising menace of drug abuse. To ensure a drug-free campus environment, nodal officers will be designated and wardens will be made accountable in hostels of educational institutions, said officials from the LG's office. The key aim behind the drive is to dismantle the drug networks, reduce demand, and create a healthier and safer society. The drive will also involve checking at railway stations, inter-state bus terminals (ISBTs) and other places. He directed the Delhi Police and other agencies to intensify their efforts to curb drug trafficking and consumption. Directions have been given to the city police and other stakeholder agencies to thoroughly check and sanitise at least 200 hostels, 50 colleges, 200 schools, 200 pharmaceutical stores, 500 paan shops, all shelter homes, 200 bars and restaurants, all railway stations, all ISBTs and other public spaces, it said.

BJP woos slum dwellers with night stays

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a bid to woo the slum voters ahead of the Delhi assembly elections slated to be held next year, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and workers on Tuesday went on a Ratri Pravas Samvaad (night stay dialogue) with the Jhuggi Cluster residents across the city in around 250 listed jhuggi clusters while playing games and interaction about their problems. This overnight stay programme of leaders in jhuggis is a part of the ongoing Delhi BJP campaign called 'Jhuggi Vistar Abhiyan' under which the party has appointed 'jhuggi vistars' and 'jhuggi palaks'. Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva went on an overnight stay at Nehru Camp of Vinod Nagar in Patpadganj Assembly area of East Delhi. Talking to the media, Sachdeva said, "It seems former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has lost his political balance fearing defeat and therefore giving irrelevant

political statements." He added that till couple of years back the jhuggi clusters were Kejriwal's political stronghold but both in 2022 MCD Polls and in 2024 Lok Sabha Polls, the ruling party lost most the wards and assembly areas dominated by jhuggi residents which has given a big political setback to Kejriwal. He condemned Arvind Kejriwal for saying that BJP leaders are on political tourism in jhuggis for election and said, "Kejriwal who just got bail should check about how long BJP leaders have been engaged with jhuggi dwellers - Manoj Tiwari did first Ratri Pravas in Inderpuri jhuggi cluster on 31st December 2016 and kept repeating his ratri pravas series during his tenure in different areas of Delhi." While their overnight stay, Sachdeva and other leaders had a dialogue with jhuggi cluster heads and other citizens to resolve basic issues and thereafter went door to door

discussing local problems and their suggestions especially with the jhuggi dweller women. Union Minister of State Harsh Malhotra, who visited Kalandar Colony in Shahdara, said, "Jhuggi dwellers in Delhi very well remember that during covid phase it was BJP workers who stood by them when AAP MLAs went missing and they will give maximum jhuggi cluster dominated seats to BJP in Assembly 2025 Polls." Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Vijender Gupta went to Kheda Colony, Northeast MP Manoj Tiwari went to Indira Vikas Basti, South Delhi BJP MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri went to Gola Kuan Camp, Northwest Delhi BJP MP Yogendra Chandolia went to Bawana Ward 30, West Delhi BJP MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat went to Goela Diary Camp, Chandni Chowk BJP MP Praveen Khandelwal went to Sewa Bast Lawrence Road and New Delhi BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj went to Ravi

Das Camp at R.K. Puram. The BJP leaders assured the slum dwellers that come what may BJP will stand by them and ensure that all jhuggi clusters remain where they are. "BJP once in Delhi Government will make DUSIB provide best civic services to jhuggi residents and fight for the cause of jhuggi residents," the BJP leader said. As the elections are coming closer, the BJP is trying to attract the voters of slums, who are conventionally Congress' and AAP's vote banks. Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed the Lok Sabha in February in 2022 that Delhi has 675 listed and 82 unlisted jhuggi jhopdi bastis on the land of various government agencies, including Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB). Officially, there are about 750 big and small slums in Delhi, which have at least 350,000 families (3.5 lakhs) including 20 lakhs people living in them.

Accused in Yamuna Expressway accident arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The driver and conductor of the canter that rammed into the car of the eldest daughter of spiritual leader Kripalu Maharaj, have been arrested, police said on Tuesday. Dr. Vishakha Tripathi (78) died in a road accident on the Yamuna Expressway in Kankaur area two days ago. The accused, driver Sonu and conductor Upendra Kumar alias Bablu, both residents of Firozabad district, fled from the spot after the accident, Dankaur Station House Officer Munendra Kumar said. While Bablu was arrested on Monday, Sonu was apprehended in the early hours of Tuesday, and is being interrogated, Kumar said.

DU cancels election of two newly elected student leaders



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) election results were declared, the Delhi University (DU) on Tuesday cancelled the election of two central councilors for violating codes after they took out a procession in large vehicles and waving pamphlets in the air. This comes on the recommendations of the Delhi High Court and the Lingdoh Committee. The university came down heavily on the elected student leaders for violating codes even as the election results were halted for about two months. Originally, the DUSU results were scheduled to be announced on September 28, a day after the elections took place. However, it was delayed due to a Delhi High Court order which had stalled the declaration of results until the defacement caused during the election campaign was cleaned.

The principal of Kirori Mal College, under DU, took action against both students elected central councilors. The order issued by Professor Dinesh Khattar, said both these posts have been vacated. Khattar has cancelled the election of Chirag and Gurdeep Chawri, both pursuing BA in the first year citing the recommendation of the Lingdoh Committee. They contested the elections with support from BJP's students wing Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's (ABVP). After winning, supporters of the duo celebrated by taking out a procession in big vehicles and throwing pamphlets in the air. This attracted the High Court's ire which came down heavily on the duo for dirtying the campus, which led to a delay of two months for the counting of votes which finally happened on November 24 for 47 colleges and five departments. The voting was held on September 27, 2024.

DU vice-chancellor Prof Yogesh Singh shared his displeasure over the magnanimous celebrations post declarations of results following the decision to cancel the winners. Earlier, the DU had asked all candidates contesting the students' union elections to sign an affidavit pledging to refrain from using dhols, loudspeakers, firecrackers or pamphlets, both in open and closed premises, after the declaration of results. The affidavit read, "That I shall not use or allow my supporters the use of Dhols, Loudspeakers, Firecrackers and Pamphlets in the open or closed premises of College/Department/Institution /Centre after the declaration of results." It also prohibited candidates from organising roadshows or rallies to celebrate their victory. According to the affidavit, failure to comply with these conditions can result in the cancellation of a candidate's victory or removal from their elected post.

After demolitions, jhuggi tourism: Kejriwal targets BJP



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convener Arvind Kejriwal Tuesday stepped up his attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) accusing it of resorting to "jhuggi tourism" ahead of the assembly polls due in February despite "demolishing" several slums in the city in recent years. Addressing AAP's foundation day function, he said some leaders of the BJP were going to stay with slum dwellers but will return back a year later to demolish them with bulldozers. The Delhi BJP is launching its "Jhuggi Ratri Pravas Abhiyan" with senior leaders including state president Virendra Sachdeva assigned different slums to stay and interact with

people living there. The BJP which is out of power in Delhi since 1998, is eyeing voters living in the slums, considered staunch votaries of AAP and Kejriwal, through sustained campaigns and outreach programmes. The party's night stay campaign will cover 250 slum clusters in the city. The BJP is doing "jhuggi tourism. People go to Goa on holiday for recreation but the BJP is making fun of the poverty of slum dwellers by staying with them for just one night, Kejriwal charged. He said the slum dwellers needed to be cautious of those visiting them under 'jhuggi tourism' and claimed the BJP will return soon with bulldozers to demol-

ish the same slums. "I want to caution the slum dwellers that beware of those going there today for the night stay. These same people will return one year later to demolish the slums where they stayed," he charged. The former Delhi chief minister also alleged that the BJP "demolished many slums in Delhi" and tried to demolish more such dwellings in last 6-7 years but the AAP government stopped them doing it. He said after resigning as income tax commissioner, he lived with people in Delhi's slums from 2002 to 2010. He challenged the BJP leaders to stay in the slums for 3-4 months if they had courage, to see the conditions in which people lived there.

Executive, Legislature, Judiciary should work together to make life of common people better: President Murmu

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday said here it is the responsibility of the executive, legislature and the judiciary to work together to make the lives of common people better in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.

Addressing a special event on the occasion of 75 years of the adoption of the Constitution, she also said the fundamental duties of every citizen had been clearly defined in the country's founding document, which lay stress on protecting the nation's unity and integrity, promoting harmony and ensuring the dignity of women.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Leader of the Rajya Sabha J P Nadda, Leaders of the Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge (Rajya Sabha) and Rahul Gandhi (Lok Sabha), Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju were present on the dais. The function took place in the Central Hall of Samvidhan

Sadan. A commemorative coin and stamp were released on the occasion. Books titled "Making of the Constitution of India: A Glimpse", "Making of the Constitution of India and its Glorious Journey" and a booklet dedicated to the illustration in the Constitution were also released. The president unveiled Sanskrit and Maithili translations of the Constitution. Constitutional ideals get strength from the active participation of the executive, legislature and the judiciary, as well as all citizens, the President said. The president said the aspirations of the people found expression in the many legislations enacted by Parliament and, during the past few years, the government took many steps for the development of all sections of society, especially the weaker ones. President Murmu said she was happy to note that, with the efforts of the Supreme Court, the country's judiciary was making efforts to make the judicial system more effective.



India's Constitution is a living and progressive document and the country's farsighted Constitution-makers provided for a system of adopting new ideas, according to the needs of the changing times, she said. The fundamental duties of every citizen have been clearly mentioned in the Constitution, she said. With a new approach, a new identity was achieved for

freedom struggle. The celebrations of Samvidhan Divas every year since 2015 have helped increase awareness among the youth about India's founding document, President Murmu highlighted.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar invoked Dr B R Ambedkar to say that "our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time" if parties placed creed above country. He also cautioned that disturbance as a strategy threatened democratic institutions.

The Constitution's opening words, "We the People of India", carry deep meaning, establishing citizens as the ultimate authority, with Parliament serving as their voice, the vice president asserted.

"In contemporaneous times, with decorum and discipline cliff hanging in parliamentary discourse", Dhankhar said there was a need to resolve by reiterating the pristine glory of the Constituent Assembly's embellished functioning. Dhankhar said it was time to fully commit to "our fundamental duties -- protecting

national sovereignty, fostering unity, prioritising national interests, and safeguarding our environment". Citing Ambedkar's last address in the Constituent Assembly on November 25, 1949, Dhankhar said, "What perturbs me greatly is the fact that not only India has once before lost her independence but she lost it by the infidelity and treachery of some of her own people. Will history repeat itself?"

"It is this thought which fills me with anxiety. This anxiety is deepened by the realisation of the fact that, in addition to our old enemies in the form of castes and creeds, we are going to have many political parties with diverse and opposing political creeds. Will Indians place the country above their creed or will they place their creed above the country?" he said, citing Ambedkar's address.

"I do not know. But this much is certain that if the parties place creed above country, our independence will be put in jeopardy a second time and probably be lost forever. This eventuality we must all resolutely guard against. We

must be determined to defend our independence with the last drop of our blood," he further said, citing Ambedkar. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urged members to follow the tradition of constructive and dignified debates set by the Constituent Assembly while deliberating upon the Constitution that was adopted 75 years ago.

"These traditions of constructive and dignified debates should be implemented by our respective Houses as well," he said. Birla said the Constituent Assembly has seen members sharing views with dignity and tradition of such discourse should continue.

The Speaker noted that Parliament has played a transformative role over the past seven and a half decades. "Our Constitution has been a catalyst for social and economic change, bringing remarkable improvements to the lives of ordinary citizens and deepening their faith in democracy. In this 'Amrit Kaal,' collective efforts are propelling India toward becoming a developed nation," he added.

Bypolls to six RS vacancies across four States to be held on Dec 20: EC

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Bypolls to six vacancies in Rajya Sabha across four states will be held on December 20, the Election Commission announced on Tuesday.

Three vacancies were created in Andhra Pradesh when YSRCP members Venkataramana Rao Mopidevi, Beedha Masthan Rao Yadav and Ryaga Krishnaiah had quit their membership in August. The terms of Yadav and Krishnaiah as Rajya Sabha members were to end on June 21, 2028, while Mopidevi was to retire on 21 June, 2026.

A vacancy occurred in Odisha when Sujeet Kumar quit his seat following which he was expelled by the Biju Janata Dal. His term was to end on



April 2, 2026. Jawhar Sircar of the TMC had resigned in April following the rape-murder of a woman doctor in Kolkata, creating a vacancy in the state. He was otherwise to retire in April 2026. Krishan Lal Panwar of the BJP had quit his Rajya Sabha seat from Haryana fol-

PM Modi, RSS strengthening wall obstructing path of SCs, STs, OBCs: Rahul Gandhi

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the RSS were strengthening the wall obstructing the path of Dalits, Adivasis and OBCs, even as he acknowledged that the efforts of the UPA government to bring down that wall were not sufficient.

Addressing the party's 'Samvidhan Rakshak Abhiyaan' Rahul who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, said it is his guarantee, that "Modi has not read" the Constitution. "If PM Modi would have read this book then what he does daily, he would not do it," Rahul Gandhi said, displaying a copy of the Constitution of India.

