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Established 1865

LUCKNOW, TUESDAY NOVEMBER 26, 2024; PAGES 12 ₹3

www.dailypioneer.com

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

INSIDE

WORLD 9 HEZBOLLAH CEASEFIRE DEAL COULD COME 'WITHIN DAYS'



Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth

RAHUL DATTA ■ PTI/NEW DELHI/PERTH

India, on Monday, created history when it trounced Australia in the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy cricket Test match in Perth's Optus Stadium, and became the first country to beat the hosts at this Test centre. This is India's biggest ever Test win in Australia, as it lost by 295 runs. This emphatic victory came close on the heels of a three-nil drubbing in as many Test matches at home at the hands of New Zealand a few weeks ago. Moreover, India was bowled out by Australia in the first innings for a meagre 150 runs raising doubts of its prowess to tame the mighty hosts. After setting a mammoth 534-run target, India bowled Australia out

for 238 to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series under stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah. In another achievement, India washed away its New Zealand defeat by this victory and stormed back to the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) standings with 61.11 percentage points. This victory is India's biggest ever, surpassing their previous record of 222 runs, set back in 1978 in Sydney when Australia fielded a weakened side amidst the mass exodus for the Kerry Packer World Series. The stand-in skipper led from the front with a match-haul of 8/72 as India bowled out the hosts for 238 in 58.4 overs on the fourth afternoon of the opening Test. India are now 1-0 up in the five-Test series with regular skipper Rohit Sharma ready



to take over during the Day/Night game starting December 6 in Adelaide. "We were put under pressure in the first innings, but the way we

responded was great," a smiling Bumrah, who was deservedly adjudged man of the match, said after the game. "I played here in 2018 - I remember the wicket started

soft. This one was less spicy, we were really well prepared. I told everyone to keep faith... If you have faith in your abilities, then you can do something special," he added. While Yashvir Jaiswal, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul will be among the heroes with their solid second innings batting performances, it was Bumrah's unbelievable skill-set and self belief during Australia's first innings rout that formed the cornerstone of India's win. 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. Prior to the Test, Bumrah spoke about embracing challenges and he did walk the talk during all four days.

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Musical chairs in Maharashtra CMO?

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

While the incumbent Chief Minister Eknath Shinde from Shiv Sena and his Deputy Ajit Pawar from the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are leaving no stone unturned to retain their positions, after the just concluded Maharashtra polls, another deputy CM, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Devendra Fadnavis has emerged as front runner to be the next chief CM of Maharashtra, for the second time. As per the 'musical chair option' for the MahaYuti faction Shinde could be deputy CM with Pawar, and then they may take turns later to be CM, as party insiders said that they will not back down from their claims since they supported the BJP to come in National Democratic Alliance (NDA) fold by breaking their parent parties. Sources said that the BJP's top leadership has reportedly cleared the names of Fadnavis

as CM, and the other two as Dy CMs, and have approved of the arrangement for the next government, Shinde will get 12 ministers and the NCP is likely to get 10 berths, sources said. Fadnavis will serve as CM for the first two-and-a-half years, after which Eknath Shinde will assume the role for the remainder of the term and once Fadnavis steps down as CM, he is expected to be appointed the BJP's national president. Party sources said Shinde, Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar are scheduled to meet Home Minister Amit Shah, and a formal announcement about the new government will be made after the meeting. MahaYuti alliance scripted a historic victory in Maharashtra assembly elections by winning 235 seats in the 288-member House. The BJP led the MahaYuti's victory by winning 132 seats - the highest among all allies. Shinde Sena won 57 seats and Ajit Pawar-led NCP won 41 seats in the election.

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SC tells CAQM to relax restrictions on educational institutions

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, on Monday, directed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to consider relaxing the restrictions on physical classes of schools, colleges and educational institutions in Delhi-National Capital Region, noting students were being deprived of mid-day meals and lacked wherewithal to attend virtual classes. The restrictions on physical classes of schools and colleges were imposed recently due to severe air pollution. The SC, meanwhile, ordered the CAQM to initiate action against the officials of Delhi government and Delhi Police under Section 14 of

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) Act for deploying police personnel admittedly only in 23 checkpoints, instead of all, on November 18 when GRAP IV kicked in. The SC also observed that a large number of students did not have air purifiers, suggesting that there may be little difference in conditions for children studying at home versus those attending school. A Bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih, however, refused to relax the anti-pollution GRAP-IV restrictions in Delhi-NCR and said unless it was satisfied that there was consistent decrease in AQI levels, it cannot order curbs below GRAP-III or GRAP-II.



Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

Conduct classes in hybrid mode: CAQM

Following the SC directions, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), late on Monday, directed Delhi and state governments of the NCR to consider conducting classes in hybrid mode. The CAQM allowed institutions to conduct classes both in "physical

and also "online" modes, wherever feasible, in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Naga. "The option to exercise online mode of education, wherever available, shall vest with the students and their guardians," it said.

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Meanwhile, residents in the National Capital woke up to a sunny morning on Monday. Still, a thin layer of smog covered major areas in the city and the air quality in the national capital witnessed a slight improvement in comparison to last week, as the AQI dipped to 289 in the morning from hazardous to an unhealthy level. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) recorded an average AQI at 349 while IQ Air also recorded air pollution 374 at 4.30 pm which showed 706 in the afternoon. PM2.5 concentration is 52.4 times the World Health Organization (WHO) annual PM2.5 guideline value.

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Country-made firearms used in Sambhal, death toll rises to four

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ SAMBHAL

The violence in Sambhal, sparked by a dispute over a mosque survey, has claimed four lives, all caused by bullets fired from country-made firearms. Authorities confirmed the findings through post-mortem reports as tensions remain high in the city. Moradabad Commissioner Anjaneya Kumar stated, "The post-mortem findings confirm that country-made firearms were used in all four fatalities. A magisterial inquiry will be conducted into these deaths." The unrest, which began last week, prompted the district administration to take stringent measures. District Magistrate Rajendra Painsiya ordered the closure of all educational institutions on Monday and imposed restrictions on the entry of outsiders, social organizations, and public representatives into Sambhal until November 30. Efforts to restore calm were disrupted on Monday afternoon when Zafar Ali, head of the Shahi Jama Masjid, made allegations against a Circle Officer (CO) during a press conference. Ali accused the officer of ordering water to be drained from the mosque's 'hauz' (ablution tank), which allegedly overflowed and drew a crowd outside the mosque. "When I questioned the CO about this, he abused me, used his baton on the people, and threatened to deal with me harshly if I continued asking questions," Ali alleged during the briefing. The situation took another turn when police detained Zafar Ali following the press conference, sparking renewed tension in the area.

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Parliament adjourns early, on day one of Winter Session



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Monday. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju and Ministers of State Jitendra Singh, Arjun Ram Meghwal and L. Murugan are also seen. Photo: Ranjan Dimri/The Pioneer

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Buoyed by the massive success in recent Assembly polls, after a tepid Lok Sabha performance that had dampened the ruling party's stature, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday came with regained confidence and attacked the Opposition saying "those rejected by people 80-90 times" were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for their own political gains. Addressing the media ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, PM Modi said such a handful of people did not succeed in their intentions but people of the country observed their actions and punished them at an appropriate time. However, minutes after the PM urged the Members to allow the Parliament to function smoothly, and give opportunity to the new MPs, both the Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, were adjourned due to the ruckus by the Opposition, over the latest Adani Group controversy. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked political

parties to avoid ruckus in the House in the name of protests. In view of the Constitution Day celebrations in Samvidhan Sadan on Tuesday, Birla urged the members of various political parties to engage in a meaningful dialogue. President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to start the year-long celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution at a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan. PM Modi's remarks came days after the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition won the Maharashtra Assembly elections by a landslide, bagging 235 seats and relegating the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi to a distant 49 seats in the 288-member House. Earlier, the BJP had registered a surprise third consecutive victory in the Haryana polls, trouncing the Congress, which was billed as a pre-poll favourite. "There should be a healthy debate in the Parliament but, unfortunately, certain individuals are trying to control

Parliament for their own political gains, resorting to disruptions and chaos. Though their tactics ultimately fail, the people watch their behaviour closely and deliver justice when the time comes," he added. The PM said he had been repeatedly urging opposition colleagues, and some also agreed that Parliament should function smoothly. The Winter Session of Parliament began on Monday and is scheduled to continue till December 20. "The most troubling aspect, however, is that such behaviour (disruptions) stifles the rights of new MPs, those who bring fresh ideas and energy from all parties," the PM said. He also said the new members were often denied opportunities to speak in the House. "We, as their representatives, must live up to these sentiments. It is time to reflect on the time we have lost so far and resolve to compensate by thoroughly debating various issues in the House," he said, adding, "Future generations will read and draw inspiration from these discussions. I hope this session will be highly productive, enhance the prestige of the Constitution's 75th year, strengthen Bharat's global stature, provide opportunities to new MPs, and welcome new ideas," he said. "With this spirit, I once again invite and welcome all esteemed members of Parliament to approach this session with enthusiasm and vigour," the PM said. He added that the current session of Parliament was special in many ways, with the most significant aspect being the 75-year journey of the Constitution. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed dismay over the Chair in both Houses of Parliament disallowing the opposition to raise under Rule 267 the issue of corruption allegations against the Adani Group and said the government should "let the truth come out" as the matter is affecting the country's image.



People protesting against a proposed ropeway project along the trek route to the Vaishno Devi shrine clash with police personnel, at Katra in Reasi district, PTI

Local tradesman wary of Vaishno Devi ropeway project

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Katra township, the base camp of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine located in the Trikuta hills Monday witnessed violent protests against the proposed ropeway project cleared by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board authorities last week. The 250-crore ropeway project between Tarakote Marg to Sanjhi Chhat along the 13-kilometer track is expected to be a game changer for millions of devotees paying obeisance inside the sanctum sanctorum. A large number of devotees welcomed the ropeway project and claimed it would make the spiritual journey more inclusive and accessible while maintaining the sanctity of the pilgrimage. In contrast, local shopkeepers, pony wallahs,

and palanquin owners have been protesting peacefully for the last three days demanding immediate withdrawal of the proposal or proper rehabilitation of all families likely to be affected by the project. Carrying banners and placards, they raised slogans against the Shrine Board and the ropeway project, which they claim, would render them jobless. However, peaceful demonstrations on Monday abruptly turned unruly after hundreds of protesters, assembled in the main chowk of Katra town went berserk. The agitators attacked a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) vehicle and broke its windshield forcing law enforcement agencies to launch a crackdown to disperse the large crowd. Chaos prevailed in the area as agitators ran helter-skelter.

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Cabinet approves One Nation One Subscription

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Monday approved One Nation One Subscription scheme to provide country-wide access to international high impact scholarly research articles and journal publications to students, faculty and researchers of all Higher Education Institutions managed by the Central government and State governments and Research & Development Institutions of the Central government. The initiative will open a goldmine of knowledge available in top quality scholarly journals to nearly 1.8 crore students, faculty, researchers and scientists of all disciplines, including those in tier-two and tier-three cities, thereby encouraging core as well as interdisciplinary research in the country. A total of 30 major international journal publishers have been included in One Nation One Subscription. All of the nearly 13,000 e-journals published by these publishers will now be accessible to more than 6,300 government Higher Education Institutions and central government R&D institutions.

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NSUI bags DUSU president post after seven years

SAUMYA SHUKLA ■ NEW DELHI

After biting the dust in the recently held state Assembly elections including the big jolts in Maharashtra and Haryana, the Congress party's student wing the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Monday bagged two posts in the keenly contested Delhi University Student Union (DUSU) elections. The Congress-backed student body is making the claim on the presidential post after a period of seven years. However, the celebrations, which are usually



Newly elected DUSU president Ronak Khatri, and joint secretary Lokesh Chaudhary of NSUI celebrate their win. Photo: Ranjan Dimri/Pioneer

accompanied with dhols, colours and loud music, was replaced by a rather quiet one even though the members of the Congress student wing chanted slogans for the winning candidates, even as the counting began early at DU's North Campus under tight security with the police deploying three-layer barricading at the counting centre, ensuring law and order. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's (ABVP) also secured two posts including Vice President and Secretary.

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Meerut groom chases down pickup driver in Bollywood-style drama

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■ LUCKNOW

Weddings are meant to be joyous occasions, but for Dev Kumar, a newlywed groom in Meerut, his post-wedding journey turned into an action-packed thriller worthy of a Bollywood blockbuster. The star of the show? Dev himself, who chased down a pickup driver accused of snatching a Rs 100 note from his traditional 'currency note garland' on NH-58. Deeked out in his wedding finery, including a vibrant red turban and a garland of Rs 100 notes, Dev was on his way home after the festivities when a sneaky pickup driver

allegedly swiped a note from his prized garland. Dev, however, was not one to let the matter slide. Spotting the theft, the groom sprang into action. He flagged down a passing motorist, requesting a lift, and the two embarked on a dramatic chase through Meerut's bustling National Highway. The suspense heightened as Dev closed in on the alleged thief's vehicle. Then came the pièce de résistance: Dev leapt onto the moving truck, climbing through the passenger-side window with all the agility of a seasoned stuntman. Caught on video, the scene has since gone viral, showing Dev retrieving his garland



from the startled driver's grasp and climbing back out of the truck - still dressed in his wedding attire. As the drama unfolded, Dev's relatives arrived at the scene, adding reinforcements to ensure the driver did not

escape. What could have been a simple case of theft quickly transformed into a comedy goldmine for social media users. One X (formerly Twitter) user quipped, "Cash mala was more important

than varmala." Another joked, "Plot twist: The groom planned this to avoid the wedding night!" Comparisons to Bhojpuri action sequences and punchlines like "UP is not for beginners" dominated the online chatter. The video also captured the accused driver, later identified as Manish Sehgal, pleading with the groom to spare him as Dev and his relatives delivered a stern lesson in highway justice. While Dev Kumar has been hailed as a local hero, Manish Sehgal offers a different take on the incident. According to Sehgal, he had nothing to do with the alleged theft.

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Man murdered after only ₹125 found in bag looted from him

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
The 43-year-old man, whose body was recovered near Kathauta Lake in the Chinhat police station area on November 13, was killed in frustration by accused, who found only Rs 125 in the bag they initially looted from him, police said on Monday. The victim, Fareed Anwar of Phoolbagh Colony in Gudamba, was found murdered in Chinhat with injury marks on the body on November 13 morning. Chinhat police on Monday claimed to have worked out the case and arrested two accused, identified as Suraj alias Arjun (26), and Uddesh Kumar (22). The accused are relatives, both originally from Barabanki, and live in shanties in the Vibhuti Khand area. The body of the middle-aged man, who had gone missing the day before, was found lying near Kathauta lake, with marks of injury on the neck and other body parts. The deceased's bike was found

parked a short distance away. After identifying the deceased as Fareed Anwar, his brother Moid Anwar suspected foul play and filed a written complaint with Chinhat police, after which Section 103(1) of the BNS (murder) was registered. "The accused told police during interrogation that they lured the victim with a drink when they met him near Polytechnic crossing on November 12 evening, as they believed he had money in a small pouch. They overpowered him to steal his bag after intoxicating him. However, when they discovered only Rs 125 inside, they used a belt to strangle him out of fear of being caught and left his body there," Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Pankaj Kumar Singh said. The ADCP further pointed out that over 100 CCTV cameras were scanned, as the accused were not using mobile phones and were not locals, making their identification difficult.

"Two teams were formed, and with the help of manual surveillance and CCTV cameras, the duo were apprehended on Sunday," said the ADCP. According to the police, they faced difficulties as many of the CCTV cameras were not working in the Kathauta lake area, which is usually dark at night. "However, we scanned the available cameras to find clues," the ADCP said while addressing reporters. "The accused, Suraj, has two previous cases registered in his name. Multiple other charges have been added to the FIR after his arrest," said the police.

PRIEST'S CHARRED BODY FOUND
Meanwhile, the charred body of an elderly priest was found on Monday morning at the Bamant Mata Temple in Gorakhpur. It is suspected to be an accident, police said. The deceased was identified as Ganga Das, 95, who had been sleeping in the temple's veranda at the time of the incident

in the Gulriha area of Gorakhpur district, they said. According to police, by the morning, his body was reduced to ashes, with only part of the head remaining intact. A police official said Ganga Das, who was hearing and speech impaired, was unable to call for help, which is why the incident went unnoticed during the night. City Superintendent of Police (SP) Abhinav Tyagi and a police team visited the scene and sent the body for post-mortem. "The exact cause of death is yet to be determined, but preliminary investigations suggest it may have been accidental. It is suspected that the priest lit a fire to stay warm in the cold night, which tragically led to the incident," the police officials said. Ganga Das, a resident of Jungle Dumri Number Two, had been living at the temple for a long time, the police said, adding they are continuing their investigation into the matter.

Kabir Festival from Nov 29

Lucknow (PNS): The Kabir Festival, a three-day celebration of film, music, theatre, art, and friendship, will kick off from in the city on November 29. Organisers said that this year's theme is 'Haman Hai Ishq Mastana'. Preparations for the Kabir Festival have been underway for over a month and a half, with events scheduled across multiple venues. Prior to Diwali, a curtain-raiser event—dance drama—was held, followed by multiple shows of 'Haman Hai Ishq Mastana' at various colleges and universities, including Arts College, Avadh Girls' College, Mumtaz Degree College, Karamat, and others. Alongside this, performances of the famous play 'Maa Mujhe Tagore Bana Do' are also being organised across various institutions. "As part of the Kabir Festival commencing on November 29, a team led by Dr Avinash Kumar, visiting professor at IIM-Kozhikode, will conduct an engaging three-day workshop to help participants understand cinema better. The workshop will focus on themes like gender, nation, and history in films, using film clips. On November 29, the play 'Maa Mujhe Tagore Bana Do' will be staged.

Govt has spent ₹40,000 crore on welfare schemes in 6 yrs

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
The Yogi Adityanath-led government in Uttar Pradesh has implemented a range of welfare schemes to uplift every section of society, including the poor, the deprived, the women and the elderly. Over the past six years, approximately five crore needy individuals have benefited from the initiatives of the Social Welfare department, with more than Rs 40,000 crore allocated to these efforts. Social Welfare Director Kumar Prashant stated, "In line with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, a continuous campaign is underway to extend the benefits of welfare schemes to the poor and the marginalised people. In this sequence, the department has provided support to 4,86,38,827 beneficiaries under 11 different schemes over the past six years, from 2018-19 to 2023-24. The Yogi government has allocated Rs 40,667 crore for this purpose." He further explained that under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, monthly pensions are provided to senior citizens. Over the last six years, Rs 25,09,730 lakh has been distributed to 3,62,57,918 beneficiaries under this scheme. "Similarly, the National Family Benefit Scheme offers a lump sum financial assistance of Rs 30,000 to the head of a family living below the poverty line. Under this scheme, Rs 2,03,326 lakh has been provided to

6,77,755 families," he added. Prashant highlighted that following Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's instructions, efforts are being made to identify every needy individual and ensure they receive the benefits of welfare schemes. "Under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana, the department organises marriages programmes adhering to the customs of various communities and religions. Through this scheme, 3,67,652 couples have been married, with the UP government allocating Rs 1,84,030 lakh for the initiative," he said. The social welfare director further detailed the support provided under the Scholarship and Fee Reimbursement Scheme for students belonging to Scheduled Caste and general categories. "Under the Pre-Matric Scholarship Distribution Scheme, scholarships worth Rs 47,308 lakh were distributed to 19,85,389 Scheduled Caste students, while Rs 17,202 lakh benefited 6,38,669 general category students," he informed. Similarly, under the Post-Matric Scholarship and Fee Reimbursement Scheme, Rs 4,84,405 lakh was disbursed to 51,96,409 Scheduled Caste students, and Rs 3,43,088 lakh was allocated for 30,60,875 general category students. He further informed that financial assistance is also being provided to Scheduled Caste individuals affected by atrocities under the Financial Assistance Scheme. "Through this

scheme, Rs 1,29,568 lakh has been disbursed to 1,35,030 families," he said. Additionally, the Yogi government is operating pre-examination training centres to support students in their academic and career aspirations. "Under this initiative, 5,103 students have benefited, with Rs 2,913 lakh allocated for the programme," he added. The department is also operating Scheduled Caste hostels across Uttar Pradesh, benefiting 53,862 students over the past six years, with Rs 18,670 lakh allocated for this initiative. Additionally, Jai Prakash Narayan Sarvodaya Vidyalayas (formerly Rajkiya Ashram Paddhati Vidyalayas) are being run across the state, benefiting 2,01,693 students during the same period, with an expenditure of Rs 18,670 lakh. Under the Mukhyamantri Abhyudaya Yojana, 51,608 beneficiaries have been supported in the last four years, with Rs 4,666 lakh spent by the Yogi government. Furthermore, the maintenance of parents and senior citizens, along with old age homes, has benefited 6,864 individuals in just one year, at an expenditure of Rs 6,193 lakh. To ensure the inclusion of transgender individuals in the mainstream, the Uttar Pradesh Transgender Welfare Board was established. Through this initiative, various campaigns and programmes are being organised across the state for the protection and welfare of transgender individuals.

Family alleges youth stripped, forced to chant Jai Shri Ram

PTI ■ MEERUT
A youth was allegedly beaten, stripped and forced to chant Jai Shri Ram here, his family alleged on Monday. However, police have denied that he was stripped and forced to chant by the accused and said that it prima facie appears to be a case of emnity. The incident took place at around 8 pm on Saturday when Gulfam, a resident of Sofipur village in Pallavpuram, was returning home after prac-

tising at a private shooting range in Mangal Pandey Nagar, his father, Aftab, said. Aftab alleged that Gulfam was taken to Victoria Park by three youths on a motorcycle where they beat him, stripped him and forced him to chant Jai Shri Ram. They also snatched his mobile phone. Family members of the victim also claimed that he fell unconscious after he was thrashed and stripped. However, the police have denied the charges of stripping and forced chanting. SHO, Civil Lines Mahavir Singh said, "There is no mention of forcing the victim to chant Jai Shri Ram in the FIR. It is a prima facie case of emnity between youths." Based on Aftab's complaint, an FIR was registered in the case Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace) and 324 (mischievous), Circle officer, Civil Lines, Abhishek Tiwari. Efforts are being made to arrest the accused, SHO Singh said. Gulfam is presently undergoing treatment at a private hospital here. He is preparing for the national shooting competition, his family said.

Martyred soldier's wife alleges rape by nephew

PNS ■ LUCKNOW
The wife of a martyred soldier residing in Lucknow has filed a rape case against her nephew, accusing him of blackmail and extortion, police said on Monday. She alleged that the nephew blackmailed her with an obscene video, extorted Rs 39 lakh in cash, and took jewellery worth Rs 3 lakh, they added. When she tried to distance herself from him, he allegedly threatened to make the video public. The police have registered a case and are investigating the matter. The 39-year-old woman was married to an army man in 2003. Her husband was martyred during the Siachen attack in 2017, leaving her with one child. After her husband's death, her brother-in-law's son, a resident of Hardoi in Shahabad, frequently visited her home under the guise of providing support. The woman alleged that he gained her trust by playing the sympathy card before carrying out his malicious plan. The family had received Rs 50 lakh as financial assistance from the government following the soldier's death.

During one of his visits, the nephew allegedly raped her and began blackmailing her with obscene videos. Over time, he continued to exploit her sexually and demanded money, threatening to leak the video if she refused. He reportedly claimed that he would delete the video only if she met his monetary demands. Fearing defamation and blackmail, the victim said she paid him Rs 39 lakh in instalments and also handed over jewellery worth Rs 3 lakh. When she asked him to delete the video, he refused and, in a disturbing turn of events, shot himself in the hand to intimidate her. He allegedly warned her that if he could harm himself, he would not hesitate to harm her or others. The victim, terrified by his threats, remained silent until now. Police have confirmed that an investigation is underway based on her complaint.

The prime accused was identified as Dharmendra Sharma of Jaunpur (presently staying in Sambhalkhera). Sharma and his aide were accused of gang-raping the minor girl on November 23. The police worked on the case and nabbed the accused, who reportedly owned up to their crime. The accused were arrested near vegetable market in Bariganj. Reports said that the minor accused was in contact with the victim and he lured her into going along with him. Later, the prime accused joined them and both took turns raping the girl. In another case, a sales manager of a private bank allegedly raped a woman on the pretext of financial help in Gomti Nagar on Monday. The accused, identified as Lareb Zaidi of Wazirganj, works as a sales manager at a private bank in Gomti Nagar Extension. The girl had filed a complaint on November 24, alleging that the accused assaulted and raped her. The police registered a case based on the complaint and arrested Lareb in Gomti Nagar Extension on Monday, a spokesman said.



NOTICE

My correct name is Chaitanya Dubey S/O Arun Dubey which is mentioned in all Govt. record by mistake lie my name is mentioned in policy no 230580427 as Kanu Dubey which is my house hold name in future I will be known as Chaitanya Dubey S/O Arun Dubey R/O 117/336.O block Geeta Nagar Kanpur

NOTICE

I have changed my name from Saurabh to Saurabh Kumar S/O Rakesh Kumar R/O Melthua, Raebareilly, U.P. Both are my names and I should be known and identified by the name of Saurabh Kumar in future.

NOTICE

I have changed my name Faisal Hasan to Faisal Khan S/O Kasim Khan for future purpose.Zafarpur, Mardanpur, Kaushambi.

NOTICE

I have changed my name Kasim Hasan to Kasim Khan S/O Kayyum for future purpose.Zafarpur, Mardanpur, Kaushambi.

NOTICE

I have changed my name Ajeej Ahmad to Ajiz Ahmad S/O Hasmat Ulla for future purpose.Baswari Aurenki Kaushambi.

NOTICE

It is to inform general public that Original Allotment Letter Possession Letter and Lease Deed executed by UPVP in favour of Vijay Shankar Srivastava, regarding House No.13/81 Area 249.70 Sq.Mtrs., Situated at Indira Nagar Lucknow, registered with Chief Sub Registrar, Lucknow in Book No.1, Volume 3745, Pages 679-688 at Serial No. 2151 on 05.02.1991, now owned by Vijay Shankar Srivastava, has been lost at Engineering College, Chauraha, Lucknow on 07.11.2024 at 5 PM-6 PM during getting its photocopy. Now, buyer/proposed owner Sumita Sanjay is purchasing said property which will be mortgaged with CICI/HFC against loan. Use of this lost sale deed by any other person will be void. If any person or financial institution has find it kindly return or has any interest or objection in this regard, please contact to Advocate mentioned below with objection in writing and with relevant documents, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Mr. Amit Kumar Singh Kathaur Avenue, Chamber No.7, UGF, Krishna Tower, Chakbast Road, Quaisarbagh, Lucknow. Mobile No.9559811119

Pink scooter rally raises issue of women safety

Lucknow (PNS): A pink scooty rally was organised on Monday by the girl students of Lucknow University in collaboration with Lucknow police. The rally was flagged off by Lucknow University Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Rai and Mission Shakti nodal officer Dr Manini Srivastava on the foundation day of Mission Shakti Phase-5. Rai stated that in alignment with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's vision, the rally aimed to raise awareness about women's safety across the state. Over 250 pink scooters participated, including a large number of female students and women police officers, showcasing the collective commitment to the cause. The rally commenced at 9 am and concluded at 10:30 am at the 1090 crossing, passing through Hanuman Setu Temple, Hazratganj crossing, Raj Bhavan, and Loreto crossing.



Alumni honoured at LU foundation day

Lucknow (PNS): The University of Lucknow celebrated its 104th Foundation Day alongside an Alumni Meet at Malviya Hall on Monday. Governor Anandiben Patel was present at the event, which was a blend of cultural performances, speeches, and alumni interactions. In her message, Patel emphasised the need for quality education and greater connections between educational institutions and society to address social issues. The cultural programme began with a presentation from Abhigyan Shakuntalam,

followed by a Kathak recital by Priyam Yadav, and a traditional song by students from Kazakhstan. A guitar performance by Abhin Shyam and a solo dance by Sarvagya Tiwari were also featured. Kathak dancer Prof Kumkum Dhar was the chief guest on the occasion. Six distinguished alumni were honoured during the ceremony: Dr Pramod Tandon, Justice Rajesh Singh Chauhan, Leela Jauhari, Mukesh Sharma, Ajay Singh, and Dr Dhananjay Singh. LU Vice-Chancellor Prof Alok Kumar Rai welcomed the

alumni and stressed the university's commitment to excellence. Reflecting on his journey since joining in 2020, he highlighted the transition from Education 4.0 to Education 5.0, with the integration of AI and humanism in learning. He also celebrated the university's recent achievements, including its NAAC A++ accreditation and high international student applications. Dr Ajey Singh, Press Secretary to the President of India, spoke of the university's unique atmosphere, while Dhananjay Singh praised the irreplaceable role of teachers.

LDA demolishes, seals off unauthorised buildings

Lucknow (PNS): The anti-encroachment squad of Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) on Monday removed unauthorised portions of under-construction multi-storey buildings located in the Mahanagar, Jankipuram, and Gudamba areas. In addition, it sealed off five shops and an unfinished house for violating the land-use policy or failing to submit the layout plan to the mapping department for approval. It is reported that more than 80 per cent of developers violate the rules and regulations set by the UP Urban Development Act, designing projects contrary to the original layout plan to suit their interests. Seventy per cent of them simply ignore submitting the layout plan to the mapping department for approval. LDA Vice-Chairman Prathmesh Kumar said that developers must strictly follow the guidelines to maintain uniformity and better planning. He added that violators would be blacklisted soon, and the list of such violators was with the LDA. Field officers, in their findings submitted to the VC, had charged that multi-storey buildings being built for shopping complexes and a building intended for a housing society had violated the guidelines in the aforementioned areas. The LDA had served notices on these developers. The anti-encroachment squad reached the sites after the expiry of the deadline. Initially, there was a heated exchange at all three locations, but the situation was defused as armed police accompanied the squad.

Robots to manage fire incidents

PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

On Monday, Additional Director General of Police Padmaja Chauhan (Uttar Pradesh, Fire and Emergency Services) conducted a surprise inspection at the headquarters of Fire and Emergency Services for the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj to assess the fire safety preparations for Maha Mumbh 2025. During the inspection, she reviewed the condition of the equipment and vehicles designated for fire prevention at the event. She also witnessed a grand rehearsal showcasing the ultra-modern equipment to manage fire incidents in the fairgrounds and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements. She stated, "Following the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, our goal this time is to ensure Maha Kumbh remains a zero-fire incident event. However, should any incident occur, the department is fully equipped to control the fire instantly using advanced technology." Prayagraj Chief Fire Officer and Nodal Officer of the fair, Pramod Sharma, stated that during the inspection, a dress rehearsal was conducted showcasing various fire-fighting equipment and vehicles, including smoke exhausters, hand control branches, revolving branches, diving heads, collecting heads, bolt cutters, electric gulps, blankets, bat-

MAHA KUMBH 2025

tery-operated hydraulic cutters, harnesses, searchlights, fire retardant spray, fire hooks, and trolley-mounted high-pressure portable extinguishers, all demonstrated in front of the ADG. He further mentioned that a mock drill featuring state-of-the-art equipment such as firefighting robots, ATVs, fire bullets, foam tenders, FQRVs, and articulating water towers was also carried out at Elephant Parking. The firefighting robot, which is being used for the first time at Maha Kumbh, has the capability to extinguish fires using advanced technology. These robots will be particularly effective in controlling fires in narrow and congested areas where traditional fire brigade vehicles and personnel are unable to access.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
RushikulyaBahuda Basin, Berhampur - 760004
e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e-Procurement Notice No. ACE/RBB - 07/2024-25

- Type of Work :- Building Work.
- Total No of Works :- 01 (One) No.
- Amount put to tender :- Rs. 136.06 Lakh
- Period of completion :- 11 (Eleven) calendar months
- Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A'

Procurement officer	Bid Identification No.	Bid Amount (Rs. in lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, RushikulyaBahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE/RBB(BNID) - 08/2024-25	136.06	From 28.11.2024, 10.00 A.M. to 13.12.2024, 5.00 P.M.

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:-16.12.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Additional Chief Engineer,
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin,
Berhampur

OIPR-32411/11/0011/2425

ARYAVART BANK आर्यावर्त बैंक
(A Joint Undertaking of Govt. of India, U.P. Govt. & Bank of India) (संयुक्त उद्यम, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार एवं बैंक ऑफ इंडिया का संयुक्त उद्यम)

Regional Office: Lucknow Aryavart Bhawan 569/20/K/1 Sneh Nagar VIP Road Opp Awadh Hospital Alambagh Lucknow

Possession Notice Under Rule-8(1) (for Imovable Properties)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of ARYAVART BANK, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the securities Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand notice in the account mentioned hereunder on the dates mentioned before the names calling upon the borrower and guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notices along with interest within 60 days from the date of receipts said notices. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower and guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notices are hereby given to the Borrower/legal Heirs of borrower and guarantor in particular and the public in general that the undersigned has taken the possession of the properties described here below in exercise of power conferred on him under sub-section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each property. The borrower/legal heirs of borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealing with the under noted property will be subject to the charge of ARYAVART BANK for the amount with interest and other charges etc. thereon. **The Borrower's/Guarantors attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets**

Details of Properties whose possession has been taken are as follows:-

Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Branch	Description of the properties	Am't. due as per demand notice Date Demand notice Date of Possession
(1) Smt. Neelam Mishra W/o Shri Praveen Mishra (Mortgagor & Guarntor), 538K/1230, Yogi Nagar, Triveni Nagar Lucknow-226020 &	Residential Property: Plot Khasra No. 178, Gazipur, Balrampur, Ward- Faizullhaganj, Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 08.08.2012, TITLE HOLDER- Smt. Neelam Mishra W/o Shri. Praveen Mishra, Boundaries: East- Bhomni Deegar, West: Plot Smt. Maneesha Lal, North: Bhoomi Deegar, South: Rasta 20 Feet Wide	Rs. 6,08,966.17 and interest thereon 27.08.2024 25.11.2024
(2) M/s Sai Fruit Traders (Borrower) Prop: Shri Gyan Prakash Awasthi S/o Shri Radhey Shyam Awasthi (Borrower), 538K/1230, Yogi Nagar, Triveni Nagar Lucknow-226020 & Shri Praveen Kumar Mishra S/o Shri Devi Dayal Mishra (Borrower), Khasra No. 178, Gazipuram Balram Ward-Faizullhaganj Lucknow-226020	AREA-62.732 Sq.mt.	
(3) Shri. Anil Kumar Bajpai S/o Shri Shiv Prakash Bajpai (Guarantor), House No. 616/114, Basant Vihar Police Station Madiyon Lucknow-226024 Branch: Vikas Nagar	Residential Property: House No. ED-367, Situated at Sector-Q, Ailaganj Yojna, Lucknow, As Per Sale Deed Dated 05.03.2013, TITLE HOLDER- Shri. Rajesh Srivastava S/o Late Raj Kumar Srivastava, Boundaries: East-House No. 363, West: House No. 371, North: House No. 365, South: Path	Rs. 6,91,426.06 and interest thereon 13.08.2024 20.11.2024
(1) Shri. Rajesh Kumar Srivastava (Borrower & Mortgagor) S/o Shri Raj Kumar Srivastava, ED-376 Sector-Q Ailaganj-Lucknow Pin-226024 (2) Shri Satish Chandra Tripathi (Guarantor) S/o Shri Raj Kumar Tripathi, 643A/168, Paltan Chawani Sitapur Road Scheme, Jankipuram Lucknow-226021 (3) Shri. Navneet Baranwal (Guarantor) S/o Anil Baranwal, 10, Puspbanjali Enclave, Keshav Nagar Lucknow-226020 Branch: Vikas Nagar	AREA- 26.31 Sq.mt.	

Date : 26.11.2024 Place : Lucknow Authorised Officer

Helicopter service from Lko to Dudhwa begins



Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh and Forest and Climate Change Minister Dr Arun Kumar Saxena travelled by air from Lucknow to Dudhwa National Park to inaugurate the air service

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday launched a direct air service from Lucknow to Dudhwa National Park in Lakhimpur Kheri on Monday. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh and Forest and Climate Change Minister Dr Arun Kumar Saxena travelled by air from Lucknow to Dudhwa National Park to inaugurate the air service. The ministers also unveiled the unique initiative "Tarai Ki Mitti Ka Utsav, Lakhimpur Mahotsav-24" in Kheri, marking

the beginning of the festival, which will take place at various locations until November 28. Jaiveer Singh commented, "Under the guidance of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the helicopter service between Lucknow and Dudhwa has been introduced to enhance eco-tourism and provide better air connectivity for visitors. The service will be available to tourists at a nominal fee of Rs 5,000 per person, offering a significant time-saving advantage." He explained that while travelling by road from Lucknow to

Dudhwa National Park currently takes 4.5 hours, the new air service will reduce the travel time to just 45 minutes. This initiative is expected to greatly increase tourist footfall in Dudhwa. The air service will be available to tourists four days a week, with services operating every Saturday and Sunday. The remaining two days will soon be designated for air travel. Jaiveer Singh said that, based on the positive response to the service, plans are in place to make the air service available seven days a week in the near future.

Five, including four women, killed in road accident

Lucknow (PNS): In a tragic incident, five people, including the groom's aunt, were killed and four others were critically injured in a road accident in Hardoi. The passengers on a Bolero were returning from Kanpur after attending a wedding. At 3 am on Monday, the Bolero collided head-on with a bus. The collision was so severe that the Bolero fell 50 feet away. It had to be cut to bring out the trapped occupants. Among the dead were four women and a man. Police said that the accident took place on Katra-Bilhour road near Gauri intersection under Mallawan Kotwali. It is suspected that the accident happened because of poor visibility due to fog or the driver dozed off. Police sent the bodies for post-mortem. The four injured persons were referred to the Trauma Centre of King George's Medical University in

Lucknow. The wedding party of Digvijay Singh of Mallawan in Hardoi had gone to Shivrajpur in Kanpur. The baraat was returning after the wedding. There were nine people, including women and children, in the Bolero. The bus involved in the accident was also carrying wedding guests from Baghau. The victims were identified as Seema Devi (40), Pratima (32), Pratibha (42), the groom's aunt Ramkali (52) and Bolero driver Shubham (28). They all died on the spot. All hailed from Madhoganj in Hardoi district. The bus driver fled from the spot after the accident. The police have launched a hunt for him. In a separate incident, two people were killed and 12 others were injured when two trucks and a bus collided with each other due to fog near Sarai village toll plaza in Pilibhit on Monday, police said.

Violent clash erupts over construction near dargah

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

A violent clash broke out after a group of people opposed construction work on a plot of private land near a dargah in Jalesar town of Etah claiming it to be Waqf property, officials said on Monday. The incident on Sunday evening left several people injured and caused significant property damage, they said, adding two accused have been arrested and a case lodged against 16 named suspects and around 150 unidentified others. The violence in Etah occurred on a day clashes erupted between protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque and the police in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district, leaving four people dead. The trouble arose in Jalesar when individuals, allegedly led by accused Rafiq, attempted to stop construction on a plot of land owned by Anil Kumar Upadhyay and others, according to police. Claiming the land as Waqf

property, the group demolished a boundary wall with hammers, damaged over a dozen vehicles, and engaged in stone pelting, the police said. Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Vipin Kumar Moral said, "The disputed land -- bearing survey numbers 3181 to 3192 -- private ancestral property, as confirmed by revenue records and prior demarcation in the presence of dargah committee members." Etah Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Shyam Narayan Singh said the police acted promptly to control the situation. On Monday, police arrested Rafiq, the alleged mastermind, and sent him to judicial custody, according to officials. "Two key accused, identified as Farmaan alias Bunty and Rafiq, son of Abdul Latif, have been arrested. We will not tolerate any breach of law and order," he said. Jalesar Police Station in-charge Sudhir Raghav said an FIR has been registered against 16 named individuals, including Rafiq, under charges of rioting,

criminal intimidation, and causing public disturbance. "One of the accused tried to strangle a complainant, indicating a clear intent to harm," Raghav added. Upon receiving reports of the violence, SSP Shyam Narayan Singh and Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Rajkumar Singh reached the site to assess the situation. A large police contingent, including PAC personnel, was deployed to restore peace. Circle Officer (CO) Nitish Garg said those involved in stone pelting and vandalism are being identified through viral videos. "Strict action will be taken against all culprits. The situation is under control, and peace has been restored," he said. "All individuals involved in the violence will be arrested. Law and order will not be compromised under any circumstances," SSP Singh stressed. While the town remains tense, flag marches were held and if needed additional forces will be deployed, the officials added.

CM Yogi promises swift resolution of people's issues

PNS ■ GORAKHPUR

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the Janata Darshan held in front of Mahant Digvijaynath Smriti Bhawan on Gorakhnath temple premises on Monday morning, where he addressed the grievances of around 300 people. Interacting cordially with the attendees, the chief minister assured them of prompt and satisfactory resolution of each of their issues. He also directed the officials present to address each complaint with sensitivity and ensure its resolution in a timely and transparent manner. The chief minister approached

each individual seated on chairs, listening patiently to their issues, and assuring them of timely and effective resolutions. He said: "There is no need to panic. All your issues will be resolved." Handing over the applications to the officials present, the chief minister instructed them to ensure that every issue is resolved promptly, with quality and satisfaction as priorities. In response to complaints of land grabbing, Chief Minister Yogi directed officials to take strict legal action against those involved. He further instructed that cases involving repeated harassment of victims be thoroughly investigated, with



CM Yogi Adityanath performing gauseva in Gorakhpur on Monday

Minister Discretionary Fund. During his stay at Gorakhnath temple, Chief Minister Yogi followed his traditional routine. On Monday morning, after offering prayers to Guru Gorakhnath and paying respects at the Samadhi Sthal of his Guru, Brahmali Mahant Avedyanath, Chief Minister Yogi toured the temple premises and visited the gaushala. At the gaushala, the chief minister engaged in gauseva. He pampered Bhavani and Bholu, two Nadipathi miniature breed cows (an improved breed of the Punganur variety) brought to the temple from a gaushala in Yeleswaram, Andhra Pradesh, in September.

DMs, commissioners to be evaluated on improvement in CD ratio, investment

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has taken a ground-breaking step to boost investment and strengthen economic activities in Uttar Pradesh. For the first time in the country, the annual confidential report (ACR), based on performances of district magistrates and divisional commissioners, will now include metrics on investment attraction and credit-deposit (CD) ratio growth. This initiative marks a significant move toward driving economic growth while ensuring greater administrative accountability in the state. On Monday, the government released the district-wise credit-deposit (CD) ratio for the financial year 2024-2025, as of April 1, 2024, to the district magistrates and divisional commissioners of all 75 districts. These figures, provided by the State Level Bankers Committee, will serve as a basis for assessing the performance of the district magistrates and divisional commissioners. Their evaluation will focus on the progress made in improving the CD ratio in their respective districts. The aim is to stimulate economic activities, attract investment, and enhance financial inclusion through expanded banking services. Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Singh stated that the annual performance evaluation report of district magistrates

and divisional commissioners will now include assessments of efforts to attract investment and improve the CD ratio. Additionally, the report will consider the security, facilities and conveniences provided to investors, fostering a better business environment. The evaluation will also cover the timely preparation and management of land banks, including land allotment, subsidies, land use changes, and clearances for entrepreneurs, along with their monitoring and regular updates. This system aims to ensure that officers take a proactive and responsible role in driving investment and economic growth within their districts. Uttar Pradesh is the first state in the country to prioritise the credit-deposit ratio as a key metric for measuring and promoting investment across its districts. This policy will not only accelerate economic development but also enhance accountability and transparency in the functioning of government officials. The government's initiative is set to become a significant milestone in the state's overall development and the promotion of financial inclusion. According to the chief secretary, the state government is aiming for a credit-deposit (CD) ratio of 65 per cent by the end of the current financial year. An increase in this ratio reflects economic stability and signals a favourable environment for investment in Uttar Pradesh.

Sambhal violence: Cong demands judicial probe

Lucknow (PTI): The Uttar Pradesh Congress workers on Monday observed a "silent protest" in Lucknow over the Sambhal violence, demanding a judicial probe into the incident. Four people died and scores, including police personnel, were injured in Sambhal on Sunday after confrontation erupted over a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque there. Police on Monday said they have lodged seven FIRs in connection with the episode and named Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmoode's son Sohail Iqbal as accused. The district administration has already imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders into the district till November 30. Internet services remain suspended in Sambhal tehsil. The district administration declared Monday a school holiday. "What is happening in Sambhal is certainly the fallout of the politics of hatred being practised by the government in the entire state," UP Congress chief Ajay Rai told reporters on Monday. On claims of one-sided action being taken in the matter, Rai said, "this is politics of hatred and oppression in the state. The way five people have been killed there, there must be a judicial inquiry into the matter and those responsible for it must be punished." "We observed the silent protest today and soon the Congress delegation will go to Sambhal to assess the on ground situation," Rai said.

Four people injured in clashes between groups, one held

Meerut (PTI): A disagreement over a child collecting dried cow dung in a village here escalated into a violent clash between two communities, leaving four people injured, police said on Monday. One person has been arrested in connection with the incident that occurred Sunday in the Meharmati Ganeshpur village in the Sardhana area. Cases have been filed against individuals from both sides, police said. Inspector Pratap Singh, the officer-in-charge of the Sardhana police station, said, "The dispute began over a trivial issue involving a child collecting dried cow dung. The situation quickly spiralled into a larger confrontation." Purported videos circulating on social media show the groups hurling stones at each other with several individuals brandishing sticks, firearms, and sharp weapons. Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rakesh Kumar Mishra said, "Police responded immediately and registered a case based on a complaint from the aggrieved party. Nine individuals have been named in the FIR. One of them has been arrested and sent to judicial custody," Mishra said. Singh

added that the videos that surfaced online of the incident are being analyzed to identify the suspects. Police have filed suo motu cases against the people involved in the clash. He said that the situation in the village is under control. According to villagers, however, the conflict began after rumours spread about a young woman being assaulted around 2 pm on Sunday. Both groups began hurling stones and attacking each other without verifying the facts. Eight injured individuals were treated at a community health centre, they added. Meanwhile, a police sub-inspector was seriously injured on Monday when his pistol accidentally discharged while he was depositing his weapon at the armoury at the Police Lines in Aligarh, a statement issued here said. Investigation in the matter is underway, it said. According to the police statement, Sub-inspector Ankit Kumar of the Special Operations Group was having his weapon cleaned at the armoury when it accidentally fell down and opened fire. The bullet hit the wall and ricocheted and hit him near his back, the statement said. His condition is said to be stable.