On the occasion Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge accused the BJP of not hav-



ing any "constitutional integrity or federal character" and alleged that the party was undoing everything that BR Ambedkar and other members of the Constituent Assembly did through the Constitution. Rahul Gandhi said the coun-

try's whole system is pitted against Dalits, Adivasis and backward-class people. "Slowly the wall (obstructing the path of SCs, STs, OBCs) is getting strengthened. Earlier, the UPA government gave MGNREGA, the land acquisition act, the right to

food...Those were ways to weaken that wall. Today, when I look back, I can say the UPA government did not weaken the wall to the extent it should have, it did not do it as strongly as it should have," he said.

"However, we used to make efforts to weaken that wall but they (the BJP) are strengthening that wall by adding concrete," the former Congress president said. Therefore, Gandhi said, a nationwide caste census is important as through it, people would get to know, how many people from the SC, ST, and OBC sections are there in the judiciary, media, corporate India, private hospitals, and colleges.

"This X-ray is the first step, we know that Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, poor general caste people, minorities are in pain. So we have to find out where is the injury, where is a fracture, whether there is a compound fracture...We will get data by caste census," he said.

The day this data comes into the hands of a Congress government, that day the whole paradigm of development will change, Gandhi asserted. "We have begun the work in Telangana and when the results come from there, our policies will be formed on the basis of the data of the caste census. The BJP is afraid of this as it wants only 4-5 per cent of the people to control India. They are trying to destroy the Constitution," he alleged.

"We have done it (caste survey) in Karnataka, Telangana. Wherever our governments come, we will take out the data on Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, minorities, and poor general caste. We'll find out what is their share in the development and what should be their share in India's future," he said.

Chouhan inaugurates 227 new Gender Resource Centres

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Tuesday inaugurated 227 new Gender Resource Centres (GRCs) across 13 states, designed to provide survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) with safe spaces, access to vital information, legal support, and a network to report incidents.

The opening of the centres is part of the third edition of the Nayi Chetna - Pahal Badlaav Ki campaign launched here by the Minister with an aim to raise awareness about all forms of GBV, encourage communities to speak out and demand action, provide timely assistance through support systems, and empower local institutions to take decisive actions against violence.



During his address, Chouhan emphasised that the government has undertaken multiple initiatives for the social and economic development of women, stressing that GBV is prevalent not only in rural areas but also in urban spaces, said a statement here. Annpurna Devi, Union Minister of Women and Child Development, launched the #abkoiba-

hanahi campaign, which calls for collective action against GBV. She highlighted the role of 10 crore Self-Help Group (SHG) women and the 49 government schemes dedicated to supporting gender equality. These include 24/7 national help lines, One-Stop Centres, and initiatives for fast-track justice. Smt. Devi emphasised that GBV must be erad-

icated, and all women should have equal opportunities for participation in economic, social, and political spheres. Other leaders, including Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Minister of State for Rural Development, and Shri Kamlesh Paswan, Minister of State for Rural Development, highlighted the importance of a whole-of-society approach to end gender-based violence.

Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary of Rural Development, shared insights from the previous Nayi Chetna 2.0 campaign, which reached over 6 crore individuals through more than 9 lakh community-led activities. The event also saw participation from various ministries, state rural livelihoods help lines, women from SHGs, Anganwadi workers, and civil society organizations.

India's milk production rises 4 per cent, meat production rises 5 per cent in 2023-24

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India's milk production rose nearly 4 per cent annually to 239.3 million tonnes in 2023-24 on better productivity, even as milk output of buffaloes declined 16 per cent annually. On the other hand, meat production rose nearly 5 per cent to 10.25 million tonnes in the last fiscal. The milk output of India, the world's largest milk producer, stood at 230.58 MT in 2022-23.

However, the annual growth rate has slowed down in the previous two fiscal years, the data showed. The growth rate was 6.62 per cent in 2017-18; 6.47 per cent in FY19; 5.69 per cent in FY20; 5.81 per cent in FY21; and 5.77 per cent in FY22. In FY23 it came down to 3.83 per cent and 3.78 per cent in FY24.

As per government data, milk production from buffaloes has decreased 16 per cent in 2023-24 compared to the previous year. Milk output from exotic/crossbred cattle has increased 8 per cent while production from indigenous/non-descript cattle increased 44.76 per cent. According to an official statement, the total milk production in the country is estimated at 239.30 MT during 2023-24, registering a growth of 5.62 per cent over the past 10 years. Milk output was 146.3 MT in 2014-15.

The top five milk producing states during 2023-24 were Uttar Pradesh with a share of 16.21 per cent of total milk production followed by Rajasthan (14.51 per cent), Madhya Pradesh (8.91 per cent), Gujarat (7.65 per cent), and Maharashtra (6.71 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate, West Bengal was at the top (9.76 per cent) followed by Jharkhand (9.04 per cent), Chhattisgarh (8.62 per cent), and Assam (8.53



per cent) as compared to the previous year. In an official statement, the ministry said that the total meat production in the country is estimated as 10.25 million tonnes during 2023-24 and registered a growth of 4.85 per cent over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 6.69 million tonnes in 2014-15. "Further, the production was increased by 4.95 per cent in 2023-24 over 2022-23," an official statement said. Major contribution in the total meat production comes from West Bengal with 12.62 per cent share and it was followed by Uttar Pradesh (12.29 per cent), Maharashtra (11.28 per cent), Telangana (10.85 per cent) and Andhra Pradesh (10.41 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate, the highest annual growth rate (AGR) has recorded in Assam (17.93 per cent), followed by Uttarakhand (15.63 per cent) and Chhattisgarh (11.70 per cent).

As per the data, the country's total egg production is estimated as 142.77 billion during 2023-24 and registered a growth of 6.8 per cent over the past 10 years as compared to the estimates of 78.48 billion eggs during 2014-15. Further, the pro-

duction increased annually by 3.18 per cent during 2023-24 over the preceding fiscal. The major contribution in the total egg production comes from Andhra Pradesh with a share of 17.85 per cent of total egg production, followed by Tamil Nadu (15.64 per cent), Telangana (12.88 per cent), West Bengal (11.37 per cent) and Karnataka (6.63 per cent). In terms of AGR, the highest growth rate was recorded by Ladakh (75.88 per cent) and followed by Manipur (33.84 per cent) and Uttar Pradesh (29.88 per cent).

As per the data, the total wool production is estimated as 33.69 million kg during 2023-24, registering a slight growth of 0.22 per cent over last year. The major contribution in the total Wool production comes from Rajasthan with a share of 47.53 per cent followed by Jammu & Kashmir (23.06 per cent), Gujarat (6.18 per cent), Maharashtra (4.75 per cent) and Himachal Pradesh (4.22 per cent). In terms of annual growth rate, the highest AGR has been recorded by Punjab (22.04 per cent), followed by Tamil Nadu (17.19 per cent) and Gujarat (3.20 per cent).

Opposition demands debate on Constitution in both houses of Parliament

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders on Tuesday demanded a debate on the Constitution in both Houses of Parliament. Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said he and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi have written to the Chair in the two Houses requesting that a discussion should be held on the Constitution for two days in both Houses.

"Time should be allotted for that so that the good things about the Constitution can be discussed, and the wrong things that are happening today can also be discussed. Rahul Gandhi ji and I have written letters, we are waiting for the government's response," Kharge said.

Senior party leader Digvijay Singh read out the Preamble of the Constitution and ques-



tioned if it is being implemented in letter and spirit. "Are people getting justice, liberty? Is there freedom of expression? Where is fraternity? Only bowing to the Constitution will not lead to it being followed," he said. Referring to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's slogan of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikaas, Sabka Vishwaas, Sabka Prayaas', Singh said, "It will happen when confidence is instilled in every citizen from every community. Mr Prime

India, Tanzania review bilateral defence ties at third JDCC meet in Goa

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

India and Tanzania on Tuesday reviewed entire gamut of their bilateral defence ties during the third edition of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting in Goa, defence ministry said here.

Giving details, officials said during the meeting, the two sides discussed a wide range of areas of cooperation, including growing training partnership and service-to-service, maritime and defence industry collaboration. They also reviewed the progress on decisions taken during the previous JDCCs, and explored new areas to further expand bilateral defence cooperation. The Indian delegation, led by Joint Secretary Amitabh Prasad, included senior officials

from the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. The High Commissioner of India to Tanzania Bishwadip Dey also attended the meeting. The Tanzanian delegation was led by Land Forces Commander Major General Fadhil Omary Nondo. As part of the tour, the Tanzanian delegation will visit Goa Shipyard Ltd to get first-hand experience of India's capabilities in port development and shipbuilding. The delegation is also scheduled to visit INS Hansa and National Institute of Hydrography in Goa. India shares close, warm and friendly relations with Tanzania which are bolstered by robust capacity building and avenues for developing partnership. The two countries have a five-year roadmap to guide defence cooperation.

President Droupadi Murmu pays tribute to 26/11 martyrs

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday paid homage to the brave hearts who lost their lives in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and said India remained firmly committed to defeating terrorism in all its forms.

Ten Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists from Pakistan came by sea on November 26, 2008, and killed 166 people, including 18 security personnel, during a 60-hour siege in Mumbai.

"On the anniversary of the cowardly terror attacks in Mumbai on 26th November, 2008, I join the entire nation in paying homage to the bravehearts who lost their lives and expressing solidarity with their families," President Droupadi Murmu said in a social media post.

"A grateful nation salutes its valiant security personnel who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our people. It is also the day to reiterate that India remains firmly committed to defeating terrorism in all its forms," the President said.



In Mumbai, Maharashtra Governor C P Radhakrishnan and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde paid floral tributes to the martyrs who made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting terrorists during the Mumbai terror attack in 2008. Deputy chief ministers

Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar also paid tributes at the martyrs' memorial in the premises of the Police Commissioner Office in south Mumbai, where senior police officials were also present. Family members of the policemen, who lost their lives during the November 2008 attacks, also paid tributes to the martyrs.

As many as 166 people lost their lives and over 300 were injured after 10 terrorists from Pakistan launched simultaneous attacks in several parts of Mumbai on November 26, 2008. Ten armed militants from the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) entered the city via the sea and carried out a series of

coordinated attacks across multiple high-profile locations, including the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Oberoi Trident Hotel, CST Railway Station, and Nariman House. The attacks prompted global condemnation and led to significant changes in India's counter-terrorism measures.

In Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recalled the loss of lives in the 2008 Mumbai terror attack and urged people to be united and determined to end terrorism. Adityanath also paid tribute to the brave hearts who laid down their lives in the line of duty during the attack.

"Humble tribute to the innocent citizens who lost their lives in the cowardly terror attack in Mumbai on 26/11 and heartfelt salute to the brave sons of Mother India who sacrificed their lives while performing their duties in this incident that tarnished humanity!" Adityanath said in a social media post. "Let us be united and determined to end terrorism," he said in Hindi.

CM Yogi Adityanath accuses Congress of 'tampering' with Constitution, celebrates Ambedkar's vision

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath marked Constitution Day with sharp criticism of the Congress party, accusing it of undermining the foundational principles of the Indian Constitution during the Emergency in 1976. Speaking at a ceremony at Lok Bhawan on Tuesday, he alleged that the inclusion of the terms "secular" and "socialist" in the Preamble betrayed the vision of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and the Constitution's framers. "The original Constitution, drafted under the leadership of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, did not include these words," Adityanath said. "The people of India ultimately taught those who strangled the Constitution a lesson," he added, referring to electoral defeats faced by Congress in the aftermath of the Emergency. Leading the reading of the Preamble, the Chief Minister lauded the Constitution as one of the strongest in the world. He attributed its enduring



strength to Dr. Ambedkar, crediting him with building the framework for "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat," a united and prosperous India. Adityanath highlighted November 26, 1949, as a historic milestone when the Constituent Assembly adopted the Constitution. He praised the meticulous work of the Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and its committees, led by Ambedkar, which rigorously debated and finalized its provisions. "The debates of the Constituent Assembly are the essence of our Constitution," he said, urging lawmakers, the judiciary, and the executive to revisit these discussions for

guidance. He also highlighted India's pioneering move to adopt universal adult suffrage from its first general elections, calling it a testament to the vision of Ambedkar and the framers.

Adityanath accused Congress of fostering a "dictatorial and fascist mentality," particularly during the Emergency, and alleged that the party continues to marginalize disadvantaged groups. "Whenever given the opportunity, they have deprived socially and economically backward sections of their constitutional rights," he charged, citing both historical actions and recent political statements. He contrasted this with the BJP's approach under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, emphasizing initiatives aimed at strengthening constitutional values. He specifically mentioned the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, reserving one-third of legislative seats for women, calling it a global first and a reflection of Modi's commitment to equality and empowerment.

Mamata Banerjee putting personal interest above INDIA: LF, Congress

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Left and the Congress leadership of Bengal have accused Mamata Banerjee and her Trinamool Congress of trying to "destroy the adhesive" within the Indian National Democratic Inclusive Alliance so as to sustain its "old camaraderie with the NDA," more so the BJP - all to evade arrest in a catena of scams being investigated by the central agencies.

On TMC's absence from Monday's meeting of INDIA partners senior CPI(M) central committee member and former MP Sujan Chakrabarty said it was "Mamata Banerjee's tactic of subverting the Opposition alliance from within," questioning her party's



silence on the Adani issue. Another senior leader of the CPI(M) Samik Lahiri said Banerjee did not want to embarrass the BJP Government in Parliament and also she did not want to incur the wrath of the corporate house which was her party was avoiding a statement on the issue.

On why she would run with the hare and hunt with the hound, the leader said that "it suits her type of politics which is 'cloaked by a thick smog of corruption. Any department the TMC touches - from land to education to Health to housing to rural roads and name them - they convert them into gold mines

not for the State or the society but for their own families ... so backing BJP is Mamata Banerjee's compulsion this is why we have been telling that she can never be a friend of the INDIA alliance, she is an agent of NDA here."

Referring to the Monday's TMC national working committee meeting a Pradesh Congress leader requesting anonymity said "Mamata Banerjee is working on two goals: first she is keeping her chances to grab the Prime Minister's chair when the chance comes alive and second she is keeping BJP in good humor so as to evade actions by the central agencies in Bengal... otherwise why her party would skip such meetings where policies on floor coordination was being discussed this means she is

working on cross purposes." According to inside sources the TMC leaders in Delhi led by Abhishek Banerjee, Derek O'Brien have been in close touch with a number of INDIA partners. Parallel meetings outside INDIA were being planned to chalk out parallel strategies in the House.

Incidentally senior party MP Kalyan Banerjee had on Sunday advised the Congress to shed its ego and support the Bengal Chief Minister as the leader of INDIA alliance. "All the Opposition parties nationally should accept Mamata Banerjee as their leader. She should be the face of opposition nationally. Some parties should set aside their ego and accept Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the Opposition against the BJP.

Look at the by-election results, why only the TMC is capable of defeating the BJP and the some parties claiming the leadership are repeatedly failing to do so...they should understand and accept Mamata Banerjee as the leader," he said.

When asked to comment on Kalyan's statement and the TMC's alleged 'betrayal' state minister said, "though we have been asked not to speak out of turn, I must refute such charges... TMC is not subverting INDIA... it is contributing to the cause of the opposition. We are not part of the Congress so as to follow their dictates ... we are part of the Alliance and have every right to follow our own course programmes best suited to the interest of India, Bengal and our party."

Four dead in LPG cylinder explosion

PTI ■ MORENA/MP

Four women died and five others were injured after an explosion caused three houses to collapse in Madhya Pradesh's Morena city, police said on Tuesday.

The incident took place in the city's Rathore Colony area around midnight, said Superintendent of Police Sameer Saurabh. The body of one of the deceased women was still being extricated from under the debris, he said. Vasudev Rathore, whose house was destroyed in the explosion and whose 28-year-old daughter-in-law was among the deceased, expressed suspicion that the blast was caused by gunpowder. LPG cylinders were found



intact during the removal of debris, he told reporters. Sub Divisional Magistrate Bhupendra Singh Kushwaha said the reason behind the blast was yet not clear. A Forensic Science Laboratory team will be able to ascertain whether it was gunpowder or a gas cylinder that exploded, he added. The injured persons were sent to Gwalior for further treatment, said a doctor at the Morena district hospital.

Indian Coast Guard seizes 5,500 kilogram of methamphetamine drug from Myanmar fishing trawler

PTI ■ PORT BLAIR

The 5,500 kg of banned Methamphetamine drug seized from a fishing trawler with six Myanmar crew near Barren island is the biggest-ever seizure made by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), an official of the Andaman and Nicobar tri-services command said on Tuesday. Speaking to PTI, the senior defence official said, "This is the biggest ever seizure which we suspect is linked to big international drug cartels. The total consignment is approximately around 5,500 kg. A total of six Myanmar crew were arrested with banned crystalline Methamphetamine. They were handed over to the local police for further interrogation." He said, "I would like to congratulate the ICG for their outstanding effort in apprehending the foreign

smugglers braving the rough sea during the operation. This effort of the ICG indeed once again proved its commitment towards safeguarding our territorial integrity and preventing the trafficking of illegal substances. The dedication and swift action of our teams involved in ensuring that such illicit activities do not compromise national security."

"The Andaman and Nicobar Command remain vigilant and committed to ensuring the safety of Andaman waters. Enhanced patrolling and intelligence continue to play a vital role in combating such crime," he added. The police suspect that the 5,500 kg of banned Methamphetamine drug seized from a fishing trawler with six Myanmar crew from near Barren island was supposed to be delivered to Thailand, officials said on Tuesday.

The police are trying to get the call record of the satellite phone seized from the trawler which was coming from Myanmar, an official said. "We are trying to get details of the recipients of the drugs through the seized satellite phone call detail record because the crew members are refusing to reveal anything during interrogation. It seems that they are scared to reveal the identity of the receiver and the person behind sending the consignments. We are trying to get in touch with the service provider to get the call detail record," the officer said. The huge consignment of Methamphetamine drug was supposed to be delivered in Thailand and could be part of drug cartels, police sources said. "Based on the quantity of the consignments and the modus operandi it definitely seems like the handiwork of

notorious drug cartels like Jalisco New Generation Cartel (run by El Mencho) and Chinese El Chapo gang leaders. In 2019, we seized similar drugs from the Andaman sea and then El Mencho's cartel emerged as a key suspect," the sources said. When asked about the Thailand connection, a senior police officer said, "This is the biggest catch ever on the Andaman Sea. During Christmas and New Year's eve, there is a huge demand for such drugs in Thailand. We suspect that it was supposed to be delivered to either El Mencho or El Chapo gang leaders. The drugs were packed inside tea packets. All the accused were produced before a local court and remanded in police custody for 14 days". The laboratory tests of the seized substance in Port Blair confirmed that the substance was Methamphetamine.

Gurugram authorities crack down on polluters, impose fines of ₹30.10 Lakhs on 705 violators

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Despite the ban on construction in Gurugram, there has been rampant flouting of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which has been in force in the district since October 15 for the prevention of air pollution. The team of the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) took action against 705 violators and imposed a fine of Rs 30.10 lakhs. MCG Commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg said that all types of activities that increase pollution are prohibited under GRAP, which include burning coal or wood in tandoor, construction and demolition, dumping and transporting construction material or debris without covering, throwing debris or garbage in public places and burning garbage are punishable offences. "MCG teams are

constantly monitoring the violators. The teams have been taking continuous action since October 15 and have imposed a fine of Rs 30,10, 500 on 705 violators. These include 20 challans for burning garbage, 27 challans for burning coal or wood, 128 challans for construction and demolition activities, 22 challans for illegally dumping C&D waste, 290 challans for illegally dumping garbage and 218 challans for using single-use plastic," he said. It may be noted that The Central Air Quality Management Commission implemented GRAP in the National Capital Region and NCR region earlier in October. Under this, instructions have been given to the concerned departments to control the level of pollution and restrictions have also been imposed by the Commission on many activities that increase pollution. There is also a provision to impose

finer as per rules on those who do not follow GRAP. The MCG officials said that in compliance with GRAP, the civic authority is using 14 machines for mechanized sweeping of roads to control the pollution level and sprinkling of water through tankers on the construction sites of the Municipal Corporation to prevent dust from flying. Apart from this, those doing activities prohibited under GRAP are also being monitored and the corporation's teams are taking action to issue challans as per their rules, the official added. Garg said that under the GRAP, burning garbage, throwing garbage and debris in public places, and keeping and transporting construction material without covering it is prohibited. He also informed that the civic body is spraying STP-treated water on roads and trees to reduce and control the level of pollution.

Robotic fire tenders to debut at Mahakumbh

PTI ■ PRAYAGRAJ

For the first time, robotic fire tenders will be deployed at Mahakumbh 2025 to enhance fire safety at the world's largest spiritual gathering, according to officials. Alongside these cutting-edge machines, 200 specially trained fire commandos will be stationed to manage emergencies and protect visitors. Additional Director General (Fire Services) Padmaja Chauhan said that three robotic fire tenders, weighing 20-25 kilograms each, will be used to reach areas inaccessible to personnel. These robots are capable of climbing stairs and extinguishing fires with precision, ensuring faster and safer responses, he said. "The inclusion of robotic fire tenders marks a technological leap in fire management. They can be easily carried and deployed in sensitive zones," Chauhan said. Additionally, Mahakumbh will feature an articulating water tower capable of spraying water from a height of 35 meters. The tower is equipped with a high-tech camera to monitor fire-prone areas from above, he said. To bolster human resources, a Special Trained Rescue Group (STRG) has been established, modelled after the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), the ADG said. The unit comprises 200 personnel trained by the NDRF and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Hyderabad, who will be deployed in high-risk zones during the fair, he said. "Our focus is on preventing fire incidents altogether. Daily fire audits will be conducted, and sanitation workers will check for the unsafe use of equipment like blowers and immersion rods in camps," Chauhan added.

Radio-tagged Amur falcon 'Chiuluan 2' reaches Kenya, heads to Tsavo East National Park



PTI ■ IMPHAL

An Amur falcon bird radio-tagged by scientists of Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in Manipur's Tamenglong district has entered Kenya and is heading towards Tsavo East National Park, a scientist said. Dr Suresh Kumar scientist of Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India told PTI on Tuesday that the Amur falcon bird named 'Chiuluan 2' has crossed Somalia and entered Kenya. Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Tamenglong, Kharibam Hitler Singh told PTI that two Amur falcons



which arrived in Manipur from Siberian region on October 12 were captured by a team of Tamenglong forest division and local volunteers under the supervision of Suresh Kumar from Chiuluan roosting site. The two birds were radio-tagged by scientists of the Wildlife Institute of India in Tamenglong district. The male bird was named 'Chiuluan 2' and the female 'Guangram', after two important roosting villages in Tamenglong district. 'Chiuluan 2' was released on November 8 after tagging it with satellite transmitters. It

reached the coastal areas of Orissa on November 15 after a non-stop flight. From there it went to Maharashtra and eventually crossed the Arabian Sea to reach the Somalia-Kenya borders," Singh said. The female bird 'Guangram' is, however, yet to leave Manipur, he added. The Amur falcon is a small raptor of the falcon family. It breeds in south-eastern Siberia and Northern China. To escape from the harsh winter of Siberia and Northern China the birds travel a distance of around 14,500 km to head for the wintering grounds in Southern and East African coasts. In April-May they start their return journey, said the DFO. The birds make a stop-over in Nagaland Manipur and a few other areas of North East region while on their way to Africa. The Amur falcons locally known as 'Akhuaipuna' roosts for an average of 45 days where they engage in feeding for the arduous journey ahead, Singh said.

Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal hospitalised after Police remove him from protest site

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who was to begin a fast unto death to press for farmers' demands, was taken to a Ludhiana hospital for a checkup on Tuesday after allegedly being forcibly removed from the Khanauri border point. Kisan Mazdoor Morcha leader Sarwan Singh Pandher alleged Dallewal was forcibly taken away by police early on Tuesday from the Khanauri border point. A senior Punjab Police officer said Dallewal was taken to the private Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMC) in Ludhiana. Deputy Inspector General of Police Mandeep Singh Sidhu said the administration was concerned about Dallewal's age and health in the wake of his fast-unto-death call. "Considering his health and seniority, the administration decided that his proper medical checkup was important.

We are getting his medical checkup done at DMC, Ludhiana," said Sidhu. Dallewal announced on Monday that he would begin a fast unto death on Tuesday to demand a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops. He had also asserted that he was ready to sacrifice his life to get the farmers' demands accepted. Claiming that the police forcibly removed Dallewal from the spot early on Tuesday before he could begin his hunger strike, Pandher said he strongly condemned the act and demanded his immediate release. Farmers said a police team of 250 reached the Khanauri border at 2:30 am and forcibly took Dallewal away. Initially, the farmers were not aware of Dallewal's whereabouts but later learned that he had been taken to DMC. Farmer leader Guramneet Singh Mangat said they were

informed that Dallewal had been taken to the hospital on health grounds. Mangat, however, said they would continue with their fast-unto-death plan. Another farmer leader will now sit on the fast. Meanwhile, Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu accused the Bhagwant Mann government in Punjab of orchestrating Dallewal's "detention". "Detention of farmer leader Dallewal ji is orchestrated by the Bhagwant Mann government. No central agency is involved in his arrest. It is purely the work of the state police, aimed at shifting the blame onto central agencies to divert attention from the real issues. The central government always works for the welfare of farmers and does not engage in such tactics," Bittu said in a post on X. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha had earlier

announced plans to intensify their agitation in support of farmers' various demands, including a legal guarantee for MSP, by starting a fast unto death. Farmers have been camping at the Shambhu and the Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 after their march to Delhi was stopped by security forces. The protesting farmers have accused the Centre of not taking steps to address their demands, stating that it had not held any talks with them regarding their issues since February 18. Besides a legal guarantee for MSP, the farmers are demanding implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations, pension for farmers and farm labourers, farm debt waiver, reinstatement of the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, and compensation to the families of farmers who died during a previous agitation in 2020-21.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Yet another flashpoint

All stakeholders must demonstrate utmost restraint to prevent any escalation of communal tensions in Sambhal

The town of Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh has become the epicentre of intense communal tension following a violent confrontation over a court-mandated survey of the historic Shahi Jama Masjid. The incident, which unfolded on Sunday, has claimed three lives, injured numerous others and raised pressing concerns about the fragile communal harmony in the region. The Shahi Jama Masjid, situated in Chandausi, Sambhal, is a centuries-old structure recognised as a 'Monument of National Importance' by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904, the mosque became the subject of legal contention following a petition filed on November 19. The petitioners, a group of eight individuals including advocate Hari Shankar Jain and Mahant Rishiraj Giri, alleged that the mosque was built by demolishing a Shri Hari Har Temple in the 16th century under the orders of Mughal Emperor Babur. They claimed that the temple held immense religious significance for Hindus as the prophesied site of Lord Vishnu's Kalki avatar.