Madani condemns PM's statement on Waqf law

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (JUH) has condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement that "there is no place for Waqf law in the Constitution", terming the remark as "frivolous". The JUH protested the statement on Monday, the day the winter session of Parliament commenced. The National Democratic Alliance government has listed the Waqf Amendment Bill for consideration and passage during the session. The opposition parties and several Muslim organisations have vociferously protested the bill, which aims to restrict the power of Waqf boards to manage its properties and provides for more government regulation. JUH president Maulana Arshad Madani said, "I was appalled to learn that Prime Minister Modi has expressed

the view that Waqf should be done away with since there is no provision in its favour in the Constitution. We did not expect such a frivolous remark from the prime minister of India." Madani claimed that Waqf is a crucial part of Islam, mentioned in the Hadith, and Muslims are responsible for protecting it. He argued that the statement by Prime Minister Modi, made during his address to Bharatiya Janata Party workers in New Delhi on Saturday, was not only ill-informed but could also lead to the unnecessary restriction of Muslims' religious rights in India. "Tomorrow, it may be said that Muslims would not be allowed to offer namaz, go for Hajj pilgrimage and give away zakat (alms) since these too find no mention in the Constitution," Madani said. "The prime minister should know that Waqf is an integral

part of Islam and it finds mention in the Hadith, which are words spoken by our Prophet. As such, it is the duty of Muslims to safeguard Waqf," he added. "The prime minister should also remember that the country's secular Constitution grants every religious minority the right to practice its faith. And Muslims are claiming that right by opposing the Waqf Bill," Maulana Madani said. He also urged Janata Dal (United) chief and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, and the NDA allies who the BJP depends on for staying in power at the Centre, not to support the Waqf Bill, stating that doing so "would be tantamount to stabbing Muslims in the back". "The ruling dispensation of the state is the crutch on which the Centre stands. The powers that

be in the state claim they would not let Muslims suffer. The waqf issue presents them with an opportunity to walk the talk. If they dither, the community must decide whether or not to trust them anymore," Madani said, indirectly referring to Nitish and Naidu. The JUH chief accused the BJP government of practising the "politics of hate". He said Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma spent months in Jharkhand "labelling Muslims as infiltrators". He (Sarma) should remember that most of the Muslims are of Indian origin, Madani added. Assam Chief Minister Sarma was the BJP's co-in-charge of the assembly elections in Jharkhand. Referring to the BJP's defeat in the Jharkhand assembly elections, Madani said, "Those who were trying to spread hate have been humiliated. It is God's mercy, no doubt, but we

must acknowledge that Hindus too stood up with us in the fight." Speaking at an event at BJP headquarters in Delhi on Saturday, Prime Minister Modi had accused Congress of "appeasement politics" and said it framed law concerning Waqf Board which has no mandate in the Constitution. "Congress made laws for appeasement. They did not even care about the Supreme Court's order. An example of this is the Waqf Board. The people of Delhi will be surprised. The situation was that before leaving the government in 2014, these people had handed over many properties of Delhi and surrounding areas to the Waqf Board. There is no place for waqf law in the Constitution given to us by Babasaheb Ambedkar, but the Congress did this to increase its vote bank," Prime Minister had said

बैंक ऑफ बड़ोदा Bank of Baroda Regional Office, Kanpur Metro Region: 118/330, 1st Floor, Gumi No. 5, Kaushalpur, Kanpur - 12

Possession Notice Branch : K-Block, Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon the borrower & guarantor to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being with in 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 & 9 of the said rules.

The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the first charge of Bank of Baroda for amount & interest thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to provision of sub-section (8) of 13 of the act, in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property & O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date
Borrower : Shri Mahesh Kumar S/o Shri Badlu and Smt. Urmila Devi W/o Shri Mahesh Kumar, Both R/O : 374, B-Block, Near Bhatia Bhawan, Kachchi Basti, Govind Nagar, Kanpur. Demand Notice Date: 02-09-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 21-11-2024 Property : Land & Building Situated at House No. 616, Block EWS, Scheme-Vanur Vihar, Kanpur Nagar in the name of Smt. Urmila Devi W/o Shri Mahesh Kumar, Area : 25.20 Sq. Mtr. Bounded-North : House No. 617, South : House No. 615, East : House No. 598, West : 4.50 Mtr. Wide Road. Outstanding Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 7,44,865.40 + Intt. + Others Charges
Date : 21-11-2024 Place : Kanpur Authorised Officer

यूनियन बैंक Union Bank of India Regional Office : 117/11-12/40, Pandu Nagar, Kanpur Head Office : 239, Vidhan Bhawan Marg, Nariman Point Mumbai

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immoveable Properties) [Rule-8(1)]

Whereas the undersigned being the authorized officer of Union Bank of India, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice calling upon borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors of account to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being of dues with contractual rate of interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower/guarantor having failed to repay the amount in full, notice is hereby given to the borrower/guarantor and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him u/s 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules. The borrower/guarantor in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with property and any dealing with the property will subject to the charge of Union Bank of India, for an Amount and Interest thereon.

We also wish to draw kind attention of all concerned towards section 13(8) of the Act in respect of time available to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name and Address of Borrower/Guarantor & Description of Mortgage Property and O/S Amount as per Demand Notice/Demand Notice Date & Possession Notice Date
1.	Borrower : M/s Annapurna Enterprises, Proprietor : Late Vijay Pratap Singh S/o Mohar Singh through its Legal Heirs (1) Smt. Pappi - Wife, (2) Master Shiv Pratap Singh (Minor)-Son and Master Vishnu Pratap Singh (Minor)-Son, Natural Guardian Mother, All R/O : Village Sukha Niwada, Hamru, Post Beeramau Tehsil-Bilhour, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Guarantor : Smt. Pappi W/o Late Vijay Pratap Singh, R/O : Village Sukha Niwada, Hamru, Post Beeramau Tehsil-Bilhour, Distt. Kanpur Nagar Demand Notice Date: 02-05-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 22.11.2024 Property : Non Agriculture property at Arazai Plot No. 559, Situated at Revenue Village Hamru, Tehsil-Bilhour, Distt. Kanpur Nagar. Owner of Property : Smt. Pappi W/o Late Vijay Pratap Singh, Area : 0.1335 Hectare (1/8 Part of Total Area 1.068 Hectare), Bounded -North : Chak Road, South : Land Neelu Awasthi, East : Land Pulttan Agnihotri, West : Chak Road. Branch : Uttaripura, Kanpur O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 10,47,080.64 + Intt. + Others Charges
2.	Borrower : M/s Jagannath Brick Field, Address : Mahabalipur, Itali, Khaga, Distt. Fatehpur, Proprietor : Shri Akhilesh Kumar Maurya S/o Shri Jagdev Maurya, R/o : Near Naubasta Chauraha, Bahadurpur, Khaga, Distt. Fatehpur. Guarantor : : Shri Rakesh Kumar Maurya S/o Shri Jagdev Maurya, R/o : Near Naubasta Chauraha, Bahadurpur, Khaga, Distt. Fatehpur. Demand Notice Date: 10-05-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 20.11.2024 Property : Property Khasra No. 544/1Aa, By Pass Mauza Bahadurpur, Khaga, Pargana Hathgaon, Distt. Fatehpur. Owner of Property : Shri Akhilesh Kumar Maurya & Shri Rakesh Kumar Maurya Both S/o Shri Jagdev Maurya, Area : 117 Sq. Mtr. Bounded (As per sale Deed No. 3743, Dt. 29-11-1997) -North : G. T. Road Bye Pass, South : Plot of Vendor sold to Smt. Geeta Devi W/o Akhilesh Kumar, East : Plot now House of Ashok Kumar in Possession of Kishan Kumar, West : Plot at Present shop and Plot of Vendor Chandra Mohan Singh. Branch : Fatehpur, Distt. Fatehpur O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 15,40,054.13 + Intt. + Others Charges
3.	Borrower : M/s Dolly Enterprises, Proprietor : Shri Vishal Srivastava S/o Shri Banarasi Prasad Srivastava, Address : House No. 364, Anandpuram Colony, Hariharganj, Distt. Fatehpur. Guarantor : Smt. Reeta Srivastava W/o Shri Banarasi Prasad Srivastava, R/o : House No. 364, Anandpuram Colony, Hariharganj, Distt. Fatehpur. Demand Notice Date: 16-05-2024 • Date of Constructive Possession: 20.11.2024 Property : Residential House No. 364, Murai Ka Purwa now known as Mohalla Anandpuram Colony, Hariharganj (Originally Existed on Khasra Plot No. 2136), Qasba Fatehpur South, Distt. Fatehpur. Owner of Property : Smt. Reeta Srivastava W/o Shri Banarasi Prasad Srivastava, Area : 168 Sq. Mtr. Bounded (As per sale Deed No. 6021, Dt. 13-07-2011) -North : Plot of Sukhraj now house of Aji Singh, South : Plot of Vidya Devi now house of Sri Soni, East : Plot of Vidya Devi now house of Verma Ji Lekhpai, West : 20 Ft. Interlocking Road. O/s Amount as per Demand Notice : Rs. 7,93,657.13 + Intt. + Others Charges
Date : 25-11-2024 Place : Kanpur/Fatehpur Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India	

CM Yogi calls upon youth to move ahead with time



CM Yogi Adityanath addressing UP College's foundation day function in Varanasi on Monday.

Madan Mohan Malaviya in 1916, a new light was lit in the field of education and the youth were led towards new achievements.

He laid special emphasis on making the demands for recognition in established institutions online as well as simplifying the process. "UP College has full potential to become an autonomous institution or a university and touch new heights", he said, adding that today technology has advanced a lot and the young generation will have to be told about these new technologies, so that they are introduced to the technology of the new age.

"By becoming a university, take education forward with quality and take the institution to new heights, for which all of the college family should work hard. The rules of governance are for the establishment of good governance and this college should become its centre point", the CM said.

Earlier, the CM paid homage to Rajshree Judev by garlanding his statue. In the programme, Uday Pratap College Education Committee Chairman Justice DP Singh honoured the CM by presenting him with an angavastram and a picture of Lord Ram. As a special guest in the programme, UP Minister of State for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration (Independent Charge) Ravindra Jaiswal, while telling about the ancient history and achievements of the college, placed a demand before the CM to make it a university under the Chief Minister's 'One District-One University Scheme'. He also reminded the CM of his slogan 'If it is divided, it will be cut off' and asked to learn from ancient history. Apart from Vice-Chancellor of Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth Prof AK Tyagi, UP Minister of State for AYUSH and Food Security (Independent Charge) Dr Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu', MLCs Hansraj Vishwakarma and Dharmendra Rai, MLAs

Yogi feeds Siberian birds in Kashi



Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath feeding Siberian birds in Varanasi on Monday.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Kashi once again demonstrated his affection for animals and birds. While travelling on a cruise along the Ganga, he fed Siberian birds, the special guests that migrate from abroad during the winter months.

The chief minister was en route to attend the ongoing Shri Shiv Mahapuram Katha at Satua

Baba Gaushala in Domri after offering prayers at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple. During this journey, he took the opportunity to feed the migratory Siberian birds that frequent the Ganga every winter after travelling thousands of miles from distant lands.

After his visit to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Yogi chose the water route to reach Domri and listen to Pandit Pradeep Mishra's katha narration.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Dr Neelkanth Tiwari, Dr Awadhesh Singh, Sunil Kumar Patel, MLA Sushil Singh etc were prominently present in the programme. Thereafter, the CM visited Kashi Vishwanath and Kal Bhairav temples and offered prayers. He also performed Rudrabhishek of Baba Vishwanath with Shodashopachar method. After this, he boarded a cruise from Ganga Dwar and left for Domri. As soon as he reached the Shiv Puran Katha Sthal, Satua Baba welcomed the CM on the stage. Famous Kathavachak (storyteller)

Pandit Pradeep Mishra of Sihor delivered his religious discourses on the banks of Ganga in Dumri which was listened by about four lakh devotees. Yogi expressed happiness over participating in the Shiv Mahapuram Katha. He said that Lord Vishwanath, Maa Annapurna as well as Maa Ganga are listening to the story of Shiv Puran being conducted on the banks of Ganga. Pointing to the vast crowd of devotees at the Katha Sthal, he asked where casteism is. Yogi said who says that we are divided among ourselves, where is casteism, where is sec-

ularism, where is the dispute over the method of worship? "We are all united and dedicated ourselves to the nation in nationalism through this story. Like a Dharma warrior, this story is an example of this", he said, adding that this Katha is an answer to those people who say that people are divided in castes. "This story is not only heard by devotees, Mahadev is also listening to it. Baba Bhairavnath, Kaal Bhairav, Maa Ganga and Annapurna are also listening. This is an answer to those people who are dividing us in the name of caste", he stated.

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

CM to inaugurate control room at Prayagraj Municipal Corporation

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath called upon the youth to move ahead with the flow of time as technology has gone far ahead today. "We can move ahead with new programmes related to robotics, drones, AI, and ChatGPT", he said while addressing the students as the chief guest on the 115th foundation day of Uday Pratap College organised in the college's auditorium here on Monday.

"If UP College expands itself as an autonomous institution or university, it will not have any adverse effect on the teachers and other employees here", he said, adding that this is the best opportunity for the college. "Prepare a proposal with the teachers and the government. It will not take time for the college to become a university and then it will be connected with new courses", Yogi said, adding that the college management will not have to wander for recognition. During his one-day visit, the CM said that not

only Uttar Pradesh and Bihar but the entire country is grateful for the work done by UP College in the field of all-devotees and Kalpvasis, the Municipal Corporation is focusing on the beautification of the city. In line with CM Yogi Adityanath's vision to ensure cleanliness at the Mahakumbh divine, a new control room building has been constructed at the Prayagraj Municipal Corporation. Municipal Corporation CTO PK Dwivedi stated, "Upon CM Yogi's visit to Prayagraj, he will inaugurate the newly built facility, which has been constructed at a cost of ₹14 crore." The CM will reach Police Lines by helicopter at 10.40 am on Wednesday and will go to attend the convocation of Allahabad University.

round development of life. "Establishing such an educational institution in 1909 itself highlights the great personali-

ty of Rajarshi Judev. In the last 115 years, the students here have made their presence felt in every field of life", Yogi said. He further said that by establishing such an educational institution before independence, Rajarshi prepared an army of youth. "No country in the world has progressed whose youth power is frustrated. Therefore, whenever there will be a change, its centre point will be our youth and educational institutions", he said, inspiring the youth power by mentioning the work done by Lord Ram, Lord Krishna, Buddha, Maharana Pratap, Guru Govind Singh and Swami Vivekananda during their youth. Speaking about Sanatan Dharma while mentioning Vivekananda's words 'Say with pride that we are Hindus', Yogi also presented the works established by Rajarshi in the year of his 175th birth anniversary. He said that by establishing UP College by Rajarshi in 1909 and Banaras Hindu University by Mahamana Pt

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

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002

The following borrowers and co-borrowers availed the below mentioned secured loans from IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) The loans of the below-mentioned borrowers and co-borrowers have been secured by the mortgage of their respective properties. As they have failed to adhere to the terms and conditions of the respective loan agreements and had become irregular, their loan were classified as NPA as per the RBI guidelines. Amounts due by them to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) are mentioned as per respective notices issued more particularly described in the following table and further interest on the said amounts shall also be applicable and the same will be charged as per contractual rate with effect from their respective dates.

Sr No.	Loan Account No.	Type of Loan	Name of borrowers and co-borrowers	Section 13 (2) Notice Date	Outstanding amount as per Section 13 (2) Notice
1	6961301	LOAN AGAINST PROPERTY	1. MIS RICHA ELECTRONICS PROP. MANISH TIWARI 2. RICHA APPLIANCES INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED 3. MANISH TIWARI, 4. RISHI CHAUDHARY 5. ASHOK KUMAR PANDEY	16.02.2024	55,97,891.51/-

PROPERTY ADDRESS : ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF FREEHOLD PLOT NO. N/16, ADMEASURING 167.079 SQ. MTRS., SITUATED BLOCK-B, YOJNA NO. 40, ANJALI VIHAR PANKI, KANPUR NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-208020, AND BOUNDED AS: EAST: ROAD 60 FT. WIDEST: PLOT NO. N/17, NORTH: PLOT NO. N/15, SOUTH: PLOT NO. N/17

You are hereby called upon to pay the amounts to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited) as per the details shown in the above table with contracted rate of interest thereupon from their respective dates and other costs, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of this publication, failing which the undersigned shall be constrained to initiate proceedings, under Section 13 (4) and section 14 of the SARFAESI Act, against the mortgaged properties mentioned hereinabove to realize the amount due to IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited). Further you are prohibited under Section 13 (13) of the said Act from transferring the said secured assets either by way of sale/lease or otherwise.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer

Date : 26.11.2024
Place : KANPUR NAGAR

IDFC FIRST Bank Limited (erstwhile Capital First Limited, amalgamated with IDFC Bank Limited and presently known as IDFC FIRST Bank Limited)

Naseem meets husband in Maharajganj jail

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KANPUR

Newly elected legislator from Sisamau assembly constituency, Naseem Solanki, met her husband Irfan Solanki in Maharajganj jail on Monday. She was accompanied by her two daughters, Samajwadi Party MLAs Mohammad Hasan Rumi and Amitabh Bajpai. Her meeting lasted for around half-an-hour. Seeing Naseem, Irfan burst into tears and asked her to visit Vankhadeshwar temple on P Road (Sisamau) to carry out development works there, if any. Irfan also thanked the people of Kanpur and Sisamau assembly constituency for the victory of his wife. He advised Naseem to continue with the speedy implementation of all development works lying suspended in Sisamau constituency for the past two years. He also asked his wife to always remain at disposal of all the people of her constituency, irrespective of caste and creed. Rumi assured Irfan of expedit-

ing the legal battle to soon bring him out of the jail within next two months.

Amitabh Bajpai said as the Bharatiya Janata Party had forcibly got the Sisamau seat vacated, people broke their pride by ensuring the victory of SP candidate. It also proved that people of Sisamau constituency take Irfan Solanki as innocent, he added.

Meanwhile the issue of offering water on Shrivling at the Vankhadeshwar temple by Naseem Solanki during election campaigning has again gained momentum with a BJP worker filing a case against her in the court of Judicial Magistrate (VIII) here on Monday. The court has issued a notice to Naseem Solanki asking her to plead the case on December 20.

MISHAP: A woman died after being hit by a speeding truck at Naubasta chauraha on Monday morning. She died on the spot. She was identified as Rashmi Verma of Narainpurwa, Jhuli. Police sent the body for autopsy.

Varanasi again secures 1st position in UP health ranking dashboard

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Varanasi has once again secured the first position in the state in the Health Ranking Dashboard of Uttar Pradesh. In the dashboard ranking of the month of October released in November, the district has secured 74 percent marks. Along with this, the district has secured the first position in the UP Health Ranking Dashboard of the month of October. This information was given by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr Sandeep Chaudhary here on Monday.

The CMO informed that recently the ranking of all the districts has been displayed in the Health Ranking Dashboard of UP (November 2024), in which Varanasi is once again at the first place in the state. Varanasi's achievement so far in this financial year is 68 per cent while the achievement of last month was 74 per cent. The state's achievement so far

this year is 54 per cent while this month's is 61 per cent. In this way, the situation of Varanasi is much better than the state's achievement.

Dr Chaudhary said according to the monthly dashboard, Varanasi has performed better in Caesarean delivery and achieved about 61 per cent marks. ASHA workers are being paid on time. Better performance is also being done on 16 indicators, including regular and complete vaccination, temporary means of family planning, prenatal checkup (haemoglobin) in pregnancy, home based newborn care, TB notification, HIV check-up during pregnancy. Delivery and prenatal check-up services are being strengthened at all 10 First Referral Units (FRUs).

The CMO said quality medical and health services of Mother-Child Health and Family Welfare Programme are being provided at all government

hospitals, community and primary health centres (CHCs/PHCs), Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Health and Wellness Centres) and health sub-centres of the district. For this, necessary guidelines are being given to all medical officers, doctors, health workers and ASHA workers.

Medical units are also being continuously inspected and evaluated, the CMO said, informing that in the Health Ranking Dashboard released for the month of October in the month of November, Kashi Vidyapeeth PHC got first place, Chhapra second and Pindra third at the block level, Harhua PHC got fourth, Sewapuri PHC fifth, Azarline CHC sixth, Badagaon PHC seventh, Chirgaon PHC eighth and Urban unit got ninth place. The blocks whose situation is disappointing have been directed to show seriousness towards their work, the CMO added.

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

ALLAHABAD
Zonal Office: Tindwari Road Near Saint Mary School Banda (U.P.) - 210001
Appendix-IV Under [RULE - 8 (1)] of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002
POSSESSION NOTICE (Rule 8(1) for Immovable Properties)

Notice is hereby given under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement (Security) Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (2) read with rule 3 of Security Interest [Enforcement] Rules, 2002, the Authorised Officer issued a demand notice on the date against the borrower as mentioned hereinafter, calling them to repay the amount within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the under noted borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property/ies described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned against each Account. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property /ies and any dealing with the property/ies will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank, Zonal Office: Tindwari Road Near Saint Mary School Banda (U.P.) - 210001 for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned herein below. The attention of the borrowers detailed hereunder is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Sl. No.	Name and address of the Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice outstanding Amt.	Dt. of Possession Notice outstanding Amt.
1.	Borrower: M/s Shanvi Traders, Business Add : Banda Sagar Road, Sathariyaon, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh Proprietor: Mrs. Satyawati Devi W/o Vinod Kumar Bajpai, Add: Ashok Nagar Fatehpur UP-212601. Guarantor & Mortgagor: Mrs. Vimla Devi W/o Shulpani, Add: Ramwapanathuwa, Aboo Nagar, Fatehpur U.P. - 212601	Equitable Mortgage of a Commercial Immovable property at Gata No. 346, Door No.200-Q, Revenue Village Sathariyaon known as Mohalla-Radhna Nagar, City Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh, Area 101.00 Sq mtr Boundaries: East: Fatehpur to Bahua Marg, West: Plot of vendor sold out to Vimla Devi, North: Plot of Nandrani now House of Arvind Kumar & Vinod Kumar, South: Rasta Kachcha 20 Ft	15.06.2024 Rs. 20,57,301.00 + intt. & Charges from 16.06.2024	20.11.2024 Rs. 20,57,301.00 + intt. & Charges from 16.06.2024
2.	Borrower: Shree Krishna Dixit S/o Raj Kumar Dixit, R/o Ganga Nagar Colony, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur Borrower & Mortgagor: Smt. Saroj Dixit W/o Shree Krishna Dixit, R/o Ganga Nagar Colony, Pargana, Tehsil & Distt. Fatehpur	One residential building situated at, Khasra/Survey number- Gata No. 235, Revenue village- Shadipur Khurd & Distt. Fatehpur in the name of Smt. Saroj Dixit w/o Shree Krishna Dixit. Area : 117 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East: Rasta 15 feet non CC Road, West: Sanatary Lane 5 feet, North: Rasta 10 feet, South: House of Krishna Kumar Dwivedi,	13.08.2024 Rs. 14,17,874.00 + intt. & Charges from 14.08.2024	20.11.2024 Rs. 14,17,874.00 + intt. & Charges from 14.08.2024

Date : 25.11.2024
Place: Fatehpur
Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

Initiative launched to rope in women SHGs to sell packaged Triveni water

PTI/PNS ■ PRAYAGRAJ

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched an initiative to rope in women self-help groups to sell packaged Triveni water to pilgrims here during the Maha Kumbh, officials announced on Monday.

More than 40 crore people are expected to turn up at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj next year January. Prayagraj is renowned for the confluence of three holy rivers: the Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, at the Triveni Sangam. The water from the union is considered holy among the Hindus. During festivals like the Magh Mela, Kumbh, and Mahakumbh, devotees flock to the city to bathe in the holy water and take some of the water from the confluence back home. However, due to the massive crowd at the Mahakumbh, many devotees may not be able to access the Triveni water, officials said. To address this crunch, the UP government will provide Triveni water in bottles and urns at all bus terminals and railway stations in Prayagraj for Maha Kumbh pilgrims, Rajeev Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner

of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), said. For the initiative, over a 1,000 women will be trained to sell Gangajal at key locations. The water will be available in one litre, half a litre, and 250 ml sizes. **RULES FOR E-RICKSHAW OPERATION:** For smooth and systematic operation during Mahakumbh the RTO has determined the colours and routes of e-rickshaws in city. In a special event held at the RTO office on Monday, coloured stickers were distributed to e-rickshaws drivers according to their area. The rules and restrictions for e-rickshaw operation were also announced. According to RTO Rajesh Kumar Maurya, a total of 13,400 registered e-rickshaws have been found operable here. These e-rickshaws have been selected. Only those e-rickshaws whose documents, tax, fitness and insurance are valid will be allowed to operate in Mahakumbh Mela 2025. The roof of the e-rickshaw will be painted according to route-wise colour coding. Apart from this, the logo and serial number of Mahakumbh Mela-2025 will be marked on the sticker. The traffic police and transport department will ensure that e-rickshaws run on the prescribed

route and those without colour coding and logo will be banned. This arrangement has been implemented to facilitate traffic in the city during Mahakumbh. The Pragatisheel E-Rickshaw E-Cart Drivers' Welfare Association also cooperated in this initiative. Its president Pandit Akash Shukla and general secretary SP Singh participated in the sticker distribution programme at the beginning of the campaign.