The petition sought ASI intervention and public access to the site, accusing the mosque administrators of obstructing entry and the ASI of negligence in protecting the monument. The legal dispute led the Court of Civil Judge (Senior Division) in Sambhal to order a survey of the mosque, with a report due by November 29. The initial survey on Tuesday was reportedly incomplete, prompting authorities to schedule a follow-up on Sunday. However, tensions escalated as the survey team arrived, resulting in a violent clash between opposing groups. The confrontation saw stone-pelting, arson and the deployment of security forces. Three

lives were lost, and several were injured, including police officers and administrative personnel. The violence has since been condemned across the political spectrum, though it has also sparked a heated debate over the motivations behind the survey and its handling. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of instigating communal divisions. BJP spokespersons, however, defended the legal process. The situation in Sambhal remains tense, with heightened security measures in place to prevent further unrest. But are we seeing a pattern here? Some politically motivated individuals deliberately file petitions raking up controversy where none exists. Communal tension ensues and some people and party backs up the claim and polarisation is complete for politicians to exploit the situation. We have had enough of communal violence and surely this one can be avoided as 'The Place of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991' is clear that all places of religion must be preserved as they were at the time of independence. The Shahi Jama Masjid row reflects the broader challenges of navigating historical grievances, communal sensitivities and legal mandates in a pluralistic society. The need for restraint and dialogue among all stakeholders is crucial to restoring peace and preventing further loss of innocent lives.

PICTALK



People buy groundnut during the inauguration of the 'Kadalekai Parishes', in Bengaluru

K P Sharma Oli walks a tightrope on China



ASHOK K MEHTA

Will Oli's stance on the BRI and his decision to prioritise China over India define his political legacy or deepen Nepal's internal divides?

In Kathmandu, I observed that Nepal Prime Minister KP Oli's visit to China has become a hot potato in the chilly Kathmandu valley. The China visit is being portrayed by his Unified Marxist Leninist Party (UML)-led coalition government as a bold initiative by Oli to resolve the long-pending BRI Implementation plan. The BRI Framework Agreement 2017 signed by Nepal figured during the maiden visit of President Xi Jinping in 2019 when Xi announced NC Rs 60 bn in grants under BRI. Since 2008, China has announced NC Rs 80 bn in grants. It seems the government could not use the aid for projects under BRI due to some issues.

Several delegations from both countries have interacted over the BRI Implementation plan for a long but the plan has not been signed.

Oli last visited China in 2016 after the Indian blockade and signed several agreements including energy trade but almost none has materialised. China is insisting that BRI projects that were truncated at Beijing's request from 35 to 9 be under loan whereas Nepal, especially Nepali Congress, the senior coalition partner, wants them under grant. There were fears Oli might sign in to please the Chinese which resulted in considerable squabbling between them. A high-level task force of the two parties has been meeting to arrive at a consensus. Opposition lawmakers wanted all the agreements signed so far to be made public and discussed in Parliament and with civil society. At a UML meeting, Oli recently announced he would not sign BRI for the sake of coalition unity. Chinese envoy Chen Song who had been lobbying with lawmakers to sign the BRI plan has clarified that Chinese-built Pokhara airport would not be converted from loan to grant. Foreign Minister Arzu Rana is going to China on November 28 to prepare for Oli's visit with some plans on BRI.

The other troubling issue was 'the first where - China or India' visit of Oli. Traditionally barring two exceptions - Prime Ministers Tanka Prasad Acharya and



Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) - all others on becoming PM have first gone to New Delhi. Prachanda had clarified that his was not a state visit to China but he had gone for the Beijing Olympics. India has not invited all PMs - like Madhav Nepal, Jhalanath Khanal, and Sushil Koirala - from both Left and Centre-Right parties but New Delhi has historically favoured Nepali Congress. Oli had said some pretty undiplomatic, even unkind things about India during his second term as PM after he had internationalised the Kalapani dispute and made it into a national issue. But later, Oli did work with India. Oli going to China without Beijing making any concession on BRI is cocking a snook at India. During the annual Kantipur Conclave in Kathmandu this month, he clarified that as a sovereign nation, a PM can visit any country first. He compared the 'first visit India or China' conundrum to visiting Nizamuddin or Ajmer Sharif first: which made little impact on the mainly Nepali audience, adding that his visit to China will not harm relations with India.

For Nepal maintaining balance between India and China is a vital strategic mission that the founding father of Nepal,



OLI LAST VISITED CHINA IN 2016 AFTER THE INDIAN BLOCKADE AND SIGNED SEVERAL AGREEMENTS INCLUDING ENERGY TRADE BUT ALMOST NONE HAS MATERIALISED

Prithvi Narayan Shah had described as a yam between two boulders. Geography and social and cultural factors have favoured India. The de-throned Maoist leader and four-time PM Prachanda, Oli's erstwhile short-term partner, accused him in an interview with an Indian journalist who had come for the Kantipur Conclave, of playing the China card. UML was incensed by the allegation, demanding an apology from Prachanda.

At the Kantipur Conclave, Prachanda informed the audience that he was happy he was no longer heading the government as he could atone for his party's mistakes and serve the people better. He clarified that with 32 seats, he had never sought power but others (NC and UML) had come to him to form the government. He asserted he had made a direct assault on corruption - the no 1 bane of Nepal - and put many corrupt leaders including members of his party, and those who had supported his government in jail. This included the newsmaker and former Home Minister, Rabi Lamichhane from the Rashtriya Swatantra Party who is at Swatan in jail, being investigated for fraud. In Kathmandu, I discovered that Lamichhane has created a problem for the government

on which jail he should be lodged in, due to massive protests by his supporters. They took him to the Terai towns but not to his citadel in Chitwan and brought him back to Pokhara as they were unable to present him before a Kathmandu court to avoid creating law and order issues. Every other day there are massive traffic jams in Kathmandu over some issue or the other. Oli was cool about Rabi, saying that the Kantipur Conclave that he had 'once given Rabi a job (in Nepal Television)' but did not know much about his case. The parliamentary probe that was ordered on him as demanded by the Nepali Congress was at the behest of PM Prachanda and Rabi himself who was the Home Minister in the coalition government. He added: 'let law take its course'. Oli's China conundrum was grabbing headlines. By declaring he won't sign the BRI Implementation plan on Chinese terms for coalition unity he has taken the fizz out of the champagne that was to be popped after his visit.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff; views are personal)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SC rejects plea challenging Preamble



In a landmark ruling, the Supreme Court has dismissed a batch of petitions challenging the inclusion of the terms 'Socialist and Secular' in the Preamble to the Constitution as per the 42nd Amendment passed in 1976. The Preamble declares India a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular and Democratic republic. The objectives of the Preamble are to secure justice, liberty and equality for all citizens and promote fraternity to main-

tain the unity and integrity of the nation. The Preamble is considered the soul and spirit of the Constitution. It still plays an important role when there is ambiguity in Articles' provisions or when an interpretation of the Constitution becomes confusing.

The Preamble, which highlights guiding principles and some fundamental values of the bases of which the Indian Constitution was written, will become invalid and insignificant when important terms 'Sovereign, Socialist, Secular' are removed from the Preamble. Knowing the importance of the Preamble, in 1973, in the Kesavananda Bharati case, a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court declared that the Preamble would be considered as part of the Constitution. In the 1995 Union Government vs LIC of India case, the Supreme Court once again held that Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.

P Victor Selvaraj | Tirunelveli

Gautam Adani and his entire team in America, it is obvious that the Opposition of the country will raise its voice on it. Now our Prime Minister wants to defeat every solid allegation through his electoral victory (Maharashtra). That is why when the House was not functioning on Monday, he told the Opposition that "those who have been rejected by the people are indulging in hooliganism in the House."

Is this really so? Obviously, the people who are sitting in the Opposition are sitting there because they are in the minority. Does minority mean that they should not even talk about such a big stain on the country's reputation? Why does this government repeatedly stand in favour of Adani? Charge sheets have been filed in a New York court against Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani and six others. It is impossible to file a charge sheet there without proof. The US Securities and Exchange Commission has alleged that Gautam Adani and his associates paid a bribe of more than \$250 million, i.e., about two thousand crore rupees, for their renewable energy company in

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Prasar Bharati unveils WAVES app amid criticism and challenges



AMIT KR ROY

Prasar Bharati launched its much-anticipated app, WAVES touted as a strategic leap for India's national broadcaster

In a vibrant ceremony during the 55th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, Prasar Bharati unveiled its long-awaited app, WAVES. Marking a strategic step forward for India's national broadcaster, the launch was graced by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant.



However, the event's significance was overshadowed by the absence of central ministers, drawing criticism that this oversight represented a missed public relations opportunity. A Shift from OTT to App: A Branding Challenge Originally envisioned as an OTT platform, WAVES has undergone a rebranding as an app. This shift has sparked speculation that the change may be linked to limited new content. Critics have argued that the current branding does little to leverage Doordarshan's rich legacy, potentially alienating audiences, particularly in rural areas where Doordarshan's identity is deeply entrenched. Many users remain unclear about the relationship

between Prasar Bharati and Doordarshan, adding to the confusion about accessing the app.

Delays and Controversies

The WAVES launch comes after multiple postponements, with its original debut planned for August 15. These delays have raised questions about Prasar Bharati's preparedness to compete in the fast-paced digital media environment. Observers have highlighted internal issues, including allegations of favouritism and mismanagement. Notably, the consultancy hired to guide WAVES has faced criticism for lacking expertise in the OTT domain and allegedly sidelining experienced officials in key roles.

Adding to these challenges are unresolved trademark issues surrounding the name "WAVES," which could further complicate the app's rollout. Private broadcasters, wary of potential regulatory challenges, have shown reluctance to collaborate with the platform, dampening its industry reception.

Content and Vision

Despite the hurdles, WAVES aims to differentiate itself in the competitive Indian media landscape. Offering over 65 live channels and content in 12+ languages, the app seeks to combine nostalgia with fresh appeal. Iconic Doordarshan programmes like 'Ramayan' and 'Mahabharat' are set to feature alongside new productions such as 'Fauji 2.0.' WAVES also plans to support emerging talent by showcasing student films and works by National Creator Awardees. Operating on a revenue-sharing model, WAVES aspires to empower creators while ensuring the protection of intellectual property. However, stand-

ing out against global giants like Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, known for their vast libraries and advanced technology, presents a formidable challenge.

The Road Ahead

The launch of WAVES is a critical juncture for Prasar Bharati, offering a chance to redefine public broadcasting in the digital era. However, success will hinge on resolving internal discord, addressing operational concerns, and crafting a user experience that resonates with audiences. While the launch at IFFI has created a momentary buzz, sustaining momentum will require robust strategies, consistent content quality, and a clear brand identity.

As WAVES ventures into the competitive digital media space, its journey will be closely watched. For Prasar Bharati, the app represents both a bold opportunity and a test of its capacity to adapt and thrive in an evolving media ecosystem. (The writer is a journalist; views are personal)

HISTORIC WIN AT PERTH

Madam — Apropos to the news headline "Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth" (November 26). Kudos to Team India! After the drubbing from the Kiwis in our own backyard 0-3, India dominated the first Test in Perth, crushing Australia by a massive 295 runs. Chasing a daunting 534, Australia crumbled for 238. This historic win marks India's largest victory by runs in Australia, surpassing their 222-run win in Melbourne in 1977. What is more redeeming is the way the Indian team played the 2nd innings. Not many teams have come back after being 150 all out on the first day, but this Indian team has time and again shown that it is built differently. Bumrah, leading in only his second Test, was left with a lot to do and fewer options to work with.

While Yashvvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will be among the heroes with their solid second innings batting performances, it was the stand-in skipper Jaspreet Bumrah's unbelievable skill set and self-belief during Australia's first innings rout that formed the cornerstone of India's win. Hope, after this Test, players should be retained based on their current performance, not on past achievements. The selection process should send a clear message that no player is above the team's performance standards. If a replacement player has excelled, they should be given priority and retained for their contributions. Senior players, regardless of their past glory, must earn their place back through demonstrated performance. This ensures that performance, consistency, and fairness drive the selection process, keeping the team competitive and motivated.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

HOUSE ADJOURNED OVER ADANI

Madam — On the first day of the winter session, i.e., Monday, the House was adjourned due to the demand for a discussion on Adani. Now it does not seem that much work or meaningful discussion will be done in this session. Because of the kind of allegations that have been made against



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 demograph-

ic 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 militancy-hit 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.



AP/PTI

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 immedi-

ately 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 violence in which several of its supporters have been injured. A party spokesman told BBC Urdu that two supporters have also been killed but it was not confirmed from other sources so far. All public and private educational institutions remained closed on Tuesday given the law and order situation both in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. Khan has been implicated in dozens of cases since his government was dismissed through a no-confidence motion in 2022. He has been in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi since last year facing over 200 cases. His party won the largest number of seats in the February general elections despite contesting as independents as the party was denied an election symbol. The party founder has alleged that the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and its coalition partners, including the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), had "stolen the mandate" to grab power at the federal level.

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 Fiumicino, 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 Shmuna, northern Israel on Tuesday. AP/PTI

expressed growing optimism over a ceasefire, Israel has continued its campaign in Lebanon, which it says aims to cripple Hezbollah's military capabilities. Israel 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

move its forces north of the Litani, which in some places is about 30 km north of the Israeli border. A ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, the strongest Iranian-backed force in the region, would likely significantly calm regional tensions that have led to fears of a direct, all-out war between Israel and Iran. It's not clear how the ceasefire will affect the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Hezbollah had long insisted that it would not agree to a ceasefire until the war in Gaza ends, but it dropped that condition. Hezbollah began firing into northern Israel, saying it was showing support for the Palestinians, a day after Hamas carried out its Oct 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, triggering the Gaza war. Israel returned fire on Hezbollah, and the two sides have been exchanging barrages ever since. In early September, Israel escalated its campaign of bombardment and sent troops into Lebanon, vowing to put an end to Hezbollah fire. More than 3,760 people have been killed by Israeli fire in

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.

HK's top court rules in favour of equal inheritance for same-sex couples

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong's top court on Tuesday upheld earlier rulings that favored subsidized housing benefits and equal inheritance rights for same-sex married couples, in a landmark victory for the city's LGBTQ+ community. The Court of Final Appeal's dismissal of the government's appeals ended some yearslong legal battles over the differential treatment facing same-sex couples married overseas under Hong Kong's Housing Authority policies and two inheritance laws. The unanimous decisions are expected to have a far-reaching impact on the lives of same-sex couples, who have traditionally had fewer rights compared to their heterosexual counterparts in the global financial hub. Chief Justice Andrew Cheung said in his judgement that exclusionary housing policies were argued to be beneficial to opposite-sex married couples

because they increase the supply of subsidised housing for them and thereby support the institution of traditional families. But Cheung said authorities failed to provide evidence showing the potential impact on opposite-sex couples if those policies were relaxed. "The challenged policies cannot be justified," he wrote. On the inheritance laws, judges Roberto Ribeiro and Joseph Fok ruled that the disputed provisions are "discriminatory and unconstitutional" in their written judgement. Hong Kong does not recognize same-sex marriage, prompting some couples to marry elsewhere. Currently, the city only recognizes same-sex marriage for certain purposes such as taxation, civil service benefits and dependent visas. Many of the government's concessions were won through legal challenges, and the city has seen a growing social acceptance toward same-sex marriage.

In September 2023, the top court ruled that the government should provide a framework for recognizing same-sex partnerships. This ruling, along with other successful legal challenges brought by members of the LGBTQ+ community, made Hong Kong the only place in China to grant such recognition for same-sex couples. In separate judgements handed down in 2020 and 2021, a lower court had ruled that the housing policies involved in Tuesday's cases violated the constitutional right to equality, and that excluding same-sex spouses from inheritance law benefits constituted unlawful discrimination. The government had challenged these decisions at the Court of Appeal but subsequently lost in October 2023. It then took the cases to the top court. Nick Infinger, who first launched a judicial review against the Housing Authority

in 2018, told reporters that Tuesday's rulings "acknowledged same-sex couples can love each other and deserve to live together." "This is not only fighting for me and for my partner, but it is fighting for all the same-sex couples in Hong Kong," he said outside the court building. But he added he was still "a bit pessimistic" about whether Hong Kong could become like Taiwan and Thailand in legalizing same-sex marriage. Hong Kong Marriage Equality, a non-governmental organization, said in a statement that the judges' decisions made it clear that discrimination and differential treatment on the grounds of sexual orientation violate human dignity and equality. It called on the government to immediately end the exclusion of same-sex couples from marriage. The top court's rulings also concluded a long legal journey taken by Henry Li and his late partner, Edgar Ng.

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-driven

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 agreed to 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.

Sri Lanka to present interim budget on Dec 5

PTI ■ COLOMBO The interim budget of the new government will be presented on December 5 while the full budget for 2025 will be presented on February 17, the government announced on Tuesday.

President Anura Kumara Dissanayake plans to visit China following his proposed official trip to India, Cabinet spokesman Nalintha Jayathissa said on Tuesday.

Jaishankar who became the first foreign dignitary to call on Dissanayake when he was elected President in September had extended the invitation.

NATO's new Secretary General Mark Rutte on Tuesday said the alliance "needs to go further" to support Ukraine in its fight against a Russian invasion and accused Moscow of dangerously escalating the conflict by bringing in thousands of North Korean troops.

New NATO chief Rutte says alliance needs further support Ukraine

war and a challenge to global peace and security. Rutte, a former Dutch prime minister who took over as NATO chief last month, met Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens and thanked him for Greek support for Ukraine that includes weapons and ammunition, as well as training for F-16 pilots and technicians.

been discussing plans to boost defence investments for months due to the ongoing war in Ukraine and uncertainty surrounding the incoming US administration following the election victory of President-elect Donald Trump.

Rutte's visit to Athens follows meetings with Trump in Florida and Turkish leaders in Ankara Monday. Rutte also held talks with Greece's Minister of Foreign Affairs George Gerapetritis and Minister of Defence Nikos Dendias.

Several thousand protesters marched through central Athens in opposition to the NATO chief's visit.

Rebel group takes key border town, a rare earth mining hub, in setback for military regime

AP ■ BANGKOK A powerful rebel group has seized a key trading town in northeastern Myanmar on the Chinese border, taking control of a lucrative rare earth mining hub in another setback for the military-led government, according to witnesses.

Since then, other militias organised along ethnic lines have joined in, including the KIA in the northern state of Kachin. In Kachin's so-called Special Region 1, where Kanpaiti is located, the KIA since late September has been increasing assaults on a rival ethnic militia, the New Democratic Army-Kachin, which is allied with the government military and had provided border guard forces.

China's big state-owned mining conglomerates or through intermediaries. There are more than 300 unregulated mines in the area, producing most of the USD 1.4 billion in rare earths for sale to China last year "at a terrible cost to the environment and local communities," according to a report issued by London-based environmental group Global Witness in May.

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Philippine Vice-Prez summoned over her public threats against President

AP ■ MANILA (PHILIPPINES) Philippine authorities handed a subpoena to Vice President Sara Duterte's office Tuesday, inviting her to answer investigators' questions after she publicly threatened to have the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker assassinated if she were killed in an unspecified plot herself.

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of the client that Mrs. Anuradha is claiming to be owner of Residential Flat No. 5F-04, on Second Floor without roof rights built on Plot bearing No. B-180, area measuring 100 sq. yds., out of Khassa No. 233, situated at Rai Vihar Shekari Awas Smiti Ltd., in the area of Village Sadulabad, Farangana & Tensil Loni, District Ghazalabad, U. P. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the property to a person who wants to obtain a loan from our client against the said property. If anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK Regional Office NCR-Delhi HFC Complex, Faridabad Sector 33, Haryana - 121003 Phone : 0129-229544-50

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that A request has been made for transfer of plot no. D-3, Area 8160.00 sq.m., Industrial Area Surajpur Site-5, Kasna, Greater Noida in favour of M/s Envirotech Systems Limited has been requested for setting up of steel fabrication unit.

Philippine Vice-Prez summoned over her public threats against President

Philippine authorities handed a subpoena to Vice President Sara Duterte's office Tuesday, inviting her to answer investigators' questions after she publicly threatened to have the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker assassinated if she were killed in an unspecified plot herself.

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Public Notice To be known to all: I, Shu Sikka W/o Manish Sikka R/o Flat No. 35-C, S/F, Bk/Pk-B, East of Kailash ND-65 owner of DDA SFS-1 flat no. 35-C, S/F, Bk/Pk-B, East of Kailash, ND-65 has applied for conversion of the flat for residential use from leasehold to freehold vide application No. DDA/H/CA50108986 dt. 25.10.2024 in DDA, Original Document i.e. Allocation 5th & Final Demand Letter, of above property has been lost. An FIR against this effect has been lodged in Police station. Any persons claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write/with above named party at above add/P/ 837348512w with 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Public Notice My client HFC Bank Ltd, Capital Court, Munirka, New Delhi, in the business of Housing Loan, from whom Mr. Ashish Vilas Tale and Mrs. Urmi Ashish Tale has taken a housing loan against Flat No. M-1307, 13th Floor, Ashiana Town-Beta (05 to 08) Sector-39, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan but in the internal movement of file one file containing the original Flat Buyer Agreement dated 19.10.2013, Allotment Letter dated 25.09.2013, Tripartite Agreement dated 25.09.2013, Permission to Mortgage dated 25.09.2013 and Two Payment receipts is not traceable which was lost/misplaced, if anybody find the same may return to the undersigned, if anybody misuses the same, the same shall be at his/her own risk and cost.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is informed to the general public that original allottee of Plot No. JH-02, Sector 159, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, Smt. Kalawati, wife of Late Sujan Singh, resident of Village Jhata, Tahsil and District Gautam Budh Nagar had registered a will in favour of Smt. Madhu Chauhan, wife of Smt. Rohit Singh Chauhan, resident of J-47, Palao Vihar, Ghazalabad, currently resident of G-28, Sector 70, Noida, of Khata No. 70 and Khassa No. 192, Village Jhata, in respect of residential plot No. JH-02, Sector 159, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, received in lieu of the above 5 percent Khassa 11 of Kisan quota, which is registered in Sub-Registrar's Office, Noida, in the same No. 3, Document No. 172, dated 16/03/2011.

सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवासीय भूखण्ड खसरा नं. 862 और खता नं. 453 वाले शहर का कुल खसरा 345.55 वर्गमीटर लिखता बर्तमान चॉट नं. SH-11, सैक्टर-145, नोएडा है। जोकि स्व. उमाश्री शर्मा व ज्ञानदेव शर्मा भूखण्ड श्री श्रीदेव निवासी दोस्तपुर नगरपाली नोएडा में शोकर कमार सिंह पुत्र ख्यामदेव सिंह निवासी राजानापुर उस्तासि नं. 0 से नं. 11 तक 09.08.2016 में जर्जिक्ट एरिआमेंट नं. 2 से, जी.पी.ए. एवं नियंत्रणानामा के द्वारा जर्जिक्ट किया गया है कि उपरोक्त आवासीय भूखण्ड एक विहित चॉट है और कानूनी प्रक्रिया चल रही है जिसके खतरे/ने/केम से बचाव नही है। ऐसा करने वाला व्यक्ति अपने भूखण्ड का स्वयं निम्नदर्त होगा, उसके लिए नै मुकदमा चल रहा है जिसे निम्नकारी नही हनी। नॉ. नं- 999905792, 8577616245.

Public Notice This is to inform the general public that Smt. Gaiinda Devi is the GPA Holder Property No. 58 area measuring 82 1/2 Sq. Yds., Block - A 'Out' Khassa No. 104/91 Situated at Village, Palao Colony known as Rajapur New Delhi. She is in possession through GPA, ATS & Will Dated 22.10.1982 executed by Smt. Rat Ram in favour of Smt. Gaiinda Devi in respect of the said Property.