ANNUAL SPORTS: In a spectacular display of sporting talent, St Andrew's House outclassed other Houses—St Patrick's, St Peter's and St. George's and won the prestigious Athletic Cup at the 163rd Annual Sports of Boys' High School and College held here. Major General Rajesh Bhat, General Officer Commanding, Purva UP and MP Sub Area, was the chief guest on the occasion. Principal DA Luke and Academic Supervisor CB Luke accorded a warm and cordial welcome to the chief guest and his wife. **WOMAN DIES:** A 30-year-old woman died under mysterious circumstances in Chaturbhujpur village under Phoolpur police station area on Monday. Police has taken the body into possession and sent it for post-mortem examination.

Minister: Govt taking full care of basic facilities

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ VARANASI

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Stamp and Court Fee and Registration Ravindra Jaiswal said the government is taking full care of the basic facilities of people of every class. The minister was laying the foundation stone of six construction works to be done at a cost of ₹155.4 lakh under the Mukhya Mantri Nagariya Alpviksit Evam Malin Basti Vikas Yojna run by the District Urban Development Agency (DUDA) here on Sunday evening. Addressing the people present on the spot, he directed the engineers of the working agency present there that the works whose foundation stone has been laid should be completed immediately with quality by running a campaign on a war footing. "Negligence at any level will not be tolerated", Jaiswal said. Arvind Singh, corporator Sandeep Raghuvanshi, Baliram Kanaujia and others were present.

President Murmu to lead celebrations marking 75 years of Constitution

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu will lead the celebrations at the Central Hall of the old Parliament complex on November 26 to mark 75 years of India's Constitution, the government announced on Monday.

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla will take part in Tuesday's function in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to mark the 75th anniversary of the Constituent Assembly's adoption of the Constitution.

Leaders of various opposition parties of the INDIA bloc have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, urging him to allow leaders of the opposition in both Houses to speak during the Constitution Day celebration function.

Union minister Kiren Rijiju

said Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not be addressing the event and accused "some of the Opposition parties" of giving reactions without knowing the actual arrangement.

The Union minister of parliamentary affairs made the remarks during a pre-event briefing here, in response to a query on leaders of various INDIA bloc parties having written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to allow opposition leaders of both Houses to speak during the Constitution Day function.

After a presentation by Union Culture Secretary Arunish Chawla, Rijiju and Union ministers Arjun Ram Meghwal and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat interacted with media persons at the National Media Centre.

"The problem with some of the Opposition parties is that without knowing the actual arrangement. They started



giving reactions. The prime minister is not even speaking tomorrow in the function. The Speaker, the vice president and the President of India will speak," he said.

"Secondly, we have made sit-

ting arrangements for the Leader of Opposition of both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on the dais. Without knowing anything, this kind of reaction on a very solemn occasion is condemnable," Rijiju said.

The Union minister also said that the Constitution Day celebration was above politics and is a celebration of the country.

"On the occasion of the 75 years of India's Constitution,

we are getting an opportunity to take part in the celebrations at Parliament (complex).

Tomorrow, will be the address of the President. There will be a joint sitting of the members of both Houses. It will be a celebration of 75 years of the adoption of India's Constitution in Delhi. And, many other events will be held in various parts of the country too," he said.

"We will sit in the very same chamber where the Constituent Assembly sittings happened and the Constitution was adopted," Rijiju added. He termed the event a "historic occasion".

"I believe that it is not just an event of the judiciary, executive and legislative wings. Entire country has to take part in this celebrations, in full spirit and read the Preamble," Rijiju said.

The minister extolled the Constitution and said it gave

rise to a "successful and vibrant democracy". And the credit goes to the founding father, the makers of the Indian Constitution, he added.

The letter written to the Lok Sabha Speaker which had been signed by leaders of various parties reads, "We are writing in the context of the function being held tomorrow (Tuesday) in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. We understand that the function will be addressed by the president, vice-president and the prime minister of India."

"We believe that in the best traditions and interests of Parliamentary democracy, the Leaders of Opposition (LoPs) in both Houses should also be given an opportunity to speak on this historic occasion," it added.

The signatories to the letter include TR Baalu, Tiruchi Siva, Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, Raghav Chadha, P Sandosh Kumar, ET Mohammed Bashir, K Radhakrishnan, Ramji Lal Suman, and NK Premachandran.

As regards celebrations, a special website has also been created to mark the year-long celebrations, Union Culture Secretary Arunish Chawla told reporters during a briefing at the National Media Centre here.

The commemorative portal urges people to read the Preamble of the Constitution, record a video and upload it on the website to get a certificate.

Mass readings of the Preamble will also be held at schools across the country, Chawla said. To mark the occasion, the government will release a commemorative coin and stamp.

BJP slams Opposition for stalling Parliament



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday slammed the opposition parties and said it was not right on their part to stall Parliament proceedings in "retaliation" to their defeat in Maharashtra assembly elections and bypolls in other states.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned without transacting any significant business amid uproar by the opposition members on

various issues, including indictment of Adani group chairman Gautam Adani and others in a US court on bribery charges.

"If you are frustrated over your defeat (in just concluded Maharashtra assembly polls and bypolls in various states), will you retaliate by not letting Parliament function? This is not right," senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad told reporters in Parliament complex.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi and others

from the government had asserted that discussions will be held on every issue in Parliament. "You could have discussed the Sambhal issue also," the former Union minister said.

Union minister Giriraj Singh also flayed the opposition parties over adjournment of the House proceedings, alleging that they "deliberately" create disturbance as they do not want Parliament to function.

"This is in a way an attack on the people," he told reporters in Parliament complex.

LS Speaker asks political parties to avoid ruckus in House

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday asked political parties to avoid ruckus in the House in the name of protests as the Winter Session of Parliament got off to a stormy start.

Parliamentary sources said the Lok Sabha speaker flagged the issue of disruptions during a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee and urged the floor leaders of political parties to convey their dissent in a constructive manner.

The Speaker's remarks came on a day when opposition members raised slogans and trooped to the Well of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha demanding discussion on the issue of indictment of industrialist Gautam Adani in a US court on bribery charges.

The sources said that the speaker urged members to follow the highest traditions of debate and dialogue in the House.



Birla referred to 75 years of adoption of the Constitution and recalled the glorious traditions of "high quality debates by our founding fathers in the constituent assembly", they said.

In view of the Constitution Day celebrations in Samvidhan Sadan on Tuesday, Birla urged the members of various political parties to engage in a meaningful dialogue.

President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to start the year-long celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of adoption of the Constitution at a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan.

Sanganer open air camp: Rajasthan Government opposes contempt plea in SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan government on Monday opposed in the Supreme Court a plea accusing it of taking the area allotted to Sanganer open-air jail campus at Jaipur for the construction of a 300-bed hospital and termed it "sponsored litigation".

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan directed the registrar of the apex court to act as a court commissioner and submit a report after inspecting the site.

He said the plea had been filed by a "public-spirited man" from Assam.

Mehta said as per the government revenue records, the area allotted to the Sanganer open-air jail campus is around 1.78 hectares and neither the allotted area has been reduced nor there is any proposal or decision to reduce it.

He said the area allotted for the construction of a 300-bed government hospital was totally



Rajasthan, said the state has neither reduced nor there is any attempt to reduce the area of Sanganer open-air camp.

"This is the constituency of the chief minister (of Rajasthan) where there are interested people who do not want a hospital to come up," the top law officer said.

He said the plea had been filed by a "public-spirited man" from Assam.

Mehta said as per the government revenue records, the area allotted to the Sanganer open-air jail campus is around 1.78 hectares and neither the allotted area has been reduced nor there is any proposal or decision to reduce it.

He said the area allotted for the construction of a 300-bed government hospital was totally

outside the actual allotted area for the open-air prison.

When Mehta said it appeared to be a "sponsored litigation", the bench asked, "Who can be behind this? It is not as if somebody has any commercial interest".

"I know the reason, I do not wish to say. Let us not go into it. The purpose is that direction of the court must be complied with," the solicitor general said.

"The hospital construction should not be stayed. That is the intended purpose," he said.

Senior advocate S Muralidhar, appearing for the petitioner, said the open-air prison should be allowed to function as it is and nobody was objecting to the construction of the hospital.

VHP demands NSA against Sambhal violence perpetrators

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Monday condemned the violence in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh and demanded those involved in the case be booked under the National Security Act.

VHP joint general secretary Surendra Jain also demanded that the culprits and their supporters be also booked under NSA and all of them should be made to compensate for the damage caused in the violence.

Three people were killed and scores of others, including around 20 security personnel and four personnel of the administration, were injured as protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here clashed with police on Sunday. One injured person died on Monday.

"The way Muslim fundamentalists pelted stones on police, fired bullets and committed arson in Sambhal is highly condemnable.



The way Muslim leaders, maulanas and many leaders of the Samajwadi party and the Congress, including Rahul Gandhi, have supported this violence is also worrisome," Jain said. He alleged that the violence was carried out "at the behest of maulanas" and

accused the Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders of making "provocative statements." Jain added, "Rioters and their supporters should be booked under the NSA and arrested immediately. All the losses caused by them should also be recovered from

them." Police on Monday said they have lodged seven FIRs in connection with the violence, naming Samajwadi Party MP Zia-ur-Rehman Barq and local SP MLA Iqbal Mehmood's son Sohail Iqbal as accused.

Addressing a press conference, Superintendent of Police Krishna Kumar said six people, including Barq and Iqbal, were named in these FIRs and 2,750 others have been mentioned as unidentified. "Due to Barq's statement earlier, the situation became worse here," he added.

The district administration has already imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders into Sambhal till November 30. Internet services are suspended in Sambhal tehsil and the district administration declared Monday a school holiday.

Tension had been brewing in Sambhal since November 19 when the local Jama Masjid was first surveyed on the court's orders following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple had stood at the site.

BIS in process of developing standards for 214 critical medical devices

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In line with the National Medical Device Policy, 2023 and aiming to address the growing need for reliable and affordable medical assistive technology, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is in the process of developing standards for 214 critical medical devices.

The national standards body is expected to develop standards for innovative products such as "therapeutic footwear, portable ramps, braille displays, and fall detectors". The standardisation will be developed by December 2025, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said on Monday.

The 214 critical medical devices, identified in consultation with the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), also "includes septal closure devices, plasma sterilisers, and phototherapy machines".

"BIS standards in this sector ensure that Indian medical devices are safe, effective, and globally competitive. These efforts build trust among healthcare providers, consumers, and international stakeholders while solidifying India's reputation as a leader in healthcare innovation," said the Ministry.

"By aligning with the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, and the National Medical Device Policy, 2023, BIS is proving to be instrumental in establishing a robust regulatory framework that prior-



itizes public safety while fostering innovation," it added.

Currently, there are over 1,700 standards for the medical sector, covering specialties such as cardiology, neurology, orthopaedics, ophthalmology, and more. Of these, around 1,200 standards specifically focus on medical

devices critical to healthcare. This includes life-saving devices like cardiac pacemakers, heart valves, ventilators, and haemodialysis machines; advanced diagnostic tools like X-ray machines, CT scanners, MRI systems, and blood glucose monitors; and assistive technology tools like hearing aids, wheelchairs, Jaipur Foot, and tactile pathways for visually impaired individuals.

The ministry pointed out that dentistry has the maximum number of standards (249), followed by surgical disposables (205), orthopaedics (155), and assistive products (152). ENT (70), gynaecology (70), and cardiology (69) have the lowest number of standards.

इंडियन बैंक		Indian Bank		e-Auction	
(एनएफएलएनए)		(A Govt. of India Undertaking)		ALLAHABAD	
Zonal Office: Tindwari Road Near Saint Mary School Banda (U.P.)-210001					
Sale notice for sale of immovable properties [See proviso Rule 8 (6)]					
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank as Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis on 27.12.2024 for recovery of Bank's dues from Borrowers and Guarantors due to the Indian Bank Secured Creditor. The details are described as below:					
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower	Name of Guarantors	Bank's Dues	Details of Property (As per Deed) ID No.	Reserve Price
	Branch Name	Name of Property Owner/Mortgagor	Encumbrances on Property		Earnest Money Incremental Bid Rs.
1.	Borrower: Smt Manisha Singh W/o Jay Singh Gaur, Address: 165 B, Civil Lines, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh 212601	Smt Manisha Singh W/o Jay Singh Gaur, R/o 165 B, Civil Lines, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh 212601	Rs. 18,21,556.00 as on 13.06.2024 with further interest cost, other charges and expenses thereon from 14.06.2024 Not Known to Bank	Residential Property situated at Gata No-100M, Habibpur (Sai Bihar) Pargana Tehsil & Distt- Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh, in the name of Smt. Manisha Singh W/o Jay Singh Gaur, Area: 140 Sq. Mtr Boundaries: East: Rasta 25 Ft wide, West: Plot of vendor, North: Plot of Manju Singh, South: Plot of Rekha Tiwari Property ID No. IDIB3295434789	₹. 17.51 लाख ₹. 1.751 लाख ₹. 10,000.00
QR Code					
Bank Website	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property	Photo of Property
www.indianbank.in					
2. Borrower & Mortgagor: Mr. Vikash S/o Mr Govardhan Gupta, R/o. Ashok Nagar, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh-212601 Guarantor: Mr. Gaurav Gupta S/o Govardhan Gupta, R/o. Dhan Mill Ke Pass, Ashok Nagar, Fatehpur Uttar Pradesh-212601					
Mr. Vikash S/o Mr Govardhan Gupta, R/o. Ashok Nagar, Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh-212601					
Rs. 16,49,910.00 as on 08.07.2024 with further interest cost, other charges and expenses thereon from 09.07.2024 Not Known to Bank					
Residential unit at Gata No. 252 & 253, Village Bhadni Daudiyapur, Pargana tahsil Dist. Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh in the name of Vikash S/o Mr Govardhan Gupta. Boundaries: East: 15 ft wide Rasta, West: Plot of Jabbar North: Plot of Manju Singh, South: Plot of Bhoora Property ID No. IDIB3041178660					
QR Code					
Bank Website	E-Auction Website	Document	Property Location	Video of Property	Photo of Property
www.indianbank.in					
Date Time of submission of process Compliance form & EMD 27.12.2024 i.e before the e-Auction Date and time in the portal and Date & Time of e-auction 27.12.2024 from 10.00 AM-4.00 P.M. with unlimited extension, with Bid incremental mentioned as above.					
The intending Bidders/Purchasers are requested to register with online portal (https://www.ebkraj.in) using their mobile number and email id. Further, after completing their eKYC, the intending Bidders/Purchasers have to transfer the EMD amount in their e-Wallet by 27.12.2024, 10:00 AM. The registration, eKYC and transfer of EMD in wallet must be completed well in advance, before auction. Platform (https://www.ebkraj.in) for e-Auction will be provided by our e-Auction service provider PSB alliance Pvt. Ltd., (Contact Phone 8291220220, email ID: support.ebkraj@psballiance.com). The intending Bidders/Purchasers are required to participate in the e-Auction process at e-Auction Service Provider's website https://www.ebkraj.in					
Corporate Office: Avvai Shanmugam Salai Royapettah, Chennai-600014					
Date: 25.11.2024		Place: Banda		Authorized Officer, Indian Bank	



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Celebrating Constitution Day

The Indian Constitution is not just a legal document; it is the soul of the nation, guiding India through its complexities

Every year, on November 26, India celebrates Constitution Day, also known as 'Samvidhan Divas'. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution in 1949, a landmark event that laid the foundation for India's democratic ethos. As we reflect on this momentous occasion, it is imperative to understand the making, functioning and future challenges of this legal document that has been the guiding force for the world's largest democracy, India. The drafting of the Indian Constitution was an extraordinary achievement, considering the diversity and complexities of India. Following independence in 1947, the Constituent Assembly, comprising 299 members, undertook the monumental task of framing a constitution for a newly liberated yet diverse nation. Dr BR Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, chaired the drafting committee, ensuring that the document reflected justice, equality, liberty, and fraternity. The Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to complete

the drafting process, during which it conducted exhaustive debates and deliberations. Drawing inspiration from the constitutions of various nations, such as the United States, Ireland and Canada, the Indian Constitution incorporated the best practices while tailoring them to Indian realities.

On January 26, 1950, the Constitution came into effect, marking the birth of the Republic of India. The Indian Constitution, with its 448 articles, 12 schedules and numerous amendments, is one of the most detailed constitutions in the world. Its core strength lies in its 'flexibility' and 'adaptability'. While being rigid in its foundational principles, it allows amend-



ments to address evolving socio-political challenges. Since its adoption, the Constitution has guided the nation through numerous challenges, including partition, economic crises, and social upheavals, ensuring continuity and stability. Despite its success, the Indian Constitution faces several challenges. India faces growing tensions between the Centre and states over resource allocation, legislative powers and administrative autonomy, while concerns about judicial activism and transparency persist despite the judiciary's role as a constitutional custodian. Issues such as money power, criminalisation of politics and declining voter turnout demand urgent reforms. At the same time, caste-based discrimination, gender inequality and regional disparities continue to undermine the nation's progress, despite constitutional safeguards. Balancing individual freedoms with national security has become increasingly challenging in the digital age. As India approaches its centenary as a Republic, there is a pressing need to reaffirm commitment to the Constitution's ideals by strengthening institutions for accountability and transparency, fostering participatory democracy, upholding the secular and pluralistic ethos and ensuring that constitutional amendments preserve its core principles.

PICTALK



Visitors at a stall at the International Trade Fair at Pragati Maidan, in New Delhi

Samvidhan Divas: A tribute to India's democratic vision



RAJDEEP PATHAK

Rooted in the Gandhian principles the Indian Constitution continues to guide the world's largest democracy in fostering a harmonious and equitable society

Constitution Day, known as 'Samvidhan Divas' in Hindi, is celebrated annually on November 26 in India. This day commemorates the adoption of the Indian Constitution, which was formally approved by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949. It later came into effect on January 26, 1950, marking the birth of India as a sovereign democratic republic.

In 2015, the Government of India officially recognised November 26 as Constitution Day through a gazette notification issued on November 19. This followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement during the foundation-laying ceremony of the 'B R Ambedkar Statue of Equality' memorial in Mumbai on October 11, 2015.

As India marks the 75th anniversary of the Constitution in 2024, it is a moment to reflect on this transformative document, which serves as the bedrock of the nation's democracy and inclusivity.

The Vision Behind the Indian Constitution

The Indian Constitution is more than a legal charter; it is a visionary framework that upholds the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. It reflects the collective aspirations of a diverse population, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of truth, non-violence, and grassroots empowerment. Gandhi's ideals of swaraj (self-rule) emphasised moral values, social equity and the welfare of all, which deeply influenced the Constitution's framers.

Although Gandhi and Dr BR Ambedkar had differences on certain issues, they shared a commitment to social justice and local self-governance. This shared vision is evident in foundational aspects of the Constitution, such as the Preamble, Directive Principles of State Policy and Fundamental Duties.

The Preamble: Soul of the Constitution

The Preamble encapsulates the essence of the Constitution, emphasising ideals like justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. These values resonate with Gandhi's



lifelong struggle against colonial oppression and social inequality. Historian Judith Brown aptly stated, "Gandhi's struggle was not just for legal justice but for ethical and humanistic justice that transcends caste, creed and gender." The Preamble remains a guiding light for India's pursuit of a just and inclusive society.

Directive Principles: A Vision for Social Equity

Part IV of the Constitution, the Directive Principles of State Policy, articulates a vision of economic equity, social justice, and upliftment of marginalised communities. Gandhi's influence is evident in provisions like Article 40, which advocates for the Panchayati Raj system, and Article 43, promoting cottage industries. Historian Anthony Parel observed that these principles are "the most visible articulation of Gandhi's socio-economic vision aimed at eradicating poverty and ensuring dignity."

Fundamental Duties: Rights and Responsibilities

Mahatma Gandhi emphasised the interconnectedness of rights and duties, asserting that rights derive their meaning from duties well-performed. Reflecting this philosophy, the 42nd Amendment introduced Fundamental Duties in 1976. These duties, such as fostering harmony, protecting the environment, and upholding the dignity of women, align closely with Gandhian principles of non-

violence, ecological stewardship, and gender equality. Gandhi's timeless reminder, "The Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed," underlines the importance of responsible citizenship.

Gandhian Values in a Modern Context

As India navigates contemporary challenges, the values rooted in Gandhian philosophy remain profoundly relevant. Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, in 'The Idea of Justice', highlights that justice involves removing barriers that prevent marginalised communities from realizing their potential. Gandhi's vision of Sarvodaya (welfare of all) aligns with this principle, urging inclusive growth and equitable resource distribution.

In geopolitics, Gandhi's commitment to peace and 'Ahimsa' (non-violence) resonates globally. His campaigns, from the Salt March to the Quit India Movement, demonstrated how unity and empowerment can coexist in a diverse society. Historian Ramachandra Guha remarked, "Gandhi's idea of fraternity, rooted in empathy and non-violence, offers a moral compass for modern democracy."

Decentralized Governance

A cornerstone of Gandhi's political thought was decentralised governance. He believed true democracy could only be achieved by empowering local communi-

ties. The Panchayati Raj system, enshrined in the Constitution, embodies this vision. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi's initiatives, such as 'Vocal for Local' and 'Viksit Bharat 2047', echo Gandhi's principle of 'Gram Swaraj'. These programmes aim to promote local entrepreneurship, sustainable development, and self-reliance, elevating India's global stature while empowering its citizens.

The Role of Citizens and Media

Democracy thrives on active citizen participation. Voting, engaging in public discourse, and addressing civic issues are essential for robust democratic institutions. Equally crucial is the media's role as the fourth estate, providing checks and balances while safeguarding the freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution. Exercising this freedom responsibly ensures accountability and transparency in governance.

A Living Document for a Dynamic Nation

The Indian Constitution, inspired by Gandhian principles, remains a living document that harmonizes individual aspirations with collective well-being. Its relevance extends beyond legal frameworks, addressing issues such as social justice, environmental conservation, and global leadership.

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



AS INDIA MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION IN 2024, IT IS A MOMENT TO REFLECT ON THIS TRANSFORMATIVE DOCUMENT, WHICH SERVES AS THE BEDROCK OF THE NATION'S DEMOCRACY AND INCLUSIVITY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP'S STRONG COMEBACK

Madam — In just five months, the momentum in Indian politics has shifted dramatically. Following the BJP's underwhelming performance in the last Parliament elections, questions were raised about its durability and PM Modi's pan-national acceptability. Now, it's the opposition INDIA bloc that is looking fragile. The reason for the shift is a series of unexpected electoral reverses suffered by the INDIA bloc. The most significant of these setbacks occurred in Maharashtra, the second most consequential state in the Indian union. By handing the NDA a mammoth victory, Maharashtra voters have given the alliance a pretext to dismiss the Lok Sabha election jolt as an aberration.

A reversal triggered more by a "fake narrative" spun by a desperate Opposition than any discernible anti-incumbency. In Maharashtra, the BJP with allies not only smashed a five-decade-old electoral record, but it has also come astonishingly close to winning the election on its own steam. The party has been able to reunite its coalition of disparate castes. Add to this, the BJP has been better able to present itself as the emissary of "political nationalism and economic welfare." Meanwhile, this victory is a stepping stone to the validation it needs to push ahead with its governance agenda.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

GENDER BIAS IN THE US POLITICS

Madam — The United States is not ready for a woman president, as was evident in the just-concluded elections. There is little doubt that American voters have gendered biases that factored into their votes, both in the 2016 and 2024 elections. Both Hillary Clinton and Kamala Harris faced off against Trump under different circumstances and with different strategies. But the result was the same for both candidates. Another way of looking at the impact of gender is to compare how Harris did among women voters in comparison with Hillary Clinton, whose lead over Trump among women voters was 13 points in 2016. Eight years later now, Kamala Harris'

Kohli breaks Tendulkar's record



Team India's superstar King Kohli back in form after he reached his 30th century at the Opus Stadium, Perth. The Border-Gavaskar Trophy seems to be the redemption of pride for India after the worst loss in the home series. The year 2024 in Virat Kohli's career has been low while Kohli scored only one fifty in his 13 innings so far. By reaching this milestone of his 30th ton

his 203rd innings across 119 tests, it was his seventh in Australia, breaking the record of six hundreds by the legendary Sachin Tendulkar in the format of this game. By this century, Kohli has equalled his record with Wally Hammond for the most test hundreds in Australia by a visiting batter, and Jack Hobbs holds the highest record of nine test centuries down under which one can be sure is in the mind of Virat to cross the figure during this series.