Public Notice We M/s Pharma Chemie Pvt. Ltd. have shifted our registered office from Flat No.- 3174, D-3, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070 to A-81, First Floor, South Extension - Part 2, New Delhi 110049. Request all public, clients and stakeholders to update your records for all future correspondence. Dated: 27.11.24 Place: Delhi

PROVISION OF GRID CONNECTED ROOF TOP SOLAR POWER PLANTS Tender Notice No. : Sr.DEE/LMG/26 of 2024-25, dt. 22-11-2024. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SN-1; Tender No.: EL/LM/24-25/22-RT; Name of Work: Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Residential building over Lunding Division. Tender Value: ₹. 14,24,85,280/-; Earnest Money: ₹. 8,62,400/-; SN-2; Tender No.: EL/LM/24-25/23-RT; Name of Work: Provision of Grid connected Roof top Solar power plants for Station buildings over Lunding Division. Tender Value: ₹. 17,30,18,848.02/-; Earnest Money: ₹. 10,15,100/-; Date & time of closing of above tenders at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 13-12-2024. For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. on 13-12-2024 in website http://www.ireps.gov.in

GURU JAMBHESHWAR UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, HISAR (Established by State Legislature Act 17 of 1995) 'A' Grade NAAC Accredited AUCTION NOTICE Sealed quotations are invited from interested and eligible participants for Auction of obsolete/condemned E-Waste items of various departments/offices under E-Waste Policy of the University. For details, eligible/interested persons may contact in person or on phone 01662-263126/ 263132 and send quotations through registered/speed post/courier to Deputy Registrar (General & Purchase), GJUST, Hisar, Haryana-125001 by 19.12.2024 (till 5:00 P.M.). The details of E-Waste items and terms & conditions can be downloaded from University website www.gjust.ac.in. REGISTRAR RO 30579/C/2717

Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, Sadiq Road, Faridkot -151203 Ph. 01639-256232, 256236 E-TENDER NOTICE E-tender are invited for the procurements of following items upto 10.12.2024 1) Rate contract for procurement of Implants material at GGSMSCH, Faridkot 2)SSMA Services of various photocopier machines 3)Providing of Pest control services 4) Rate contract for the purchase of Xerox Toner and copy cartridges for photocopier machines 5)Supply and installation of Skin Craft Mesher 6)Supply and installation of Patient Bath Trolley machine 7) Procurement and installation of Neurosurgical Electric drill at GGSMSCH, Faridkot 8) Rate contract for supply of Radiopharmaceuticals in Nuclear machine department at GGSMSCH, Faridkot 9) Supply and installation of NCT Machine 10) Supply and Installation of Electrocauter. E-tender are invited for the procurements of following items upto 17.12.2024 1) Re-construction of damaged boundary wall from TB ward upto water works of GGSMSCH, Faridkot 2) Raising height of boundary wall & providing concertina coil fencing around boundary wall from water works to Aara (Sadiq Road) in GGSMSCH, Faridkot 3) Raising height of boundary wall & providing concertina coil fencing around boundary wall from Aara market to class 4 quarters in GGSMSCH, Faridkot 4) Special Repair of Old Pharmacy Block (Shed) in GGSMSCH, Faridkot 5) Construction of shed for four wheelers vehicles in premises of BFUHS, Faridkot 6) Repair of 8 nos. warehouses of MBBS Girls Hostel, Repair of damaged RCC parapet walls, leakage of damaged ceiling plaster, painting, Distemperring of Block no. 1 & 2 in GGS Residential Complex, Faridkot 7) Providing fixing and up gradation of Electrical works at Laundry Plant in GGSMSCH, Faridkot 8) Special Repair of Laundry Plant in GGSMSCH, Faridkot 9) Supply and installation of Physiotherapy equipments at SINPMS, Badal. 10) Procurement of Projectors and IT equipments. Terms and conditions can be downloaded from http://eproc.punjab.gov.in. The tenders will be accepted in E-Tender mode only. Bidder can also download tender notification and document from the University website i.e. www.bfuhis.ac.in REGISTRAR 00/12/323/2023/39469 Dated CHD :- 11/27/2024

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66 Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop e/Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:- Sr. No. Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative Qty 1. For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Automatic Machine Made Ghee Tins with C. Boxes. i. 1/2 Kg Annual/15 Lac ii. 1 Kg 20 Lac iii. 2 Kg 1 Lac iv. 5 Kg 50 K 2. For Verka Chandigarh Dairy i. Manual Tenders:- a) Tully Fruity b) Spongy cake(Veg.) c) Calcium Chloride d) Kassatta box e) Plastic tray for Kassatta slice f) Kassatta dibbi Annual ii. e-Tenders:- a) Pouches & rolls i. Kaju pinni rolls ii. Besan burfi rolls iii. Punjabi kullfi pouches iv. Ice candies rolls (40) (all variants) v. Ice cream bar rolls (40ml) (all variants) Annual Annual Annual Half Yearly Annual Half Yearly b) Flavours and colours c) Sweet boxes for kaju pinni (800gm, 400 gm, 2kg) d) Nitric Acid e) 1.25 litre ice cream brick cartons f) Punjabi kullfi sticks (114x10x2mm) h) Sundae magic cups Annual Annual Annual Annual Annual 3. For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of Agency for packaging of dahi pouch/cups/matkas, lassi pouches, kheer cups, ghee, paneer and yoghurt, packaging and recombination of white butter and reconstitution of SMP/WMP & Sugar. As per day to day requirement of market. 4. For Verka Sangur Dairy i. Supply, installation and commissioning of GC (Gas Chromatography) Machine with FID, HPLC Machine under NPDD PB 09 project. - ii. Hiring of :- a) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC/BMC to Milk Plant, Sangur. Annual/04 No's b) Passenger vehicle with Fuel Diesel/ Petrol/ CNG (Swift Dzire, Toyota Etios, Bolero or equivalent) at Verka Sangur Dairy for Field/Extension work. Annual/01 No. 5. For Verka Bathinda Dairy i. Supply of Rice Husk for Boilers. 3500 MT (+10%) Annual/01 Complete Job ii. Pest Control services. 6. For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) e-Tender for hiring of vehicles for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products at :- i. Army Route -1 ii. Local Route-1 iii. Local Route-6 Annual b) e-Tender for the Disposal of Unserviceable Material. 61 Items Annual c) Purchase of :- i. Polypropylene bottles cap, 180ml with caps. ii. Printed shrink sleeve rolls for PP bottles cap, 180ml. iii. Corrugated tray for PP bottles cap, 180ml. Annual d) Outsourcing of Security, Housekeeping and Horticulture activities. Annual 7. For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Hiring of passenger vehicle Bolero/Swift Dzire/Etios (Platinum) or equivalent (AC)-2 no's along with drivers. 02 No's NOTE: 1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in. 2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

PUBLIC NOTICE IMPERIA STRUCTURES LTD. A-25 Mohan Cooperative Industrial Estate, New Delhi -110044 Phone -011 46469999 website www.imperiastructures.com Whereas the company got in principle approval from Director Town & Country Planning Department, Haryana Chandigarh vide Memo No ZP-768-Vol.IV/JD(RA)/2024/36068 dated 22.11.2024 for its residential group housing colony project for Tower D,E & J (earlier known as Tower F), license No. 64 of 2011 dated 16.07.2011 granted for setting up Group Housing Colony (Imperia Esfera) on an area measuring 17.00 acre. And whereas the office of Director General Town & Country Planning, Haryana Chandigarh has asked company to invite objections from existing bonafide Allottees regarding (i) Change in Nomenclature of Tower-F to Tower-J and also change in location/orientation of Tower J without approval of revised building plans (ii) Basement-2 has been constructed without sanctioned plan. However both the changes are in conformity with Haryana Building code-2017. Accordingly, the objections are hereby invited from any of the Allottee in the said colony on the said additional construction of flats and other changes in original sanctioned plans. A copy of earlier approved building plans and super imposed plans are available on the website https://imperiastructures.com/residential/the-esfera/#Download for perusal. The said plans can also be perused in the office of company on address mentioned above as well as site office of the company and also in the office of Senior Town Planner, Sector 14, HSVP Complex, 3rd Floor, Gurugram. Any bonafide Allottee having any objection/suggestion on such changes may file his/her/its objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Town & Country Planning Department, Sector 14, HSVP Complex, Gurugram within 30 days of publication of this notice under intimation to the company, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the changes made by the company in the original sanction plans. Date: 27.11.2024

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD. (A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING) CIN:U40101OR1995SC003963 REGD.OFFICE: OHPC Corporate Office, Bhoi Nagar, Jajpur, Bhubaneswar-751022 Phone: 91-0674-2542983, 2542802, 2545526, 2542826 E-mail: ohpc.co@gmail.com, website: www.ohpcld.com OHPC TECH: C&P/16/2024-25/ 10084 Date: 22.11.2024 E-TENDER NOTICE NO.01/2024-25 INVITATION FOR BID OHPC Ltd., Bhubaneswar, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system (Cover-I Technical Bid and Cover-II Price bid) for the work as detailed below through 'e'-procurement. The bids should be submitted 'online' in https://tendersodisha.gov.in by the "A" & "B" Class of contractors registered with the State Government and contractors of equivalent grade/class registered with Central Government / Railways / MES having registration for execution of civil works on production of definite proof from the appropriate authority. The bidders should have necessary portal enrolment with their own valid Digital Signature Certificate. The bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

THE PUNJAB STATE COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION LTD. SCO 153-155, SECTOR 34-A, CHANDIGARH-160022. EPABX No. 0172-5041812,66 Notice Inviting Tender www.verka.coop e/Sealed tenders are hereby invited for the purchase and supply of following items:- Sr. No. Name of Work/Item Period/Tentative Qty 1. For Verka Head Office, Chandigarh Automatic Machine Made Ghee Tins with C. Boxes. i. 1/2 Kg Annual/15 Lac ii. 1 Kg 20 Lac iii. 2 Kg 1 Lac iv. 5 Kg 50 K 2. For Verka Chandigarh Dairy i. Manual Tenders:- a) Tully Fruity b) Spongy cake(Veg.) c) Calcium Chloride d) Kassatta box e) Plastic tray for Kassatta slice f) Kassatta dibbi Annual ii. e-Tenders:- a) Pouches & rolls i. Kaju pinni rolls ii. Besan burfi rolls iii. Punjabi kullfi pouches iv. Ice candies rolls (40) (all variants) v. Ice cream bar rolls (40ml) (all variants) Annual Annual Annual Half Yearly Annual Half Yearly b) Flavours and colours c) Sweet boxes for kaju pinni (800gm, 400 gm, 2kg) d) Nitric Acid e) 1.25 litre ice cream brick cartons f) Punjabi kullfi sticks (114x10x2mm) h) Sundae magic cups Annual Annual Annual Annual Annual 3. For Verka Mohali Dairy Hiring of Agency for packaging of dahi pouch/cups/matkas, lassi pouches, kheer cups, ghee, paneer and yoghurt, packaging and recombination of white butter and reconstitution of SMP/WMP & Sugar. As per day to day requirement of market. 4. For Verka Sangur Dairy i. Supply, installation and commissioning of GC (Gas Chromatography) Machine with FID, HPLC Machine under NPDD PB 09 project. - ii. Hiring of :- a) Insulated road milk tanker for transportation of milk from MCC/BMC to Milk Plant, Sangur. Annual/04 No's b) Passenger vehicle with Fuel Diesel/ Petrol/ CNG (Swift Dzire, Toyota Etios, Bolero or equivalent) at Verka Sangur Dairy for Field/Extension work. Annual/01 No. 5. For Verka Bathinda Dairy i. Supply of Rice Husk for Boilers. 3500 MT (+10%) Annual/01 Complete Job ii. Pest Control services. 6. For Verka Amritsar Dairy a) e-Tender for hiring of vehicles for supply of Fresh Milk and Milk Products at :- i. Army Route -1 ii. Local Route-1 iii. Local Route-6 Annual b) e-Tender for the Disposal of Unserviceable Material. 61 Items Annual c) Purchase of :- i. Polypropylene bottles cap, 180ml with caps. ii. Printed shrink sleeve rolls for PP bottles cap, 180ml. iii. Corrugated tray for PP bottles cap, 180ml. Annual d) Outsourcing of Security, Housekeeping and Horticulture activities. Annual 7. For Verka Mega Dairy, Bassi Pathana Hiring of passenger vehicle Bolero/Swift Dzire/Etios (Platinum) or equivalent (AC)-2 no's along with drivers. 02 No's NOTE: 1. For complete details regarding above tender (NIT), please visit our website i.e. www.verka.coop & e Tendering portal i.e. eproc.punjab.gov.in. 2. Corrigendum, if any, will be uploaded on website only.

First generation entrepreneur and Essar group co-founder Shashi Ruia dies

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shashikant Ruia, a first-generation entrepreneur who turned a small construction business into an infrastructure conglomerate, died after a prolonged illness. He was 80. Shashi Ruia, as he was fondly called, co-founded the metals-to-technology conglomerate Essar with his brother Ravi. Ruia, who would have turned 81 next month, died in Mumbai around midnight. He had returned from the US, where he was undergoing treatment, about a month back. "It is with profound grief that we inform of the passing of

Shri Shashikant Ruia, Patriarch of the Ruia and Essar Family," the Ruia family said in a statement. He is survived by his wife Manju and two sons Prashant and Anshuman. Starting his career in 1965 under the guidance of his father Nand Kishore Ruia, Shashi and his brother Ravi laid the foundation of Essar in 1969 when they bagged a Rs 2.5 crore order from the Madras Port Trust for the construction of an outer breakwater in the port. In the early years, Essar focused on construction and engineering projects and built a number of bridges, dams and power plants. In the 1980s, Essar diversified into

the energy sector with the acquisition of oil and gas assets. A decade later, it became a significant player in steel and telecommunications, setting up a large steel plant in Gujarat, and rising to become India's second-largest telecom operator in a joint venture with Hutchison. It also went on to build an oil refinery in Gujarat despite funds being stopped because of business rivals. Later, it exited the telecom business, sold the oil refinery to a consortium led by Russia's Rosneft and had to let go of steel plants to ArcelorMittal when insolvency proceedings were initiated to recover unpaid loans.



Today, Essar Global Fund Ltd, which oversees the businesses co-founded by the Ruia brothers, manages assets across sectors such as infra-

structure, energy, metals and mining, technology, and services. According to the Essar Group's website, these portfolio companies generate combined revenues of USD 14 billion. "With an unwavering commitment to community upliftment and philanthropy, he touched millions of lives leaving an enduring impact. His humility, warmth, and ability to connect with everyone he met, made him a truly exceptional leader," the Ruia family statement said. "An iconic industrialist, Shri Shashikant Ruia, Chairman, Essar Group, played a significant role in redefining India's corporate landscape. He laid the foundation of the Essar Group and made it a global conglomerate." His "extraordinary legacy will remain a guiding light for

all of us, as we honour his vision and continue to uphold the values he cherished and championed," it added. Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Ruia a 'towering figure' in his condolence message. "Shri Shashikant Ruia Ji was a colossal figure in the world of industry. His visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to excellence transformed the business landscape of India. He also set high benchmarks for innovation and growth. He was always full of ideas, always discussing how we can make our country better. Shashi Ji's demise is deeply saddening. My deepest condolences to his family and

loved ones in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the PM wrote on social media platform X (formerly Twitter). He also posted a picture of him with Ruia. Ruia held several prominent positions in national and industry organisations. He was part of the managing committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and served as chairman of the Indo-US Joint Business Council. He was also the former president of the Indian National Shipowners Association and a member of the Prime Minister's Indo-US CEO Forum and the India-Japan Business Council.

Sensex, Nifty snap two-day rally on weak global trends after Trump's tariff threats

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty snapped the two-day rally and closed lower on Tuesday in line with weak global market trends amid concerns over tariff threats by US President-elect Donald Trump. In a volatile trade, the 30-share Sensex declined 105.79 points or 0.13 per cent to settle at 80,004.06. During the day, it lost 311.18 points or 0.38 per cent to 79,798.67. The broader NSE Nifty declined by 27.40 points or 0.11 per cent to 24,194.50. From the 30-share Sensex pack, UltraTech Cement, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, NTPC, Tata Motors, Mahindra & Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro and Power Grid were among the biggest losers. Asian Paints, Infosys, JSW Steel, Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries were among the biggest gainers. Global stock markets declined following concerns over US President-elect Donald Trump's comment



that he plans to impose new tariffs on Mexico, Canada and China as soon as he takes office on January 20. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai settled lower while Hong Kong ended higher. European markets were trading lower. The US markets ended in the positive territory on Monday. All Adani group stocks ended lower, with Adani Green Energy tumbling 7.05 per cent. Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.71 per cent to USD 73.58 a barrel. Benchmark equity indices

surged on Monday, helped by the BJP pulling off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory. The BSE benchmark jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85 on Monday. The Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Monday after unabated selling for the past many days. They bought equities worth Rs 9,947.55 crore, according to exchange data.

Rupee falls 3 paise to close at 84.32 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Rupee fell 3 paise to close at 84.32 (provisional) against US dollar on Tuesday, as the greenback strengthened on Donald Trump's tariff plans and a muted trend in domestic equities. Forex traders said US President elect Donald Trump's comments that he would impose additional 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods and impose a 25 per cent levy on imports from Mexico and Canada has affected risk sentiment. Traders are also awaiting the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) minutes of the November 7 meeting for further cues. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 84.27 and touched an intraday high of 84.22 and low of 84.35 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 84.32 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a fall of 3 paise over its previous close. On Monday, the rupee appreciated 12 paise to close at 84.29 against US dollar. "Traders look forward to the



FOMC minutes of the November 7 meeting to be released later tonight. The USD-INR pair may continue to trade in the 84-84.50 in the short term. Interim support is at 84.11," said Praveen Singh - Associate VP, Fundamental Currencies and Commodities, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading higher by 0.06 per cent at 106.87. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, rose 0.79 per cent to USD 73.59 per barrel in futures trade. The overall strength of the

American currency and elevated crude oil prices are likely to strain India's trade balance, creating challenges for the rupee, forex traders said. In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 105.79 points, or 0.13 per cent, to close at 80,004.06 points, while Nifty fell 27.40 points, or 0.11 per cent, to settle at 24,194.50 points. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned net buyers in the capital markets on Monday, purchasing shares worth Rs 9,947.55 crore, according to exchange data.

HC stays clean energy agency's bar on Anil Ambani firm

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has stayed clean energy agency SECI's decision to bar Anil Ambani group firm Reliance Power Ltd from participating in auctions for three years, the company said on Tuesday. The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) had earlier this month barred Reliance Power and its units from participating in auctions for three years over allegations of submitting a fake bank guarantee to support its bid for a recent battery storage tender. "High Court of Delhi, in its hearing held today, has granted stay on notice of debarment and public notice issued by SECI against the company, including all its subsidiaries except Reliance NU BESS Limited (formerly known as Maharashtra Energy Generation Limited)," the firm said in a stock exchange filing. Reliance NU BESS had submitted a bank guarantee purportedly issued by the FirstRand Bank through its



branch supposed to be located in Manila City, Manila, the Philippines. Upon detailed investigation, it was confirmed by the Indian branch of the above Bank that there does not exist any such branch of the bank in the Philippines, prompting SECI to conclude that the BG submitted was a fake document. On November 6, SECI announced debarment Reliance Power and Reliance NU BESS from participating in SECI tenders for three years for submitting "fake documents". Reliance Power said it had challenged the notice of debarment by SECI in the Delhi High Court.

PSU banks to launch new products in 3-4 months to ramp up credit growth: Banking Secy

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju on Tuesday said public sector banks will unveil new products in the next few months to improve credit growth. "We are actually committed to enhancing, and we want to push as much credit as possible because we have a huge number of young people," he said while addressing the Financial Inclusion and Fintech Summit organised by CII here. Public sector banks are going to launch new products in the next 3-4 months to push credit for all sectors, including MSME, he said. Over the last few years, the government has already taken multiple steps to improve credit availability to small borrowers, including announcing a new credit model in the Budget to lend to borrowers with no previous financial records. Though the banking sector is robust, Nagaraju said rising digital frauds are posing a risk to financial sector stability, and banks should focus on



addressing this challenge. Both digital innovations and financial literacy will help mitigate this, he added. Speaking on the sidelines, Nagaraju also said the Banking Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament during the monsoon session will likely be moved in the ongoing winter session. The amendments are aimed at bringing changes to banking regulations, including redefining substantial interest for directors, increasing the number of nominees for bank deposits and changing compliance reporting dates. Speaking on Fintech, he said

India is the third largest country in terms of startups, and there are about 13,000 such entities working in the space. The government remains committed to the goal of financial inclusion and it is working closely with the fintech industry to attain greater inclusivity, especially in under-penetrated areas. "The government is making a lot of efforts to foster ease of doing business and reduce compliance burden for the Fintech companies," he noted. He underscored the government's continuous endeavour to provide a facilitating ecosys-

tem to the fintech industry, including robust digital infrastructure and schemes like PM Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, which could bring huge opportunities for the industry. "A fine balance is required between fostering innovation and protecting the regulatory system's integrity," he cautioned. Speaking on the occasion, Nabard Chairman Shaji KV emphasised the need to bring about technological transformation in a more democratic manner, especially in the rural economy. While bigger banks have benefited from greater digitisation, cooperative banks and regional rural banks may not have reaped the benefits of digitisation to a similar extent, Shaji added. Given that these banks may not have sufficient funds to invest in new technologies, it is important that all stakeholders make a greater effort to include RRBs and cooperative banks in new digital endeavours, he said.

Most Gen Z professionals prefer growth path, mentorship over salary: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Around 80 per cent of Gen Z professionals prioritise mentorship and career growth over traditional metrics like salary, reflecting a stronger focus on personal and professional development, a report said on Tuesday. Gen Zs (people born between the mid-to-late 1990s and early 2010s) adopt a more deliberate approach, seeking clarity and purpose in their careers, unlike those from previous generations for whom financial stability was the primary concern, said a report by jobs and professional networking platform apna.Co. They aim to build skills that naturally lead to rewards, emphasising a future-oriented, strategic mindset instead of short-term gains, said the report. The report is based on a survey carried out among 10,000 Gen Z professionals during October and November to explore their professional



preferences and workplace expectations. Positive work environment emerged as a critical factor for 74 per cent of respondents, indicating the importance of inclusivity, respect and active engagement, it said. While people of earlier generations often overlooked mentorship and structured learning, Gen Zs demand continuous feedback, collaboration, and recognition. Gen Zs reject working in isolation or receiving occasional acknowledgement. Instead, they value workplaces that align personal and professional growth, it stated.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

TN GOVERNOR ADDRESSES NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM



Chennai: The Honourable Governor of Tamil Nadu Mr. R.N. Ravi on Tuesday appealed to youth, especially students of law, to take Constitution outside the confines of institutions and to the masses across India. "Constitution is the crystallisation of dreams of millions of people - freedom fighters, martyrs who laid down their lives to realise the aspirations of India, and it needs to be celebrated," Mr. Ravi said, while speaking at the Symposium on National Law Day organised by Saveetha School of Law. The Constitution reflects the ideals and dreams to ensure that every citizen got social, economic, and political justice, with a right to dignified life. The Constitution, he said, also gave the direction to achieve goals of founding fathers of this great nation. Now that it has been 76 years since independence, it was now time to take a pause and recall if the ideals of social justice was taken all across the country. Pointing out even in a progressive State like Tamil Nadu, where there were incidents of human waste being discharged into a drinking water tank, and untouchability, the Governor said that social justice could not be ensured through implementation of law alone, and that it had come from within every individual, and youth had to be at the forefront of this great cause. He said that India, which was among the wealthiest nations, had also at the same time suffered a lot due to centuries of colonisation and foreign invasions.

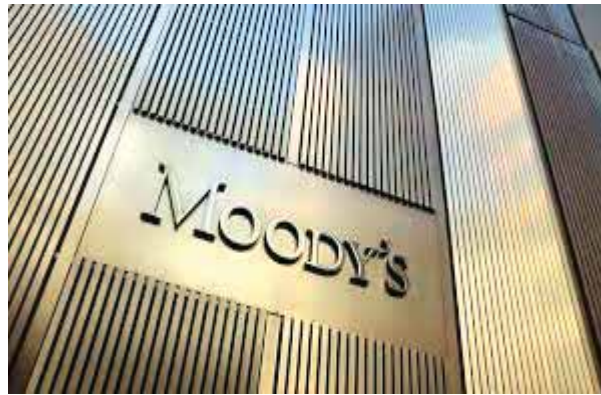
Moody's cuts outlook on Adani firms to negative; Fitch puts some Adani bonds on negative watch

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Ratings agency Moody's said Tuesday that it has cut the outlook on the ratings of seven Adani entities to 'negative' from 'stable', citing the US indictment of Chairman Gautam Adani and others on alleged bribery charges, while Fitch Ratings put some bonds of the conglomerate on negative watch. Moody's affirmed the ratings on all seven entities -- Adani Transmission Step-One Ltd, Adani Transportation Restricted group 1 (AESL RG1), Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd and Adani International Container Terminal Pvt Ltd. "These rating actions follow the indictment of Adani Green

Energy Ltd's (AGEL) chairman Gautam Adani and several senior management team members by the US Attorney's Office in a criminal case and the filing of charges by the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in a civil case," Moody's said. The charges and allegations include bribery of Indian government officials, securities and wire fraud; conspiracy to violate the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and obstruct justice; false statements made in annual reports, and false statements made to the US government in relation to its investigation into the group. "The change in the outlook on the seven Adani entities to negative considers the indictment of Adani and other senior Adani executives on bribery and other charges, which will likely weaken Adani Group's access to funding and increase

its capital costs," it said. The rating action, Moody's said, recognises the possibility of broader weaknesses in the governance structure across the rated Adani group entities as well as potential operational disruptions, including on their capital spending plans, while legal proceedings are going. "Although the allegations and the charges made by US Attorney's Office and SEC pertain to AGEL's chairman and senior management team members, we believe they could have a broader credit impact on all rated Adani Group issuers, given Gautam Adani's prominent role as chairman of each of the rated entities or their parent companies as well as the controlling shareholder," it said. "The project finance entities of the group are not exposed to refinancing risk and do not require any substantial capital



investment, it said, adding that they remain exposed to the potential governance weaknesses and the risks that could arise from any negative findings in the ongoing legal proceedings. Stating that an upgrade of the ratings is unlikely in the near term, given the negative outlook on all seven issuers, Moody's said it could change the rating outlooks to

stable if legal proceedings conclude clearly with no material negative credit impact. "A stable outlook will also be predicated on the group maintaining appropriate financial metrics for the respective ratings, demonstrating its retained access to funding to meet growth initiatives and refinancing requirements, and strengthening its governance

practices across the group entities," it added. "We could downgrade the ratings of the group entities if the legal proceedings lead to a material disruption to their operations or access to capital. A downgrade is also likely if the group is unable to address or rectify governance issues associated with the ongoing legal proceedings." Separately, Fitch placed ratings on Adani Energy and Adani Electricity Mumbai on negative watch list following the bribery charges and indictment of certain board members of Adani Green Energy Limited (AGEL) by the US Securities and Exchange Commission and Department of Justice. This, it said, "reflects increased corporate governance risk and potential contagion risk that could affect the funding access and liquidity. "While the US indictment

mainly involves AGEL's key leadership, the proceedings and the outcome could reflect significantly weaker corporate governance practices of the group and lead to negative rating actions. Two of the indicted board members belong to the founding shareholders of Adani group, and one of them is a trustee and beneficiary in the SB Adani Family Trust, which effectively owns a majority of shares in both AESL and AEML," it said. Fitch said it will monitor the investigations for any impact on the financial flexibility of the rated entities, particularly any material deterioration in near-to medium-term funding access, including their ability to roll over existing credit lines or access new facilities, as well as potentially higher credit spreads. The rating agency expected the near-term liquidity of AESL

and AEML to be sufficient, as there are no significant scheduled debt maturities in the next 12-18 months. They also have some flexibility in capex plans. "We believe the latest developments could hamper the group's funding access. This can significantly affect the growth plans of AESL, though there is some flexibility in its capex plans. Increased reliance on onshore funding could heighten refinancing risk over the medium term, and a material rise in borrowing costs could reduce operating cash flow generation," it said. "The impact of a material deterioration in the group's funding access is likely to be limited for AEML, as regulations allow for pass-through of operating and interest costs, limiting the impact on the credit profile even in the event of rising borrowing costs, it said."