While India is in the driver's seat in the first test and assured of a win at the moment for the fans' delight, one hopes that Kohli may come out with many more flying kisses at different venues to cheer Anushka and his fans with his inimitable style of batting prowess.

A P Thiruvadi | Chennai

lead over Trump was only eight points.

In other words, Harris lost support among women voters who had previously voted for a woman candidate. Neither Hillary Clinton nor Harris succeeded in winning a majority of American men. In fact, out of the nine nuclear powers in the world, only Britain, Israel, India and Pakistan have elected women to the top job. Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto were daughters of powerful political fathers in dynastic democracies. Sexism and racism, inextricably woven into the culture of American politics, played a central role in 2016 and 2024 against women candidates getting elected as presidents. Under the Trump regime 2.0, this scenario could also reflect in the next election in the US.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Urapakkam

ADDRESS FARMERS' DISTRESS

Madam — It is indeed a matter of concern that the distress of the farmers is not attended to with the amount of seriousness it requires. The agri sector that was contributing to the tune of more than 50 per cent to the GDP of the nation at the time the

nation attained independence is now reduced to a deplorable level of contribution, hardly 14 per cent.

The Green Revolution has helped in increasing the yield but the other aspects of the farmers, like input cost, subsidies and MSP, in spite of being vital, are not considered favourably but changes are made hostile to the farmers' needs and benefits. The policies of the successive governments are focusing on the industrial sector. A lot of incentives, like concessions, exemptions, and extending huge loans to write off or waive off, and PLI are extended to the industrial sector, though the desired results, like a substantial increase in employment and exports, are not forthcoming. Such apathy in the approach of the government towards agriculture has resulted in millions of farmers resorting to suicide, getting plunged in unbearable debt and small farmers deserting their fields and seeking livelihood in cities.

A G Rajmohan | Anantapur

Lessons from childhood, family and experiences

The past shapes our present. The present is past the next moment, to make way for the future. We are left with memories which also teach us invaluable lessons

I was also a mischievous child like any other young boy my age. I was assured of a haven, hiding behind my grandmother, whenever my parents were inclined to scold me. She would then counsel my parents to be more indulgent, simultaneously telling us to be particular about our behaviour.

I recall another memory from childhood. Our return home from school coincided with my mother's siesta. We would tiptoe into the house, careful not to disturb her. One afternoon I was excited enough to wake her to tell her about my outstanding results in the examinations. Still groggy, she hugged and blessed me, before continuing with her sleep. I still cannot forget her spontaneous reaction, even though I had interrupted her much needed rest.

My father was short-tempered in his younger days. He usually rested and slept on Sunday afternoons. We tried to be as quiet as children could be. One day, we might have been noisier than usual, and ended up soundly thrashed by him. Later in the evening, I witnessed a different facet of my father's per-



sonality. He gruffly apologized for having hurt me. I learnt an important lesson. There is no shame in accepting your mistake.

I remember the day I met the young girl who became my wife and life partner in the next few months. I also remember I had eyes only for her during the wedding reception. Those were the heady days before we buckled up to the serious business of making a life together. We have been married for 40 years. These have not been easy decades, faced with the harsh realities of life. We never give up, whatever the setbacks. We work towards the common goal of leading a happy and contented life together. There is respect, and a recognition of the need

for space for each to evolve as an individual.

Another nostalgic memory is from a long-ago holiday to Puri. Our guest house was a couple of hundred meters from the seashore. Our daughters were much younger. I was, and continue to be, a protective father, worrying about their safety. That one day, I sat on the veranda, fondly looking at the two children playing on the beach. I was proud of their happiness as they shrieked with joy creating something with sand. My mother kept a copy of Ramcharitmanas in her prayer corner. I read somewhere that you could find a solution to any problem from the epic. All you had to do was open any page, and the

top line would help you find ways to tackle your most pressing issue. I also tried it sometimes. I learnt that I could not always tackle situations through conventional thinking while navigating the complex labyrinths of life.

Fair play, guiding the team members, impartiality, giving undivided time to team members however busy you might be, empathy, working for the team, pride in the performance of the team members, and out-of-box thinking, were only a few of the invaluable lessons that my experiences taught me. They have stood me in good stead through the rough and tumble of life.

The words of psychiatrist, Abraham Twerski would resonate with many, "Ruminating about the past will get you nowhere. So go ahead and learn from the past whatever you can, and then put it behind you. Remember, there is nothing you can do to change it, but you can use its lessons to improve your future."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



SANJAY CHANDRA



FIRST COLUMN

CORPORATE CAREWASHING

Many organisations falsely present themselves as socially responsible



SAKSHI SETHI

Nowadays we often see that companies are engaged towards launching mental health awareness campaigns while maintaining toxic work environments or failing to provide meaningful employee support; at times companies celebrate diversity during cultural moments without addressing systemic inequities, such as unequal pay or a lack of diverse leadership. But the question arises are the employees getting benefitted or are still victims?

In an age where ethical responsibility and social consciousness are increasingly demanded of corporations, governments and individuals, a troubling phenomenon termed carewashing has emerged. The term refers to the practice of falsely presenting an organisation, business or individual as socially or ethically responsible, particularly in areas of caregiving or support, to improve their reputation or deflect criticism. Much like its environmental counterpart greenwashing, carewashing also exploits emotional appeals to mask the absence of genuine commitment to caregiving causes.

Several factors such as modern consumers increasingly seeking brands that align with their values, create pressure for organisations to appear socially conscious or social platforms that provide both positive as well as failures, thereby encouraging companies to capitalise on social causes for visibility and if that not enough then such organisations outshine its competitors by attracting customers and talent with minimal invest-



ment in genuine reform contribute to the rising of carewashing. While these pressures reflect positive shifts in societal values, they also incentivise performative actions over authentic efforts. It is believed that when carewashing is exposed, it damages trust between organisations and their stakeholders as it is often when the dissonance between claims and actions becomes apparent. Employees who witness discrepancies between an organisation's statements and its actions often feel disillusioned.

This alienation leads to reduced morale, engagement and retention, especially among those drawn to the organisation by its purported values. Quiet often we hear once the trust is lost, rebuilding it is a slow and costly process. Exposure to carewashing through whistleblowers, investigative journalism, or public criticism can lead to significant reputational harm. By co-opting social causes for profit, carewashing trivializes important issues, potentially reducing the urgency of addressing them authentically. To counteract carewashing, organisations must prioritise authenticity and accountability. This involves providing measurable, verifiable data on social and environmental efforts rather than vague claims; including employees in shaping policies and initiatives to ensure alignment with internal realities; conducting regular audits and feedback loops that will help organisations stay true to their commitments and correct shortcomings and public statements should be backed by tangible actions, such as policy changes or resource allocation.

There is no denying that carewashing is a symptom of the growing demand for ethical behaviour in business and society, but it represents a shortcut that sacrifices trust and authenticity for superficial gains. While it may offer short-term visibility, its long-term consequences are overwhelmingly negative, eroding credibility and alienating stakeholders. Organisations must recognise that true social responsibility requires meaningful actions, transparency and a commitment to sustained progress. Only by moving beyond carewashing can businesses and institutions genuinely contribute to a better world while earning the loyalty and respect of their communities.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

Food subsidy: Go for direct transfer to curb leakages



UTTAM GUPTA

Despite extensive measures implemented by the government, including digitisation, pilferage persists, revealing systemic flaws in how food subsidies are administered

According to a Study titled 'Rationalising Public Distribution System in India' done by the Indian Council For Research On International Economic Relations (ICRIER), there was grain leakage under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) of 20 million tons (17 million ton of rice and 3 million ton of wheat) which is 28 per cent of the 71 million ton of grain off-take by states (that included 52 million ton of rice and 19 million ton wheat) during August 2022 - July 2023. The Study estimates the annual fiscal cost of this leakage to be around Rs 70,000 crore. Under the PMGKAY, the Union Government asks the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other state agencies to procure food from the farmers at MSP (minimum support price) and organise its distribution to around 820 million people for free. The entire cost i.e. MSP paid to farmers plus handling and distribution cost (HDC) is reimbursed to the FCI/other state agencies as a subsidy. The money comes from the Union Budget's allocation for 'food subsidy'. While, the PMGKAY has been in force since January 1, 2023, before that, the Centre was giving food to 820 million persons (7 kg of cereals per person per month to 120 million poorest of the poor persons covered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana or AAY families and five kilograms of cereals per person per month to the remaining 700 million) at a heavily subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals under the National Food Security Act (NFSA). In addition, since April 2020, it has given 5 kg of food per person per month for "free" to all 820 million beneficiaries under PMGKAY to mitigate the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From January 1, 2023, it merged the free part of PMGKAY with the regular food security schemes under NFSA. Now, food is available to all 820 million beneficiaries for free under the new incarnation of NFSA, the PMGKAY. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in November 2023, this arrangement will continue for five years until the end of CY 2028. During the financial year (FY) 2022-23, the Centre's expenditure on food subsidy was Rs 272,000 crore. Apart from expenses under PMGKAY for the whole of that FY, this amount also included the subsidy on food grain given under NFSA at the subsidised price of Rs 2/3/1 per kg for wheat/rice/coarse cereals from April to December 2022. Within this total expenditure, how much money was lost due to pilferage? How does the Study reach Rs 70,000 crore? The authors look at the 'economic cost' (EC) of rice and wheat. This is the MSP paid to farmers plus HDC. During 2022-23, this was Rs 36.7 per kg or Rs 36,700 per ton for rice and Rs 25.9 per kg or Rs 25,900 per ton for wheat. Multiply the pilfered quantity of rice 17 million tons by its EC, we get the cost of its pilferage Rs 62,390 crore. Likewise, multiply 3 million tons of pilfered wheat by its EC, and the cost comes to Rs 7770 crore. Thus, the total cost was around Rs 70,000 crore. This



Representational Image: Pradeep Gaur/ISH

is around 26 per cent of the food subsidy expenditure of Rs 272,000 crore for 2022-23. Taken as a percentage of the subsidy given under PMGKAY alone (the budget doesn't provide this figure; a back-of-the-envelope calculation using annual off-take of 55 million tons, EC for rice and wheat given above and their use in 75:25 ratio, yields Rs 187,000 crore), this is much higher at 37 per cent.

How has the Study arrived at the quantum of leakage?

The Study picked up monthly off-take (albeit "reported") data from the FCI from August 2022 to July 2023 and saw this in juxtaposition with "actual household consumption levels" taken from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23. While the former was taken as an approximation for the quantity of food grain sent for distribution amongst the PMGKAY beneficiaries, the latter was taken as a proxy of the quantity received.

Based on the above comparison, it was concluded that as against 52.4 million tons of rice that were sent, 35.7 million tons were received suggesting a shortfall of 16.7 million tons. Likewise, against 19 million tons of wheat that was sent, 16 million tons were received pointing toward a shortfall of 3 million tons. Thus, a total of 19.7 million tons or close to 20 million tons was pilfered from the public distribution system (PDS). But, there is a flaw in such a comparison.

At the Off-take level, it can't be surmised that the quantities that

left the FCI warehouses and were picked up by states were 'entirely' meant for PDS stocks to be used for distribution (actual consumption) by the PMGKAY beneficiaries.

Off-take figures also include food stocks in transit, buffer stock, operational reserves and cereals set aside for social welfare schemes and commercial sales by the government. Each of these serves a specific purpose. For instance, 'buffer stock' refers to a strategic stock for smoothening out price fluctuations—buying a commodity when the price is low and releasing it in the market when the price is high. Likewise, 'operational reserves' are kept as a backstop which can be used quickly in the case of an unplanned event/emergency. Similarly, stock in transit can't be considered as part of food grain meant for PDS consumption within a given time frame.

The quantities meant for all such purposes need to be excluded from the grains that left FCI warehouses and only the net figure available for PDS consumption should be compared with actual household consumption levels as read from the Consumption surveys. It seems, the Study hasn't done it.

This is also corroborated by the fact that the annual distribution of free food for PMGKAY beneficiaries is normally 55 million tons; against this, the Study uses 71 million tons.

At the beneficiary's end also, the actual household consumption level includes cereal consumed from multiple sources, such as

private purchases or state-specific schemes and not just the quantities available under PMGKAY etc. Therefore, it won't be on all fours to directly correlate with PDS off-take.

To conclude, there are leakages from the PDS though not on a scale indicated by the Study. Its root cause has to do with how food subsidy is administered. Under the extant system, the subsidy is built into the price which under this Scheme is Zero. Herein lies the rub.

The availability of a mammoth of around 55 million tons (the quantity distributed under the PMGKAY) in the supply chain with zero price tag is an open invitation to dubious operators to siphon off and sell in the open market raking in a moolah. Howsoever, foolproof one may make the system (Modi - government has done an exemplary job getting PoS (point of sale machines) installed at 530,000 fair price shops across the country; digitisation of supply chain from procurement to distribution; authentication of beneficiaries with their Aadhaar numbers and so on), as long as subsidy is routed through the State agencies, unscrupulous characters will always find ways to circumvent even the best of technology interventions aimed at curbing pilferage. Pilferage can be eliminated only when the government gives subsidies directly to the beneficiaries and allows the food markets to function competitively and efficiently.

(The writer is a policy analyst; views are personal)



'BUFFER STOCK' REFERS TO A STRATEGIC STOCK FOR SMOOTHENING OUT PRICE FLUCTUATIONS—BUYING A COMMODITY WHEN THE PRICE IS LOW AND RELEASING IT IN THE MARKET WHEN THE PRICE IS HIGH

Addressing rural housing challenges in India: A case study of PMAY-G

PMAY-G has transformed rural housing in India, delivering not just shelter but also dignity and opportunity to millions

Housing is a fundamental challenge for rural India, where a significant portion of households live in kutcha structures made of non-durable materials such as mud and bamboo. These homes are highly vulnerable to harsh weather conditions, exposing residents to risks and uncertainties. Recognising this, the Indian government launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G)' as part of its commitment to achieving "Housing for All."



JEEVANT RAMPAL

This ambitious welfare program aims to provide financial and construction assistance to build durable 'pucca' houses equipped with essential amenities. The scheme targets both homeless households and those residing in 'kutcha'

or dilapidated structures. As of October 2024, PMAY-G has facilitated the construction of 2.67 crore houses, marking a significant milestone in its progress. However, this raises critical questions: Will this initiative truly ensure housing for all? How effectively does it address rural India's housing challenges?

Leveraging Technology for Quality and Oversight

A cornerstone of PMAY-G's success lies in its use of technology to enhance construction quality and ensure transparency in disbursement. One notable component is the 'Rural Mason Training (RMT) Program', developed in collaboration with the National Skill Development Corporation. The programme has trained 2.81 lakh masons, equipping them with the skills to deliver high-quality construction while fostering local expertise. This initiative not only improves housing quality but also accelerates construction. For instance, over 40 lakh houses were built in 2021-22, with the number surpassing 50 lakh in 2022-23, breaking all previous records. Further, the program prioritises disaster-resilient designs, supported



by tools like the 'Pahal Compendium'. This resource offers diverse, region-specific house designs incorporating disaster-resilient features. Complementing the compendium is an app that provides 3D visualisations of recommended house designs, ensuring practicality and accessibility. **Transformative Impact on Beneficiaries** PMAY-G's impact extends beyond physical housing. Recent research highlights its role in improving living conditions, access to infrastructure, and overall wellbeing. Beneficiaries have reported enhanced social status, self-esteem, and a sense of belonging—factors that potentially reduce distress migration. A key feature of the programme

employment impact is further amplified by integration with the 'Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGN-REGS)'. The quality of training under the RMT programme is evident, with certified masons even securing overseas employment opportunities. Such achievements underscore PMAY-G's dual focus on immediate housing needs and long-term skill development. **Comprehensive Programme Integration** One of PMAY-G's standout features is its integration with other government schemes to improve beneficiaries' overall quality of life. This includes: - Toilets through 'Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)' - LPG connections via 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala

Yojana (PMUY) **Ensuring Transparency and Fairness** Transparency in beneficiary selection is another critical strength of PMAY-G. Beneficiaries are identified using the 'Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC) 2011' and 'Awaas+ 2018' lists, verified through Gram Sabhas and an appellate process. The program also uses the 'Awaas+2024 Mobile App', which enables households to self-survey and update their housing status. Recently, facial recognition systems were introduced to further improve oversight, ensuring fairness and reducing fraudulent claims. **Global Scale and Ambitions:** PMAY-G Despite its notable success, PMAY-G faces sever-

al challenges that need attention. A significant issue is the lack of awareness among many eligible beneficiaries, particularly in remote areas, about the programme's eligibility criteria, highlighting the need for better information dissemination. Additionally, the program would benefit from stronger feedback mechanisms to address potential blind spots and improve implementation efficiency. Another concern is the uneven progress across states, with some exceeding their targets while others fall behind. Achieving balanced implementation will require greater political consensus and more equitable resource allocation.

(The writer is faculty, IIM Ahmedabad; views are personal)

Supreme Court junks challenge to Preamble

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Monday dismissed the pleas challenging the 1976 amendment to the Constitution adding terms "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" to the preamble, observing Parliament's amending power extended to Preamble too. Rejecting the pleas on grounds, including the delay of over 44 years, the top court said terms like "socialist" and "secular" were "integral to the Preamble" making the "prayers particularly questionable".

Authoring the verdict, the Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna said, "We do not find any legitimate cause or justification for challenging this constitutional amendment after nearly 44 years. The circumstances do not warrant this court's exercise of discretion to undertake an exhaustive examination, as the constitutional position remains unambiguous, negating the need for a detailed academic pronouncement."

The bench also comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar wrote in its seven-page order, "In essence, the concept of secularism represents one of the facets of the right to equality, intricately woven into the basic fabric that depicts the constitutional scheme's pattern."

The words "socialist", "secular" and "integrity" were inserted

into the Preamble to the Constitution under the 42nd constitutional amendment moved by the Indira Gandhi government in 1976. The order observed Article 368 of the Constitution permitted its amendment. "The power to amend unquestionably rests with the Parliament. This amending power extends to the Preamble," it underlined. The top court said the amendments to the Constitution could be challenged on various grounds, including violation of the basic structure of the Constitution. "The fact that the Constitution was adopted, enacted, and given to themselves by the people of India on the 26th day of November, 1949, does not make any difference. The date of adoption will not curtail or restrict the power under Article 368 of the Constitution. The retrospectivity argument, if accepted, would equally apply to amendments made to any part of the Constitution, though the power of Parliament to do so under Article 368, is incontrovertible and is not challenged," highlighted the verdict. The petitions do not require a detailed adjudication as the flaws and weaknesses in the arguments are obvious and manifest, it added. "While it is true that the constituent assembly had not agreed to include the words 'socialist' and 'secular' in the Preamble, the Constitution is a

living document, as noticed above with power given to the Parliament to amend it in terms of and in accord with Article 368," it said. India for a period of time has developed its own interpretation of secularism, wherein the state neither supports any religion nor penalises the profession and practice of any faith, it said. The order referred to several decisions, underscoring the term secularism was held to be a basic feature of the Constitution. "The state maintains no religion of its own, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience along with the right to freely profess, practice, and propagate their chosen religion, and all citizens, regardless of their religious beliefs, enjoy equal freedoms and rights. However, the 'secular nature of the state does not prevent the elimination of attitudes and practices derived from or connected with religion, when they, in the larger public interest impede development and the right to equality," it said. Commenting on the term "socialism", the order said in the Indian context, it should not be interpreted as restricting the economic policies of an elected government of the people's choice at a given time. "Neither the Constitution nor the Preamble mandates a specific economic policy or structure, whether left or right.



Gurugram commissioner takes officers to task for pending citizen grievances

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

Municipal Corporation Gurugram (MCG), Commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg said that serious attention should be paid towards resolving the complaints of the citizens. If any officer or employee unnecessarily makes the citizens run around again and again, then action will be taken against him. He said while listening to a complaint in the 'Samadhan Camp' on Monday. "The goal of the civic body is to provide basic facilities like roads, sewer, drinking water, parks, street lights and cleanliness to the citizens and it is also the duty of the officers not to unnecessarily harass the citizens," he said. He strictly said that in the case of such complaints, which take time to resolve, the officers should ensure that a temporary solution to the said complaint is done immediately so that the citizens can get interim relief.

In the Samadhan Camp, the MCG Chief also sought an explanation from Prashant, clerk of the Zone-4 Tax Branch, in the matter of keeping the file pending. Along with this, an investigation will also be conducted as to which officer or employee has unnecessarily kept the said file pending with them for a long time. Garg noticed that the clerk had unnecessarily kept the file pending with him for about one and a half months. Along with this, he also reprimanded the officers of the Revenue Department on the spot in this matter and instructed them to resolve it immediately. While hearing the complaints of citizens from Sushant Lok-1 and Sector-28, the Garg told Chief Engineer Manoj Yadav present on the spot to start the tender process related to cleaning drainage from now itself so that the cleaning of all the drains is completed before the monsoon arrives.

Good news from Kuno National Park

PNS ■ BHOPAL

Cheetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs at the Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh's Sheopur district, Chief Minister Mohan Yadav said on Monday and hailed their arrival as a boost to the project that restored a species which vanished from India decades ago. Prior to this, 17 cheetah cubs had been born at the KNP, where the fastest land animal on Earth was translocated from Namibia more than two years ago. With 12 of those cubs surviving, the count of cheetahs was last reported to be 24. With the birth of four more cubs, their count has gone up to 16. "Today the Cheetah Project has achieved great

success. In Kuno National Park of our - Cheetah State Madhya Pradesh - the female cheetah Neerva has given birth to four cubs, which is a great achievement not only for the state but also for the country," Yadav stated in a social media post. He lauded forest department personnel involved in the Cheetah Project for their efforts in making the programme a success. In the afternoon, the forest department had informed about the birth of cheetah cubs at the KNP without specifying their exact number. "Good news from Kuno. Female cheetah Neerva has given birth to cubs in Kuno National Park located in Sheopur district," the MP forest department said in a

post. Last month, Chief Minister Yadav had shared information that a female cheetah at the park was pregnant and was expected to deliver cubs soon. On September 17, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released eight Namibian cheetahs, five females and three males, into enclosures at the KNP as part of the world's first intercontinental translocation of the big cats, seven decades after they became extinct in India due to hunting and habitat loss. In February 2023, a dozen more cheetahs were translocated to the national park from South Africa as part of the Central government's project to reintroduce the big cats in the country.

Shinde camp lobbies for CM post

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Ahead of a formal decision by the ruling MahaYuti on the chief ministerial choice, the ruling Shiv Sena (SS) MP Naresh Mhaske said on Monday that the BJP should adopt the Bihar pattern and appoint its founder-president Eknath Shinde as the next chief minister of Maharashtra. In a demand apparently orchestrated by Eknath Shinde himself, Mhaske - who is a close aide of Shinde - rooted for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) appointing Shinde as the state's next chief minister (CM) instead of its nominee Devendra Fadnavis

who will in all likelihood be the JP Nadda-led party's first and only choice for the CM's post. In a related development, state BJP leader Pravin Darekar said that Fadnavis was the ideal chief ministerial choice, as he was the most capable candidate to lead Maharashtra. Interacting with the media ahead of the BJP central leaders' meeting with the incumbent CM Eknath Shinde and his two deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar to formalise the name of the next CM, Mhaske said: "We strongly believe that Mr Shinde will be appointed as the next CM of the state. This

is because the MahaYuti fought the Assembly elections and got a massive mandate under Shinde's leadership. As an ordinary worker of the Shiv Sena, I would like to see Shinde return as the chief minister of the state." In his elaboration, Mhaske said, "In Bihar, the BJP - which despite being the single largest party in the Assembly nominated Nitish Kumar as the CM - should adopt the Bihar pattern and declare Shinde as the next chief minister of Maharashtra. "The same was the case with Haryana where Nayab Singh Saini was appointed as the CMr after he led the BJP to victory.

NSUI bags DUSU president post...