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

PTI ■ 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. 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 organization 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.

ICC board to meet on November 29 to finalise Champions Trophy schedule

PTI ■ DUBAI
The all-powerful board of the International Cricket Council will meet virtually on November 29 to finalise the much-delayed schedule of the Champions Trophy to be held in Pakistan in February-March next year. The cause of the delay has been India's refusal to play in Pakistan considering the tense relations between the two countries. India has not toured Pakistan since the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The BCCI wants the tournament to be played in a hybrid model with India games scheduled in a third country, preferably UAE, something that its Pakistani counterpart has not agreed to thus far. "The ICC board will meet on November 29 to discuss the Champions Trophy schedule," an ICC spokesperson told PTI on Tuesday. The crucial virtual meeting takes place two days before BCCI secretary Jay Shah takes over as ICC chairman on December 1.



He and other board members would be keen to resolve the matter before the new regime takes over. With the deadlock over the schedule and venue yet to be broken, questions have been raised against the current dispensation of the ICC

matches in Sri Lanka while four group games were hosted by Pakistan. The PCB has spent millions of dollars to renovate stadiums in Karachi, Lahore and Rawalpindi for what will be its first ICC event since it co-hosted the 1996 World Cup. Major teams including England and Australia have toured Pakistan recently after years of isolation following the horrific attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in 2009. Since the ICC awarded Champions Trophy hosting rights to Pakistan in 2021, PCB has been facing constant pressure from the fans to host all the games in the country. PCB has also threatened that it won't send its national teams to India for future ICC events if the latter doesn't cross the border for Champions Trophy. Having said that, Pakistan toured India for the ODI World Cup last year, the team's first visit to the country in seven years. Both India and Pakistan only play each other in ICC events and Asia Cup.



Gukesh draws with Liren in second game of World Championship

PTI ■ SINGAPORE
Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh bounced back to draw a largely uneventful second game against defending champion Ding Liren of China in the World Chess Championship here on Tuesday. Playing with black pieces, Gukesh made a comeback of sorts, having lost to Liren in the opener of the 14-game showdown, on Monday. It was a good recovery by Gukesh as Liren could do very little with his white pieces and had to share the point. "Draw with black in the world championship match is always nice and it's too early, we still have a long match," the Chennai-based GM said in the post-game press conference. "I think after I was surprised in the opening, I reacted pretty decently, and I didn't give him any chances. It was a solid game with black, which is nice," he added. If Monday was the day when nothing he did worked according to plan, Tuesday changed everything for Gukesh as he could not have asked for a better start. Liren did not press at all while Gukesh just followed the basics as the game ended in a draw via repetition soon after black had completed the 23rd turn. It was one of the quietest variations in the Italian opening as Liren probably did not want to rush things having grabbed a full point advantage in the first game

itself. It may be recalled that the Chinese had won the last world championship match against Ian Nepomniachtchi of Russia after coming back from behind as many as three times. The 32-year-old said he was happy with how he performed in the second round. "In the first game I played something new in the opening and of course it requires a lot of memory. Today I also played not a common move (for me) 1.E4 and I prepared a lot," Liren said. "I think it will be a big fight tomorrow. He's a point down and he will have the white pieces, so I am ready for a fight," he added. Liren's fifth move, when he moved his Queen's knight, was indication enough about his peaceful intentions. There have been many top-level games that have ended in draws through this manoeuvre and this game was no exception. Gukesh just had to develop his pieces randomly and the game never really got off to a situation where it could be truly called complicated. Both the Bishops and the Queens were off the board early and what remained were a couple of Knights, the Rooks pair and eight pawns each for both players with hardly any real chances for a breakthrough. The draw was a just result but there was no denying that it was a morale-boosting moment for Gukesh who can

now look up to his next game with optimism with the slightly favourable colour in the game. In head-to-head encounters, Liren has a handsome three-point lead in Classical games and Team Gukesh will now be focused on bringing it down in the USD 2.5 million prize money championship. The 18-year-old Gukesh is the youngest ever challenger to the world crown and is looking to become the first Indian after the iconic Viswanathan Anand to win the title. "There is obviously some pressure for anyone playing in a World Championship; there is a lot of pressure. But I also see it as a privilege that I can represent so many people and my country," he said. "I am just focusing on one game at a time. Hopefully, things go my way," he added. The first player to reach 7.5 points among the two will claim the coveted crown in the USD 2.5 million prize money event. Anand, who has played a major role in shaping Gukesh's career, held the title five times in his illustrious career before Norwegian superstar Magnus Carlsen dethroned him in 2013. The Moves: 1.E4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.D3 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.A4 d6 7.0-0 h6 8.Be3 Be6 9.A5 Bxc4 10.Dxc4 0-0 11.Bxc5 dxc5 12.B3 Qxd1 13.Rfxd1 Rxd8 14.Rdc1 Nd4 15.Ne1 Rd6 16.Kf1 g6 17.Rd1 Rfd8 18.F3 Kg7 19.Kf2 h5 20.Ne2 Nc6 21.Nc3 Nd4 22.Ne2 Nc6 23.Nc3 Nd4 game drawn.



My backstory always gives me confidence to tackle any situation: Yashasvi Jaiswal

PTI ■ PERTH
Brought up in penury, the sensational Yashasvi Jaiswal says he now uses the experience gained from those difficult days as ammunition to conquer the battles on and off the field. Jaiswal stamped his class with a masterful hundred in the first Test against Australia, and is poised to take over the mantle of being India's batting mainstay from the great Virat Kohli, who also made a century after a long time. Having moved to Mumbai from Uttar Pradesh's Bhadoli at age 11 to train at Azad Maidan, Jaiswal lived in tents with the groundsman and sold paani puri at night to earn money for food. "It's something (his backstory) that always gives me confidence that I can come out of any situation. I always fight, I always look to fight, I want to be in the battle, I want to enjoy the

battle and I want to win the battle," Jaiswal said during a chat with Australian television broadcaster Mark Howard. The 22-year-old opener added, "So this is what it gives me and I am really blessed that I have this life, that can give me a lot of confidence, learnings about myself, how I can believe in me, and how I can go through with different emotions, different situation in my life. "So I think it's just incredible and I really want to thank god for where I am and what I am doing, and I am doing what I love, so I am just happy at the moment. I want to enjoy this with every ball." His journey to fame is a fascinating tale of a strong-willed man making his own destiny. His swashbuckling hundred more than made for the first-innings duck at Perth, where the five-match Test series began from November 22. Asked about his unusual

celebration after getting to the three-figure mark, Jaiswal said, "Yes, it was (an unusual) way to bring up the hundred. In my mind, I was like, I will do this or that, and then suddenly, something happened, and I was like, oh my god, what should I do. "So, I was like, okay, I will just celebrate, and I will enjoy this moment. I was blessed, I was grateful, I enjoyed it, this feeling will stay with me for a long time. "I give kisses to all my loved ones, all my fans who have supported me. I just wanted to give them my love with the kisses. He spoke to his family after the fine achievement. "I just called my family on whatsapp, getting everyone along and celebrate with them. My brother always talks to me about cricket." India won the first Test by a huge margin of 297 runs and the second match will be played in Adelaide from December 6.

Gambhir flies back home for 'personal emergency,' to rejoin in Adelaide

PTI ■ PERTH
India head coach Gautam Gambhir has flown back to India with his family due to "personal emergency" and is unlikely to be present during the two-day pink ball warm-up game in Canberra starting November 30. Gambhir, however, is slated to directly link up with the squad in Adelaide before the 'Pink Ball Test' starting December 6. It is understood that Gambhir has sought permission from BCCI brass with regards to his return. "He left with his family on early Tuesday morning for India. It is an unavoidable

personal emergency. He will be back in Adelaide before the start of the second Test match," a BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. The Indian team will leave for Canberra on Wednesday, November 27 where the entire team is expected to attend an official reception thrown in their honour by the Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese. The two-day Pink ball match will give the Indian team a chance to get some game time under its belt. PMXI is a squad full of youngsters but India will get some good match practice with pacer Scott Boland expected to play the game.

Getting Venky was one of our main priorities, says Bravo

PTI ■ JEDDAH
Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo, who is now the mentor of reigning champions Kolkata Knight Riders, has defended the team's strategy of "going all out" for Venkatesh Iyer to keep the "core" of the IPL championship-winning side intact. Seen as a potential captaincy candidate for KKR, Venkatesh's acquisition has sparked some criticism over why he wasn't retained if leadership was part of the team thinktank's plan for him. "Getting Venky (Venkatesh Iyer) was one of the main priorities for us, as you could see, we went all out for him," said Bravo, a four-time IPL winner at Chennai Super Kings. "It's good that we have 90 per



cent of the players from the championship-winning team. That in itself is a positive sign. "It's important to keep your core because when you have to build from scratch, it becomes complicated to make combinations and all." "We started planning while I was in Trinidad. We had come with a proper plan, the players we wanted to target," added Bravo, who will be in charge of all the franchises of the Knight Riders label in T20 leagues. At a staggering Rs 23.75 crore, the 29-year old Madhya Pradesh all-rounder, who has represented India in nine T20Is and two ODIs, emerged as the third most expensive player at the two-day IPL mega auction that concluded here on Monday. Only Rishabh Pant (Lucknow, Rs 27 crore) and Shreyas Iyer

for sure. Quite nerve-wracking because of the nuances. "The think tank's unanimous view was to maintain the structure, which we have done. In certain areas, we have also improved and upgraded. Hopefully, it will continue to work well." Mysore also highlighted the value Rovman Powell would bring to the Kolkata Knight Riders setup, emphasising his extensive experience and leadership qualities. "Rovman Powell, over the years, we have seen what he has done in the CPL, other leagues, and, of course, the IPL as well. He's highly experienced, leads West Indies - that leadership experience, captaincy, and what he has achieved - all of it put together makes him really, really special. Great to have him in the side."

Australia to retain squad for Adelaide Test, Marsh's fitness will be monitored: McDonald

PTI ■ PERTH
Australia will not make any change to the squad that took a 295-run hammering from India in the opening Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test here but there are some fitness concerns over all-rounder Mitchell Marsh's ability to bowl, coach and selector Andrew McDonald has said. Following the crushing loss, McDonald revealed that the team would land in Adelaide for the day-night second Test beginning December 6 earlier than planned to allow an additional net session. "The people in that change-room (for Perth Test) are the

same people that will be in Adelaide," McDonald was quoted as saying by "cricket.Com.Au." "It (making changes) is always a consideration, wherever you go in the world in terms of the personnel you pick for conditions." Marsh, who bowled just 17 overs in the first Test for a match haul of three wickets, has been dealing with "niggles" since the white-ball tour of England in September. Skipper Pat Cummins has already revealed that Marsh finished the first Test "a little bit sore." McDonald expressed satisfaction with Marsh's

bowling performance in the first innings but said his fitness would be monitored closely moving forward. "Has he (Marsh) pulled up okay? We'll wait and see," McDonald said. "No, we didn't feel that (was a weakness). We knew that Mitch (Marsh) was slightly underdone coming in, but I thought the performance in the first innings was satisfactory." Another player under scanner is top-order batter Marnus Labuschagne, who has struggled for form with an average of just 13.66 in his last 10 Test innings. However, McDonald said he



has faith in Labuschagne's abilities, describing him as "the player we need" and urging him to rediscover his form.

"That's an ongoing discussion and that ebbs and flows in players' careers, so at the moment he's in one of those patches and no doubt he'll be

getting critiqued externally," McDonald said. "But internally we're really confident that, at his best, he's the player that we need." When asked if Labuschagne's struggles were due to a technical issue, McDonald responded: "It's always a combination of factors, isn't it, with the mindset? "There's some technical aspects to that also within the mindset play. So as I said, we're really confident that he can turn that around." The decision to ask debutant Nathan McSweeney to open the innings backfired as he scored just 10 and 0 in his two innings. McSweeney had

enjoyed success in first-class cricket, as had Beau Webster, but neither of them has the experience of being an opener. "I think there's been enough players banging down the door. I feel as though we've got some depth there if called upon," he said. "I think sometimes people look at the pure numbers of what's happening in Shield cricket, but it's sometimes hard to get a connection with the surfaces they're playing on. So we feel as though we've got ample players available if called upon." Despite the heavy defeat, McDonald said morale of the

team was strong. "I think we've got to own it, and we've got to own that as coaches as well. So there will be a semblance of review around what we have done and what we can learn from it," McDonald said. "But I think morale is pretty good. I think this team is really good at the highs and lows, it's quite a level team, so we'll be somewhere in the middle of that." The coach also stated that while a review of the performance would take place, the team's preparation had been sound, and they were focused on the challenges ahead.