From page 1

This win will provide a big push to the Delhi Congress, as the state Assembly poll is scheduled early next year. After the results were announced, both the party's winning candidates thanked their supporters and flashed the victory signs. The NSUI's presidential candidate Rounak Khatri won the student body elections against the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad's (ABVP)Rishabh Chaudhary by over 1,300 votes. It also secured the Joint

Secretary post as Lokesh Choudhary won against ABVP's Aman Kapasia and Students' Federation of India's (SFI)Sneha Aggarwal. However, NSUI's Yash Nandal failed to retain the post of vice-president this year, it was won by ABVP's Bhanu Pratap Singh. The RSS backed student outfit also clinched the Secretary position as its candidate Mitravinda Karanwal emerged victorious, defeating NSUI's Namrata Jeph Meena and SFI's Anamika K. 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 elections for the four central posts in DUSU were contested by 21 candidates. Out of these, eight contested the post of president, five for vice-president, and four each fought the contest to become secretary and joint secretary. The Left-aligned coalition of the All India Students' Association (AISA) and Students' Federation of India (SFI) also contested the elections but its candidates

failed to secure any seat even as the university continues to be dominated by ABVP and NSUI. While the ABVP held the majority in the 2023 elections, the dynamics have changed this time around. The last time the NSUI had won the President post was in 2017 while it held the Joint Secretary post in 2016. Strict rules were implemented on the result day to prevent celebrations on campus post-results by burning firecrackers or using dhols, amid the university issuing an affidavit for all the candidates, asking them to refrain from doing so.

Musical chairs in...

From page 1

After June 2022, during political turmoil in Maharashtra, BJP took a decision and picked Eknath Shinde as the CM of Maharashtra after he spearheaded a coup of sorts for CM Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government by rebelling, along with over 39 party MLAs who moved from Mumbai to Surat to Goa, and finally back to Mumbai. Shortly after this Ajit Pawar broke ranks from the Sharad Pawar NCP and joined the NDA.

Cabinet approves One Nation...

From page 1

A total of almost Rs 6,000 crore has been allocated for One Nation One Subscription for three calendar years, 2025, 2026 and 2027, as a new Central Sector Scheme. One Nation One Subscription is a timely step towards establishing India in the global research ecosystem by bringing ease of doing research to the doorstep of all students, faculty and researchers in the government institutions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address to the

Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2022, had pointed out the importance of Research and Development in our country in the Amrit Kaal. He had given the clarion call of "Jai Anusandhan" on the occasion. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has also identified research as a requisite for outstanding education and development in our country. The establishment of Anusandhan National Research Foundation by the Government of India was a step in this direction.

Conduct classes in...

From page 1

All the schools in Delhi and NCR do not have infrastructure to conduct classes purely in an online mode. Students of classes X and XII and the associated school authorities are most impacted by the GRAP Stage - IV restrictions, considering the Board examinations facing them and the various competitive exams which follow. These students are required to attend classes in a physical mode considering the practical-I classes as also the practical examinations. Besides, the students are also required to attend extra classes / tutorials for the Board examinations.

SC tells CAQM to relax restrictions...

From page 1

"It is apparent that the authorities mentioned in GRAP-IV clauses 1, 2 and 3 have made no earnest effort to implement action under clauses 1 to 3. Some police teams were deputed at few entry points that also without any specific instructions. (Court) commissioners have noted that police were only deployed as on November 23 and thus a serious lapse on part of authorities. We, therefore, direct commission to immediately initiate action under Section 14 of CAQM Act 2021," the Bench underscored. A large number of students, it noted, did not have air purifiers at home therefore there being no difference between children at home and those attending schools. "The CAQM is expected to take a decision during the course of the day or latest by tomorrow morning so that it can be implemented from Wednesday," the Bench said. The Bench said it was not

reducing GRAP-4 measures till it is satisfied there is a consistent downward trend of AQI and has sought updated AQI figures of Delhi till Wednesday. Noting several sections of society, especially labourers and daily wagers, were adversely affected due to GRAP-4, the Bench directed the state governments, where construction has been banned, to use funds collected as labour cess to provide subsistence to them. "The commission has all the powers under Section 12(1) of the CAQM Act 2021 to issue directions to various authorities to take several measures to ensure that persons in the category of labour, daily workers, etc., do not suffer," the Bench said. In its order, the Bench said the 13 apex court lawyers, appointed as court commissioners to conduct inspection at entry points, would continue to visit areas and submit reports to the court. The order was passed after senior advocate Menaka

Guruswamy, appearing for a group of parents, submitted lakhs of students depended on mid-day meals but had been deprived of food owing to closure of schools. The SC also censured the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government and the Delhi police for a "serious lapse" on their part in the strict implementation of GRAP-IV measures and directed the CAQM to take action against the erring officials. The Bench said the authorities made no efforts to implement GRAP-IV measures. "It is apparent that the authorities mentioned in GRAP-IV clauses 1, 2 and 3 have made no earnest efforts to implement action under clauses 1 to 3. police teams were deputed at a few entry points that also without any specific instructions," it said. Calling for action against the erring officials, the Bench said, "(Court) commissioners have noted that police were only deployed as on November 23 and thus a serious lapse on

part of authorities. We, therefore, direct the commission to immediately initiate action under Section 14 of CAQM Act 2021." Section 14 of the CAQM in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 deals with the punishment for non-compliance of its provisions. A counsel appearing for the 13 court-appointed commissioners who monitored implementation of the curbs told the Bench that while checking happened, it is not clear how effective it was. The counsel said cops were "jumping in the middle of the road" to stop trucks and that there was no barricading at several checkpoints. The Delhi government's counsel said employees of various levels were deployed at the checkpoints. When the court asked if the Delhi government issued specific instructions to Delhi Police, the former said Delhi Police does not come under its authority.

Local tradesman wary of Vaishno Devi ropeway project

From page 1

Some of them also pelted stones targeting the police personnel deployed in the area. One of the officers and a few jawans received minor injuries in the melee. During these protests, the pilgrims visiting the shrine faced many hardships as a large number of shops en route to the 13 km long trek remained closed. Pony and palanquin owners did not provide service to the pilgrims. According to Anshul Garg,

the Chief Executive Officer of the Shrine Board, the ropeway project has been in discussion for several years, and the board has now resolved to move forward, ensuring better facilities for pilgrims. Anshul Garg said that once completed the ropeway project is surely going to enhance the pilgrimage experience, making it safer, faster, and more inclusive for elderly and differently-abled pilgrims as well. On average 90 lakh pilgrims (annually) offer prayers inside the cave shrine and the foothall is

expected to cross the previous year's milestone of 95 lakhs this year. Reacting to the violent protests, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said the genuine concerns of the people protesting against the proposed ropeway project along the Mata Vaishno Devi route would be looked after. Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), said a committee headed by the divisional commissioner of Jammu had

already talked to the stakeholders to build a consensus on the development projects. Responding to a question on the stone-pelting incident in Katra on the fourth day of the strike against the construction of the ropeway project, the Lt Governor said the concerns about loss of employment are being taken care of. However, he said there would be no compromise with development projects and creating ample employment opportunities for the people.

Meerut groom chases down...

From page 1

Instead, he claims the groom accused him of brushing against his vehicle, which escalated into the high-speed chase and a confrontation he describes as unwarranted. The contrasting versions have left the local police scratching their heads. As of now, no formal complaint has been registered. Regardless of the truth, Dev

Kumar's daring act has turned him into an overnight celebrity. In a region known for its high drama, this particular episode reminded everyone that not all heroes wear capes, some wear wedding turbans and currency garlands. As one user summed it up, "Meerut never disappoints. This groom didn't just chase love, he chased justice and Rs 100!"

Country-made firearms used in Sambhal, death toll rises to four

From page 1

In response, the administration has bolstered security across Sambhal. Under the leadership of DIG Muniraj G, police conducted flag marches in sensitive areas. Key intersections have been barricaded, and additional forces have been deployed at entry points to the city. Riot-control vehicles have also been stationed to prevent further flare-ups. As of Monday, 25 people, including two women, have been arrested in connection with the violence. Two FIRs have been lodged, one of which names Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Ziaur Rahman Barq and the son of local SP MLA Iqbal Mahmood for allegedly inciting the mob. Another FIR has been registered against 2,500 unidentified individuals. SP Krishna Kumar Bishnoi warned of severe consequences for those involved in the violence. "Strict action will be taken under the Gangster Act and the National Security Act (NSA) against all culprits," he said. Sambhal remains under an unofficial lockdown as shops,

markets, and schools stay closed, and streets are deserted except for security patrols. Many homes in the violence-hit areas are locked, and residents have been advised to stay indoors. Internet services have been suspended until Tuesday, with the possibility of an extension if tensions persist. Congress MP Rahul Gandhi criticised the state government's handling of the unrest, calling its approach "biased and hasty." In a statement on X (formerly Twitter), Gandhi said, "The administration's insensitive action without listening to all parties worsened the situation, resulting in the deaths of innocent people - for which the BJP government is directly responsible." He also appealed for peace and restraint. Authorities have urged residents to avoid spreading rumors and cooperate in maintaining order. While no fresh incidents of violence were reported on Monday, the administration remains on high alert, with police personnel from 30 stations across the Moradabad range deployed to ensure peace.

Team India rises like a phoenix at Perth

From page 1

It was evident from the manner in which he allowed Mohammed Siraj (match haul of five wickets), debutants Harshit Rana (match haul of four wickets) and Nitish Reddy (41 and 37 not out and one wicket) bowl from the Member's End so that they can get extra help due to the ball keeping very low. Washington Sundar (two wickets and 29 runs), who was preferred after the team management felt that Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja with 850 plus Test wickets between them, would not be as effective on this track, also did his bit in mopping up the tail. With three of their automatic first team selections in skipper Rohit,

talented Shubman Gill and bowling artist Mohammed Shami ruled out due to different reasons, Bumrah, leading in only his second Test, was left with a lot to do and less options to work with. Gabba 2021 evokes nostalgia for every Indian cricket fan but Perth 2024 will certainly be right up there considering that no one, save those 11, and the few others in that change room, could have believed that something like this is possible. Often the job of deputies in cricket is an understated one, but it is all about making it easy for the general-in-charge. Rahul Dravid had tirelessly done that for Sourav Ganguly during their time and as Rohit Sharma checked-in, he would know that his deputy has at least tried to remove

the ton of pressure on his chest after the home series debacle. Credit must also go to head coach Gautam Gambhir, who copped a lot of flak after the defeat to the Black Caps and it was widely believed that rookies Reddy and Harshit got Test caps on his insistence. Gambhir, who seldom smiles, could afford a grin under the Perth Sun as the burly Harshit and the sinewy Nitish didn't deviate from the script handed to them for the better part of the game. Starting the day at 12 for 3 in pursuit of 534, it was about how much time would it take for Australia to capitulate and they eventually did despite a counter-attacking 89 by Travis Head that only delayed the inevitable. On the last two tours, India started

the series at Adelaide, which is believed to have friendlier batting conditions but this time, Australia decided to make the first move putting India on the bounciest surface in the country. The move only worked for a session and a half before it backfired completely. The Australians had factored in India's vulnerability but decided to punt on their own batting line-up which has been woefully short of runs. Steve Smith, one of the modern day greats, and Marnus Labuschagne, who has always been obsessed about batting, have had their forms desert them for the longest time. Then they inducted a rookie in Nathan McSweeney, who isn't particularly Tested and also not an opener. It

indicated that just like India, Australia will also face a transition, and its case could be even worse. Josh Hazlewood had thrown the towel on third evening itself and one shouldn't be surprised if the Australian team management plays on flatter batting decks in the coming matches in order to nullify Bumrah's threat. But Bumrah is the sort of bowler who can tighten the noose whenever he desires and irrespective of conditions. On the fourth afternoon, he came back to dislodge Head, who was putting on a fight. That was possibly the best of his eight wickets in the game. It was pitched on length and the compulsive driver that Head is, he didn't expect it to climb from length and it took the outside edge.

Hezbollah ceasefire deal could come 'within days'

AP ■ JERUSALEM/DUBAI

The Israeli ambassador to Washington says that a cease-fire deal to end fighting between Israel and the Lebanon-based Hezbollah could be reached "within days." Ambassador Mike Herzog told Israeli Army Radio on Monday that there remained "points to finalize" and that any deal required agreement from the government. But he said "we are close to a deal" and that "it can happen within days."

Among the issues that remain is an Israeli demand to reserve the right to act should Hezbollah violate its obligations under the emerging deal. The deal seeks to push Hezbollah and Israeli troops out of southern Lebanon.

Hezbollah did not adhere to a UN resolution that ended the 2006 war between the sides that made similar provisions, and Israel has concerns that it could stage a Hamas-style cross-border attack from southern Lebanon if it maintains a heavy presence there. Lebanon says Israel also violated the 2006 resolution. It is not clear whether Lebanon would agree to the demand. The optimism surrounding a deal comes after a top US envoy held talks between the sides last week in a bid to clinch a deal.

Hezbollah began attacking Israel on October 8, 2023, a day after Hamas' raid on southern Israel, setting off more than a year of fighting. That escalated into all-out war in September with massive Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon and later



Residents gather in front of a destroyed building that was hit Sunday night in an Israeli airstrike in Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon. AP/PTI

an Israeli ground incursion into the country's south. Hezbollah has fired thousands of rockets into Israeli cities and towns, including some 250 on Sunday.

'NETANYAHU SHOULD BE SENTENCED TO DEATH'

Iran's supreme leader has suggested that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should be "sentenced to death" for his role in the ongoing wars in the Gaza Strip against Hamas and in Lebanon. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei made the remarks Monday during an event in which he spoke to members of the Basij, the all-volunteer arm of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. Khamenei referenced the International Criminal Court's decision to issue an arrest warrant for Netanyahu and Israel's former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

"What the Zionist regime did in Gaza and Lebanon is not a victory, it is a war crime. Now they have issued a warrant for their arrest. This is not enough!" Khamenei said, according to remarks published by the state-run IRNA news agency. "Netanyahu and the criminal leaders of this regime must be sentenced to death."

The International Criminal Court at the Hague does not issue death sentences. Khamenei also insisted those in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance," like the Palestinian militant group Hamas and Lebanon's Hezbollah, would be stronger after the war. "The idiots should not think that bombing houses and hospitals in Gaza and Lebanon is a victory," he said. "The enemy has not become winner in Gaza and Lebanon, and it will not be winner."

'Israeli strike that killed 3 Lebanese journalists most likely deliberate'

AP ■ BEIRUT

An Israeli airstrike that killed three journalists and wounded others in Lebanon last month was most likely a deliberate attack on civilians and an apparent war crime, an international human rights group said on Monday. The October 25 airstrike killed three journalists as they slept at a guesthouse in southeast Lebanon in one of the deadliest attacks on the media since the Israel-Hezbollah war began 13 months ago. Eleven other journalists have been killed and eight wounded since then, Lebanon's Health Minister Firass Abiad said.

More than 3,500 people have been killed in Lebanon, and women and children accounted for more than 900 of the dead, according to the Health Ministry. More than 1 million people have been displaced since Israeli ground troops invaded while Hezbollah has been firing thousands of rockets, drones and missiles into Israel — and drawing fierce Israeli retaliatory strikes. Human Rights Watch determined that Israeli forces carried out the October 25 attack using an air-dropped bomb equipped with a US-produced Joint Direct Attack Munition,

or JDAM, guidance kit. The group said the US government should suspend weapons transfers to Israel because of the military's repeated "unlawful attacks on civilians, for which US officials may be complicit in war crimes." There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military on the report.

The Biden administration said in May that Israel's use of US-provided weapons in the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza likely violated international humanitarian law but that wartime conditions prevented US officials from determining that for certain in specific airstrikes.

The journalists killed in the airstrike in the southeastern town of Hasbaya were camera operator Ghassan Najjar and broadcast technician Mohammed Rida of the Beirut-based pan-Arab Al-Mayadeen TV, and camera operator Wissam Qassim, who worked for Hezbollah's Al-Manar TV. Human Rights Watch said a munition struck the single-story building and detonated upon hitting the floor.

"Israel's use of US arms to unlawfully attack and kill journalists away from any military target is a terrible mark on the United States as

well as Israel," said Richard Weir, the senior crisis, conflict and arms researcher at Human Rights Watch. Weir added that "the Israeli military's previous deadly attacks on journalists without any consequences give little hope for accountability in this or future violations against the media."

Human Rights Watch said that it found remnants at the site and reviewed photographs of pieces collected by the resort owner and determined that they were consistent with a JDAM guidance kit assembled and sold by the US company Boeing. The JDAM is affixed to air-dropped bombs and allows them to be guided to a target by using satellite coordinates, making the weapon accurate to within several meters, the group said.

In November 2023, two journalists for Al-Mayadeen TV were killed in a drone strike at their reporting spot. A month earlier, Israeli shelling in southern Lebanon killed Reuters videographer Issam Abdallah and seriously wounded other journalists from France's international news agency Agence France-Presse and Qatar's Al-Jazeera TV on a hilltop not far from the Israeli border.

UAE arrests three Uzbek nationals for killing of rabbi

AP ■ DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates said on Monday police arrested three Uzbek nationals for the killing of an Israeli-Moldovan rabbi.

The statement from the country's Interior Ministry offered no motive for the slaying of Zvi Kogan. Kogan, 28, an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who went missing on Thursday, ran a kosher grocery store in the futuristic city of Dubai, where Israelis have flocked for commerce and tourism since the two countries forged diplomatic ties in the 2020 Abraham Accords.

The agreement has held through more than a year of soaring regional tensions unleashed by Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack into southern Israel. But Israel's devastating retaliatory offensive in Gaza and its invasion of Lebanon, after months of fighting with the Hezbollah militant group, have stoked anger among Emiratis, Arab nationals and others living in the UAE.

The Interior Ministry statement identified the three men as Olimpi Tohrovic, 28, Mahmoud John Abdul Rahim 28, and Azizi Kamilovic, 33. The state-run WAM news agency carried images of the three men, their faces blurred. It did not say if charges had been filed against the men.

It wasn't immediately clear if the three men had lawyers in the UAE, an autocratically ruled nation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula. The Uzbek Consulate in Dubai did not immediately respond to a request for comment regarding the arrests.

Israeli media reports, citing unnamed security officials, had alleged Uzbeks were involved in Kogan's killing. Uzbeks previously have been hired in Iranian plots targeting dissidents and others.

Iran, which supports Hamas and Hezbollah, has also been threatening to retaliate against Israel after a wave of airstrikes Israel carried out in October in response to an Iranian ballistic missile attack. Iran's Embassy in Abu Dhabi denied Tehran was involved in the rabbi's slaying.

While the UAE statement did not mention Iran, Iranian intelligence services have carried out past kidnappings in the UAE.

Western officials believe Iran runs intelligence operations in the UAE and keeps tabs on the hundreds of thousands of Iranians living across the country.

Iran is suspected of kidnapping and later killing British Iranian national Abbas Yazdi in Dubai in 2013, though Tehran has denied involvement.

Iraq's population grew to 45.4 million according to first survey in decades

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Preliminary results from an Iraqi national census, the first in nearly 40 years, show that the population has grown to 45.4 million, the prime minister said on Monday. The nationwide population census, carried out earlier this month, is a step aimed at modernising data collection and planning in a country long impacted by conflict and political divisions.

Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said on Monday that initial results showed the country's population has reached approximately 45.4 million people. In 2009, an unofficial count estimated the population at 31.6 million. The gender distribution according to Monday's initial results shows a nearly even split, with males making up 50.1 per cent of the population and females 49.8 per cent of the population. The act of counting the population, the first in 37 years, is contentious in Iraq, with profound implications for the country's resource distribution, budget allocations and development planning. Minority groups

also fear that a documented decline in their numbers will bring decreased political influence and fewer economic benefits in the country's sectarian power-sharing system. By order of Iraq's federal court, the census excluded questions about ethnicity and sectarian affiliation, focusing solely on broad religious categories such as Muslim and Christian.

The last nationwide census in Iraq was held in 1987. Another one held in 1997 excluded the Kurdish region. The next phase of the census will run over the coming weeks before final results, which will include information on religious groups, are announced, according to Ali Arian Saleh, the executive director of the census at the Ministry of Planning.

The census was the first to employ advanced technologies for gathering and analysing data, providing a comprehensive picture of Iraq's demographic, social, and economic landscape, officials said. Some 120,000 census workers surveyed households across the country, covering approximately 160 housing units each over two days.

Imran supporters march towards Islamabad amid crackdown

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD/LAHORE

Thousands of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf workers, led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, were moving towards Islamabad on Monday as the top party leaders met and dismissed any rumours about the protest march being called off.

The 72-year-old former premier 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".

His supporters resumed march towards Islamabad on Monday after an overnight stop on the way amid stiff resistance by the authorities to foil their attempt to enter the national capital and stage a sit-in at the D-Chowk, located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court.

Party chairman Gohar Khan, accompanied by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Information Advisor Barrister Saif and senior leader Ali Mohammad Khan, held a 90-minute meet-

ing with Imran Khan on Monday in Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala Jail, where the former premier is lodged since last year.

"Yes, I have met him (Khan)," Gohar told the media after the meeting, which he described as "significant".

Gohar said that Khan's call for protest is final and dismissed any rumours about it being called off.

When asked about the details of the ongoing negotiations, Gohar responded that the talks were underway and updates would be provided soon, Geo News reported. Sources said the purpose of the meeting was to brief Khan on the latest developments concerning the Islamabad protest and to take his guidance on the matter.

Meanwhile, a large convoy of PTI supporters moved steadily into Punjab territory but were met with police resistance near the Attock Bridge, Chach Interchange, and Ghazi Barotha Canal, where officers used heavy tear gas to disperse protesters.

Despite the police crackdown, Opposition leader Omar Ayub's convoy managed to push back Punjab Police forces at the Hazara Interchange.

In a brief address to the crowd before departing Swabi, KP



Supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, burn bushes to reduce the impact of tear gas shells fired by police officers to disperse them during a rally demanding Khan's release, at a motorway in Ghazi in Attock district, Pakistan. AP/PTI

Chief Minister Gandapur urged party members to move forward, declaring, "We must advance and not turn back until Khan is released." Later, he rallied supporters, telling them to "prepare, as we will need to confront further resistance ahead."

Khan's wife Bushra Bibi, who is a part of the convoy being led by Gandapur, demanded her

husband's release. "We will not end this march till Imran is not with us," she said while addressing supporters at a stop near the Hazara Interchange. "I will stay there till my last breath, and all of you have to support me. This is not just about my husband but about the country and its leader."

PTI leader Sanam Javaid Khan shared an update on her con-

voys' location in a post on X at 1:33 pm, saying they had reached Hassanabad.

According to her post, Bushra Bibi, Gandapur, Babar Saleem Swati, Faisal Javed and Omar Ayub Khan were present in the convoy, among other party leaders. The authorities had blocked the highways by placing shipping containers, but

protesters accompanied by lift-

ing equipment and other heavy machines worked their way by removing hurdles, but it skidded their speed and plans.

The government has banned rallies by imposing Section 144, a colonial-era law used to outlaw political activities, as a high-level delegation from Belarus is visiting Pakistan.

Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar questioned PTI's repeated calls for strikes, terming them a "well-thought-out conspiracy" against the country.

He regretted that the party always seemed to call for a protest at a time when global figures were visiting Pakistan, whether it be the Chinese premier's visit, the SCO summit or other occasions.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has vowed to arrest everyone entering the capital to protest. Not only all major roads leading to the capital and within the city have been barricaded but also police and paramilitary troops deployed to deal with the miscreants.

Rawalpindi police clashed with PTI workers at IJ Principal Road, arresting around 60 people after baton charges.

Punjab province of over 120 million people remained cut off from the rest of the country due to high-security measures to prevent protesters from entering the province.

Cargo plane crashes, killing Spanish crew member

AP ■ VILNIUS

A DHL cargo plane crashed on approach to an airport in Lithuania's capital and skidded into a house Monday morning, killing a Spanish crew member but not harming anyone on the ground. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

A surveillance video showed the plane descending normally as it approached the airport before sunrise, and then exploding into a huge ball of fire behind a building. The moment of impact could not be seen in the video. The crash occurred at a time that Western security officials suspect that Russian intelligence is carrying out sabotage against their nations in retaliation for their support for Ukraine — including arson attacks, disinformation and by putting incendiary devices in packages on cargo planes. In July one caught fire at a courier hub in Germany and another ignited in a warehouse in England.

Polish prosecutors said last month that parcels with camouflaged explosives were sent via cargo companies to EU countries and Britain to "test the transfer channel for such parcels" that were ultimately destined for the US and Canada. Lithuanian officials acknowledged that one line of inquiry will be whether Russia played a



Lithuanian Emergency Ministry employees work near the site where a DHL cargo plane crashed into a house near the Lithuanian capital Vilnius. AP/PTI

role given its suspected involvement in other cases of sabotage — although they stressed that there is no evidence pointing to that yet.

"Without a doubt, we cannot rule out the terrorism version," said Darius Jauński, chief of Lithuanian intelligence.

"We see Russia becoming more aggressive," he said. "But for now, we really cannot make any attributions or point fingers at anyone, because there is no information about it." The Lithuanian airport authority identified the aircraft as a DHL cargo plane arriving from Leipzig, Germany, a major freight hub, and one of the

injured was a German citizen. The German transportation ministry said that experts from the German Federal Bureau of Aircraft Accident Investigation would be sent to Lithuania to help with the investigation. Officials there also cautioned against trying to draw conclusions before all the evidence has been examined.

"No statements can yet be made about the cause of the accident. Whether it was an accident or whether another cause led to the crash of the cargo plane is the subject of the current investigation," German Interior Ministry spokesperson Mehmet Atta said at a briefing in Berlin.

Homeowners battle floodwaters in England, Wales after weekend storm

London (AP) Hundreds of homeowners in England and Wales were battling floodwaters Monday morning after the second major storm of the winter brought widespread disruption to the UK. Several rail operators cancelled services as more than 180 flood warnings remained in place after Storm Bert lashed the country with heavy rains and wind gusts up to 80 mph over the weekend. As much as 130 millimetres (5.1 inches) of rain fell in some areas, causing some rivers to overflow their banks and turning roads into waterways.

A severe flood warning, meaning there is danger to life, was issued early Monday for areas near the River Nene in Northampton as water levels continued to rise. Among the hardest hit areas were parts of Wales, where residents of Pontypridd tried to protect their homes by using buckets to bail water over a flood wall and back into the River Taff. Two severe flood warnings issued for the River Monnow in southeast Wales have been lowered to warnings.

Because of climate change and warmer oceans, storms can pick up more energy, increasing wind speeds, while a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture.

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Court acquits S Korean opp leader on charges of instigating perjury

AP ■ SEOUL

South Korean opposition leader Lee Jae-myung was acquitted on Monday on charges that he persuaded a witness to lie in court to understate Lee's past criminal conviction, in a rare moment of relief from broad legal troubles that threaten to derail his political career.

Lee thanked the Seoul Central District Court judge after the ruling for "bringing back truth and justice." The prosecution didn't immediately say whether it would appeal. The same court earlier this

month sentenced Lee to a suspended prison term for violating election law by making false public statements while running for president in the 2022 election, which he narrowly lost to conservative rival Yoon Suk Yeol.

If that conviction stands, Lee would be unseated as a lawmaker and barred from running for president in the next election, for which polls now show him to be the favourite. But Lee, who is facing five different trials over corruption and other charges, will likely challenge any guilty verdict he receives, and it's uncertain

whether the Supreme Court would decide on any of the cases before the vote in March 2027. The ruling Monday at the Seoul court was about whether Lee pressured a former employee of Seongnam city into giving false testimony in court in 2019. The testimony was meant to downplay Lee's 2002 conviction that, as a lawyer, he had helped a journalist of KBS television to impersonate a prosecutor to secure an interview with then-Seongnam Mayor Kim Byung-ryang over corruption suspicions regarding the allocation of new apartments.

Education, opportunities pull Indian students to US univs

Washington (PTI):

Globalisation, enormous opportunities in the US and a large Indian diaspora are the main attractions for students from India coming to America for higher education, especially in STEM, according to educationists. STEM courses are the ones that fall under the disciplines of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. "The growth of the Indian youth and their enthusiasm for education and the opportunities in the United States are very much a pull," Marvin Krislow, President of Pace

University, told PTI in an interview. A recent report by the International Educational Exchange revealed that last year, India surpassed China as the top place of origin for international students, with a record 3,31,602 Indian students in the US in 2023-2024. This was a 23 per cent increase from the previous year. "There's a large Indian-American community that is part of the attraction. People enjoy having those close connections to the Indian community. There are also just enormous opportunities and so

many Indians have come here and gotten their education. Some of them have stayed at least for a while and have had enormous success," Krislow said. According to the report, Indian enrolments increased primarily at the graduate (1,96,567, +19 per cent) and Optional Practical Training (OPT) academic levels (97,556, +41 per cent). OPT is a temporary work permit that allows F-1 international students to gain practical experience related to their field of study.

According to Raj Echambadi, President of Illinois Tech, there

are two fundamental reasons for this. "One, from a US educational perspective, the quality of the Indian students is extraordinarily high. Close to about 60 per cent of them, about 2,00,000 of them are in the graduate programmes in the US out of the 3,30,000 (Indian students in the US)."

"Because our undergraduate infrastructure in India is phenomenal and most of these students are in STEM fields, so there is a natural fit... That fit is what is driving a lot of admissions towards Indian students," Echambadi told PTI in an

interview.

"The second broader reason is from the US perspective. When you think about the two major countries, it has been China and India. Roughly about 60 per cent of the student base in the US international student base comes from these two countries. Obviously, over the last few years, there has been a very strong relationship between the Indian government and the US government and it has not been the same (with China). That is actually what is accounting for this disparity, if you will," he added.

India's economic outlook for coming months 'cautiously optimistic': Finmin Report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's economic outlook for the coming months is 'cautiously optimistic', with agriculture likely to benefit from favourable monsoon conditions, increased minimum support prices and adequate supply of inputs, the finance ministry said in a report.

"Bright agricultural production prospects make the inflation outlook benign, despite existing price pressures in select food items," the October edition of Monthly Economic Review released by the Department of Economic Affairs on Monday said.

Early November trends signalled moderation in key food prices, though geopolitical factors may continue to impact domestic inflation and supply chains, it said.

A bumper kharif harvest is expected to lower food inflation in the coming months, it said, adding that a favourable monsoon, adequate reservoir levels and higher minimum support prices are likely to boost rabi sowing and production.

Amidst a clouded global background, and after a brief period of softening momentum over the monsoon



months, the report said, many high-frequency indicators of economic activity in India have shown a rebound in October. These include indicators of rural and urban demand and supply side variables like Purchasing Managers' Index and E-way bill generation, it said.

On the employment front, it said, the formal workforce is expanding, with

notable increases in manufacturing jobs and a strong inflow of youth into organised sectors. With regard to the external front, it said, India's export recovery may encounter challenges due to softening demand in developed markets. However, it said, trade in the services sector is sustaining momentum. Net foreign direct investment inflows registered remarkable growth in the

first five months of FY25, it said. Supported by stable capital inflows, India's forex reserves increased by USD 64.8 billion so far during 2024, the second-largest increase after China amongst major forex reserve-holding countries, it said.

Apart from the emerging indications of domestic growth and stability, the dynamics of global interest rates, earning growth and valuation, geopolitical developments and policy decisions of the next administration in the United States will determine the course of trade and capital flows, the report said.

Recent developments in the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine have caused some concern in financial markets with safe-haven assets such as US Treasuries and gold finding a bid, it said, adding, that geopolitical conditions remain fragile.

The report said the global economy reveals a mixed outlook as 2024 draws to a close.

Structural weaknesses in parts of Europe and China's slowdown continued to weigh on growth. In contrast, the US economy has surpassed earlier expectations, maintaining steady expansion.

Sensex reclaims 80k mark; Nifty surges over one per cent

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty surged more than 1 per cent on Monday, helped by a rally in blue-chip stocks and 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.

Extending its previous day's sharp rally, the BSE benchmark Sensex jumped 992.74 points or 1.25 per cent to settle at 80,109.85. During the day, it soared 1,355.97 points or 1.71 per cent to 80,473.08.

The NSE Nifty surged 314.65 points or 1.32 per cent to 24,221.90.

From the 30-share Sensex pack, Larsen & Toubro, State Bank of India, Adani Ports, Reliance Industries, Power Grid, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Axis Bank were the biggest gainers.

On the other hand, JSW Steel, The Tech Mahindra,



Infosys, Maruti, Asian Paints and HCL Tech were the laggards.

Online food delivery giant Zomato will become a part of the benchmark BSE Sensex, replacing JSW Steel from December 23.

This is part of the latest reconstitution announced by Asia Index Private Ltd, a subsidiary of BSE.

"The ability of the market to surprise was evident in the 557 points spurt in the Nifty on Friday. This sharp upswing will continue today assisted by the super NDA performance in Maharashtra. The political message from this election is huge and highly positive from the market perspective," VK

Vijayakumar, Chief Financial Strategist, Geojit Investment Services, said.

The BJP on Saturday pulled off a stunning performance in Maharashtra, winning a record number of seats to propel the party-led ruling Mahayuti alliance to a landslide victory, while the INDIA bloc stormed back to power in Jharkhand on the back of a spectacular showing by the JMM.

In Asian markets, Seoul and Tokyo settled higher, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended in the red.

European markets were trading in the green. The US markets ended in positive territory on Friday.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.40 per cent to USD 74.87 a barrel.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,278.37 crore on Friday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark jumped 1,961.32 points or 2.54 per cent to settle at 79,117.11 on Friday. The Nifty soared 557.35 points or 2.39 per cent to 23,907.25.



About seven per cent workforce growth expected in H2 driven by logistics, e-comm: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

With 59 per cent of employers planning to increase headcount in October-March FY25, 7.1 per cent workforce growth is expected during the period, driven by logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing sectors, a report said.

According to TeamLease Services 'Employment Outlook Report for October 2024 to March 2025', an additional 22 per cent will maintain their current staffing levels.

The report is based on primary and secondary research, taking inputs from 1,307 employers across 23 industries in 20 cities.

These findings reveal a dynamic hiring landscape where industry-specific demands and macroeconomic factors are significantly shaping employment trends, the report added.

This growth will mainly be driven by sectors including logistics, EV & EV infrastructure, agriculture and agrochemicals, and e-commerce, which are heavily investing in infrastructure and technological advancements, it said.

Logistics, for instance, stands out with a 14.2 per cent net employment change, as 69 per cent of companies in the sector look to increase headcount.

This growth is attributed to the sector's adoption of 5G logistics, green supply chain initiatives, and benefits from National Logistics Policy implementations, it noted.

Logistics is followed by EV and EV Infrastructure (12.1 per cent), agriculture and agrochemicals (10.5 per cent), and e-commerce and tech startups (8.9 per cent), where startups are capitalising on AI-enabled customer insights, Web 3.0 applications, and seasonal demand from the festive period, it said.

As technology continues to evolve, the automotive industry is also seeing 8.5 per cent growth, spurred by integrated smart technologies, while the retail sector's 8.2 per cent growth reflects the popularity of

hyperlocal deliveries and smart-store concepts.

The report further said that cities like Coimbatore (24.6 per cent) and Gurugram (22.6 per cent) are becoming job hubs, representing a decentralisation of employment opportunities beyond traditional metros.

While Bengaluru (53.1 per cent), Mumbai (50.2 per cent), and Hyderabad (48.2 per cent) remained central employment anchors with high workforce demand, demand in cities like Coimbatore, Gurugram, Jaipur, Lucknow, and Nagpur signals a broader spread of job growth across India, reinforcing the appeal of smaller cities as viable alternatives for job seekers and companies alike, it added.

According to the report, major economic initiatives are also shaping workforce expansion. Policies such as the Global Capability Centres (GCCs), which are projected to add USD 60 billion to India's economy by 2025, are creating high-skill roles in technology and R&D.

Meanwhile, National Industrial Corridors aim to generate 1 million direct jobs and 3 million indirect jobs in manufacturing and logistics. The semiconductor mission seeks to add 80,000 jobs by 2025 through an investment of Rs 1.25 lakh crore, underscoring India's drive toward high-tech manufacturing.

"The employment landscape is increasingly shaped by technology and policy-driven shifts. Our latest findings underscore the diversity in job growth across India, from established urban hubs to emerging cities, and reveal a workforce that is evolving rapidly to meet demands in sectors like logistics, EV, and tech startups," TeamLease Staffing CEO Kartik Narayan said.

As companies embrace flexible staffing models, digital skill sets such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and cloud technology are not only in demand but essential for maintaining a competitive edge in today's economy, he noted.

S&P cuts India's GDP growth forecast for FY26, FY27

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

S&P Global Ratings on Monday revised down its estimate for India's economic growth in the next two financial years as high interest rate and lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand.

In an update to its economic forecast for Asia-Pacific economies after US election results, the rating agency projected a 6.7 per cent GDP growth rate in 2025-26 financial year (April 2025 to March 2026) and 6.8 per cent in the following fiscal year, down from 6.9 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively in previous projections.

For FY25, S&P Global pegged GDP growth rate at 6.8 per cent.

"In India we see GDP growth easing to 6.8 per cent this fiscal year as high interest rates and a lower fiscal impulse temper urban demand. While purchasing manager indices (PMIs) remain convincingly in the expansion zone, other high-frequency indicators indicate some transitory softening of growth momentum due to the hit to the construction sector in the September quarter," it said.



The agency expects India's GDP to grow at 7 per cent in FY28.

S&P retained its growth projection for China at 4.8 per cent in 2024 but cut next year's forecast to 4.1 per cent from 4.3 per cent earlier and to 3.8 per cent in 2026 from the previous estimate of 4.5 per cent.

"The impending change in the US administration will be challenging for China and the rest of Asia-Pacific. US tariff increases have become more likely, especially on China, and possible changes in the US macro picture are leading to different interest rate expectations," said the report titled 'Economic Outlook Asia-Pacific Q1 2025: US Trade Shift Blurs The

Horizon'.

Louis Kuijs, S&P Global Ratings Asia-Pacific Chief Economist, said rising risks are blurring the economic outlook for Asia-Pacific in the first quarter of 2025. "While much of the region should be able to continue to grow solidly, central banks will probably remain cautious by not reducing their policy rates too fast."

China's stimulus measures should support growth, but S&P expected its economy to be hit by US trade tariffs on its exports.

The Asia-Pacific growth will be impeded by slower global demand and US trade policy. But lower interest rates and inflation should ease their drag on spending power.

Edible oil body SEA urges Govt to lift ban on commodity futures trading

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Edible oil industry SEA on Monday called on the government to lift a ban on futures trading in key agricultural commodities, including crude palm oil and soyabean, citing significant financial impact on its members.

The ban, first implemented in December 2021 on seven agricultural commodities, has been extended multiple times with the current extension running through December 20, 2024.

The Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) has appealed to five ministers, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, arguing that the absence of futures trading has hindered price risk management and market development.

"The industry was hopeful that the suspension would be lifted to enable smoother operations, but the continuation of this restriction has further weakened an essential risk mitigation tool," SEA



President Sanjeev Asthana said in a representation made to the ministers.

SEA emphasised that studies have shown futures trading does not significantly drive inflation, a key concern when the ban was implemented.

Current soyabean prices are trading below the government-set minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 4,892 per quintal, while rapeseed prices are slightly above its MSP of Rs 5,950, the industry body said.

The association particularly stressed the need to resume futures trading in internationally traded commodities like crude palm oil and crude soybean oil, arguing that the ban has left businesses exposed to greater price volatility.

Coal India floats tender seeking bids from pvt players for e-auction

PTI ■ KOLKATA

Despite having switched to its internal e-auction platform in January this year, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has floated a tender seeking bids from private service providers to conduct e-auctions of the dry fuel for its subsidiaries over the next two years, officials said on Monday.

This move has left external e-auction service providers, such as MSTC and mjunction, who have managed CIL's auctions through electronic platforms for nearly two decades, confused and they were seeking more clarity before deciding whether to participate in the tender, stakeholders said.

The deadline for submission of bids is November 27.

CIL had engaged its subsidiary CMPDI to develop an internal coal e-auction system in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC), the officials said.

The internal platform was successfully transitioned in January 2024 after conducting successful trials in 2023.

"However, there have been complaints about the system's performance, prompting Coal India to seek external platforms for its e-auctions," an official told PTI.

CIL's coal volume through the e-auction platform was estimated to reach around 60 million tonnes by September 2024.

"Engaging service providers to conduct e-auction is aimed at having more options at hand. CIL should be in a position to respond to



changing market and consumer requirements," another Coal India official said.

The new engagement with external service providers is expected to begin in April next year after the current contracts with service providers expire in March, he

will also continue to function," the senior CIL official said.

External service providers have expressed concerns about the new tender and are seeking clarity on the scope of work, especially given the CIL's reliance on its internal system.

"We've sought greater clarity on the expected business in the tender, as our revenue depends on the number of auctions we conduct. Currently, most e-auctions are being handled internally by CIL. It remains unclear whether external providers will serve merely as a backup or whether there will be an assured revenue model. We have not yet decided whether to participate or not," said a top official from one of the two main service providers, requesting anonymity.

India's GenAI ecosystem soars with 6 times growth in Q2FY25 amid global slump: Nasscom report

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's Generative AI ecosystem has grown remarkably amid a global downturn, recording an impressive 6 times growth in quarterly investments driven by B2B and productivity solutions, according to a report by IT industry body Nasscom.

Nasscom on Monday released the "Generative AI Tracker: Tech Industry Activity in Q2FY2025" report that revealed a robust rebound in funding and innovation within India's Generative AI landscape.

"Indian GenAI startup funding, at about USD 51 million in

Q2FY2025, saw over 6 times rise quarter-on-quarter, led by B2B and agentic AI startups. Funding rounds continued to rise, with Q2FY2025 registering a record 20 rounds, after a tepid Q1.

"GenAI applications garnered most funding, however, per-stage funding got capped lower due to no model funding in Q2," the report said.

On the contrary, global GenAI startup funding, at about USD 4 billion in Q2FY2025, hit the lower circuit with a 2.3 times quarter-on-quarter (q-o-q) drop from Q1, the report revealed.

Most major and mid-sized Indian tech companies have been

releasing GenAI platforms since early 2023. These platforms are gradually being offered with multimodal, multi-model data, AI, and cloud integration ecosystems.

With more and more tech providers prioritising partnerships and advanced skilling, partnerships in the industry surged by 25 per cent sequentially, focusing on product enhancements, joint go-to-market strategies, and government-led skilling initiatives.

This strategic pivot has led to improved revenue pipelines and stronger realizations from active Proofs of Concept (PoCs), the



study said.

Companies are moving beyond basic AI literacy to focus on advanced and thematic upskilling that integrates platform capabilities and agentic AI functionalities.

The evolution of the Indian GenAI ecosystem from experimental use cases to scalable, production-ready solutions is reflected in its growing maturity, Nasscom said, adding that improved finance inflows, more revenue realisations, and growing applications in customer interaction and enterprise productivity are the main drivers

of this expansion.

"The generative AI landscape is evolving rapidly, reshaping technology service providers and unlocking new capabilities. Providers are re-evaluating strategies and increasing investments in technology and talent. Q2FY2025 marked a key shift in India's GenAI space, with funding focused on impactful applications that enhance productivity. Future success will rely on strategic innovations, pilot project results, and lessons learned along the way," Sangeeta Gupta, Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer at Nasscom, said.

Emma McKeon retires from swimming

AP ■ SYDNEY

Emma McKeon, Australia's most decorated Olympian, announced her retirement from competitive swimming on Monday. McKeon holds the Australian record of 14 Olympic medals — six of them gold — won over three Summer Olympics, while her seven-medal haul at Tokyo 2020 is the most ever by a female swimmer at a single Games and equal most for any female athlete from any sport at a single Olympics. The 30-year-old McKeon had previously hinted that the 2024 Paris Games — where she won gold in the 4 x 100m freestyle relay — would be her final Olympics, but she had not said whether she would continue to swim competitively. "I am proud of myself for giving my swimming career absolutely everything, both physically and mentally. I wanted to see what I was capable of, and I did," McKeon said on social media. "Swimming has given me so much.



From the dream igniting at 5 years old, right through to my third Olympic games - I have so many lessons, experiences, friendships and memories that I am so thankful for." McKeon's 14 medals came across the Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Games, with six Olympic gold, three silver and five bronze. She's second only to Katie Ledecky in terms of Olympic swimming gold medals won. The American has won nine across four Olympics in her tally of 14. "Emma has added her own incredible chapter to Australia's history at the Olympic Games," Australian Olympic Committee President Ian Chesterman said in a written statement. "Emma has been an extraordinary athlete who has etched herself a special place in Australian sporting landscape, particularly through her success at the Olympics. "Her performances during Tokyo were particularly stunning. Emma is recognised not just in Australia, but around the world, as one of the greatest Olympians ever.



Sindhuraj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty eye titles at Syed Modi International

PTI ■ LUCKNOW

PV Sindhuraj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will aim to end their title droughts when they spearhead India's challenge at the Syed Modi International Super 300 badminton tournament starting here on Tuesday. Fresh off a semifinal finish in their comeback tournament post the Paris Olympics, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the former world No. 1 doubles pair, enter as favourites in the men's doubles category. Sindhuraj, a two-time Olympic medallist, last clinched a title at the Singapore Open in 2022, while Lakshya, a 2021 World Championships bronze-medallist, won the Canada Open in 2023. The 29-year-old Sindhuraj reached the final of the Malaysia Masters earlier this year but has struggled to find his peak form. Lakshya, 23, showed promise with semifinal finishes at the All England Championship, French Open, and Paris Olympics, where he lost the bronze playoff from a strong position to Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia. Both shuttlers have endured mixed fortunes since their Olympic outings. Lakshya faced early exits at the Arctic Open, Denmark Open, and Kumamoto Masters before recovering to an extent with a quarterfinal finish at the China Masters, avenging his Olympic loss to Lee in the process. Lakshya starts his campaign here against a qualifier, hoping to reclaim his spot on the podium. Sindhuraj, meanwhile, has battled inconsistency, with a shock first-round loss to Canada's Michelle Li in Finland and subsequent defeats at the Denmark Open and Kumamoto Masters. She opens her campaign against compatriot Anmol Kharb, a 17-year-old rising star who has impressed with titles at the Belgium and Poland International Challenge events this year. The clash between the seasoned Sindhuraj and the prodigious Kharb promises to be an intriguing one, symbolising the generational shift in Indian badminton. In men's singles, second seed Priyanshu Rajawat is a strong contender alongside Lakshya. The 22-year-old from Dhar has shown promise on the international circuit, including a fighting performance at the China Masters. Other Indian hopefuls include third seed Kiran George, 2023 World Junior Championships bronze-medallist Ayush Shetty, Odisha Masters winner Satish Karunakaran, and national champion Chirag Sen. The women's singles draw also looks competitive, with second seed Malvika Bansod aiming to better her runner-up finish in the 2022 edition. Third seed Aakarshi Kashyap, sixth seed Rakshitha Sree Senthosh Ramraj, and fifth seed Anupama Upadhyaya are among others eyeing glory. Isharani Baruah, who has clinched titles at the Sri Lanka International, Dutch International, and India International, along with Devika Sihag, will also hope for a good outing. Unnati Hooda, a winner at the 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters, is another player to watch out for. In women's doubles, the top-seeded duo of Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto, along with second seeds Gayatri Gopichand and Treasa Jolly, are strong title contenders, with a potential all-Indian final on the cards.



Hockey great Ashok Kumar suffers heart attack; to undergo angioplasty

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former India hockey player and son of legendary Major Dhyhan Chand, Ashok Kumar suffered a heart attack after being hospitalised here for discomfort in chest but is now stable and out of danger, sources in his family said on Monday. The 74-year-old will undergo an angioplasty later on Monday. "He (Ashok Kumar) felt discomfort in chest yesterday (Sunday) evening. He was then taken to Escorts Hospital where angiography was performed. The angiography results showed there were a few blockages. The doctors will implant stents today," family sources told PTI. "He is out of danger and in a stable condition."

The former inside-right player, who was known for his ball control, was a member of the Indian team that won the 1975 World Cup under Ajit Pal Singh. He was also a member of Indian team that won a bronze medal in the 1972 Munich Olympics. He became a recipient of the Arjuna Award in 1974 and, in 1975, scored the winning goal against Pakistan to achieve India's only win in the World Cup. Kumar was awarded the Hockey India Major Dhyhan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award earlier this year. His other accomplishments include two more World Cup medals (bronze in 1971 Barcelona and silver in 1973 Amsterdam), besides three Asia Games silver medals (1970 Bangkok, 1974 Tehran and 1978 Bangkok).

Davis Cup: Jannik Sinner leads Italy past the Netherlands for its second consecutive title

AP ■ MALAGA (SPAIN)

Italy went nearly a quarter-century without winning the Davis Cup. Then along came Jannik Sinner, and now the country is celebrating its second consecutive title. The No. 1-ranked Sinner clinched the championship in the annual team event and capped his breakthrough season by beating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6 (2), 6-2 on Sunday for a 2-0 win over the Netherlands in the final of the Davis Cup. "Coming back as defending champions and winning again — it's one of the best feelings I think for all of us," Sinner said. "We are very happy to lift this trophy and, of course, also to go into the pre-season with a bunch of confidence boosts." Matteo Berrettini put Italy ahead with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Botic van de Zandschulp — the last man to beat Rafael Nadal — in the opening singles match on an indoor hard court at the Palacio de Deportes Jose Maria Martin Carpena in southern Spain. The Italians, backed by a loud contingent of singing fans playing drums and armed with megaphones in the crowd of 9,200, became the first team to win the Davis



Cup twice in a row since the Czech Republic in 2012 and 2013. Italy's women won the Billie Jean King Cup by defeating Slovakia on Wednesday. "They make us even more proud," Davis Cup captain Filippo Volandri said. After Sinner finished off his win, Berrettini and other teammates rushed onto the court to begin the party, wrapping their arms around one another and bouncing in unison. Volandri grabbed Sinner and lifted him off the ground. It was clear who was key to this success. Sinner went 4-0 in Malaga, including a victory in doubles with Berrettini against Argentina in the quarterfinals. Berrettini played a vital role,

too, after replacing Lorenzo Musetti for singles. Berrettini was the runner-up at Wimbledon in 2021 but since then went through a series of injuries and illnesses that have limited his playing time. He has spoken about the mental challenges he faced. "I didn't miss the wins or the losses," Berrettini said. "I missed these moments." He needed some time to find his groove against the 80th-ranked van de Zandschulp. But Berrettini took control by grabbing the opening set's last three games, and Sinner left his front-row seat behind Italy's bench to head to the locker room and prepare to close the deal. He hit 15 aces against the 40th-ranked Griekspoor and stretched his unbeaten streak

in tour-level singles competition to 14 matches and 26 sets, including a title at the ATP Finals a week ago. Sinner's ascension is one of the year's biggest stories in tennis. He went 73-6 with eight singles titles in 2024, with his first two Grand Slam trophies at the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. The latter came shortly after he was cleared of wrongdoing in a doping case connected to two positive tests for steroids in March; the World Anti-Doping Agency's appeal of that ruling is still pending. The Netherlands reached the Davis Cup final for the first time. "We believed," Dutch captain Paul Haarhuis said about the Italians, "we could beat them." Until last year, Italy's only Davis Cup triumph came in 1976. So Volandri said he told his players to think of their goal this way: "We want to make history." Griekspoor, who fell to 0-6 against Sinner, held his own until the first-set tiebreaker, which was preceded by dueling chants of "Italia! Italia!" and "Let's go, Tallon! Let's go!" Sinner was steadier, more ready for the moment, and he built a substantial lead before ending it with an ace.

Mumbai City FC eye third straight win against Punjab FC

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC will face Punjab FC as the Islanders aim to go above the visitors in this crucial fixture of the Indian Super League here on Tuesday. Punjab FC have cruised to four victories from seven games to accumulate 12 points and be at the fifth spot in the standings, whereas Mumbai City FC are ninth in the table with 10 points to their name. The gap among teams is so narrow at this point that a victory here can propel the Petr Kratky-coached team above Punjab FC and bring

them straight back into the reckoning for the top-six. While it's also too early into the campaign to discuss point table scenarios, it also serves as a reminder to put the focus on the process. At this moment, both Punjab FC and Mumbai City FC have taken ample learning from their outings thus far and would want to fix that to get their units functioning both cohesively and consistently moving forward. The overall playing strategy of Mumbai City FC has been consistent of late and that involves building pressure onto the opponents through their passing sequences.

They average 329.9 successful passes this season, which is the highest amongst all teams, and their completion rate of 81.2 per cent is also the highest in the league. The Islanders won both their matches against Punjab FC last season, which was also the first campaign in the competition for the latter. Among all teams, Punjab FC have allowed the fewest touches (102) inside their box. They have also permitted only 36 shot attempts from within their 18-yard area. Punjab FC have been at the receiving end of defeats in each of their last two matches in the ISL.

Lasha Shavdatuashvili urges more competitions to develop judo in India

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Legendary Georgian judoka and Olympic gold medalist Lasha Shavdatuashvili believes the lack of a strong judo ecosystem in India is hindering the sport's growth as he urged the need for increased exposure. India have achieved notable milestones, including a bronze medal by Poonam Chopra way back at the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima, as well as four podium finishes at the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games with Sushila Likmabam and Navjot Chana each winning a silver. At the Olympics, Indian judokas have consistently qualified since London 2012, yet progress has remained limited as the 32-year-old

two-time former world champion urged for an overall development of the sport in the country. "In my opinion, the approach had to be changed, so that the sportsman had to participate in as many competitions as possible, in order to progress, in order to achieve some trend," the Georgian, who had won gold at the London 2012 Olympics in men's 66kg category, told PTI in an interview. "Once you have four-five world champions every year, that means there is competition inside the country. So, in this case, there will be good progress inside the country. "But before that, participating in different competitions is essential," added



Shavdatuashvili, who is also a silver and bronze medalist at Tokyo and Rio Olympics respectively. "It's like a plant. If you don't water a plant, no matter how strong it is, soon or later it will die. That's why it is the same for the sportsman, the competition is as water for

plants." Emulate Japan Describing Japan as the mother land of judo, the Georgian said he frequently trains in Japan to to gain experience. "You know, it's possible to achieve very serious success. "I myself, as I said, I'm going

to different competitions, to different countries, and I would make this name in Japan. "You know that Japan is the mother of Judo, and I even stay sometimes a couple of months over there, and it gives me a huge experience... You can create great achievement and achieve great success." The star judoka visited India to conduct a Masterclass on the sport at the Inspire Institute of Sport, Bellary in Karnataka. "Judo can match wrestling success" Bullish on the prospect of judo in India, IIS president Manisha Malhotra hopes things will improve by 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and judokas can replicate the success of wrestlers.

Champions League returns with Liverpool-Real Madrid and Bayern-PSG rematches of recent finals

AP ■ GENEVA

Real Madrid playing Liverpool in the Champions League has twice in recent years been a final between arguably the two best teams in the competition. Their next meeting, however, finds two storied powers in starkly different positions at the midway point of the 36-team single league standings format. One is in first place and the other a lowly 18th. It is not defending champion Madrid on top despite adding Kylian Mbappé to the roster that won a record-extending 15th European title in May. Madrid has lost two of four games in the eight-round opening phase — and against teams that are far from challenging for domestic league titles: Lille and AC Milan. Liverpool, which will host Wednesday's game, is eight

points clear atop the Premier League under new coach Arne Slot and the only team to win all four Champions League games so far. Still, the six-time European champion cannot completely forget losing the 2018 and 2022 finals when Madrid lifted its 13th and 14th titles. Madrid also won 5-2 at Anfield, despite trailing by two goals after 14 minutes, on its last visit to Anfield in February 2023. The 2020 finalists also will be reunited this week, when Bayern Munich hosts Paris Saint-Germain in the stadium that will stage the next final on May 31. Bayern's home will rock to a 75,000-capacity crowd Tuesday, even though it is surprisingly a clash of 17th vs. 25th in the standings. Only the top 24 at the end of January advance to the knockout round. No fans were allowed in the



Lisbon stadium in August 2020 when Kingsley Coman scored against his former club PSG to settle the post-lockdown final in

the COVID-19 pandemic season. MAN CITY IN CRISIS Manchester City at home to Feyenoord had looked like a

routine win when fixtures were drawn in August, but it arrives with the 2023 champion on a stunning five-game losing run. Such a streak was previously unthinkable for any team coached by Pep Guardiola, but it ensures extra attention Tuesday on Manchester. City went unbeaten through its Champions League title season, and did not lose any of 10 games last season when it was dethroned by Real Madrid on a penalty shootout after two tied games in the quarterfinals. City's unbeaten run was stopped at 26 games three weeks ago in a 4-1 loss to Sporting Lisbon. SPORTING REBUILDS That rout was a farewell to Sporting in the Champions League for coach Rúben Amorim after he finalized his move to Manchester United. Second to Liverpool in the League standings,

Sporting will be coached by João Pereira taking charge of just his second top-tier game when Arsenal visits on Tuesday. Sporting still has European soccer's hottest striker Viktor Gyökeres, who is being pursued by a slew of clubs reportedly including Arsenal. Gyökeres has four hat tricks this season for Sporting and Sweden including against Man City. TOUGH TESTS FOR OVERACHIEVERS Brest is in its first-ever UEFA competition and Aston Villa last played with the elite in the 1982-83 European Cup as the defending champion. Remarkably, fourth-place Brest is two spots above Barcelona in the standings — having beaten opponents from Austria and the Czech Republic — before going to the five-time European champion on Tuesday. Villa in eighth place is looking down on

Juventus in 11th. Juventus plays at Villa Park on Wednesday for the first time since March 1983 when a team with the storied Platini-Boniek-Rossi attack eliminated the title holder in the quarterfinals. Villa has beaten Bayern and Bologna at home with shutout wins. ZEROES TO HEROES? Five teams are still on zero points and might need to go unbeaten to stay in the competition beyond January. Eight points is the projected tally to finish 24th. They include Leipzig, whose tough fixture program continues with a trip to Inter Milan, the champion of Italy. Inter and Atalanta are yet to concede a goal after four rounds, and Bologna is the only team yet to score. Atalanta plays at Young Boys, one of the teams without a point, on Tuesday and Bologna hosts Lille on Wednesday.

I automatically want to put myself in tough scenarios: Jasprit Bumrah

PTI ■ PERTH

Jasprit Bumrah said on Monday that he relishes absorbing the pressure in tight situations as captain and bowler which can make the job of his less experienced colleagues much easier. The ace pacer was India's standout bowler with an eight-wicket haul in the Perth Test, shaping India's humongous 295-run drubbing of Australia. "Whenever the tough scenarios come, I look at myself to see how I can contribute, even when I'm not the captain. So, whenever tough scenarios are there, I look at answers — if I'm going to bowl at this moment, what can I do? I automatically want to put myself in tough scenarios," said Bumrah in the post-match press conference here. His fighting spirit found resonance in young bowlers like Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy as all contributed at crucial junctures at the Optus Stadium. "I was trying to put myself in

that tough scenario to make the job a little bit easier for the new guys coming in. Because, you know, it's not very easy in the first tour to take a lot of responsibility. "So, I was trying to do that and very happy to be on the positive side," he added. Despite the historic win, Bumrah will have to vacate the top seat when Rohit Sharma returns for the Adelaide Test to lead India. So, how will he tackle a rather personal tough spot? Bumrah offered a cheeky reply. "I'm not going to tell him that I'm going to leave (captaincy)," he said. Going more matter of fact, the 30-year-old said: "I said that in the previous press conference as well, he's the captain and he's done a phenomenal job. I was filling in for him. "I had discussions when he was in India, you know, discussing how we are shaping up. But, yeah, But, yeah, I'm going to help him in whatever capacity I can," he noted. However, Bumrah was quite chuffed to see his side



responding to a marshy situation after getting bundled out for 150 in the first innings. The Indian bowlers struck

back to skittle the Aussies for 104 in their first essay. "I am very proud of the team. We were put under pressure in the first innings when we

were bowled out for 150. But then, you know, the team showed character and didn't lose belief. So, that is something that will be really

special for us. "Obviously, in this game, there are a lot of positives for us. You know, we scored a lot of runs in the second innings.

New guys coming in, also chipping in with a lot of runs. Of course, Virat scoring a 100 as well is a great sign for us," he added. So, what was the plan of the Indian bowling unit to be successful on the Perth pitch? "There was some health on the wicket. So, I want to make the batters play as much as I can because the new ball is crucial over here. So, with the wicket having dents in it, the ball would seam around." Bumrah said the key for his bowlers was not to get desperate to bag wickets even in helpful conditions. "Sometimes when you are bowled out for a lower score, you can be a little too desperate and try too much to get wickets. When you try too much here, it doesn't really help and the run scoring goes high. So, we had to be nice and disciplined." The 30-year-old pacer was delighted to see his colleagues adjusting to the Perth length very quickly to make an impact. "Usually in Perth, there could be a scenario when we come

from India, you tend to bowl a little short because you can get excited by the bounce and you can't find the length. It looks good when you bowl a back of length delivery and the batsman gets beaten, but the batsman is still there. "So, you have to find the right length. We were focusing on our strength. We as a bowling unit got a lot of dismissals through LBW and caught behind. So, yeah, we realised that, you have to stick to your strengths and find the right length and we were able to do that," he explained. However, Bumrah reminded the team that they needed to start afresh in the second Test since it would be the Pink Ball Test, starting from December 6 at Adelaide. "Adelaide might be totally different. It's a pink ball. So, yes, you can take the confidence from here. But, again, you have to start from zero. You have to build on this confidence. "You have to take learnings from this game as well. So we're going to take it in our stride and, you know, put our best foot forward," he noted.

Kohli proves why team India needs him

PTI ■ PERTH

In a reverential tone, India skipper Jasprit Bumrah on Monday paid a massive compliment to Virat Kohli, saying the team needs his support more than the batting mainstay needs theirs. Kohli's 30th Test century, an unbeaten 100, played a big part in India's epochal 295-run win over Australia at Perth after getting rolled over for a paltry 150 in the first innings. "Obviously, I have already said that Virat Kohli does not need us, We need him.



He is an experienced player.

This is his fourth or fifth tour. So, he knows his cricket more than anyone else," said Bumrah in the post-match press meet. "He was in good shape. He was mentally switched on. Sometimes, as long as the career is, sometimes you bat in tough scenarios. He has always been batting in tough scenarios. So, it is always difficult to do in every match. But he was batting in a very good form and in a very good space. "And obviously, he got a good delivery in the first inning. But he was still in a great space. And in the

second inning, he capitalized. He needed a lot of experience at that time. So, he played with him and also made the other player play with him." The stand-in skipper added, "So, we are very happy for that. And obviously, at the start of the series, when he comes in confidence, you can't ask for more than this." Bumrah was also delighted to register his first Test win as skipper, but remained firmly rooted to the ground saying that the India need to start fresh in the second Test against Australia at Adelaide on December 6.

"Special win, first win as captain. We were put under pressure and we showed the character. "We can take confidence from this game but we need to start fresh in the second Test. We need to carry forward the learnings as well to Adelaide," Bumrah added. The speedster also said there were no jitters in the dressing room despite getting bundled out for a low score in the first innings. "When we got out for 150, no one was feeling down in the dressing room. That was the biggest positive, that attitude, you know," he said.

Getting Ishan Kishan a huge deal for us, nothing could offset Nattu's loss: Vettori

PTI ■ JEDDAH

Sunrisers Hyderabad head Coach Daniel Vettori was most excited about securing Ishan Kishan on day one of the IPL mega auction here but admitted that losing T Natarajan to Delhi Capitals was a setback. Kishan, who made his name at the Mumbai Indians, was sold to SRH for Rs 11.25 crore on Sunday. The left-arm batter has had a tumultuous year, having lost his place in the Indian team as well as a BCCI central contract for defying the board's diktat to play domestic cricket. However, he is back playing Ranji Trophy. SRH bought as many as eight players on day one including pacers Mohammed Shami (Rs 10 crore) and Harshal Patel (Rs 8 crore). However, they were not able to buy back T Natarajan and Vettori said nobody could offset the loss of the left-arm pacer. SRH had retained five players ahead of the auction including skipper Pat Cummins, Travis Head, Abhishek Sharma, Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Reddy. "Nothing sets off Nattu's loss (smiles). Every team goes through it, whether you try and find the players early and...Pounce on opportunities or you try and wait for the back end," said Vettori in a media interaction. Natarajan was bought by Delhi Capitals for Rs 10.75 crore.



"We decided today to try and sense an opportunity when they came along and Mohammad Shami was one and then Harshal Patel, they were two guys that we potentially didn't think would go for those prices (bargain buys). "And then Ishan Kishan was a huge deal for us. We really wanted to secure him and we thought he, once again, we thought he'd go for more. So extremely happy that we got those three players as well as the rest," said Vettori, who took time off from his coaching duties for Australia in the ongoing first Test against India. Vettori said skipper Cummins is in agreement with all the picks. "Yes, yes there were (inputs from Cummins). A sad captain tonight (referring to Australia being behind in Perth), he had a hard day. I spoke to him earlier today

(Sunday) and he understood the logic of the players that we'd gone for and then he had some ideas for obviously the rest of the squad building," said the former New Zealand spinner. Leg-spinner Rahul Chahar was a steal at Rs 3.2 crore. Vettori said they factored both recent performance and pedigree before going for the players. "We identified players that we thought had performed in the IPL previously. So we put a premium on that experience. And we've seen that pay off time and time again. "So to get those players who maybe didn't have the season they wanted, in terms of Rahul Chahar last year (for Punjab Kings), we still see the skill set. We still see a bowler who's played for India, and hopefully in our conditions, he can be a real asset for us," Vettori added.

Harshit Rana, Nitish Reddy prove detractors wrong

PTI ■ PERTH

Skipper Jasprit Bumrah was highly impressed by the fearless attitude and maturity of Harshit Rana and Nitish Kumar Reddy, saying he never got the feeling that the two youngsters were playing in Australia for the first time. Their selection was viewed with raised eyebrows in the run-up to the first Test in Perth, but they silenced the doubters, chipping in their own way in India's massive 295-run win over the Aussies. "When they made their debut, the biggest positive sign was that they were not nervous at all. It didn't feel like they were playing for the first time in Australia or it was their first match," Bumrah said in the post-match press conference here on Monday. Rana took the prized wicket of Travis Head in the first innings with a gem of a delivery and was even not hesitant to exchange a few words with veteran Mitchell Starc, despite them being



team-mates at the Kolkata Knight Riders during the IPL 2024. Nitish made nerveless 41 and 38 across two innings here, knocks that belied his lack of sufficient exposure in First-Class cricket. "If you are scared, then your fear will not go away. So, that is a very positive sign for me that they are not afraid and have a lot of desire to learn. "They have started very well and hopefully, they will do well in the future as well," added Bumrah. The pace talisman said the two young players were more than happy to

handle the responsibility once they were informed of their debut. "They themselves were looking for responsibility. When you talk to them... they are more than ready. They were looking for responsibility. So, that is a very positive sign for our team. "All the youngsters who are coming (in), they are very hungry. They have a lot of faith in their ability. So, if that happens, then you can learn skills," he said. Similarly, Yashasvi Jaiswal was also playing his first Test Down Under but the left-hander left an indelible

impression with a remarkable 161. Bumrah said it was the best Test innings in Jaiswal's fledgling career because the 22-year-old showed a lot of self-restraint. "If I had to choose a man of the match, I would choose Jaiswal. I think this was his best Test knock so far because, you know, he has an attacking nature. But in that second innings, he left certain balls, he took his time and batted deep. That gives us a lot of confidence. "He showed that he has patience as well and he's ready to adapt and change. That is a brilliant sign for Indian cricket that a batsman is able to adapt so early in his career," said Bumrah. The 30-year-old also did not forget the role KL Rahul played as an opener. The right-hander made an obdurate 26 off 74 balls in the first innings before getting out to a dubious caught-behind decision, and a more fluent 77 off 176 balls in the second while sharing 201 runs with Jaiswal for the first wicket.

We are a really tight unit: Cummins scotches speculation on dressing room divide

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Australia captain Pat Cummins on Monday defended his struggling batting unit after former players including Adam Gilchrist raised the question of a potential batters and bowlers divide in the dressing room. Following one of their heaviest defeats at home, Cummins was asked if there were any divisions in the team with batters letting the team down in Perth. The chatter around possible tensions in the unit started when Josh Hazlewood was asked about Australia's approach going into day four, having been reduced to 12 for three on day three chasing an improbable 534. Australia were bundled out for 104 in their second innings after India put up 150 on day one. "You probably have to ask one of the batters that question. I'm sort of relaxing and trying to get a bit of physio and a bit of treatment, and I'm probably looking mostly towards the next Test and what plans we can do against these

batters," Hazlewood said on Sunday. A day later, Cummins cleared the air. "I don't know what Joshy (Hazlewood) said, but no, not at all (division). There's plenty of times where the batters have dragged us bowlers out of tight situations, and we've done the same. So it's a really tight unit. It's probably one of the tightest teams I've ever played with." Cummins was quick to scotch the speculations following the loss. "We really enjoy playing cricket together. We've been through a lot over the last few years, the core group. So no problems there. Everyone gets along really well. So all good." On Fox Cricket, Gilchrist and Michael Vaughan were the experts who sensed a possible divide between batters and bowlers. "That to me tells me there is potentially a divided change room. I don't know if there is. I might be reading too much into that," Gilchrist said referring to Hazlewood's comments.

Vaughan added: "I must admit, I'm staggered by that. Josh Hazlewood is a great bowler, terrific team member. Publicly, I've never heard an Australian come out and kind of divide the camp into batters and bowlers." On the same Fox Cricket panel was Hazlewood's longtime teammate David Warner who came to the fast bowler's defence. "Those comments (from Hazlewood) probably weren't warranted, [but] I don't think there is a divide. "In the England team, Broady [Stuart Broad] or Jimmy [Anderson] might have come off after a long day and you can start pointing fingers, but I don't think there is a divide," said Warner. Marnus has got a very good pink ball record Cummins was asked about the lean run of Marnus Labuschagne in the post match media interaction. The batters in general have been under the scanner for a while now and that includes the great Steve Smith. "Marnus, along with quite a few guys in the team didn't have the week that we would have wanted.

It's no secret how hard the batters, particularly Marn, works in the nets, and he's always trying to find those small marginal gains. "So, this week, there'll be a lot of conversation with the coaches around, you know, maybe his approach and what he could be doing differently. We know he's a class player. "So, yeah, this week will be about those conversations. As I say, get to Adelaide a little bit earlier, maybe do an extra day or two prep leading to that second Test. But he's done it before over here. He's got a very good pink ball record. "So I always think it's, you know, looking back at past successes when you're at your best is always a pretty good way to get yourself back on track," said the skipper. Cummins had no qualms in admitting that his team was thoroughly outplayed in the series opener but he promised to bounce back in Adelaide where India struggled on the previous tour with pink ball under lights.

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1.	Borrower: Shri Shivmilian S/o Vijay Kishore and Borrower & Mortgagor: Shri Vijay Kishore S/o Chhunku Prasad Both R/o Tameshwar Nagar, Habibpur Fatehpur 212601	Shri Vijay Kishore S/o Chhunku Prasad R/o Tameshwar Nagar, Habibpur Fatehpur	Rs. 21,52,695.00 as on 13.05.2024 with further interest cost, other charges and expenses thereon from 14.05.2024 Not Known to Bank	A residential plot at Part of Gata Number 303, Mohalla-Habibpur, qasba, Pargana, Tehsil and District Fatehpur, U.P., in the name of Vijay Kishore S/o Chhunku Prasad. Area: 70 Sq. mtr. Boundaries: East: Plot of Raju, West: Rasta Kachha 15 feet, North: Plot of Ram Shiromani, South: Plot of Bhaiyan Property ID No. IDIB3276800670	₹. 22.76 लाख ₹. 2.276 लाख ₹. 10,000.00
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